

Minutes of Council Meetings:

- 16th November, 2016, Special Meeting
- 16th November, 2016
- 15th February, 2017

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
16 NOVEMBER 2016

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor McEwing
The Sheriff, Councillor L Harris
Councillors P Baillie, J Baillie, Barnes-Andrews, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Burke, Chaloner, Claisse, Coombs, Denness, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Furnell, Hammond, Hannides, B Harris, Hecks, Houghton, Inglis, Jordan, Kaur, Keogh, Laurent, Letts, Lewzey, Mintoff, Morrell, Moulton, Murphy, Noon, O'Neill, Dr Paffey, Painton, Parnell, Payne, Pope, Rayment, Savage, Shields, Taggart, D Thomas, T Thomas, Vassiliou, Whitbread, White and Wilkinson

56. HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE CITY

Councillor McEwing moved and Councillor L Harris seconded:

(i) that in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Honorary Freedom of the City be conferred on Francis Benali, in recognition of his fund raising achievements for charitable causes; and

(ii) that suitable scrolls and caskets be commissioned for this purpose.

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

RESOLVED that the motion as submitted be adopted.

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Councillors P Baillie, J Baillie, Barnes-Andrews, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Burke, Chaloner, Claisse, Coombs, Denness, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Furnell, Hammond, Hannides, B Harris, Hecks, Houghton, Inglis, Jordan, Kaur, Keogh, Laurent, Letts, Lewzey, Mintoff, Morrell, Moulton, Murphy, Noon, O'Neill, Dr Paffey, Painton, Parnell, Payne, Pope, Rayment, Savage, Shields, Taggart, D Thomas, T Thomas, Vassiliou, Whitbread, White and Wilkinson

57. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st September 2016 and the Extra Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19th October 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

58. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

- (i) The Mayor announced that Southampton City Council had won an award for Creative Use of Citizen Engagement at the GovDelivery's 2016 Digital Strategy and Impact Awards for the work undertaken on the Department of Communities Local Government's Statutory Notice Pilot Project;
- (ii) The Mayor announced that this was the last Council meeting before the departure of Mark Heath, Interim Chief Operations Officer and Sharon Gilbert from the Mayor's Office, both of whom had given the Council their unstinting commitment, loyalty and hard work over many years. Tributes were made to both employees from Members across political parties;
- (iii) Members stood in a minutes silence in memory of the death of Ex-Councillor Jean Roost who served as Bitterne Ward Councillor from 1979-1992;
- (iv) The Mayor reminded Members that SVS would no longer be running the Annual Toy Appeal. SCRATCH would be accepting donated new toys which the Mayor's Office would be acting as a drop off point for and would arrange for the delivery of presents to SCRATCH.
- (v) The Mayor announced that the Mayor's Ball would be taking place on 28th April 2017;
- (vi) The Mayor announced there would be a Burns Supper on 25th January 2017;
- (vii) The Mayor announced that she had attended Bikers Night on 27th October 2016
- (viii) The Mayor congratulated Councillors Hammond and Paffey for taking part in the Sleep Out Charities night which took place on 11th November 2016;
- (ix) The Mayor announced that the ABP Marathon would take place on 23rd April 2017; and

- (x) The Mayor announced that she had taken part in the Christmas Lights Switch On which had taken place on 12th November 2016.

59. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Council received and noted a deputation from Maggie Longley and Sal Robinson representing the Solent Women against State Pension Inequality.

60. 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 submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.1.

1. Household Waste Recycling Centre

Question from Councillor Fitzhenry to Councillor Rayment

In light of Hampshire County Council's recent announcement of its position on the HWRC opening times will she be reversing her proposals to reduce our open hours?

Answer

In the light of Hampshire County Council's (HCC's) recent announcement of its position on opening times for its Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC's), I will be recommending to Cabinet on 20th December 2016 that we also delay reducing opening hours at the City Depot HWRC. Changes agreed to come in from 1st January 2017 (subject to Cabinet approval) will therefore be delayed until 1st October 2017 when the situation will be reviewed.

2. Multi Storey Car Parks

Question from Councillor Fitzhenry to Councillor Rayment

Can the Cabinet Member advise what is being done to improve the state of our multi storey car parks?

Answer

I am aware of the problems associated with rough sleepers gaining access to our car parks and we are working hard to tackle this.

The car parks are patrolled daily by Civil Enforcement Officers with the first inspections starting at 7am. Rough sleepers are moved on if possible. If they refuse to leave then a notice is served giving them the necessary 48 hours to leave after which their belongings are removed with Police assistance. Any associated cleaning and/or removal of needles is reported to the cleaning team. Communal areas of each of the multi-story car parks are washed down regularly.

More regular security patrols and cleaning of communal areas are being put in place. Investment in our car parks to repaint and link signage to the “Legible City” branding is being considered to promote them as the gateway to the city.

3. Dropped Curb Installation

Question from Councillor Houghton to Councillor Rayment

The cost of dropped curb installation in Hampshire (HCC) is cheaper than in Southampton under Balfour Beatty. As such would you be prepared to enter into discussions with Balfour Beatty to look at their pricing to ensure it is closer to the costs of our near neighbours and provides the best value for money for the people of Southampton?

Answer

It is generally accepted that dropped crossings are cheaper in Hampshire for reasons outlined below. Despite this, it can be confirmed that SCC officers will renew their audit of BBLP’s pricing structure to ensure best value is maintained. It is also emphasised that Southampton residents are entitled to appoint their own accredited contractor to carry out such works.

Hampshire’s website gives dropped crossing prices that ‘do not include any of the works for moving street furniture, utility apparatus or any other costs’. There are also known to be ‘supplementary licence fees’ being payable for a Temporary Road Opening Licence - this is similar to the process that Southampton have adopted with Balfour Beatty’s – Hampshire confirmed this to amount to £173. Hampshire also advertise a design and supervision fee of £175 and a non-refundable application fee of £75 (which is not, together with site visits, charged at all in Southampton).

A typical dropped crossing in Hampshire is shown to cost approx. £1,203. Balfour Beatty additionally factor-in an average number of utility apparatus moves (as part of Southampton’s published average figure of £1,600 Inc. VAT), reflecting the more costly / congested city sites, as opposed to the many out-of-town locations in Hampshire.

4. Personal Budgets

Question from Councillor White to Councillor Payne

Can the Cabinet Member indicate how likely the acceptance of Personal Budgets will increase as the cost of care to the individual in the majority of cases is higher than that calculated by SCC.

Answer

The Council is committed to increasing the proportion of people who receive their personal budget as a direct payment. Current performance is 17.3% and there are targets to increase this to 22.6% by April 2017 and to 39% by March 2020.

Direct payments enable people to have flexibility and freedom of choice, ensuring the care that they receive is person-centred.

When home care is needed, the average rate that the Council pays to commission this from one of its framework care providers is used to calculate the personal budget. If a direct payment is used to buy this care privately, then this is sometimes, but not always, more expensive.

If the Council is able to increase the volume of adult social care service users with direct payments, economies of scale mean that providers should be able to reduce the cost of home care services purchased via direct payments accordingly. The Council will proactively negotiate with key providers on behalf of service users to assure this.

The main reason for taking a personal budget as a direct payment is to enable individuals to employ their own personal assistant, which brings much greater control and flexibility than using a care provider, and is cheaper. Work is underway to increase the pool of personal assistants in Southampton.

Direct payments can also be used to buy other services that help people to lead a full life in a way that more precisely meets their needs. The Council is piloting the use of an online service that will make this easier and has established a taskforce to work with partners to make sure the right advice, support and systems are in place.

5. Data Standards

Councillor White to Councillor Payne

Can the Cabinet Member give details a how the data used by Social Care particularly Safeguarding will be improved to such a standard that will enable the Safeguarding Board to produce a report based on fact rather than best estimations.

Answer

Significant improvements have been delivered in terms of social care reporting during 2016. In January 2016, the Children's and Adults data teams were moved into the central Strategy Unit and restructured. Since that time, work has been undertaken with operational services and partners to define reporting requirements, agree common data definitions and produce a standardised set of reports for Boards and managers.

This has included a review of the arrangements for accurately recording and tracking adults' safeguarding alerts and statutory enquires and other data that are monitored by the Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB).

In April 2016, the recording system PARIS delivered new changes to bring the system in line with the Care Act 2014. This followed extensive development over the previous six months. The PARIS team worked closely with the service to ensure the system was compliant. New user guidance was prepared by the service and this was rolled out in parallel with the system changes and training.

This work has been overseen by the Monitoring and Evaluation Group of the LSAB, which collates data from a number of agencies involved with safeguarding adults, including the Council, police and the NHS. An Improvement Plan was agreed by the LSAB, which is on track to be completed by December 2016. This has included an analyst working alongside a Safeguarding Coordinator.

The Data Team and Monitoring and Evaluation Group will continue to quality assure the safeguarding data provided by the Council and other agencies and these will be drilled down to identify the data that are most needed to ensure the LSAB's focus is in the right place.

6. Pedestrianisation of Guildhall Square

Councillor Fitzhenry to Councillor Letts

When will the Pedestrianisation of Guildhall Square be complete?

Answer

We are keen to provide an improved environment for Guildhall Square, one of the City's premier public realm spaces. Improvements will be delivered in a phased approach, but will include:

- Providing adequate protection for street furniture
- Limiting vehicle access from West Marlands Road
- Manging vehicle over run onto granite surfaces in Above Bar Street in the short term
- Working with partners to restrict vehicle movements on Above Bar Street in the longer term

7. Alternative Weekly Collection

Councillor Fitzhenry to Councillor Rayment

When will AWC be introduced in 2017?

Answer

Subject to consultation and approval as part of the budget setting process it is hoped that Alternate Weekly Collections (AWC) could be introduced during quarter two of 2017. It is proposed that implementation will be phased from that

date, starting with houses in the first place and followed by flats on a gradual basis.

61. MOTIONS

(a) Women Against State Pension Inequality

Councillor T Thomas moved and Councillor Morrell seconded:

Southampton City Council welcomes the opportunity, in response to a request to their ward councillors from Southampton members of Solent WASPI, the local branch of Women Against State Pension Inequality, to support their call upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age with lack of appropriate notification.

Hundreds and possibly thousands of Southampton women, and hundreds of thousands nationally, had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little or no personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.

Many women born in the 1950's are now living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment.

Council therefore instructs the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions accordingly.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the motion be approved.

(b) Central Government Proposal to Reduce Funding for Community Pharmacies

Councillor Noon moved and Councillor Bogle seconded:

This Council greatly values and appreciates the important contribution of primary care to the City's health and wellbeing. An essential part of the primary care system is provided by community pharmacies. This Council is alarmed, therefore, at plans by central government to drastically reduce funding for community pharmacy in 2016/17 (a 12% cut) and subsequent years.

Council, therefore, urges the Health & Wellbeing Board to seek assurances from Government Ministers that no community pharmacies in Southampton will be placed at risk of closure as a result of the national strategy and to work in partnership with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Pharmaceutical Committee and the City's GPs to vigorously protect and promote the City's valuable primary care services.

Amendment moved by Councillor White and Councillor J Baillie seconded:

First paragraph, third line, delete “This Council is alarmed, therefore, at plans by central government to drastically reduce funding for community pharmacy in 2016/17 (a 12% cut) and subsequent years.”

And replace with: “This Council is concerned by plans from central government to reduce funding for community pharmacies by 4% in 2016/17, then rising to a total reduction of 7.5% from April 2017.”

Second paragraph, first line, delete “therefore,” and delete “seek assurances from Government Ministers that no” and replace with “write to the Minister with responsibility for Pharmacy matters and call upon him to reconsider the imminent funding changes to”

Second paragraph, second line, delete “in Southampton will be placed at risk of closure as a result of the national strategy and to work in partnership with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Pharmaceutical Committee and the City’s GPs to vigorously protect and promote the City’s valuable primary care services.”

And replace with: “and to work in close cooperation with both national and local community pharmacy representative organisations and to consider a revised strategy which would see the development of a series of clinical pharmacy services, such as those supporting patients with long term conditions, alongside the development of the role of community pharmacy in self-care and illness prevention, which would lead to savings in acute hospitals.”

Add new third paragraph: “Further, Council expresses its concern at the planned £30,000 cut in Council Public Health funding for Emergency Contraception, which would see the community pharmacy emergency contraception service in Southampton threatened and urges the Executive to rethink this proposal.”

Amended motion to read:

This Council greatly values and appreciates the important contribution of primary care to the City’s health and wellbeing. An essential part of the primary care system is provided by community pharmacies.

This Council is concerned by plans from central government to reduce funding for community pharmacies by 4% in 2016/17, then rising to a total reduction of 7.5% from April 2017.

Council urges the Health & Wellbeing Board to write to the Minister with responsibility for Pharmacy Matters and call upon him to reconsider the imminent funding changes to community pharmacies and to work in close cooperation with both national and local community pharmacy representative organisations and to consider a revised strategy which would see the development of a series of clinical pharmacy services, such as those supporting patients with long term conditions, alongside the development of the role of community pharmacy in self-care and illness prevention, which would lead to savings in acute hospitals.

Further, Council expresses its concern at the planned £30,000 cut in Council Public Health funding for Emergency Contraception, which would see the community pharmacy emergency contraception service in Southampton threatened and urges the Executive to rethink this proposal.

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

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

RESOLVED that the motion be approved.

NOTE: Councillor P Baillie declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and left the meeting. Councillor J Baillie declared a Personal Interest and remained in the meeting and took part.

(c) Brexit Negotiations

Councillor Keogh moved and Councillor Furnell seconded

This Council believes that a key principle underpinning the Brexit negotiations and agreement should be the achievement and maintenance of a strong and stable national economy because this supports the growth and development of local economies such as Southampton, ensuring our residents have the best outcomes in terms of employment opportunities, disposable incomes and access to reliable public services. It will intrinsically affect major employers in the City such as the University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust, our two Universities and ABP.

This Council asks that the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union requesting that he sets out the economic tests that will underpin our Brexit negotiations and agreement.

Amendment moved by Councillor Moulton and seconded by Councillor Hannides.

Second paragraph, second line, delete: "requesting that he sets out the economic tests that will underpin our Brexit negotiations and agreement."

Replace with: "expressing Council's view that the democratic decision of the British people in the June referendum should be respected by the Government and Parliament, that Government should trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty by the Spring of 2017, signalling the start of the process of withdrawing from the EU, that government seeks to get the best possible post EU deal for the country and Southampton and that Parliament should not seek to frustrate efforts by the Government to achieve this or to bind its hands in that negotiation."

Add new third paragraph: "Further, Council notes the concerns that have been raised by ABP in relation to EU Port Services Regulations, which it has argued will undermine investment in UK ports and urges the Government to ensure that this is given proper consideration in its negotiations with the EU."

Amended motion to read:

This Council believes that a key principle underpinning the Brexit negotiations and agreement should be the achievement and maintenance of a strong and stable national economy because this supports the growth and development of local economies such as Southampton, ensuring our residents have the best outcomes in terms of employment opportunities, disposable incomes and access to reliable public services. It will intrinsically affect major employers in the City such as the University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust, our two Universities and ABP.

This Council asks that the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union expressing Council's view that the democratic decision of the British people in the June referendum should be respected by the Government and Parliament, that Government should trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty by the Spring of 2017, signalling the start of the process of withdrawing from the EU, that government seeks to get the best possible post EU deal for the country and Southampton and that Parliament should not seek to frustrate efforts by the Government to achieve this or to bind its hands in that negotiation.

Further, Council notes the concerns that have been raised by ABP in relation to EU Port Services Regulations, which it has argued will undermine investment in UK ports and urges the Government to ensure that this is given proper consideration in its negotiations with the EU.

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

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

RESOLVED that the motion be approved.

(d) State of City

Councillor Fitzhenry moved and Councillor Fuller seconded

Council calls on the Executive to quickly implement an action plan to address the falling standards of our City's appearance and reinvigorate the energy to deliver our City's long term ambitions to be the cultural and economic powerhouse on the south coast.

Continually residents, visitors and businesses are complaining about the appalling state of our city centre car parks, the lack of enforcement and growing problem of begging, the dreadful state of our broken pavements and the filthy state of our streets, green spaces and parks.

Council urges the Executive to take action now to ensure our ambitions as a City are supported by real commitment of this Authority.

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

RESOLVED that the motion be rejected.

(e) Council approach to Customer Services

Councillor Moulton moved and Councillor Fitzhenry seconded

Full Council expresses its concern about the way the City Council is making it extremely difficult for residents of Southampton to get in contact. Council regrets the fact that the current approach seeks to force rather than encourage residents to use online services and that inadequate provision is made for those without computer skills or for those who have queries which do not fit the prescriptive online processes. Full Council calls on the Executive to urgently review its approach to customer services and to ensure that the needs of all Southampton residents are catered for.

Amendment moved by Councillor Hammond and seconded by Councillor Payne.

First line – delete “expresses its concern” and replace with “recognises the concern” delete “the City Council is making it extremely” and replace with “it is felt by some it has become”

Second line – insert after “to get in contact”, “with the City Council”

Second Line – Delete “Council regrets the fact that the current approach seeks to force rather than encourage residents to use online services and that inadequate provision is made for those without computer skills or for those who have queries which do not fit the prescriptive online processes”

Replace with “Council accepts that although no existing contact channels have been switched off, a number of residents have struggled with the new IVR system when using the telephone”.

Sixth line – after “urgently” delete “review its approach to customer services” and replace with “conduct a full review on telephone customer interaction”.

Amended motion to read:

Full Council recognises the concern about the way it is felt by some, that it has become difficult for residents of Southampton to get in contact with the City Council. Council accepts that although no existing contact channels have been switched off, a number of residents have struggled with the new IVR system when using the telephone. Full Council calls on the Executive to urgently conduct a full review on telephone customer interaction and to ensure that the needs of all Southampton residents are catered for.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR HAMMOND WAS CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the amended motion be approved.

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

1. Online Planning Applications

Councillor Moulton to Councillor Denness, Chair of Planning and Rights of Way Panel.

Is it right that in order to comment on a planning application online, residents must give their address details, potentially exposing them to abuse, harassment or intrusion?

Answer

It is correct that if making a comment on a planning application then name and address is required. The Development Management Procedure order requires that a local planning authority must, in determining an application for planning permission, take into account any representations made 'provided they are made by any person who they are satisfied is such an owner, tenant, occupier or infrastructure manager'. This means that to be able to take representations into account we need to be satisfied that it is from an appropriate source and we need the address to be able to do that.

Furthermore, under the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information Act) 1985, any written comments that are submitted (including by post) will be made available online, via public access, for inspection and copying by the public. By submitting such comments people are consenting for their name and address being placed in the public domain.

However, we do state, that if someone has an overriding legal reason why their address should remain confidential we ask them to contact the planning office for advice in good time prior to submitting their comments in accordance with the relevant deadline. If there are cases where abuse, harassment or intrusion is likely then this will be taken into account. Also there can be advantages from positive dialogue between objectors and developers, as developers may amend their schemes to take account of specific concerns raised by neighbours.

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

It was reminded that Councillor Hecks had been appointed as the outside body representative for the Learning and Disability Partnership at Annual Council in May 2016 and not Cllr Parnell and that distribution lists be amended accordingly.

64. REVISION TO THE CONSTITUTION - PARTNERSHIPS CODE

The report of the Leader was submitted seeking approval to a revision of the Constitution relating to a revised Partnership Code.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the revised Partnership Code as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved; and
- (ii) that the Service Director: Legal and Governance be authorised to finalise the arrangements as approved by Full Council and make any further consequential or minor changes arising from the decision of Council.

65. REVISION TO THE CONSTITUTION - QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL

The report of the Leader was submitted seeking approval to a revision of the Constitution relating to Questions at Council.

RESOLVED

- (i) That no minor issues be raised unless they have first been addressed to the appropriate officer, followed by the relevant Cabinet Member if the response was unsatisfactory and then only to Full Council if the Cabinet Member's response remains unsatisfactory, notwithstanding that if a question relates to a major project or significant policy concern then a question to Full Council directly was appropriate;
- (ii) That the deadline for submission of questions to Full Council be extended by 5 working days earlier than the current submission deadline;
- (iii) That an annual review of the revised process be undertaken with the exploration of other options with Group Leaders for streamlining the process including moving questions to the end of the agenda; and
- (iv) That Council revise the Council procedure Rules (paragraph 11) in the Constitution as appropriate.

66. LOCAL APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

The report of the Cabinet Member for Finance was submitted seeking approval for the Appointment of Local External Auditors.

RESOLVED that the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) invitation to "opt in" to the sector led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years commencing 1st April 2018 be accepted.

67. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND REVIEW OF PRUDENTIAL LIMITS
MID YEAR REPORT 2016/17

The report of the Cabinet Member for Finance was submitted seeking approval of the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Limits Midyear Review 2016.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the current and forecast position with regards to these indicators be noted and any changes approved;
- (ii) that the continued proactive approach to treasury management had led to reductions in borrowing costs and safeguarded investment income during the year be noted;
- (iii) that authority continued to be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to approve any changes to the prudential indicators or borrowing limits that would aid good treasury management and any amendments reported as part of quarterly financial and performance monitoring and revisions to this strategy; and
- (iv) that the increase in the investment limit for both unspecified investments and for counterparties as detailed in paragraph 30 of the report be approved.

68. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - SUMMARY OF CALL IN ACTIVITY

It was noted that there had been no call-ins since the last report was submitted to Council.

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
15 FEBRUARY 2017

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor McEwing
The Sheriff, Councillor L Harris
Councillors P Baillie, J Baillie, Barnes-Andrews, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Burke, Chaloner, Claisse, Coombs, Denness, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Furnell, Hammond, Hannides, B Harris, Hecks (except items 71-73), Houghton, Inglis, Jordan, Kaur, Keogh, Laurent, Letts, Lewzey, Mintoff, Morrell, Moulton, Murphy, Noon, O'Neill, Dr Paffey, Painton, Parnell, Payne, Pope, Rayment, Savage, Shields, Taggart, D Thomas, T Thomas, Vassiliou, Whitbread, White and Wilkinson

69. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

- (i) The Mayor announced that it was Mrs Lucia Welch Foster's 90th Birthday. Mrs Foster moved from Liverpool to Southampton in 1903 where she became the first female Councillor, Mayor and Alderman;
- (ii) The Mayor announced that she would be attending the SS Mendi naval wreath laying ceremony on 20th February, 2017 commemorating the sinking of the ship off the Isle of Wight in 1917; and
- (iii) Members stood in a minutes silence in memory of former Mayor Jack Candy. Mr Candy serviced as Mayor of Southampton in 1986. The Mayor paid tribute to his dedication and commitment to serving the City for many years as a Councillor.

70. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- (i) The Council received and noted a deputation from Denise Wyatt concerning the Budget;
- (ii) The Council received and noted a deputation from Nick Chaffey concerning how cuts can be averted and a campaign to restore government to meet the needs of Southampton people; and
- (iii) The Council received and noted a deputation from Springwell Catholic Primary School concerning funding for a classroom at Springhill Catholic Primary School.

71. COUNCIL TAX SETTING AND RELATED MATTERS

(a) The Revised Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2020/21 Including the General Fun Revenue Budget

(b) The General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2021/22

The reports of the Cabinet Member for Finance were submitted seeking approval to the Revised Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2020/21, and the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for 2016/17 - 2021/22 and outlining the main issues that needed to be addressed in considering the Cabinet's budget and Council Tax proposals. The recommendations therein as amended by Executive Budget Resolution 2017/18 to comprise the Executive's budget proposals were moved by Councillor Chaloner and seconded by Councillor Letts (a copy of the amended Executive Budget resolution as circulated at the meeting attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes).

In addition, the Executive approved the following further amendment:

- £30k for Portswood Primary School to go towards the costs of converting their Junior Library into a teaching area, including the purchase of furniture and IT equipment.

The Council agreed to suspend Council Procedure Rules 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, 14.8, 14.9 and 16.2:-

- (i) to enable the above items to be considered together;
- (ii) to enable any amendments to be proposed, seconded and considered at the same time;
- (iii) to enable any amendment to be re-introduced later into the meeting; and
- (iv) to revise the time allowed for speakers as follows:-
 - Movers of motions - 20 minutes
 - Seconders - 10 minutes
 - Other Speakers - 4 minutes
 - Right of Reply (Executive only) – 10 minutes

With the consent of the Mayor, Honorary Alderman Vinson addressed the meeting.

Amendment moved by Councillor Moulton and seconded by Councillor Hannides:

"Add to the Education and Children's Social Care Capital Programme for 2017/18 the following additions to be funded from Council Resources:

- £350K for an additional classroom for Springhill Catholic Primary School to accommodate an additional bulge class.
- £30K for the former Civil Service Sports Ground for benches, signage, bins and fencing."

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT WAS DECLARED LOST

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET PROPOSALS AS AMENDED WERE DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the Revised Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2020/21 including the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes 2016/17 to 2021/22, as amended by the Executive Budget Resolution 2017/18 (Appendix 1 to these minutes) and the further amendment detailed above, be adopted.

NOTE: All Members of the Council declared a pecuniary interest in the above matter, as payers and setters of Council Tax, and remained in the meeting during the consideration of the matter.

NOTE – FOR THE AMENDMENT: Councillors J Baillie, P Baillie, Claisse, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Hannides, B. Harris, L. Harris, Houghton, Inglis, Laurent, Moulton, O’Neill, Painton, Parnell, Pope, Vassiliou, White and Wilkinson.

NOTE – AGAINST THE AMENDMENT: Councillors Barnes-Andrews, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Burke, Chaloner, Coombs, Denness, Furnell, Hammond, Jordan, Kaur, Keogh, Letts, Lewzey, McEwing, Mintoff, Murphy, Noon, Paffey, Payne, Rayment, Savage, Shields, Taggart and Whitbread.

ABSTAINED – Councillors Morrell, D Thomas and T Thomas.

NOTE – FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION: Councillors Barnes-Andrews, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Burke, Chaloner, Coombs, Denness, Furnell, Hammond, Jordan, Kaur, Keogh, Letts, Lewzey, McEwing, Mintoff, Murphy, Noon, Paffey, Payne, Rayment, Savage, Shields, Taggart and Whitbread.

NOTE – AGAINST THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION: Councillors J Baillie, P Baillie, Claisse, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Hannides, B. Harris, L. Harris, Houghton, Inglis, Laurent, Morrell, Moulton, O’Neill, Painton, Parnell, Pope, D Thomas, T Thomas, Vassiliou, White and Wilkinson.

72. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET REPORT AND BUSINESS PLAN

The report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Adult Care was submitted seeking approval for the Housing Revenue Account budget proposals and long term business plan.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To thank the Tenant Resources Group for their input to the capital and revenue budget setting process and to note their endorsement of the recommendations set out in this report and also the broad support for the proposals received at the Tenants’ Winter Conference;
- (ii) To approve that, from 1 April 2017, a standard decrease should be applied to all dwelling rents of 1.0%, as set out in paragraph 18 of this report, equivalent to an average decrease of £0.86 per week in the current average weekly dwelling rent figure of £86.20;
- (iii) To note the following weekly service charges from 1 April 2017 based on a full cost recovery approach:
 - Digital TV £0.42 (unchanged from 2016/17)
 - Concierge monitoring £1.20 (unchanged from 2016/17)
 - Tower Block Warden £4.97 (unchanged from 2016/17)
 - Cleaning service in walk-up blocks £0.63 (unchanged from 2016/17)

- (iv) To note the weekly service charges for supported accommodation from 1 April 2017:
 - Call Monitoring Charge - £1.25 (unchanged from 2016/17)
 - Careline Silver - £3.00 (unchanged from 2016/17)
 - Careline Gold - £4.25 (unchanged from 2016/17)
- (v) To note that the charges to Council tenants for garages and parking spaces for 2017/18 will increase by 1% in line with CPI as at September 2016.
- (vi) To approve the Housing Revenue Account Revenue Estimates as set out in the attached Appendix 1.
- (vii) To approve the 30 year Business Plans for revenue and capital expenditure set out in Appendices 2 and 3 respectively.
- (viii) To note the HRA Business Plan - Planning Assumptions, as set out in Appendix 4.
- (ix) To note that rental income and service charge payments will continue to be paid by tenants over a 48 week period.

73. PRUDENTIAL LIMITS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2017/18 TO 2020/21

The report of the Service Director Finance and Commercialisation was submitted detailing the context within which the Council's treasury management activity operates and setting out a proposed strategy for 2017/18 to 2020/21.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve the Council's Treasury Management (TM) Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20, as detailed within the report;
- (ii) To approve the 2016 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement as detailed in paragraphs 76 to 84 and to delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to approve any changes necessary that aid good financial management whilst maintaining a prudent approach;
- (iii) To approve the Annual Investment Strategy as detailed in paragraphs 40 to 58; and
- (iv) To note that at the time of writing this report the recommendations in the Capital update report, submitted to Council on the 15 February 2017, had not been approved. The indicators in the report were based on the assumption that they were approved; and
- (v) To continue to delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to approve any changes to the Prudential Indicators or borrowing limits that will aid good treasury management. For example, agreeing an increase in the percentage for variable rate borrowing to take advantage of the depressed market for short term rates. Any amendments will be reported as part of quarterly financial and performance monitoring and in revisions to the TM Strategy.