
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2019

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor P Baillie
Councillors Barnes-Andrews, J Baillie, Bell, Bogle, Bunday (minutes 42(c) - 51), Chaloner, Coombs, Cooper, Fielker, Fitzhenry, Fuller (minutes 38 - 47), G Galton, S Galton, Guthrie (minutes 38 - 46), Hammond, Hannides, B Harris, L Harris, Harwood, Houghton, Kataria, Kaur, Keogh, Laurent, Leggett, Professor Margetts, McEwing, Mintoff, Mitchell, Murphy (minutes 38 - 46), Noon, Dr Paffey, Payne, Prior, Rayment, Renyard (minutes 38 - 42(c)), Savage, Shields, Spicer, Streets (minutes 38 - 47), Taggart, T Thomas, Vaughan (minutes 38 - 47), Whitbread, White and Windle.

Apologies received from The Sheriff, Councillor Mrs Blatchford.

38. MINUTES

RESOVLED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

39. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

- (i) The Mayor announced the death of former City Councillor and Leader of the Council, John Truscott. He had served as a Ward Councillor from 1982 – 1996 and became Leader of the Council for six months during 1994 – 1995. In addition the Mayor announced the death of Mr David Parrott who had served as an Independent School Admissions Panel Member for the Southampton Schools Appeal Service in a voluntary capacity since 1997. Finally the Mayor announced the death of Leon Crouch, Former Chairman of Southampton Football Club. As a mark of respect Council stood for a minute's silence.
- (ii) The Mayor announce that he had recently attended an event in honour of the Round About Café who had received the Queens Award for volunteering. It was noted that volunteers would be attending the November Council meeting to be presented with the Queens Award.
- (iii) The Mayor announced that Music in the City 2019 would be launched in the Mayors Parlour on Monday 23rd September 2019.
- (iv) The Leader announced that the Council had been nominated in 3 categories at the Association for Public Service Excellence Annual Service Awards 2019. In the Best Public/Private Partnership Working Initiative the Council came 1st alongside our colleagues Balfour Beatty for the work that had been achieved in "Shaping Southampton through Digital Excellence". In the Best Housing, Regeneration or New Build Initiative the Council came 2nd for the work achieved in Delivering a Safer Environment for Southampton City Council Residents and the final category of nomination was the Best Service Team: Highways, Winter Maintenance and Street Lighting Service were the Council came 2nd for Delivering Service Excellence throughout the most challenging of years.

40. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Council received and noted a deputation from Honorary Alderman Dr Parvin Damani on Human Rights violations in Kashmir (how this has affected Southampton residents).

41. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT

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 submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.1

1. Pavement Parking

Question from Councillor S Galton to Councillor Rayment

The Pavement parking, especially in our district centres and around some of our schools, can be a hazard to pedestrians and make walking and cycling impossible in places. Why aren't you using the powers available to you to introduce TRO's, to allow the Council to then control and solve this problem?

Answer

While it is theoretically possible to implement footway parking bans, there is a cost to processing the Traffic Regulation Order and implementing the required signing. The Council would have to justify why it was doing this at some locations and not others and the overall cost of implementing a footway ban across the entire city would be prohibitive.

The Government's Transport Committee is currently carrying out a further investigation into footway parking to identify a national solution. The latest information on this is available via the link below;

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/pavement-parking-17-19/>

Update – The Transport Committee published its report on Monday 9th September 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/news-parliament-2017/pavement-parking-report-published-17-19/>

2. Annual Weed Control

Question from Councillor S Galton to Councillor Hammond

Answer

Due to some issues with the procurement of the contract, the contract for the weed spraying was not released on time and the first spray of the year was subsequently delayed.

The contract is in place for 3 years from May 2019

Using underspends, we've employed temporary staff to prioritise and manually dig out weeds from the highways and footpaths to clear the backlog.

3. District Heat Schemes

Councillor S Galton to Councillor Leggett

What importance do you place on installing district heat schemes in new Council housing developments?

Answer

All new Council housing developments are looked at individually and solutions are based on a case by case basis. For Townhill Park and Potters Court developments it was decided there was an environmental and business case to install communal or district heating to parts of the new development. As district heating normally feeds a number of properties using a single or a few heat generators it will reduce losses that would be experienced by each property having an individual heat generator.

4. Impact on Local Air Quality

Councillor S Galton to Councillor Leggett

What initiatives have you introduced since becoming the Cabinet Member for Green City and what quantitative impact have they had on local air quality?

Answer

Verbal Response provided at the meeting.

It was not possible to deliver initiatives without support from other Cabinet Members and Officers. The following initiatives have been achieved:-

- October 2018, launched CitizEn Energy a not for profit energy company which has reduced the City's carbon footprint by over 1500 tonnes in the last year:
- Clean Air Strategy had been reviewed and refreshed and is now target driven and had received an additional £1.8m funding from Government to

support extra measures around buses, taxis, HGVs & sustainable model shift;

5. Park and Ride

Councillor Laurent to Councillor Rayment

What plans are in place for a Park and Ride facility for Southampton?

Answer

The development of strategic Park & Ride (P&R) sites in Southampton is identified in the Council's new Local Transport Plan 4 - Connected Southampton 2040. P&R is also one of the components of the Southampton Mass Transit System designed to create a step-change in public transport in the city to continue to increase the number of people travelling by public transport.

P&R is a component of the joint SCC and HCC submission to the Government's Transforming Cities Fund (TCF). The approach in TCF is for an initial weekend/events only service from the Nursling (Bargain Farm) to serve the City Centre as well as supporting the continuation of a service to Southampton General Hospital. TCF would support the delivery of P&R at Bargain Farm with off-site highways works such as bus priority and necessary facilities to make the site publically available. TCF would also allow opportunities for P&R to be developed in the east of the city in the vicinity of Bitterne possibly linked to the development of the Bitterne Hub.

The focus for Southampton City Council is to secure external funding such as TCF to support the infrastructure requirements to deliver a successful P&R as well as working with key partners in the city such as the local bus operators, to harness existing high frequency bus corridors and work with key demand drivers such as the University Hospitals Southampton (UHS) NHS Trust, ABP, and the two universities.

In January 2019 UHS Trust started the operation of a temporary P&R facility from Adanac Park, adjacent to Bargain Farm on the western side of Adanac Drive, to the main Southampton General Hospital (SGH) campus and SCC has been supporting the hospital in the planning of this. This temporary facility is specifically for Hospital staff to address a parking shortfall and pressures for staff parking at the main SGH campus. A planning application is currently under consideration by SCC and TVBC for the Health Campus and permanent P&R facility to continue to serve SGH, which SCC is supportive of. A Transport Assessment (TA) has been prepared and this demonstrates that the site accesses to the Bargain Farm site is able to accommodate the development and P&R traffic.

Alongside the continued support to the hospital in developing its P&R plans, the Council now awaits the decision from the DfT on the funding TCF announcement, which is expected in early 2020.

6. Removal of wrecks at Northam Bridge

Councillor Harwood to Councillor Hammond

At the July council the leader agreed to look at ways the council could lead on the removal of the wrecks around Northam Bridge. Can he update me on the progress?

Answer

Officers have investigated the matter and the part of the river where the wrecks are not on Council Land and therefore unfortunately the Council has no ownership or enforcement powers it can use. Officers will be contacting the Crown Commissioners to find out what their plans are, if any, to remove any wrecks. The Leader has spoken to both British Marine and Premier Marinas who suffer the same difficult issues on their sites and waterways.

7. New Homes Model

Councillor Prior to Councillor Kaur

Will the Cabinet Member explain why the successful model adopted at Hinkler Road, in my ward, for delivery of new homes has not been taken forward across the city to increase the development of housing?

Answer

The approach that was used in Hinkler Road Parade (now Hinkler Place) Thornhill was to go out to tender for developers to provide homes and retail units on council land. Some of these homes were affordable and none of these homes became council homes. A similar approach has been taken on other council owned Parade sites, for example Exford Avenue.

While our priority is to deliver council owned homes, we continue to work with partners, including Housing Associations to bring more homes to the city. For example, Sovereign was appointed at Brownhill, where construction is underway for 29 homes which are a mix of affordable rent and shared ownership.

8. Mixed Tenure Housing

Councillor Prior to Councillor Kaur

Can the Cabinet Member advise her position on the development of mixed tenure housing in the city and confirm that future council owned developments will deliver this?

Answer

The Council will bring forward developments that help meet our housing need and address gaps left by private sector delivery. This will include mixed tenure housing.

9. Rent Arrears

Councillor Fitzhenry to Councillor Kaur

Can the Cabinet Member explain why the Council's rent arrears are so high?

Answer

Southampton City Council rent arrears have increased by 2.89% since 2017 alongside other local authorities who have also seen a rise in rent arrears due to Universal Credit, which was rolled out in Southampton in February 2017.

Research (Safe as Houses and Safe as Houses 2) has been done by The Smith Institute on the impact of Universal Credit on local authority rent arrears which has concluded there is a direct correlation. Prior to the introduction of Universal Credit rent was paid directly to the council from Housing Benefit. As more people move onto Universal Credit (UC) less money comes directly to the council as it goes direct to the claimant. This makes it harder to collect rent.

In response, Southampton City Council continues to review its collections policy which has included an increased use of Alternative Payment Arrangements (APAs) coupled with changed working practices in the Customer Payment and Debt team. This has seen a gradual increase in rent collection.

We will continue to identify vulnerable tenants at risk of arrears and monitor best practice in this area, so we can evolve our collections policy accordingly.

10. Delivery of New Homes

Councillor Fitzhenry to Councillor Kaur

Can the Cabinet Member tell us what year she intends the Townhill Park Regeneration Scheme will be completed and overall how many new nett homes will be delivered?

Answer

The long stop date for completion of all building is March 2030, this is part of an agreement with Homes England. The council intend to identify opportunities that would result in the overall development being completed in advance of this date.

As reported previously to council the net gain is anticipated to be at least 240 homes.

11. Care Assessments

Councillor White to Councillor Fielker

Since the Independent reports into SCC care assessments were published in the early part of this year (Ref CM's response to a question in August) what % of assessments have been updated, both for financial and Care?

Answer

Since the findings were published, the Principal Social Worker for Adults has been working with social work teams to improve the quality of care assessments through a training and professional development programme.

All financial assessments were updated in May 2019, and since then 20% have had a further update. Since May, 31% of care assessments have been updated.

12. Disability Related Expenses

Councillor White to Councillor Fielker

How many care users have claimed Disability Related Expenses (DRE) following the imposition of the new charges? Also what guidance has been given to assist claimants with regard to DRE's?

Answer

Between implementation of the policy on 6 May 2019 and 31 August 2019, 99 care users have claimed an allowance for Disability Related Expenditure (DRE). The policy applies only to non-residential care (such as home care and supported living).

Following implementation, the council wrote to all clients who contribute to the cost of their non-residential care (or their billing representatives) with an easy read guide, a DRE application form and a form to advise the council if any of their finances had changed. These were sent to 405 clients and 335 billing representatives. Home visits are also available.

A meeting for carers hosted by Southampton Mencap was also held at which guidance on the DRE process was shared with carers and agencies.

13. Increase in Care Charges

Councillor White to Councillor Fielker

What is the average increase in care charges in both % and actual amounts? And what is the maximum increase in % and actual amounts?

Answer

The maximum possible increase due to the policy change related to the higher rate of disability benefits is £30.35 per week. Some clients have seen greater increases because their income has changed or now receive larger care packages.

The average increase for non-residential care following implementation of the policy is £11.91 per week (18%) (from £65.49 per week to £77.40 per week).

The largest increase has been £120.28 per week (from £7.22 per week to £127.50 per week). This was unrelated to the change in policy and was due to a significant increase in the person's income.

14. Increased Care Charges

Councillor White to Councillor Fielker

Last Full Council the Cabinet Member indicated that help was available to those who could not afford the increased Care Charges. How many people have been helped and what information has been circulated about this help?

Answer

The help available is through the administration of disability related expenditure (DRE), which is deducted from the client contribution. Since 6 May 2019, the council has received 99 applications for DRE, of which 36 have been determined, 35 are under consideration and in 28 cases we are working with people to collate the information that is needed.

Where appropriate, the Financial Assessment and Benefits Team give advice on maximising income, as part of the financial assessment process.

Following implementation, the council wrote to all clients who contribute to the cost of their non-residential care (or their billing representatives) with an easy read guide, a DRE application form and a form to advise the council if any of their finances had changed. These were sent to 405 clients and 335 billing representatives. Home visits are also available.

A meeting for carers hosted by Southampton Mencap was also held at which guidance on the DRE process was shared with carers and agencies.

15. Foster Carers

Councillor J Baillie to Councillor Paffey

Can the Cabinet Member confirm if we are still facing a shortage in foster carers? And if so how is the Council going about recruiting more?

There continues to be a shortage of foster carers locally but also nationally. This shortage is exacerbated by the increase in the challenges foster carers are facing which is currently making it harder to attract sufficient numbers of people to become foster carers.

The Council has an ongoing fostering campaign, and is looking to ensure the support provided to carers as well as the financial package are attractive. We are currently launching a specific project to recruit "Tier 4" foster carers who can provide specialised placements for children with complex needs. We will be

investing additional resource to fund wrap-around support through an additional psychologist and mental health social workers.

16. Travellers

Councillor Bell to Cllr Rayment

Can the Cabinet Member confirm what is being done to prevent the recent issues caused by the travellers on the Veracity ground from occurring elsewhere in the city?

Answer

A key element in the prevention of antisocial behaviour occasioned by unauthorised encampments relies on effective enforcement of the (recently updated) Council policy which balances the interests of local residents and the travelling population.

Any unauthorised encampment reported to the Council is considered on its own merits against criteria such as health and safety issues affecting unauthorised campers, traffic hazards, public health risks, serious environmental damage, and genuine nuisance to neighbours and proximity to other sensitive land-uses.

On receiving an initial notification of an unauthorised encampment, the Council will follow procedures as outlined in the policy including contact with relevant stakeholders (e.g. the Police and the relevant owner or manager of the land) notifying them of it the unauthorised encampment.

Where the unauthorised encampment is on council owned land, we will undertake a visit including checks that take into consideration (a) whether there are any risks associated with the encampment such as traffic hazards, proximity to sensitive sites and antisocial behaviour issues (b) health, welfare and housing needs of any individuals; (c) educational needs of any children; (d) whether any individuals are vulnerable or disabled; and (e) what facilities are available to individuals occupying the encampment (such as refuse, water and toilet facilities).

The Council may serve notice on individuals occupying the site to move. If the site is not vacated within the period set out, the Council may then take legal action to evict individuals occupying the site. This will be taken by the relevant Authorising Officer, as set out in the officer scheme of delegation in line with Council policies.

Where there are unauthorised encampments on private land, it is the responsibility of the private landowner to take action to remove trespassers and to deal with any environmental risk or nuisance relating to unauthorised encampments on private land. The landowner is responsible for meeting the costs of any action taken.

Upon notification of an encampment on private land, the Council will liaise with the landlord, including seeking permission to enter the land to undertake checks

where necessary. If a safeguarding concern is identified, the Council may take remedial action to limit or remove the concern.

In some circumstances, the Council may consider taking action to deal with any items or substances deposited on land which cause harm or nuisance to public health or the environment. In such cases the Council will seek the encampment landowner's permission and cooperation, and seek to recover all costs.

If any significant risk is identified (including risks to the individuals occupying the unauthorised encampment, local residents or otherwise), Southampton City Council will report the site to Hampshire Constabulary. In practice, there are good local arrangements for sharing intelligence about encampments with neighbourhood police teams at the earliest opportunity and notifying the relevant landowner. We advise members of public and staff to report instances of antisocial behaviour to the police non-emergency number 101.

Enforcement activity in relation to the management of unauthorised encampments is undertaken in line with the City Council's Enforcement Policy.

Many sites under SCC control have already been target hardened with bunding or other barriers to prevent unauthorised access. For example, the common and Freemantle Common and Peartree Common.

Some of the land that we have recently taken action on is leased to Active Nation and we encourage those partners that have leased our land to take the same actions.

17. Staff Sickness

Councillor Hannides to Councillor Hammond

Can the Leader advise Council on the current monthly costs of our staff sickness?

Answer

Governance Committee receive regular reports and data around sickness absence; HR work with management teams to identify trends and address hot spot areas and issues. The Chief Executive will be happy to have a conversation with Councillor Hannides in respect of the issue.

18. Door Mat Policy

Councillor Fitzhenry to Councillor Kaur

Can the Cabinet Member update full Council on the outcomes of your policy review on door mats and on what date we will be moving to a new approach?

Answer

Further to the review, while we still encourage all tenants to assess the risks before having items in communal areas, only tenants living in tower blocks and

some supported housing schemes will now be asked to remove items such as doormats.

This managed approach took effect immediately.

Tenants have been made aware of the outcome and ward councillors have been informed on how this affects their ward moving forward.

19. Increase in Education Funding

Councillor J Baillie to Councillor Paffey

Does the Executive welcome the new increase in education funding?

Answer

Verbal Response provided at the meeting.

The Executive welcomed the new increase in education funding along with schools in the City which was long overdue, the detail of which was still awaited. The Executive did express its disappointment in the very little increase in further education funding which would not meet the funding needs per pupil, as well the lack of any additional funding for Adult Education.

42. MOTIONS

(a) Councillor Hammond moved Councillor Leggett seconded.

Council notes that in 2017, our city became one of the first local authorities in the UK to pass a motion recognising that the world faced an environmental crisis and pledged to become carbon neutral by 2040.

Since then, over 200 councils have followed those trailblazing Councils and passed motions declaring climate emergencies. Council welcomes this movement, reiterates our established view that there is a climate emergency and celebrates action already taken by organisations across Southampton.

Earlier this year, the city council launched its bold and ambitious Green City Charter that goes above and beyond the UK government's targets and commits this council to be carbon neutral by 2030. To reinforce this council's commitment, £60M has already been allocated towards projects that support the ambitions of the Green City Charter. These projects are split across the council including; £36M improving our housing stock to become energy efficient, £9M on reducing road congestion, £8M in improving cycle ways, £3M investment in public transport and £4M on including improving our green spaces and investing in electric vehicles.

Council resolves that there is more to do, but is encouraged by the progress made to date including; reducing its carbon footprint by more than 50%, by the end of the year.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED CARRIED.

RESOLVED: that the motion be approved.

(b) Councillor Guthrie moved Councillor Kaur seconded.

This Council notes that the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2020 is a time when many other local authorities, not just in Britain but around the world, will be holding their own events to mark the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Southampton played a unique role in the effort to defend the United Kingdom's freedom. As such, this Council commits itself to the organisation of a special event for the VE Day commemoration and will work with local armed forces veterans and charities to remember the sacrifices that finally brought peace to Europe in 1945.

This Council recognises that many of Southampton's residents are proud of their city's struggle to defend their future and will ensure that information on the event is widely distributed and that members are kept updated on its planning in a timely manner.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY DECLARED CARRIED.

RESOLVED: that the motion be approved.

(c) Amendment moved by Councillor Keogh and Councillor Savage seconded.

First paragraph, line 5 delete "a third" and replace with "17.5%

Second paragraph, line 3, after "does" insert "not".

Final paragraph, line 6 delete "faculties" and replace "facilities"

Amended Motion to read:

"This Council recognises the extreme difficulties and challenges faced by our three Further Education colleges in this City as a result of the significant cuts to their budgets since 2010 and in particular the impact this has had on our two sixth form colleges. Per student funding for sixth form students has been frozen at £4 000 since 2013 and the rate for those over 18 was cut by 17.5% in 2014 from £4 000 to £3 300.

This Council does recognise and welcomes the recent announcement by the chancellor of £400m of additional funding for further education in England, but this does not go far enough to restore the cuts since 2010 and the detail has yet to be published.

This Council is aware of the recent Area Reviews that have sought to place our Further Education colleges on a more sustainable foundation. This most recent review is recommending a close collaboration between our three Colleges with the potential for a merger.

This Council asks the Leader of the Council to write a joint letter signed by the leader of the opposition and the leader of the Solent LEP to the Secretary of State for Education urging that this closer collaboration and potential merger between the City's three Colleges is given its highest support and any barriers to such a proposal are removed to ensure the young people of Southampton can have access to the very best of institutions and facilities at the Further Education level to allow them to achieve their full potential."

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDED MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR KEOGH WAS UNANIMOUSLY DECLARED CARRIED.

RESOLVED: that the motion be approved.

NOTE: Councillors Keogh and Kaur declared a personal interest and remained in the meeting.

(d) Councillor S Galton moved Councillor Hannides seconded.

This Council recognises the negative impact failing to leave the EU had in March and April; both to local business decision making and to the confidence of our residents in the democratic process and as such Council expressly believes the UK should now leave the EU on or before the 31st October, deal or no deal, to finally recognise one of our largest ever democratic votes that saw 17,410,742 vote to leave the EU.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED LOST.

RESOLVED: that the motion be rejected.

NOTE - AGAINST THE MOTION: Councillors Hammond, Barnes-Andrews, Bogle, Bunday, Chaloner, Coombs, Cooper, Fielker, Kataria, Kaur, Keogh, Leggett, Margetts, McEwing, Mintoff, Mitchell, Murphy, Noon, Paffey, Payne, Rayment, Savage, Shields, Spicer, Taggart, Whitbread and Windle.

NOTE - ABSTAINED FROM THE MOTION: Councillor Thomas.

NOTE – FOR THE MOTION: Councillors Fitzhenry, J Baillie, P Baillie, Bell, Fuller, G Galton, S Galton, Guthrie, Hannides, B Harris, L Harris, Harwood, Houghton, Laurent, Prior, Streets, Vaughan and White.

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

It was noted that no requests for Questions from Members to the Chairs of Committees or the Mayor had been received.

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

It was noted that the following Members had been appointed to the Reducing Childhood Obesity in Southampton Scrutiny Inquiry:-

Councillors McEwing, Coombs, Professor Margetts, Thomas, Harwood, Houghton and Vaughan.

45. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FINANCE AND COMMERCIALISATION

The Leader of the Council reported to Council that the Chief Officer Employment Panel met on the 16th September 2019 for the role of Executive Director Finance and Commercialisation/S151 Officer and recommended to Council that the John Harrison be appointed to the permanent role.

Council confirmed the appointment of John Harrison to the role.

46. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - EXEMPT PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM (IF NEEDED)

RESOLVED: Council moved that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the exempt appendices to the following item.

Appendices 2 to 8 were considered to be exempt from general publication based on Category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. It is not in the public interest to disclose this because those appendices include details of a proposed transaction which, if disclosed prior to contract, could put the Council or other parties at commercial disadvantage.

47. TOYS R US SITE REGENERATION

Report of the Leader of the Council detailing proposals for a mixed-use redevelopment of the Toys R Us Site in Southampton.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution Council moved into confidential session to discuss appendices 2-8 of the report.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the principles of the Commercial Terms set out in Confidential Appendix 4 of the report be endorsed;
- (ii) That following consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Director of Finance and Commercialisation and subject to receipt of a satisfactory S123 report, the Director of Growth be given delegated authority to finalise contractual terms as referred to in (i) above for the proposed transaction, together with any other legal agreements relating thereto so as to enable the development to proceed;
- (iii) That the Director of Legal and Governance be given delegated authority to enter into all legal documentation necessary to facilitate regeneration of the Toys R Us site (including funding arrangements and new head-leases) pursuant to terms of the Agreement referred to at (ii) above being met; and
- (iv) That the addition of £27M to the Leader's portfolio in the Capital programme and the expenditure of £27M delivering the office element of the proposed

scheme, as detailed in appendices to this report be approved which is to be funded by external borrowing.

48. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - EXEMPT PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM

RESOLVED: Council moved that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the exempt appendices to the following item.

The report and appendices were considered to be exempt from general publication based on Category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. It is not in the public interest to disclose this because doing so would reveal information that was both commercially sensitive and detrimental to the business affairs of the Council.

49. REPORT ON USE OF DELEGATED POWERS TO PURCHASE MODULAR CLASSROOM

Confidential report of the Chief Executive detailing a decision taken under delegated powers to purchase a modular classroom.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the decision to award the McAvoy Group a contract to sell to the Authority a modular classroom at Great Oaks Academy be noted; and
- (ii) That the Lessons Learned report provided as Appendix 1 of the report and supported the proposed actions be noted.

50. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - EXEMPT PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM

RESOLVED: Council moved that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the exempt appendices to the following item.

The report is considered to be exempt from general publication based on Category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. It is not in the public interest to disclose this because it includes information relating to the Authority's own financial or business affairs. Disclosing this information could invite a procurement challenge from the unsuccessful bidders which, although not likely to be valid, would delay the project. It does not include information which was required to be registered under the Companies Act 1985, the Friendly Society Acts 1974 and 1992, the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965-1978, the Building Societies Act 1986 or the Charities Act 1993 as such information would be in the public domain in any event.

51. CLIENT CASE MANAGEMENT (CCM) SYSTEM UPDATE

Confidential report of the Cabinet Member for Resources seeking approval for additional funding to deliver the new client case management system and to outline changes to the implementation timeline.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the revised project implementation date of November 2020 (from March 2020) be noted;
- (ii) That an increase to the project budget of £800,000 to provide additional resources to deliver the project according to the revised timescales be approved; and
- (iii) That authority be delegated to the Service Director Customer, Digital and Policy, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, to make any necessary amendments to the project delivery plan, within the revised project budget.