
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
18 NOVEMBER 2015

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Norris
The Sheriff, Councillor McEwing
Councillors Barnes-Andrews (Items 52 - 57(b) and 58 - 64 only), Bogle (Items 52 - 57(c) only), Burke, Chaloner, Chamberlain (Items 57(b) onwards), Claisse, Coombs, Daunt, Denness, Fitzhenry, Fuller (Items 52 - 56 (Executive report only) and 57 (a)), Furnell, Galton, Hammond (Items 52 - 62 and Item 64 only), Hannides, B Harris, L Harris, Hecks (Items 52- 55 and Items 57 - 64 only), Houghton, Inglis, Jeffery, Jordan, Kaur, Keogh (Items 55(ii) - 64 only), Letts, Lewzey, Lloyd, Mintoff, Morrell, Moulton, Noon, O'Neill, Painton, Parnell (Items 52 - 57(a) only), Payne, Pope (Items 52 - 57(b) only), Rayment, Shields, Spicer, Thomas, Tucker, Vassiliou, Whitbread, White and Wilkinson

52. APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Smith.

53. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 16th September, 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

54. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

(i) Minute's Silence

In an act of remembrance, Members observed a one minute silence in memory of the victims of the Paris terror attacks.

(ii) Combined Authority Update

The Leader informed Council of the negotiations concerning the combined authority proposals. It was noted that a meeting to discuss the proposals had been held on the 17th November with the Leaders of Councils in Hampshire and the Secretary of State. The meeting had been positive with the proposals being generally supported. The Secretary of State had requested the Councils to consider the areas of Housing and Governance within the bid further. A meeting of the Hants and IOW Local Government Association had been arranged for Friday 27th November when those involved would seek to firm up the proposals. The Leader gave notice of an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Council arranged for Wednesday 16th December to discuss the proposals for Devolved Powers and Responsibilities.

55. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Council received and noted deputations from:

- (i) Mo Simmons concerning fuel poverty in Millbrook Towers together with a petition;
- (ii) Hayley Garner (Unison), Mark Wood (Unite) and Beatrice Papapietro concerning the Trade Union Bill; and
- (iii) Nick Chaffey and Sue Atkins concerning the protection of jobs and services in the City.

56. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

The report of the Leader of the Council was submitted setting out the details of the business undertaken by the Executive.

The Leader and the Cabinet made statements and responded to Questions.

The following questions were then submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.1

1. Blacklisting

Question from Councillor Pope to Councillor Letts

On 7th October 2015, in the Consulting Association blacklisting cases at the High Court, construction firms* admitted that they had infringed workers' rights to confidentiality, privacy, reputation and data protection, plus admitting defamation. Plus, they were ordered by the High Court in July 2015 to conduct comprehensive searches for evidence of blacklisting. Several of these firms have operated in Southampton, including on the Sea City Museum, the former Ordnance Survey site, and on Watermark West Quay.

What will this Council do to ensure that blacklisting was not and will not be conducted on the City's construction sites? Will this include planning conditions and conditions in Employment and Skills Plans and S106 Agreements?

*The firms named were: Carillion, Balfour Beatty, Costain, Kier, Laing O'Rourke, Skanska, Sir Robert McAlpine, Vinci, Amec, BAM, Cleveland Bridge, Lend Lease.

Answer

The Council will use whatever binding contractual terms it can when negotiating contracts with suppliers to play its part in ensuring blacklisting does not happen. It already forms part of the ethical procurement policy. It is unlikely in law this can extend to planning conditions, but subject to further consideration may be able to be included in employment and skills plans and s.106 agreements.

2. Fuel poverty in Council blocks

Question from Councillor Pope to Councillor Payne

As of October 2015, tenants of this Council in blocks such as Millbrook Towers and Redbridge Towers are paying almost £1,000 a year for their heating alone, and in the Council's own words, "may still be suffering from fuel poverty". Despite this, there are no firm plans to improve the heating or insulation infrastructure. Would the Cabinet Member agree that this is an outrageous situation, and commit today to taking action to reduce such costs for tenants by half in this financial year and in every financial year? Can you also please explain why such infrastructure spending was in your Woolston ward first?

Answer

Residents at Millbrook Towers, along with all tenants on the citywide communal heating scheme, will receive a 2.5% reduction in their charges in the coming year. The Council aims to close the communal account in the future and provide all residents with modern energy supplies, their own bill and heating controls. To bring this about, the Council intends to continue its greening programme of Council housing beyond the CESP and ECO related projects already completed, proposed or underway.

The Council is awaiting guidance from Central Government on precisely what scheme will replace ECO in March 2017 and what funding opportunities will exist. Under ECO, greater grants could be secured and more benefit delivered to tenants in solid-wall concrete blocks such as those undergoing improvements, rather than towers like Millbrook which have a part-brick and cavity wall construction. With that in mind, the Council will be looking for any elements of the ECO-successor that could be help at Millbrook Towers, and hopes the petition taken up by residents which they aim to present to energy secretary, Amber Rudd, might influence what kinds of grants will exist in the future.

Finally, for the record, the choice of location for the CESP works at International Way in Weston (part of my ward in Woolston) was taken before my appointment as Cabinet Member and under a different administration.

3. Traffic Congestion

Question from Councillor Moulton to Councillor Rayment

In light of excessive traffic congestion on Archers Road, what mitigating measures is the Council taking and will the Council look at funding a full traffic survey to identify all possible options and solutions, perhaps from CIL funding?

Answer

The current traffic congestion in Archers Road is due to the ongoing emergency works in Wilton Avenue. The junction of Hill Lane / Archers Road and Howard Road is observed to be particularly busy.

Engineers have reconfigured the traffic signals at this location a number of times but are limited to the benefit they can achieve by the restricted layout of the junction and the amount of traffic using the route.

The traffic signals in this area have no reported faults and are operating to deliver the maximum vehicle throughput whilst retaining essential pedestrian facilities.

The works on Wilton Avenue are programmed to be completed in mid-December and traffic should resume to previous levels soon afterwards.

The Council has no current proposals to carry out a study of traffic movements in this area.

4. Rough Sleepers

Question from Councillor Moulton to Councillor Payne

How many people in the City are currently sleeping rough and what action is being taken to address this?

Answer

The street outreach session that took place this week (2 early morning sessions take place each week to locate and assist rough sleepers in the city) identified 8 people who had slept rough that night. The team encourage those found to attend the day centre for single homeless people where assessment of their needs and referral to services can be made. The centre provides a range of services including washing facilities, food, health care and access to support with welfare benefits as well as hosting the outreach team who act as the referral point for hostels/supported housing. The first role of the team is to actively get the engagement of rough sleepers not all of whom are initially willing to accept the help on offer. Those who are new to the City and have a connection with other areas are facilitated to return including EU nationals without benefits who cannot access housing. Those with support needs are referred for vacancies at hostels. The approach to tackling rough sleeping is a collaborative one, with close work between the SHPT, housing providers and other agencies such as drug services, hospital discharge, Probation the Police and Home Office. Most recently there has been a specific piece of joint work undertaken with City Safety colleagues and the Police in relation to the increase in nuisance associated with street drinking and begging. The presence of beggars, on the city centre high street and other district shopping centres, often leads to an impression of larger numbers of street sleepers than is the case. Our work shows that only around half of those people begging regularly are actually without accommodation.

5. In Year Budget Variance

Question from Councillor Moulton to Councillor Chaloner

What is the current in year budget variance by Portfolio and how has this changed since the end of Q1 2015/16?

Answer

The Quarter 2 budget report which has been considered by Cabinet shows that at Quarter 2 the Council is forecasting an overspend at year end of £3.04M compared with the Quarter 1 forecast year end overspend of £9.30M. The movement in the forecast is as follows:

	Forecast Outturn Variance £M	Forecast Outturn Variance
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		%
Forecast Outturn Q1	9.30 A	5.3
Capita Asset management	0.70 F	
Other Income and Expenditure	5.33 F	
Non-specific Government Grants	0.23 F	
Forecast Outturn Q2	3.04 A	1.7

Overall the forecast position has improved since Quarter 1, but primarily through 'other income and expenditure' rather than any significant reduction overall in Portfolio spend. Other income and Expenditure of £5.33M favourable comprises allocating the risk fund of £4.76M in full to the bottom line, and also £0.56M of additional income from settling a contractual dispute.

The Portfolio position was forecast to be overspent at Q1 by £9.66M, and for Q2 this forecast variance has reduced to £9.30M, a reduction of £0.36M. This small downwards movement masks the fact that in two Portfolio's the forecast outturn has deteriorated, whilst in all other Portfolio's the forecast position has improved. Where Portfolio's are showing an improved position, this will in part reflect reduced expenditure arising from the recruitment freeze and the non essential non pay freeze. The most significant adverse movement is in the Children's Social Care where the position has deteriorated by £1.91M, with the forecast outturn now projected to be an overspend of £7.75M; within this sum Children Looked After is the big issue with a forecast outturn of £5.22M.

An analysis of forecast outturn by Portfolio is provided:

Portfolio	Q1 Forecast Outturn Variance £M	Q2 Forecast Outturn Variance £M	Movement Variance	
			£M	%
Communities, Culture & Leisure	0.49 A	0.69 A	0.20 A	2.8 A
Education & Children's Social Care	5.84 A	7.75 A	1.91 A	4.9 A
Environment & Transport	0.51 A	0.11 F	0.60 F	2.6 F
Finance	0.13 F	0.68 F	0.55 F	1.5 F
Health & Adult Social Care	2.94 A	2.64 A	0.30 F	0.5 A
Housing & Sustainability	0.01 A	0.15 F	0.16 F	8.8 F
Leader's Portfolio	0.00	0.85 F	0.85 F	7.5 F
Transformation	0.00 -	0.00 -	0.00 -	0.0 -
Portfolio Total	9.66 A	9.30 A	0.36 F	0.20 F

The appendices to the Cabinet report set out the position for each Portfolio in more detail.

6. CCG Funding

Question from Councillor Moulton to Councillor Letts

Could the Leader confirm Southampton's CCG funding for this year and last year?

Answer

The CCG's total allocation (funding from government including recurrent, non-recurrent commissioning funding and running costs) for 2014/15 was £300.632m and for 2015/16 is forecast to be £304.717m.

7. Parking on footpaths in residential areas

Question from Councillor Hecks to Councillor Rayment

With the ever increasing degree of car ownership and the minimal provision of off street parking spaces in new developments more and more vehicles are being parked on, or partially, on footpaths across the City causing danger to pedestrians, especially young children and to persons using disabled buggies and pushchairs. What steps are the Council taking to remedy this increasing problem by way of education, better enforcement and additional provision of parking spaces within residential areas?

Answer

The Council does not condone the selfish act of parking vehicles on footways. In new developments our parking standards do allow some additional off street parking spaces where a developer requests this. This enables the creation of individual layouts whilst maintaining the councils overarching sustainability objectives.

Where footway parking is a concern within communities we will consult and, where supported, implement suitable waiting restrictions. Our Civil Enforcement Officers can then issue Penalty Charge Notices where an enforceable contravention occurs. If there are no yellow lines, the offence of wilful obstruction may still be committed although this can only be enforced by a police officer in uniform.

We are currently working with the local media to raise awareness where footway parking is occurring outside schools in the City and are developing solutions that will exploit new technologies in enforcement.

8. National Lifesavers Campaign

Question from Councillor Hecks to Councillor Jeffery

Council resolved in March 2015 to support the British Heart Foundation's Nation of Lifesavers campaign by encouraging all secondary schools and colleges within Southampton to implement the BHF's campaign by including CPR training within the curriculum. What steps have been taken over the past eight months to implement that resolution and what results can the Cabinet Member report to Council?

Answer

Many secondary schools offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme. The First Aid element of the expedition syllabus includes a module on resuscitation where students learn how to "identify life-threatening situations, inflate the lungs of a manikin and perform CPR in accordance with current UK guidelines". Itchen College reported that they hold an event in December called Future Foundations and as part of this there will be voluntary training on using a defibrillator and CPR.

Some of their programmes do cover basic first aid including CPR for example the Uniformed Public Services course and childcare programmes.

City College reported that they have a defibrillator on site and staff are trained to use it. In addition, they have a roster of staff who are first aid trained.

Moving forward, there are opportunities to raise awareness of the British Heart Foundation's 'Heartstart Programme' through the curriculum and extra-curricular activities programme. The School Improvement team will contact the BHF and agree a way forward with schools.

9. Traffic Light Phasing/Air Pollution

Question from Councillor Galton to Councillor Rayment

What progress has been made in reviewing the traffic light phasing across the City in order to reduce air pollution?

Answer

A review of the AQMAs and those with traffic signal control located within them has shown that the majority are being controlled by the responsive Urban Traffic Control system. However, this may require more detailed investigation into the times at which levels are high as this may mean that fine tuning of the system could help balance the queues to help reduce air pollution levels. This work is being developed as set out in the Intelligent Transport Strategy that will support the Local Transport Plan 4.

We have identified around 10 specific sites where signalling can be amended to support the overall strategy to reduce NO₂ – this work is being developed as part of the Low Emission Strategy Board. In addition we are in discussions over innovative ways the real time air quality information can be overlaid onto traffic signal timings to assist with both air quality and traffic flow in real time.

10. Park and Walk Scheme

Question from Councillor Galton to Councillor Rayment

In what way does the Cabinet Member envisage the new Park and Walk scheme reducing traffic congesting around West Quay?

Answer

The Park and Walk scheme proposed in the budget is based on weekend low usage car parks at Bedford Place and Grosvenor Place. The proposal aims to bring in variable message charging at certain car parks as a trial allowing for parking charges to be lowered or raised in relation to demand. This will allow cheaper easier parking for the cultural quarter and above bar.

We continue to work on active traffic management on the network in the vicinity of West Quay actively with partners to ensure the most effective use of the highway as well as working with West Quay on opening the link between the Marlands Car Park and West Quay to increase the parking opportunities available whilst also encouraging alternative

ways to get to the city centre through the My Journey programme as well as bus operators.

11. Christmas in the City

Question from Councillor Galton to Councillor Letts

What was the original budget set aside for celebrating Christmas in the City? Has this original figure changed in anyway and if so what are the reasons for the change(s)?

Answer

Following a disappointing Christmas offer in the city centre in recent years, a new Southampton Christmas Festival has now opened.

The new operator has responded to criticism with:

- Brand new chalets
- Fewer food stalls
- More arts and craft stalls
- Advent calendar
- Music every day
- A Flying Santa show

The overall quality and layout has been significantly improved with little but important touches such as more walkways to make Above Bar less congested as well as additional benches and bins.

The Council will receive an income of £15K from the organisers of this new festival. The City is also illuminated for the first time in many years. There are festive lights positioned in:

Above Bar
Bargate North and South

There are plans for a Christmas Tree in Guildhall Square from 27 November with a programme of traditional entertainment on the first Thursday and Sunday in December. There is also festoon lighting installed throughout the Cultural Quarter, East Street, East Park, Palmerston Park and Houndwell Park and it is the intention for these lights to remain in position for a period of at least 3 years. The lighting scheme cost £75k.

None of these figures have changed during the planning for these activities.

12. Empty Council Houses

Question from Councillor Galton to Councillor Payne

How many Council houses are currently "empty" in the City. Of this figure how many have been empty 3-6 months, 6-12 months and over 1 year?

Answer

Excluding properties decanted for regeneration schemes, of the 16,500 approx. council homes in Southampton, the following have been empty for a period of three months or more.

Routine & major works voids (houses and flats)	Count	Of which houses
0 - 3 months	90	14
3 - 6 months	40	2
6 - 12 months	12	2
12 months +	7	1
Total	150	19

It should be added that the target time for 'major works voids' where it is recognised that substantial works will be needed before re-letting is 90 days, and for the latest figures available (October 2015) the average turnaround time was 87.22 days.

Additionally, the eight properties classed as void for over 12 months include a flat in Thornhill that earlier this year was converted into a site office for council staff overseeing the ECO/District Energy scheme and another is being used as a temporary laundry room during the refit of Weston Court at the request of the residents.

13. Exford Avenue Shops

Question from Councillor Daunt to Councillor Payne

Will the Exford Avenue parade of shops include a retail unit with a post office counter when finished?

Answer

The shops are being marketed by Camargue Somerset Limited. One Stop have leased a double retail unit which opened in October 2015 as a convenience store with a cash point machine.

The remaining units are currently being advertised. The council has requested a post office service is provided but this cannot be guaranteed. It will depend on the new retailer and the Post Office.

The post box has been reinstated by the new shops.

14. Residential Care

Question from Councillor Painton to Councillor Chaloner

In a recent Meridian television interview you used the term "Residential Care", did you mean that Residential Home Care is provided by SCC, Privately or Care in the Community (at home)? What age groups or types of Care were you referring to?

Answer

Where the cost of meeting eligible social care needs is likely to exceed £500 per week, the council proposes to set a Personal Budget at a level that would enable those needs to be met in an appropriate extra care housing scheme, residential or nursing placement.

The Council's current published rate for residential care, commissioned in the private sector is £368.69 per week. For residential care to support individuals who are living with dementia, this increases to £435.19 per week. The Council's current published rate for nursing care, again commissioned in the private sector is £486.36 per week. (These rates are subject to a separate review with options to be considered by Cabinet in February 2016 and the value of Personal Budgets for individuals affected by this proposal may be adjusted accordingly should these rates be changed.)

Under the proposal on which we will be consulting, the eligible social care needs of adults whose packages of home care currently cost more than £500 per week will be re-assessed and a new Personal Budget will be set according to the most cost effective way of meeting their eligible social care needs. This will apply also to adults requiring packages of care and support for the first time.

15. Estate Regeneration

Question from Councillor O'Neill to Councillor Payne

It is widely accepted the Council has wasted time and money in their dogmatic approach to providing council estate regeneration for residents of Southampton whereas the previous Conservative administration had an officer's costed regeneration plan that would have saved millions and by now have provided hundreds of new council homes across the City.

How many Southampton residents have been removed from their homes in anticipation of the council's estate regeneration scheme and how long have they been waiting?
How many homes have been built so far?

Answer

A total of 413 tenants and leaseholders have left their properties under the estate regeneration programme so far.

The time taken to move for tenants depends on the availability of properties to rent and the specific choices that tenants make in where they want to move to, location and property size and type. For leaseholders the move time depends on agreeing an acquisition price and the affordability of another place to move, and the leaseholder's own financial circumstances.

While residents are offered the chance to return to completed regenerations after being decanted, in practice so far, only a small minority do so, and most residents move just once, to a new location of their choice, and settle there instead.

In total, the number of new homes completed under estate regeneration stands at 281, a further 225 are under construction and more are being planned.

16. Americas Cup Series event

Question from Councillor O'Neill to Councillor Letts

In the last few days National media has forecast that through the leadership of Portsmouth City Council securing the Americas Cup World Series event in 2016 up to 750 jobs will be created in the city and bring in millions of pounds in extra revenue. As Southampton used to be called the home of ocean sailing does the Council now regret not having the vision and determination to push more effectively to win this?

Answer

The Council made every effort to win this opportunity and work closely with the backers of this event to assist in every way. Two potential sites were identified and work was undertaken to ensure the planning process would be smooth.

It became apparent, that other factors influenced the final decision around the location of this event.

Funding:

£7.5 M was awarded by the government.

This is broken down into £6.5 million capital funding and £1 million revenue funding. We can confirm that Ben Ainslie Racing (BAR) have received a grant from government of £6.5 million capital and due diligence is taking place on the £1 million revenue.

Further details are on a FOI- Link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-approves-75-million-for-sir-ben-ainslie-project-to-boost-portsmouth>

17. Council Savings

Question from Councillor O'Neill to Councillor Payne

The Council has said it can make £4m of savings each year without reductions in service. Why didn't we do this 4 years ago and then we would have another £16m available for capital spending, investment and ongoing costs?

Answer

Of the £4.311m of savings proposed in the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2016/17, much of this figure relates to efficiencies generated by the modernisation and transformation programme in the HRA.

These efficiencies include mobile working, which was introduced across the HRA in November 2014 after two years of development work and pilots. Hence, the efficiencies proposed are the culmination of around two years' work that has now come to fruition, and not savings that could be have been realised earlier.

In previous years, other savings generated within the HRA have been recycled into providing additional services or meeting one-off HRA budget pressures, such as the repair work generated by the storms of 2013/14.

It should also be noted that efficiencies do not cover all of the £4.311m savings proposed, with around £600,000 from service reductions.

Additionally, three further years of reduced income to the HRA are expected following the Government's July budget and the total estimated loss to the business plan is £33m over that period, which will require further economies and are likely to account for upcoming efficiencies as part of the HRA's ongoing work in this area.

57. MOTIONS

(a) Trade Union Bill

Councillor Jeffery moved and Councillor Hammond seconded:

“Council notes the positive contribution that our trade union colleagues make to the best possible delivery of public services in Southampton. Through partnership rather than conflict, trade unions represent their members, assist in the development of a safe and decent working environment, and add to the overall ethos of Southampton as an attractive place to work.

Council is alarmed at the way in which the Trade Union Bill seeks to tear up the collaboration between employers and trade union members, and the potential impact this will have on Southampton City Council, and many other workplaces across Southampton. The attacks on the right to strike, on the freedom of speech, and by making it more difficult for trade union members to pay their subscriptions are not just an attack on the trade union movement, but an attack on our fundamental rights in a democratic society.

Council therefore resolves the following:

- To continue to offer a “cheque-off” service - the ability of trade union members to have their subscriptions deducted at point of payment - to all members of staff at Southampton City Council, in spite of Government attempts to stop it. If this is not possible, to come up with a local plan to enable alternative methods of payment.
- To support the continuation of Trade Union Facility Time, in recognition of its contribution to reduced litigation and a healthier and safer working environment, and in promoting a positive working environment.
- To clearly reaffirm Southampton City Council's commitment to being a friendly environment for trade unions, to welcome their development, and to work in partnership with trade unions, not in conflict.
- To issue a press release upholding Southampton City Council's support for the trade union movement, and reflecting the aforementioned resolution”.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the motion be approved.

(b) Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

Councillor Mintoff moved and Councillor Spicer seconded:

“This Council notes the current ongoing consultation by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service ‘Planning for a Safer Hampshire’ and the proposal within the document to reduce night time cover at Hightown Fire Station.

This Council believes that this will increase the risk to lives and property for the whole of the East of the City, containing some of the most deprived areas in the country, at a time of the day when people are most vulnerable to fire.

Council notes that similar reductions in night time cover are not proposed for the Cosham station in Portsmouth which deals with less critical incidents, covers a smaller population, and has fewer large risks such as BP Hamble, NATS and multiple high rise buildings on their station ground.

Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Chief Fire Officer to raise these concerns and on our Fire Authority members to not support any proposal that leads to the reduction in night time cover at Hightown”.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the motion be approved.

NOTE: Councillors Mintoff and Spicer declared personal interests in the above matter, in view of their appointment as Southampton City Council appointed representatives of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority and remained in the meeting during the consideration of the matter.

(c) Social Care Budgets

Councillor Letts moved and Councillor Chaloner seconded:

“Council notes that in the last five years we have seen unprecedented cuts to our government grant and that the cuts to local government have been concentrated on urban areas like Southampton.

Council notes that demand continues to rise in high cost service areas like adults and children’s social care.

Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for local government ahead of the autumn statement and request that our social care budgets are protected in the same way as other government budgets with rising demand such as Health. This letter to be copied to all Southampton MP’s”.

Amendment moved by Councillor Moulton and seconded by Councillor Hannides:

In paragraph one, line two, delete all after “government grant...” and replace with “including an in year cut to our Public Health grant”.

Add new paragraph three as follows:

“Council notes the efforts by Cllr Royston Smith MP to highlight local concerns about in year Public Health cuts and that he has written to Jane Ellison MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department of Health) raising the Council’s concerns”.

Amended motion to read

“Council notes that in the last 5 years we have seen unprecedented cuts to our government grant, including an in year cut to our Public Health grant.

Council notes that demand continues to rise in high cost service areas like adults and children’s social care.

Council notes the efforts by Cllr Royston Smith MP to highlight local concerns about in year Public Health cuts and that he has written to Jane Ellison MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department of Health) raising the Council’s concerns.

Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State for local government ahead of the autumn statement and request that our social care budgets are protected in the same way as other government budgets with rising demand such as Health. This letter to be copied to all Southampton’s MP’s”.

Further amendment moved by Councillor Thomas and seconded by Councillor Morrell:

In third paragraph.

delete all in line two after “ahead of the autumn statement and...”

And replace with:

“demanding that the Government restore in full all of the cuts made in recent years in local authority grants. The Leader to also, as a matter of urgency, convene a conference of local authorities, trades unions, third sector, community and anti-austerity organisations with the purpose of mobilising public support behind this demand.”

Amended motion to read

“Council notes that in the last five years we have seen unprecedented cuts to our government grant and that the cuts to local government have been concentrated on urban areas like Southampton.

Council notes that demand continues to rise in high cost service areas like adults and children’s social care.

Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for local government demanding that the Government restore in full all of the cuts made in recent years in local authority grants. The Leader to also, as a matter of urgency, convene a conference of local authorities, trades unions, third sector, community and anti-austerity organisations with the purpose of mobilising public support behind this demand”.

With the consent of the Mayor, Councillor Letts moved an alteration to his motion which was seconded by Councillor Chaloner.

Add new paragraph three as follows

Council notes the efforts by Councillor Royston Smith MP, Alan Whitehead MP and Caroline Nokes MP to highlight local concerns about in year Public Health cuts and that Councillor Smith MP had written to Jane Ellison MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department of Health) raising the Council's concerns".

Altered motion to read

"Council notes that in the last five years we have seen unprecedented cuts to our government grant and that the cuts to local government have been concentrated on urban areas like Southampton.

Council notes that demand continues to rise in high cost service areas like adults and children's social care.

Council notes the efforts by Cllr Royston Smith MP, Alan Whitehead, MP and Caroline Nokes MP to highlight local concerns about in year Public Health cuts and that Councillor Smith MP had written to Jane Ellison MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department of Health) raising the Council's concerns.

Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for local government ahead of the autumn statement and request that our social care budgets are protected in the same way as other government budgets with rising demand such as Health. This letter to be copied to all Southampton MP's".

The Council agreed to suspend Council Procedure Rule 14.4 to enable flexibility in debate and more than one amendment to be debated.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR THOMAS WAS DECLARED LOST

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MOULTON WAS DECLARED LOST

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE ALTERED MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR LETTS WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the altered motion in the name of Councillor Letts be approved.

NOTE: Councillor Noon declared a personal interest in the above matter, in view of his employment in the Adult Social Care profession and remained in the meeting during the consideration of the matter.

NOTE: Councillor Barnes-Andrews declared a pecuniary Interest in the above matter, as a recipient of foster care allowance and left the meeting during the consideration of the matter.

58. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES OR THE MAYOR

It was noted that there were no questions to the Chairs of Committees or the Mayor.

59. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

It was noted that Councillor Jordan had replaced Councillor Lloyd on the main Licensing Committee from 23 September 2015.

60. STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services was submitted seeking approval of a revised Statement of Licensing Policy.

RESOLVED that the revised Statement of Licensing Policy as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

61. CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT

The report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Social Care was submitted outlining activity in relation to the range of statutory activities of the Council and its corporate parenting activity and the impact on outcomes for looked after children and care leavers.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted as evidence that the care of Southampton's looked after children is being robustly and appropriately monitored.

62. CHANGES TO EXISTING REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

The report of the Chief Financial Officer and Cabinet Member for Finance was submitted detailing proposed changes to existing Revenue and Capital Budgets to incorporate changes to this and future years' budgets.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the current 2015/16 General Fund revenue position as detailed in paragraph 11 of the report be noted;
- (ii) that it be noted that the Medium Term Financial Forecast would be further updated for the November budget report to Cabinet;
- (iii) that the savings proposals, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report and paragraph 16 to 23 of the report be approved;
- (iv) that the use of reserves in 2015/16 to manage any potential shortfall in capital receipts resulting from timing delays of actual receipt as a result of complex land disposals as detailed in paragraph 22 of the report be approved;
- (v) that the remaining budget shortfall for 2016/17 to 2019/20 as set out in paragraphs 24 to 26 of the report be noted;
- (vi) that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Financial Officer to action all budget changes arising from the approved efficiencies, income and service reductions and incorporate any other approved amendments into the General Fund Estimates; and

- (vii) that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to do anything necessary to give effect to the above resolutions.

63. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL LIMITS MID YEAR REVIEW 2015

The report of the Chief Financial Officer was submitted providing an update on the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Limits that were approved by Council in February 2015.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the current and forecast position with regards to these indicators be noted and that any changes be approved;
- (ii) that it be noted that the continued proactive approach to TM has led to reductions in borrowing costs and safeguarded investment income during the year;
- (iii) that the revised MRP policy made under delegated authority of the Chief Financial Officer which benefit the authority as set out in paragraphs 52 to 55 of the report be noted.
- (iv) that delegated authority continue to be granted to the Chief Financial Officer, Finance following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources to approve any changes to the Prudential Indicators or borrowing limits that will aid good treasury management. Any amendments would be reported as part of quarterly financial and performance monitoring and in revisions to this strategy;
- (v) that the increase in the investment limits as detailed in paragraphs 35 of the report be approved;
- (vi) that the position with regard to the Authority's Bond holding with Volkswagen Financial Services as detailed in paragraph 43 of the report be noted; and
- (vii) that the current position be noted regarding setting up the Local Authority Bonds Agency Ltd now known as the Municipal Bonds Agency (MBA) plc as set out in paragraph 24-29 of the report.

NOTE: Councillor Hammond declared a disclosable pecuniary Interest in the above matter, as an employee of a company with whom the Council had financial transactions and left the meeting during the consideration of the matter.

64. CONSTITUTION UPDATE-CHANGES TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CHIEF OFFICER EMPLOYMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (KNOWN AS CHIEF OFFICER EMPLOYMENT PANEL)

The report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services was submitted seeking amendment to the terms of reference of the Chief Officer Employment Sub-Committee (known as Chief Officer Employment Panel).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the changes to the Terms of Reference of the Chief Officer Employment Sub-Committee as detailed in the report be approved; and
- (ii) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to finalise the changes as approved by Council and make any further consequential or minor changes arising from the decision of Council.