

Governance Committee

Monday, 13th November,
2023

at 5.00 pm

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Conference Room 3

This meeting is open to the public

Members of the Committee

Councillor A Frampton (Chair)

Councillor P Baillie

Councillor Chapman

Councillor Denness

Councillor McCreanor

Councillor McEwing

Councillor Rayment

Contacts

Director of Governance, Legal and HR

Richard Ivory

Tel. 023 8083 2794

Email: richard.ivory@southampton.gov.uk

Senior Democratic Support Officer

Claire Heather

Tel. 023 8083 2412

Email: Claire.heather@southampton.gov.uk

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Role of the Governance Committee

Information regarding the role of the Committee's is contained in Part 2 (Articles) of the Council's Constitution.

[02 Part 2 - Articles](#)

It includes at least one Councillor from each of the political groups represented on the Council, and at least one independent person, without voting rights, who is not a Councillor or an Officer of the Council.

Access – Access is available for disabled people. Please contact the Democratic Support Officer who will help to make any necessary arrangements.

Public Representations At the discretion of the Chair, members of the public may address the meeting on any report included on the agenda in which they have a relevant interest. Any member of the public wishing to address the meeting should advise the Democratic Support Officer (DSO) whose contact details are on the front sheet of the agenda

Southampton: Corporate Plan 2022-2030 sets out the four key outcomes:

- Communities, culture & homes - Celebrating the diversity of cultures within Southampton; enhancing our cultural and historical offer and using these to help transform our communities.
- Green City - Providing a sustainable, clean, healthy and safe environment for everyone. Nurturing green spaces and embracing our waterfront.
- Place shaping - Delivering a city for future generations. Using data, insight and vision to meet the current and future needs of the city.
- Wellbeing - Start well, live well, age well, die well; working with other partners and other services to make sure that customers get the right help at the right time

Smoking policy – The Council operates a no-smoking policy in all civic buildings.

Mobile Telephones:- Please switch your mobile telephones or other IT devices to silent whilst in the meeting

Use of Social Media:- The Council supports the video or audio recording of meetings open to the public, for either live or subsequent broadcast. However, if, in the Chair's opinion, a person filming or recording a meeting or taking photographs is interrupting proceedings or causing a disturbance, under the Council's Standing Orders the person can be ordered to stop their activity, or to leave the meeting. By entering the meeting room you are consenting to being recorded and to the use of those images and recordings for broadcasting and or/training purposes. The meeting may be recorded by the press or members of the public.

Any person or organisation filming, recording or broadcasting any meeting of the Council is responsible for any claims or other liability resulting from them doing so.

Details of the Council's Guidance on the recording of meetings is available on the Council's website.

Dates of Meetings: Municipal Year 2023/2024

2023	2024
12 June	12 February
24 July	22 April
25 September	
13 November	
11 December	

CONDUCT OF MEETING

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Governance Committee are contained in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

[03 - Part 3 - Responsibility for Functions](#)

Rules of Procedure

The meeting is governed by the Council Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

Business to be discussed

Only those items listed on the attached agenda may be considered at this meeting.

Quorum

The minimum number of appointed Members required to be in attendance to hold the meeting is 3.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are required to disclose, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, **both** the existence **and** nature of any "Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" or "Other Interest" they may have in relation to matters for consideration on this Agenda.

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

A Member must regard himself or herself as having a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter that they or their spouse, partner, a person they are living with as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were a civil partner in relation to:

- (i) Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (ii) Sponsorship:

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Southampton City Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expense incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

(iii) Any contract which is made between you / your spouse etc (or a body in which the you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.

(iv) Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Southampton.

(v) Any license (held alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Southampton for a month or longer.

(vi) Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) the landlord is Southampton City Council and the tenant is a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interests.

(vii) Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Southampton, and either:

- a) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or
- b) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Other Interests

A Member must regard himself or herself as having an, 'Other Interest' in any membership of, or occupation of a position of general control or management in:

Any body to which they have been appointed or nominated by Southampton City Council

Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature

Any body directed to charitable purposes

Any body whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy

Principles of Decision Making

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:-

- proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
- due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;
- respect for human rights;
- a presumption in favour of openness, accountability and transparency;
- setting out what options have been considered;
- setting out reasons for the decision; and
- clarity of aims and desired outcomes.

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

- understand the law that regulates the decision making power and gives effect to it. The decision-maker must direct itself properly in law;
- take into account all relevant matters (those matters which the law requires the authority as a matter of legal obligation to take into account);
- leave out of account irrelevant considerations;
- act for a proper purpose, exercising its powers for the public good;
- not reach a decision which no authority acting reasonably could reach, (also known as the "rationality" or "taking leave of your senses" principle);
- comply with the rule that local government finance is to be conducted on an annual basis. Save to the extent authorised by Parliament, 'live now, pay later' and forward funding are unlawful; and
- act with procedural propriety in accordance with the rules of fairness.

AGENDA

1 **APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies.

2 **DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

NOTE: Members are reminded that, where applicable, they must complete the appropriate form recording details of any such interests and hand it to the Democratic Support Officer.

3 **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

4 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

(Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2023 and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

5 **REVIEW OF PRUDENTIAL LIMITS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR 2023/24** (Pages 5 - 36)

Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer detailing the mid-year position of Treasury activity in year to date and compliance to Prudential Indicators.

6 **CIPFA REVIEW** (Pages 37 - 60)

Report of the Executive Director Corporate Services and S151 Officer providing an update on the CIPFA review of the Council's finances and procedures and update on the new financial strategy.

7 **EXTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT** (Pages 61 - 90)

Report of the External Auditor detailing the 2021/22 Annual Audit.

8 **ANNUAL REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINTS FOR 2022/23** (Pages 91 - 110)

Report of the Director Legal, Governance and HR detailing the Annual Report on Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman Complaints for 2022/23.

9 ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT 2022 - 2023 (Pages 111 - 116)

Report of the Director Legal Governance and HR detailing the Annual Complaints Report 2022-2023 and associated learning.

10 STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT ACTIVITY (Pages 117 - 124)

Provides the Governance Committee with an overview of the Council's upcoming strategic procurement activity, the arrangements for which need to be operational by the end of Financial Year 2025/26.

11 HOUSING VOIDS UPDATE (Pages 125 - 130)

Report of the Executive Director Wellbeing and Housing setting out progress made and outstanding action that is still required to help address the areas of limited assurance in the Audit report.

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

To move 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 appendices are considered to be exempt from general publication based on Category 7A of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

13 STRATEGIC CONTRACTS - ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 131 - 156)

Report of Head of Supplier Management and Director of Commissioning outlining the council's most strategically important contracts for financial year 2022-23

Friday, 3 November 2023

Director Governance Legal and HR