
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2023

Present:

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Laurent
The Sheriff, Councillor Shields
Councillors Allen, J Baillie (except items 46 (part), 47-51), P Baillie,
Blackman (except item 51), Mrs Blatchford, Barbour, Barnes-Andrews,
Beaurain, M Bunday (except item 51), T Bunday, Chapman, Cox (except
item 51), Denness (except item 51), Evemy, Fielker (except item 51), Finn,
Fitzhenry, A Frampton, Y Frampton, Galton, Goodfellow, Houghton (except
item 51), Kataria (except item 51), Kaur, Kenny, Keogh, Lambert, Leggett
(except item 51), Letts (except item 51), McCreanor (except item 51),
Mrs Mintoff, Moulton (except items 45 (part) 46-51), Noon, Dr Paffey (except
item 51), W Payne, Quadir, Renyard, Savage, Webb, Whitbread, Windle,
Winning and Wood

41. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Bogle, Greenhalgh, McEwing, Powell-Vaughan, Rayment and Ugwoeme.

42. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th September 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

43. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR AND LEADER

Announcements from the Lord Mayor:

- (i) The Lord Mayor announced that the meeting was open to being filmed and reminded those filming that the right to film was limited to the duration of the meeting and recording must cease when the meeting closed. Filming or recording was not permitted if the effect would be to interrupt or disturb the proceedings or if it was intrusive of a specific individual or individuals. If in her opinion this was occurring, it would not be permitted, and she would ask you to stop. Similarly, some members of the public attending the meeting may object to being filmed, photographed or recorded. The Lord Mayor would be making those attending the meeting today aware and would ask those filming, to respect their wishes, and would expect that these were complied with.
- (ii) The Lord Mayor also reminded Members that during the meeting they should treat each other with due respect during debates, remembering the courtesies they would like from members when speaking and extending those to others. This specifically included respect for the role of Lord Mayor and for them not to talk over the Lord Mayor as unfortunately happened on occasions at the last meeting during business, as an example, a question where it should be a question as opposed to statements that then lead to

- inappropriate debate across the Chamber. I expect time limits as indicated by the traffic light system to be respected. At the last two meetings of Council, we have been getting used to the revised format for Executive Business and I have given members some latitude because of that. We are now used to the system and therefore questions to the Cabinet Members must only relate to matters that have been referred to by the Cabinet, nothing else. I would repeat timings must be adhered to by all members and will be strictly applied. Also, Members I would like to remind you that as in previous years, there is a £25 fine for mobile phones ringing and this will go to the Lord Mayor's charity.
- (iii) The Lord Mayor announced it is with great pride I am able to share with you that the Southampton Sunday Lunch Project is one of only four winners in Hampshire of this year's prestigious King's Award for Voluntary Service. This prestigious National Honour recognises outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups voluntarily devoting their time for the benefit of others. It sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, with the work of those awarded being judged of the highest standard.

The Southampton Sunday Lunch Project was created to help people when they are having a tough time in their life. Our customers are people who cannot or do not have the facilities to cook a hot meal for themselves or their families or are in other ways in need of lunch. Thanks to our volunteers and our generous supporters, we are able to carry on supporting our community to maintain our good work.

Winning the King's Award for Voluntary Service is a fantastic honour for our volunteers and supporters, a great accolade for our city, and recognises their selfless service to help those less fortunate have a hot Sunday lunch.

- (iv) In particular the Lord Mayor expressed her thanks to all those involved in Sunday's Remembrance Day which went so well and particularly to the security, police, Council officers and town sergeants.
- (v) The Lord Mayor also announced that there were some senior officers who will be leaving the Authority over the next few months and as this is their last Council meeting wish to thank them for the work, dedication to the organisation and wish them well, they include:-

Steve Harrison – Head of Finance

Gaetana Wiseman – Head of Support Services

Rosie Zambra – Head of Consumer Protection and Environmental Services

44. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- (i) The Council received the following Public Questions from Ms Clearkin which were responded to by Councillor Keogh, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport:

Question 1 - Does the Council have a cost benefit analysis for its net zero plans?

Answer - As part of the delivery process, actions to achieve net zero will be subject to a project management and decision-making process and include

an assessment of costs, benefits and funding to ensure they are affordable, deliverable and achievable.

Question 2 - Will the funding for their implementation come from a local or national source, or a combination of both, in which case how much money will Southampton have to find or borrow?

Answer - This assessment will occur on a case-by-case basis because funding comes from a variety of sources, both national, regional and local as well as business-as-usual across some SCC service areas. In addition to delivering net zero, the Council will need to explore and develop funding mechanisms to invest and retain benefits locally, especially where a proposal's business case is less strong.

Question 3 - How will the implementation of net zero policies in Southampton enable the city to recover its finances, converting them from the red into the black?

Answer - Many of the actions to achieve net zero present opportunities to introduce efficiencies, reduce future risks and costs. The measures being pursued often lead to potential financial benefits for both the Council and the city. For example, phase 1 of the Council's corporate property decarbonisation scheme reduced annual energy costs by £0.33M whilst reducing carbon emissions by 255 tonnes per year.

Carbon dioxide is essential for human life; plants breathe it in, as it were, then produce oxygen, without which humans can't live. An objective of the Council seems to be to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

- (ii) The Council received the following Public Questions from Ms Childs-Clarke which were responded to by Councillor Keogh, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport:

Question 1 - Can you give us the scientific data that show how much of this gas is currently in the atmosphere and the data that show by how much it should be reduced, and why?

Answer - Scientific evidence (summarised here in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group Report) shows that the planet is warming, and that human activity is likely the main contributor to this warming. Carbon dioxide levels have increased by about 45% since before the industrial revolution. At the UN Climate Change conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts towards limiting to 1.5°C. To do this we need to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 globally to have chance at limiting temperature increase and avoiding the worst effects of climate change. The UK government was the first nation to set a legally binding target to be net zero by 2050. The UK Climate Change Committee has a useful summary with information on the evidence.

Question 2 - Can you define the terms 'net' and 'zero', as quoted by the Council? Please also give us the scientific data supporting the statement made in the May meeting that 'Southampton will be under water' at some point?

Answer - Net zero means reducing emissions as close to zero as possible and to balance any remaining emissions by removing them from the atmosphere, and 'offsetting' emissions with carbon sequestration nature-based actions such as planting trees, or technology-based actions such as carbon capture. The UK Government has adopted a carbon budget approach which sets out the level of emission reduction we need to avoid the worst effects of climate change and reach the legally binding target in the Climate Change Act to be net zero by 2050. Modelling suggests that without mitigation and adaptation to climate change, some areas of Southampton may be subject to flooding due to sea level rise. Modelling work completed by Climate Central illustrates this scenario.

I would refer all Councillors to the lecture entitled 'Carbon and Climate Catastrophe' given by Patrick Moore, a co-founder of Greenpeace, at the Steamboat Institute's Conference and Festival in August 2021. Link available on request.

- (iii) The Council received the following Public Questions from Ms Sandhu which were responded to by Councillor Fielker, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adults, Housing and Health:

Question 1 - Much concern continues with regards to the use of the Dolphin Hotel to house foreign newcomers. In light several negative news articles regarding activities directly linked to such hotel residents across the UK in the last 18 months, there are many Southampton residents who are concerned. Can you confirm under what circumstances these people are here? (How did they arrive and why?)

Answer - People who have claimed asylum and are otherwise destitute and have applied for asylum support which is provided by the Home Office and not the Local Authority.

Question 2 - Are they all male?

Answer - The Local Authority is not able to confirm the breakdown of residents in the hotel as this information is not publicly available.

Question 3 - How much has the average Southampton resident paid to accommodate these people?

Answer - The accommodation and support is provided by the Home Office and their sub-contractor.

Question 4 - What are the next Council actions regarding this issue?

Answer - The Home Office and their sub-contractors regularly liaise with local authorities, we will continue to engage in dialogue with partners as required.

- (iv) The Council received and noted a deputation from Ms Kate Stirling regarding retail crime.
- (v) The Council received and noted a deputation from Ms Horne and Mr Michael Stonehouse regarding the closure of Potters Court restaurant.
- (vi) The Council received and noted a deputation from Mr Fletcher regarding nutrition and best options for residents of Erskine Court.

45. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

A verbal report of the Leader of the Council was given 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. Council Transport Policies

Councillor Moulton to Councillor Keogh

QUESTION: In light of the government's announcement in September of its new long term plan to back drivers, what changes are being considered to council transport policies or schemes in Southampton?

ANSWER: The Council has an adopted Local Transport Plan Connected Southampton which is our long term strategy to 2040 on how to improve our transport network. The Plan for Drivers is a policy statement from Government which we await for the Department for Transport to provide Local Transport Note updates which the Council will then follow /action.

2. Housing Voids

Councillor P Baillie to Councillor Fielker

QUESTION: We know that HRA housing is in a total mess but given that the excess time to sort out voids is costing over £3.5 million per year, plus over 600 families could have been living in a council home, then what is the rationale for not making the improvement in void time to the property?

ANSWER: I was confused by this question which suggests that Council is not looking improve the current void performance. That is clearly not the case. I do recall an email from you which asked about priorities. I rightly replied that voids, repairs and decent homes have equal priority. You can't address voids in isolation of the other two. It is the need to replace kitchens, bathrooms, boilers, windows and doors at the point properties become empty which is having a major impact on the length of time to prepare a property for reletting. If we don't give repairs and decent homes an equal priority this situation will continue.

3. Child Friendly City

Councillor J Baillie to Councillor Winning

QUESTION: With the city withdrawing from the Child Friendly City process, how are you ensuring that children remain a key focus for the authority?

ANSWER: There is a distinction between the UNICEF Child Friendly programme and Child Friendly Southampton – which continues to be our aspiration for children and young people in our city.

We have given formal notice to UNICEF and we will be working with them proactively until end-January 2024 to confirm local transition arrangements.

The work with UNICEF to date has elicited the views of over 3000 children, which we have used to shape our Child Friendly Plan moving forward.

The approach we are going to take is to use our Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board to oversee progress. Officers will make sure that the child friendly initiatives we decide to take forward are linked to the strategic plans that Board monitors as part of its core functions.

Child friendly Southampton remains our ambition, building on the Good Ofsted rating with Outstanding leadership we received earlier in the year. The Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel would ensure progress on our plans and priorities is monitored.

4. Upkeep of Public Spaces

Councillor Galton to Councillor Keogh

QUESTION: I previously asked around the length of grass and you replied complaints were low and the service should be commended. I note in the two months since this, even local labour councillors have been using social media posts point out that grass cutting needs to be done. Do you still feel the upkeep of public spaces is of an acceptable standard in our city?

ANSWER: Complaint levels remain low. Since 1st April 2023 there have been 46 grass cutting requests received from members of the public. Some of these were requests for cutting in wildflower areas or areas that where grass is left long to encourage wildlife; these were not actioned. In this time there were 15 complaints received via customer services. All complaints will be monitored and reviewed.

5. Anti-social behaviour in Council accommodation

Councillor Powell-Vaughan to Councillor Fielker (Councillor Renyard to respond)

QUESTION: Why does Southampton City Council appear to turn a blind eye to tenants smoking and taking drugs in communal blocks and single dwellings. Will you promise to ensure any Southampton City Council tenant using drugs whether impacting on other tenants or not will be held to their lease terms?

ANSWER: Southampton City Council takes the management of antisocial behaviour and criminal activity seriously. Illegal drug use in our properties is not permitted. The Housing Management Team support the police to investigate and prosecute crime taking place in all council properties. Once the Police have confirmed it is a criminal matter, the Council can take action. The Housing Team must follow the pre-action protocol and in the first instance consider options such as speaking to the individuals, mediation or neighbourhood agreements.

It is important that reports of illegal activity are made to both the Council and the Police so that investigation can take place to provide that evidence.

6. Cruise Liner Pollution

Councillor Barbour to Councillor Keogh

QUESTION: Given the recent report in the Observer about cruise liner pollution in Southampton and the impact on health of the next generation of young people in our city what steps is the council planning to take to address this issue and can you furnish me with a timeline of strategic and tactical steps that are in process and are planned. It would appear that all the work on getting Southampton a good rating from Ofsted may be in vain if children are having to breathe in methane, nitrogen dioxide and all the other pollutants from ships. One only has to look at the plume across the city to recognise that the pollution has to go somewhere and with the prevailing winds in the city this is likely to be Bargate, Freemantle, Shirley, Weston, Woolston and Netley. Nurses in Woolston have reported to me increasing rates of asthma diagnosis in their surgeries, this is unnecessary and will build up problems for many years ahead.

ANSWER: Southampton City Council's Air Quality Action Plan 2023-2028 (<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/media/zwjffm2u/scc-aqap-2023-2028-2023-update.pdf>) sets out the measures that Southampton City Council will deliver between 2023-2028 to improve air quality in the city. It also publishes annual air quality reports (<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/our-green-city/council-commitments/clean-air/monitoring-and-reporting/air-quality-reports/>) on its implementation. These include reference to addressing pollution from the cruise industry. Associated British Ports (ABP) has adopted its own clean air strategy, "Cleaner Air for Southampton" (<https://www.abports.co.uk/media/r0sjbo30/abp-southampton-clean-air-update-2022.pdf>), which sets out the actions they will take to reduce the impact of their operations on air quality, including implementing shore-side power.

To date, Associated British Ports (ABP) has installed two shore-side connections at the Horizon and Mayflower cruise terminals through Local Enterprise Funding. This allows compatible ships to 'plug into' mains power rather than using auxiliary engines while in port. This is estimated to result in the equivalent of £10.5 million in air quality benefits. ABP is continuing to investigate the potential for further shore-side power connections. It is expected that demand will increase over next few years as more ships are built with the required infrastructure. Southampton City Council continues to explore opportunities with the port to support both their strategy and SCC's Air Quality Action Plan.

7. Transparent Decision Making

Councillor Blackman to Councillor Kaur

QUESTION: Could you outline the steps taken to ensure that decisions with significant impact, such as ending contracts for services to vulnerable user groups in the city, are made transparently and with the appropriate oversight?

ANSWER: There are processes in place that can ensure our decision making can be efficient. This includes an improved scheme of delegation which I support, however, I agree that decisions with significant impact must of course include necessary Equality and Impact Assessments which are part of our processes and appropriate scrutiny where this is needed. I have already spoken to the Chief Executive about where processes and decision making have not been carried out as well as they should have been. I know this has been the case with a lack of communication which we are resolving and all issues around that are being addressed.

8. Shore Power for Cruise Ships

Councillor Chapman to Councillor Keogh

QUESTION: Portsmouth International Port has secured funding of £19.8M to implement ship to shore power simultaneously for 3 ships - significantly more than our city's capacity. Can you confirm what funding has been applied for, or secured, to upgrade Southampton's to simultaneously charge multiple cruise ships and what steps are being made to ensure that where shore power is available it is being utilised regardless of cost to operators?

ANSWER: Associated British Ports (ABP) has adopted its own clean air strategy, "Cleaner Air for Southampton" (<https://www.abports.co.uk/media/r0sjbo30/abp-southampton-clean-air-update-2022.pdf>), which sets out the actions they will take to reduce the impact of their operations on air quality, including implementing shore-side power.

To date, Associated British Ports (ABP) has installed two shore-side connections at the Horizon and Mayflower cruise terminals through Local Enterprise Funding. This allows compatible ships to 'plug into' mains power rather than using auxiliary engines while in port. This is estimated to result in the equivalent of £10.5 million in air quality benefits. ABP is continuing to investigate the potential for further shore-side power connections. It is expected that demand will increase over next few years as more ships are built with the required infrastructure.

The Council will continue to support ABP and other stakeholders, in securing more funding and lobbying to upgrade the power supply to the port area for more ship to shore powering and wider throughout the city. A bid to Government for funding on localised energy generation is currently submitted from the University of Southampton, supported by Southampton City Council.

9. Emergency Question tabled and approved by the Lord Mayor – Broken Lifts and lengthy repairs at Potters Court.

Councillor Galton to Councillor Kaur (Councillor Fielker responded)

QUESTION: Our tenants have been plagued by issues of broken lifts and lengthy repairs. Currently our most vulnerable residents within Potters Court, have had days with both lifts out of action; before a temporary repair has allowed 1 lift to work for x3 1 hour slots within 24 hours. Residents are being advised this may now be the situation for at least the next 7 to 10 days. Do you find this acceptable and what steps are being taken to ensure lifts remain working, and in the rare instance of a breakdown are fixed within a much shorter time period than what we have currently?

ANSWER: Councillor Fielker agreed to provide a written response on the new lift maintenance contract (noting Potters Court was not part of this contract). With reference to Potters Court assurance was given, but we have been failed by the contractor putting those lifts in, I don't know when we would move to putting in a different solution and looking at how that remedy is taken, but it is to be explored, it is something we would look at and consider. They have promised us it will be 7 to 10 days. There are alternatives being put in as well to make sure that residents won't be trapped in their flats if both lifts break down. I don't know the detail of that, but I am very happy for you to be provided with that information.

46. MOTIONS

(a) Moved by Councillor Moulton and seconded by Councillor Galton

Council recognises that the planned closure of the restaurants in the Potters Court and Erskine Court Extra Care homes has not been handled well, leading to considerable distress to residents and families. The announcement of the closure with the original planned date of end of October did not allow for proper consultation or planning. Council recognises the importance of the restaurants for the wellbeing of residents and urges the Executive to work with potential alternative operators to find an enduring solution to keep them open permanently.

Furthermore, Council asks that for any such changes in the future that ward councillors are fully and proactively engaged, in a timely manner, that the welfare of vulnerable residents is properly considered, and that changes are effectively managed with co-ordination across all council departments involved.

Amendment moved by Councillor Fielker and seconded by Councillor Finn

Paragraph one, second line, delete "has not been handled well" replace with "was not implemented as well as it could have been"

Paragraph one, fifth line, delete "restaurants" and replace with "restaurant space"

Paragraph one, fifth line, after "residents and", delete "urges the Executive to work with" replace with "will explore"

Paragraph one, last line, delete "to find an enduring solution to keep them open permanently." replace with "and solutions."

Paragraph two, first line, delete "asks" replace with "reconfirms"

Paragraph two, first line, after “future”, delete “that ward councillors are fully and proactively engaged, in a timely manner, that the welfare of vulnerable residents is properly considered, and that”

Paragraph two, third line, after “managed”, delete “with co-ordination across all council departments involved” replace with “and communicated with those impacted and ward councillors.”

AMENDED MOTION TO READ:

Council recognises that the planned closure of the restaurants in the Potters Court and Erskine Court Extra Care homes was not implemented as well as it could have been, leading to considerable distress to residents and families. The announcement of the closure with the original planned date of end of October did not allow for proper consultation or planning. Council recognises the importance of the restaurant space for the wellbeing of residents and will explore potential alternative operators and solutions.

Furthermore, Council reconfirms that for any such changes in the future that changes are effectively managed and communicated with those impacted and ward councillors.

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

RESOLVED that the amended motion be approved.

(b) Moved by Councillor P Baillie and seconded by Councillor Fitzhenry

Southampton City Council, through the Housing Revenue Account, is the most important landlord in Southampton. Its actions as the landlord impact the lives of tens of thousands of people directly, but also many other tens of thousands indirectly, who look up to the HRA for guidance and leadership.

Council notes that since 2012 there has been a sustained lack of investment in HRA. Council also notes that the HRA has ring-fenced finances and is unaffected by outside financial turmoil.

Council thus finds the present situation of void homes taking over 90 days to get ready, the repair service in disarray, and worst of all the percentage of homes meeting the Decent Homes Standard down from 99% to around 50%, unacceptable and Council asks the Executive to prioritise getting homes fit for living in, well repaired, and that the time taken to sort out standard voids is brought below 3 weeks quickly. Council notes that the cost alone of the time taken to sort out voids is around £3.5M per year, and in addition over 550 families could have been in HRA housing for a year.

Council also notes that there has been a complete stop on Estate Regeneration for political reasons, despite an urgent need for new housing.

Finally Council notes that previous Cabinet Members for Housing have appeared to not be equal to the tasks and asks the current Cabinet Member whether she is really up to the difficult challenges ahead.

Council asks that a full apology is given to council tenants, from the Cabinet Member, for the quite terrible performance of the HRA.

Amendment moved by Councillor Fielker and seconded by Councillor A Frampton

Paragraph one, finish the last sentence “indirectly.” Delete “who look up to the HRA for guidance and leadership.”

Paragraph two, first line, delete “2012 there has been a sustained lack of investment in HRA.” Replace with “2010 there has been little government investment in Council housing.”

Paragraph two, second line, delete “and is unaffected by outside financial turmoil.” Replace with “but these are impacted by the levels of rents charged.”

Paragraph three, first line, delete “thus”

Paragraph three, second line, delete “repair service in disarray” and replace with “backlog of repairs”

Paragraph three, second line, delete “worst of all”

Paragraph three, third line, insert after “99%”, “in 2010 (achieved at the end of the last period of Labour government)

Paragraph three, third line, insert after “50%”, “in 2023 (after 13 years of Conservative government),”

Paragraph three, third line, delete “unacceptable and” and replace with “in need of action.”

Paragraph three, third line, before “Council”, insert “The” and delete “asks the Executive to” replace with “will”

Paragraph three, fifth line, after “is brought”, delete “below 3 weeks” after “quickly” replace with “back to our agreed standard.”

Paragraph four, first line, after “stop on”, insert “delivery of any significant” and after “Estate Regeneration” insert “has been challenging under the current government”

Paragraph four, second line, delete “for political reasons” and replace with “for a variety of reasons”

Add new sentence at the end of Paragraph four “Despite this challenge Council has recently delivered 103 new affordable homes on Starboard Way and has ambitions for more.”

Paragraph five, first line, delete “Finally” and “notes that previous Cabinet Members for Housing have appeared to not be equal to the tasks and asks the current Cabinet Member whether she is really up to the difficult challenges ahead.” Replace with

“confirms that it has confidence in the Cabinet Member to deliver on the Council’s housing priorities to improve voids and repairs performance.”

Delete paragraph six “Council asks that a full apology is given to council tenants, from the Cabinet Member, for the quite terrible performance of the HRA.” Replace with “Council requests that the cabinet member engages further with tenant representatives on the HRA Improvement Plan.”

AMENDED MOTION TO READ:

Southampton City Council, through the Housing Revenue Account, is the most important landlord in Southampton. Its actions as the landlord impact the lives of tens of thousands of people directly, but also many other tens of thousands indirectly.

Council notes that since 2010 there has been little government investment in council housing. Council also notes that the HRA has ring-fenced finances, but these are impacted by the levels of rents charged.

Council finds the present situation of void homes taking over 90 days to get ready, the backlog of repairs and the percentage of homes meeting the Decent Homes Standard down from 99% in 2010 (achieved at the end of the last period of Labour government) to around 50% in 2023 (after 13 years of Conservative government), in need of action.

The Council will prioritise getting homes fit for living in, well repaired, and that the time taken to sort out standard voids is brought quickly back to our agreed standard. Council notes that the cost alone of the time taken to sort out voids is around £3.5M per year, and in addition over 550 families could have been in HRA housing for a year.

Council also notes that delivery of any significant Estate Regeneration has been challenging under the current government for a variety of reasons despite an urgent need for new housing. Despite this challenge Council has recently delivered 103 new affordable homes on Starboard Way and has ambitions for more.

Council confirms that it has confidence in the Cabinet Member to deliver on the Council’s housing priorities to improve voids and repairs performance.

Council requests that the Cabinet Member engages further with tenant representatives on the HRA Improvement Plan.

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

RESOLVED that the amended motion be approved.

(c) Moved by Councillor Fitzhenry in the absence of Councillor Powell-Vaughan seconded by Councillor Renyard

Radicalisation poses a significant threat to the safety, unity, and wellbeing of our community, leading to potential acts of violence and social division. It is the responsibility of Southampton City Council [and partners] to proactively address this issue and implement measures to prevent radicalisation among our residents.

Effective strategies to prevent radicalisation require a multi-agency approach, involving local authorities, educational institutions, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and community organisations.

Council therefore agrees to propose the following actions:

- Southampton City Council to create, support educational programs, multi-faith learning and community initiatives which promote social cohesion, tolerance, and understanding among diverse communities.
- Regular meetings between Prevent Teams at Southampton City Council who can collaborate with relevant agencies and organisations to identify individuals at risk of radicalisation and provide them with appropriate support and intervention.
- Southampton City Council to encourage local schools, colleges and universities to develop curricula and awareness campaigns that teach critical thinking, media literacy, and the values of pluralism.
- Southampton City Council to enhance the training and capacity of local councillors, case workers and front-line staff to recognise signs of radicalisation, ensuring it is handled with sensitivity, respect for human rights, free speech and in accordance with established legal procedures.
- Southampton City Council to allocate resources for a public awareness campaign which informs residents about the signs of radicalisation and the available support services.
- Southampton City Council will regularly assess and report on the effectiveness of our efforts in preventing radicalisation and adapt strategies as required.

Council reaffirms its dedication to preventing radicalisation and promoting a harmonious living environment for all our residents and communities and its commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and resilient City.

Amendment as submitted by the mover Councillor Powell-Vaughan, moved by Councillor Fitzhenry in her absence and seconded by Councillor Renyard

Paragraph one, first line, delete “Radicalisation poses a significant threat to”

Paragraph one, first line, after “of our”, delete “community, leading to potential acts of violence and social division. It is”, replace with “communities are the”

Paragraph one, third line, delete “(and partners) to proactively address this issue and implement measures to prevent radicalisation among our residents.” replace with “working with our partners in”

And delete paragraph two “Effective strategies to prevent radicalisation require a multi-agency approach, involving local authorities, educational institutions,” replace with “law enforcement, the Home Office, Education, healthcare providers and community organisations. While Radicalisation poses a significant threat to the safety of our communities leading to potential acts of violence and social division, Southampton City Council commits and restates our commitment in this area.”

Bullet Point one, line one, delete “to” replace with “will continue to”

Bullet Point two, add to the beginning of the sentence “Will continue to”

Bullet Point three, after “Council”, add “will do more”

Bullet Point four, after “Council”, add “will continue to”

Bullet Point five, after “Council”, add “will continue”

Bullet Point six, after “Council”, add “will continue to”

AMENDED MOTION TO READ:

The safety, unity, and wellbeing of our communities are the responsibility of Southampton City Council working with our partners in law enforcement, The Home Office, Education, healthcare providers and community organisations.

While Radicalisation poses a significant threat to the safety of our communities leading to potential acts of violence and social division, Southampton City Council commits and restates our commitment in this area.

Council therefore agrees to propose the following actions:

- Southampton City Council will continue to create, support educational programs, multi-faith learning and community initiatives which promote social cohesion, tolerance, and understanding among diverse communities.
- Will continue with regular meetings between Prevent Teams at Southampton City Council who can collaborate with relevant agencies and organisations to identify individuals at risk of radicalisation and provide them with appropriate support and intervention.
- Southampton City Council will do more to encourage local schools, colleges and universities to develop curricula and awareness campaigns that teach critical thinking, media literacy, and the values of pluralism.
- Southampton City Council will continue to enhance the training and capacity of local councillors, case workers and front-line staff to recognise signs of radicalisation, ensuring it is handled with sensitivity, respect for human rights, free speech and in accordance with established legal procedures.
- Southampton City Council will continue to allocate resources for a public awareness campaign which informs residents about the signs of radicalisation and the available support services.
- Southampton City Council will continue to regularly assess and report on the effectiveness of our efforts in preventing radicalisation and adapt strategies as required.

Council reaffirms its dedication to preventing radicalisation and promoting a harmonious living environment for all our residents and communities and its commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and resilient City.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAME OF MOVER COUNCILLOR POWELL-VAUGHAN WAS DECLARED CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the amended motion be approved.

(d) Tabled at the meeting, moved by Councillor Fitzhenry in the absence of Councillor Powell-Vaughan seconded by Councillor P Baillie

Southampton City Council stands with our Southampton Jewish communities in the face of terrorism.

The Council is saddened and disturbed by the terrorist atrocities being committed by Hamas against Israel, which have caused horrific devastation and created an escalating humanitarian crisis.

In light of this, Southampton City Council resolves to, as our way of expressing support for the people of Israel and all members of our communities, who have been deeply impacted by these illegal and unprovoked attacks against the Jewish people and Israel:

1. Condemn the attacks against Israel as horrific acts of terror.
2. Assert the belief, as a democratic state, Israel has the right to defend itself and to deter future terrorist acts against its citizens.
3. As a city of sanctuary, Southampton Council stands ready to provide support to all innocent victims of these atrocious attacks; we will work together with our partners and local communities to offer support and security to those deeply affected.
4. Agrees with the UK Government, European Union and United States of America, Hamas IS a terrorist organisation.
5. Understand, those who support Hamas, have enabled and are responsible for these attacks on Israel.
6. Agree with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition Sir Keir Starmer, a ceasefire now, will only allow Hamas to regroup, and potentially attack Israel again.

The Lord Mayor permitted an Emergency Motion tabled and moved by Councillor Kaur and seconded by Councillor Fitzhenry on the basis that an Amendment to the above would not adhere to the Council's Procedure Rules.

Southampton City Council stands against all forms of terror around the world, including the Middle East.

We are saddened by the huge loss of innocent lives within the region.

We encourage the international community, including any effort made by the British Government, to urgently work towards long lasting peace and stability.

In Southampton, we have a rich and proud tradition of strong community cohesion, where our different communities work together with mutual respect. These tragic events must not divide our communities or give rise to hate crime. Antisemitism, Islamophobia and all forms of hate, has no place in our city, and we will continue to work with partners to ensure all our communities are supported.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE ORIGINAL MOTION WAS REJECTED AND REPLACED BY THE EMERGENCY MOTION

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE EMERGENCY MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR KAUR WAS DECLARED CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the Emergency Motion be approved.

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

The following question to the Chair of Planning and Rights of Way Panel was submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2:-

1. Prevention of Flooding

Councillor P Baillie to Councillor Savage

QUESTION: The absorption of rain water is essential to help prevent flooding. A vital part is the absorption of rain water by front gardens. Why have so many front gardens been allowed to replace grass with impermeable material which just forces the rain water onto the road? What is your committee going to do about this problem?

ANSWER: At present, planning permission is required where a new driveway or hardstanding is greater than five square metres if using traditional construction consisting of impermeable materials (e.g. tarmac or non-permeable block paving) where water is not drained to a permeable area within the property curtilage.

Planning permission is not required if a new or replacement driveway of any size uses permeable (or porous) surfacing, such as gravel, permeable concrete block paving or porous asphalt, or if the rainwater is directed to a lawn or border to drain naturally.

Highway drainage is designed to accept surface water runoff from roads and footpaths within the highway curtilage, and not flows from private land, properties or private drainage connections. It is an offence under the Highway Act 1980 for any private property to direct flow towards the highway, and the Highways Authority can take action against the person(s) responsible.

The Government is committed to the enactment of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) in 2024. This will ending the automatic right to connect into the surface water sewer network for the drainage of surface water and make Southampton City Council a Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) giving Lead Local Flood Authorities more control over the management of surface water. All development or construction where land covering an area of 100sqm or greater will be required to incorporate the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). The requirement for obtaining consent from the SAB will be separate to the Local Planning Authority.

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

The following appointments were noted:

- (i) Councillor Blackman to replace Councillor Wood on the forthcoming Scrutiny Panel Inquiry.
- (ii) Councillor Greenhalgh to replace Councillor Mrs Blatchford on Planning and Rights of Way Panel.

49. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: SUMMARY OF CALL-IN ACTIVITY

The report of the Scrutiny Manager providing an update to Council on the use of Call-In by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee over the previous 6 months was noted.

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

The Lord Mayor moved in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the exempt appendix to the following Item.

The appendix was 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 was not in the public interest to disclose this because doing so would prejudice individual finance and business affairs.

51. ONE GUILDHALL SQUARE – DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST

Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change detailing the proposed disposal of freehold interest in One Guildhall Square.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the commencement of a sale process for a disposal of the freehold interest in One Guildhall Square, subject to existing leases and condition is approved.
- (ii) a. That in the first instance, approval is given for the sale process to be offered "off market" exclusively to the special interest party. b. That any sale to the special interest party will be subject to a completion of a sale taking place by 31 March 2024.
- (iii) The commercial and financial terms and related recommendations as set out in the confidential appendix, be agreed by Council.
- (iv) Following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change and the Executive Director for Corporate Services, that the Executive Director for Place be given delegated authority to finalise the detailed terms of this transaction.
- (v) If terms for a sale of the freehold interest cannot be agreed with the special interest party by a specified date, the council will procure the services of a commercial real estate agent through its normal procurement processes, to market the freehold interest on the open market.
- (vi) If the council needs to proceed with an open market sale in accordance with recommendation (v), to delegate authority to the Executive Director Place, following consultation with the Executive Director Corporate Services and the

Cabinet Member for Finance and Change to finalise the detailed terms for, and proceed to the completion of, sale of the property.

NOTE the following Members declared a disclosable pecuniary interest and left the meeting during its consideration: Councillors Blackman, M Bunday, Cox, Denness, Fielker, Houghton, Kataria, Letts, McCreanor and Dr.Paffey.

Councillor Leggett declared a personal interest and remained at the meeting.

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
3 JANUARY 2024

Present:

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Laurent
The Sheriff, Councillor Shields
Councillors J Baillie, P Baillie, Blackman, Mrs Blatchford, Barbour, Barnes-Andrews, Beaurain, Bogle, M Bunday, T Bunday, Chapman, Cox, Denness, Every, Fielker, Fitzhenry, A Frampton, Y Frampton, Galton, Greenhalgh, Houghton, Kataria, Kaur, Keogh, Lambert, Letts, McEwing, Mrs Mintoff, Moulton, Noon, Dr Paffey, W Payne, Powell-Vaughan, Rayment, Renyard, Ugwoeme, Webb, Windle, Winning and Wood.

Apologies were received from Councillors Allen, Finn, Goodfellow, Kenny, Leggett, McCreanor, Savage, Quadir and Whitbread.

52. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR

Filming

The Lord Mayor announced that the meeting is open to being filmed and reminded those filming that the right to film is limited to the duration of the meeting and recording must cease when I close the meeting.

Filming or recording is not permitted if the effect would be to interrupt or disturb the proceedings or if it is intrusive of a specific individual or individuals. If in my opinion this is occurring, it will not be permitted and I will ask you to stop.

Similarly, some members of the public attending the meeting may object to being filmed, photographed or recorded. I will be making those attending the meeting today aware and will ask those filming, to respect their wishes, and will expect that these are complied with.

53. ELECTION OF THE LEADER

The nomination of Councillor Fielker was moved and seconded.

RESOLVED: that in the absence of any other nominations Councillor Fielker be duly elected as Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

Following her election as Leader, Councillor Fielker informed the Council of her Cabinet and their Portfolio responsibilities.

Councillor Letts	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Change
Councillor Bogle	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Councillor Finn	Cabinet Member for Adults and Health

Councillor A Frampton	Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Kataria	Cabinet Member for Communities and Leisure
Councillor Keogh	Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Renyard	Cabinet Member for Safer City
Councillor Winning	Cabinet Member for Children and Learning

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
21 FEBRUARY 2024

Present:

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Laurent
The Sheriff, Councillor Shields
Councillors Allen, J Baillie, P Baillie, Blackman, Mrs Blatchford, Barbour,
Barnes-Andrews, Beaurain, Bogle, M Bunday, T Bunday, Chapman, Cox,
Denness, Every, Fielker, Finn, Fitzhenry, A Frampton, Y Frampton, Galton,
Goodfellow, Greenhalgh, Houghton, Kataria, Kaur, Kenny, Keogh, Lambert,
Letts, McCreanor, McEwing, Mrs Mintoff, Moulton, Noon, Dr Paffey,
W Payne, Powell-Vaughan, Quadir, Rayment, Renyard, Savage, Ugwoeme,
Whitbread, Winning and Wood

54. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Leggett and Windle.

55. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR AND LEADER

(i) FILMING

The Lord Mayor announced that the meeting is being live streamed and will also be available for members of the public to view online after the meeting. For any member of the public filming the right to film is limited to the duration of the meeting and recording must cease when I close the meeting. Filming or recording is not permitted if the effect would be to interrupt or disturb the proceedings or if it is intrusive of a specific individual or individuals. If this is occurring, it would not be permitted, and would be asked to stop. Similarly, some members of the public attending the meeting may object to being filmed, photographed or recorded and would expect that these wishes are complied with.

(ii) WELCOME TO ANDREW TRAVERS

The Lord Mayor formally welcomed Andrew Travers to Council, Andrew had been appointed as Southampton's Interim Chief Executive. We all looked forward to working with Andrew in his new role.

(iii) GOODBYE TO MIKE HARRIS

The Lord Mayor formally said goodbye to Mike Harris former Chief Executive and thanked him for all his hard work, dedication and commitment to the City Council and Residents of Southampton and wished him well for the future.

56. RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL FOR INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

Report of the Leader of the Council appointing the Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service.

RESOLVED: that Andrew Travers be appointed to the position of Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service.

57. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME

Report of the Leader of the Council detailing the Members' Allowance Scheme.

RESOLVED: that the premise for the original recommendation for increases by the Independent Remuneration Panel be accepted but agreed that these would be frozen until the expiration of the current adopted Member Allowance Scheme in May 2027.

58. ENERGY PROCUREMENT CONTRACT

Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development detailing the Energy Procurement Contract.

RESOLVED: that the procurement of the Council's energy needs over 4 years, equating to a total of £60M, via the Laser Energy Procurement Framework - October 2024 through to September 2028 be approved.

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

The Lord Mayor moved 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 appendix 6 to the following Item.

Appendix 6 was exempt from publication by virtue of category 3 of rule 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules i.e. information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. It was not in the public interest to disclose this information due to an ongoing commercial dispute which was subject to a protected alternative dispute resolution procedure. If the information was disclosed then the Council's financial position would be available to other parties to the dispute and prejudice the Council's ability to achieve best value.

60. THE HRA BUDGET 2024/25 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 TO 2028/29

Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing detailing the HRA Budget 2024/25 and Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2028/29 and a 40-year business plan. The report provided details to inform Council in setting rents, service charges and landlord-

controlled heating charges for 2024/25. The report also sets out the HRA capital programme HRA for the period 2023/24 to 2028/29 and identifies how the 2024/25 HRA budget had been balanced and contained the outcome of the formal consultation on proposals for rent and landlord-controlled heating charges.

The recommendations therein, were moved by Councillor Frampton and seconded by Councillor Fielker.

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

- (i) to enable any amendments to be proposed, seconded and considered at the same time;
- (ii) to enable any amendment to be re-introduced later into the meeting; and
- (iii) to revise the time allowed for speakers as follows:-

Movers of motions - 20 minutes
Seconders - 10 minutes
Green Party/Independent Members – 5 minutes
Honorary Alderman - 5 minutes
Right of Reply (Executive only) – 10 minutes

RESOLVED:

- (i) Following consultation (paragraphs 14 to 25) to approve that, from 1 April 2024, an average rent increase would be applied to dwelling rents of 7.7% in line with Government guidance, as detailed in paragraph 14, equivalent to an average increase of £7.15 per week in the current average weekly dwelling rent figure of £92.75 for Social rent, and £10.58 per week in the current average weekly rent for affordable rent of £151.16. Rents for Shared Ownership rents would also increase by 7.7%.
- (ii) That there was no increase in weekly service charges to be applied from 1 April 2024, pending further work as detailed in paragraph 21 be approved.
- (iii) That the Housing Revenue Account revenue estimates as set out in Appendix 4 and 5 be approved.
- (iv) That the 40-year business plan for revenue and capital expenditure set out in Appendix 1 and Confidential Appendix 6 respectively, that based on current assumptions were sustainable, maintaining a minimum HRA balance increasing from £2.0M agreed for 2023/24 to £7M from 2027/28 in every financial year in line with current policy be approved.
- (v) That the increase in landlord-controlled heating charges as detailed in paragraph 25, which represent a 5% increase (reduced from the 10% increase previously anticipated in the MTFS update in July 2023) be approved.
- (vi) That the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme, which totals £280.01M (as detailed in paragraph 60 & 61 and the associated use of resources be approved.
- (vii) That the capital projections in the HRA Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2028/29 as detailed from paragraph 60, and that spend between 2023/24 and 2027/28 had been increased following the decision of Cabinet on 6 February 2024 on the future delivery of Plots 2,9 and 10 Townhill Park, to deliver plots 2 and 9 through the Affordable Homes Framework and adjusted for known slippages at Quarter 3 be approved.
- (viii) That an increase in the HRA working balance from the current £2m, to £7m by 2027/28 be approved.

NOTE: FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS: Councillors Allen, Barnes-Andrews, Blatchford, Bogle, M Bunday, Cox, Denness, Every, Fielker, Finn, A Frampton, Y Frampton, Goodfellow, Greenhalgh, Kataria, Kaur, Kenny, Keogh, Lambert, Letts, McCreanor, McEwing, Mintoff, Noon, Paffey, Payne, Quadir, Rayment, Renyard, Savage, Shields, Ugwoeme, Webb, Whitbread, Winning and T Bunday.

NOTE: AGAINST THE RECOMMENDATIONS: Councillors J Baillie, P Baillie, Beaurain, Fitzhenry, Galton, Houghton, Laurent, Moulton, Powell-Vaughan, Blackman, Chapman, Wood and Barbour.

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

It was noted that following recent changes within the Administration urgency powers under the Officer Scheme of Delegation had been by the Director Legal and Governance to appoint:-

- (i) Councillor Leggett to Governance Committee to replace Councillor A Frampton.
- (ii) Councillor Cox to take up the vacancies on Health Overview Scrutiny Panel and Children and Families Scrutiny Panel.
- (iii) Councillor Letts to take up the vacancy on Licensing Committee.

It was also noted that Councillor Leggett would replace Councillor Greenhalgh on Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
6 MARCH 2024

Present:

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Laurent
The Sheriff, Councillor Shields
Councillors Allen, P Baillie, Blackman, Mrs Blatchford, Barbour, Barnes-Andrews, Beaurain, Bogle (Except Minute 67), M Bunday, T Bunday, Cox, Denness, Every, Fielker, Finn, Fitzhenry, A Frampton, Y Frampton, Galton, Goodfellow, Greenhalgh, Houghton, Kataria, Kaur, Kenny, Keogh, Lambert, Leggett, Letts, McCreanor, McEwing, Mrs Mintoff, Noon, Dr Paffey, Payne, Powell-Vaughan, Quadir, Renyard, Savage, Ugwoeme, Whitbread, Winning and Wood

62. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors, Chapman, J Baillie, Moulton, Rayment, Webb and Windle.

63. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR AND LEADER

(i) FILMING

The Lord Mayor announced that the meeting is being live streamed and will also be available for members of the public to view online after the meeting. For any member of the public filming the right to film is limited to the duration of the meeting and recording must cease when I close the meeting. Filming or recording is not permitted if the effect would be to interrupt or disturb the proceedings or if it is intrusive of a specific individual or individuals. If this is occurring, it would not be permitted, and would be asked to stop. Similarly, some members of the public attending the meeting may object to being filmed, photographed or recorded and would expect that these wishes are complied with.

(ii) LORD MAYOR CHARITY EVENTS

The Lord Mayor announced with great pleasure the success of the Lord Mayor's Ball which recently took place and raised twelve thousand pounds. The Lord Mayor thanked everyone who helped to make it such a great event. The Lord Mayor with great pleasure also announced the forthcoming dance event on 18th March at the O2 Guildhall, tickets were available at the box office.

64. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Council received and noted a deputation from Nadia Ditta, Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition – Annual Budget.

65. THE 2024/25 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change detailing the 2024/25 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2024/25 to 2027/28. The report provided detail to inform Council in setting the council tax charge for 2024/25. A report setting out the Capital Strategy, Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy, and details of the General Fund capital programme for 2023/24 to 2028/29 was considered elsewhere on this agenda. The council's financial position is such that the budget setting process for 2024/25 had been considerably more challenging than previous years, including during those under austerity and funding reductions. The council faces significant financial challenges to deliver a balanced budget. This included limited revenue reserves, ongoing financial pressures, especially in children's services and adult social care, and the continuing impact of inflation and interest rates.

The 2023/24 budget was balanced by a reliance on revenue reserves (£20.6M). In addition, sizable new budget pressures and increases to existing pressures have emerged during 2023/24. A combination of limited remaining reserves and high pressures has led to an underlying structural budget deficit in-year that is projected to continue into future years. It is against this backdrop that budget proposals for 2024/25 were presented. Despite considerable progress during 2023/24 in identifying measures to reduce expenditure and identify savings, a shortfall remains between the predicted level of spend and the council's funding available. A balanced budget for 2024/25 is only achieved with Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the government. This support would be in the form of a capitalisation direction, which would allow the council to use capital resources to meet revenue expenditure in 2024/25. Without this support the council would almost certainly have been facing a Section 114 notice.

The recommendations therein, were moved by Councillor Letts and seconded by Councillor Finn.

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

- (i) to enable any amendments to be proposed, seconded and considered at the same time;
- (ii) to enable any amendment to be re-introduced later into the meeting; and
- (iii) to revise the time allowed for speakers as follows:-

Movers of motions - 20 minutes

Seconders - 10 minutes

Green Party/Independent Members – 5 minutes

Honorary Alderman - 5 minutes

Right of Reply (Executive only) – 10 minutes

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2024/25 to 2027/28 as set out in Table 1 and Appendix 1 be approved.
- (ii) That the 2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget as set out in Table 2 and Appendices 1 and 2 be approved.

- (iii) That an increase in the 'core' council tax of 2.99% and an increase in the Adult Social Care precept of 2.00%, allowable under general powers to increase council tax without a referendum be approved.
- (iv) That additional General Fund pressures totalling £42.03M in 2024/25, increasing to £51.21M in 2027/28, as detailed in paragraph 33 be approved.
- (v) That the new commitments totalling £0.86M in 2024/25, increasing to £4.89M in 2027/28, as detailed in paragraph 36 be approved.
- (vi) That savings proposals totalling £22.68M that are included in the 2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget, reducing to £20.94M in 2027/28, as detailed in paragraph 40 be approved.
- (vii) That the Government was minded to provide Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) to the Council be noted. This would be in the form of a capitalisation direction, to ensure the council could agree a balanced budget for 2024/25, had sufficient resources to pay for transformation and other work needed to ensure the council was on a sustainable financial footing in future, and meet other potential liabilities.
- (viii) That the establishment of a comprehensive Transformation Programme as detailed in paragraphs 59 to 63 and associated funding of up to £10.62M from a combination of capital resources and Transformation Reserve be approved. To further recommend to delegate to the Chief Executive (after consultation with the Leader of the Council) the draw-down of funding and the establishment of a resource plan as required for the Transformation Programme.
- (ix) That the adoption of the Business Planning Framework set out at paragraph 64 and Appendix 6 be approved.
- (x) Delegate authority to the Executive Director Corporate Services & Section 151 Officer, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, to do anything necessary to give effect to the proposals contained in this report.
- (xi) Set the Band D Council Tax for Southampton City Council at £1,812.69 for 2024/25, a Net Budget Requirement of £239.24M and the Council Tax Requirement for 2024/25 at £121.43M as per Appendix 9.
- (xii) That the estimates of precepts on the council tax collection fund for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 10 be noted.
- (xiii) That the summary of changes to fees and charges set out in paragraph 89 and Appendix 12 be noted and the increase in Careline charges set out in Appendix 12 be approved.
- (xiv) That the Statement of the S151 Officer as set out in paragraphs 118 to 124 on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the council's reserves be noted and endorsed.
- (xv) That the content of the procurement pipeline 2024-29 contained at Appendix 7 be noted.
- (xvi) Delegate authority to the Executive Director Corporate Services & S151 Officer and the Executive Director of Place (after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member) everything that was necessary to prepare a specification, carry out a procurement process or other route to market and to appoint a single provider(s) for the delivery of highways and associated services for a maximum period of 15 years, including approving the utilisation of any contractually permitted extension as set out in Appendix 8.
- (xvii) That the draft corporate debt policy and combined council tax and business rates recovery policy at annexes 6 and 7 to the MTFs (Appendix 1) be noted and adopted.

- (xviii) That the application of Council Tax premiums for properties empty for 12 months or more (from 2024/25) and second homes (from 2025/26) be agreed.
- (xix) That the following amounts be now calculated by the council for the financial year 2024/25 in accordance with Section 31 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 be agreed; and determine in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Act that the council's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC of the Act.
 - a) **£595,220,372** (being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act).
 - b) **£473,790,082** (being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act).
 - c) **£121,430,290** (being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax Requirement for the year). (Item R in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Act).
 - £1,812.69** (being the amount at (c) above (Item R), all divided by the tax base of 66,989 (Item T), calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council Tax for the year).

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

NOTE: NOTE: FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS: Councillors Allen, Barnes-Andrews, Blatchford, Bogle, M Bunday, Cox, Denness, Evemy, Fielker, Finn, A Frampton, Y Frampton, Goodfellow, Greenhalgh, Kataria, Kaur, Kenny, Keogh, Lambert, Leggett, Letts, McCreanor, McEwing, Mintoff, Noon Paffey, Payne, Quadir, Renyard, Savage, Shields, Ugwoeme, Whitbread, Winning and T Bunday.

NOTE: AGAINST THE RECOMMENDATIONS: Councillors P Baille, Beaurain, Fitzhenry, Galton, Houghton, Laurent, Powell-Vaughan, Blackman, Wood and Barbour.

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

Lord Mayor moved 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 Appendix 9 to the following Item.

Appendix 9 is exempt from publication by virtue of category 3 of rule 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules i.e. information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information due to an ongoing commercial dispute which is subject to a protected alternative dispute resolution procedure. If the information was disclosed then the Council's financial position would be available to other parties to the dispute and prejudice the Council's ability to achieve best value.

67. THE GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 TO 2028/29

Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change detailing the General Fund Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2028/29. The report set out for Council significant changes in the overall General Fund (GF) Capital Programme for the period of 2023/24 to 2028/29. This included highlighting the changes in the programme since the last reported position to Cabinet in February 2024.

The net result of the changes since the previous report was an increase to the General Fund programme of £29.12M. The capital budget proposals put forward in this report reflected the anticipated needs of the Council over the next five years. This provided certainty about future funding and enabled capital spending to be prioritised including to deliver purposeful investment alongside service and council priorities.

The recommendations therein, were moved by Councillor Letts and seconded by Councillor Fielker.

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

- (i) to enable any amendments to be proposed, seconded and considered at the same time;
- (ii) to enable any amendment to be re-introduced later into the meeting; and
- (iii) to revise the time allowed for speakers as follows:-

Movers of motions - 20 minutes

Seconders - 10 minutes

Green Party/Independent Members – 5 minutes

Honorary Alderman - 5 minutes

Right of Reply (Executive only) – 10 minutes

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council's Capital Strategy detailed in Appendix 1 be approved.
- (ii) That the Council's MRP Strategy detailed in Appendix 2 be approved and delegate authority to the Executive Director for Corporate Services (S151 Officer) to make any changes required following the outcome of the consultation on changes to the statutory guidance and regulations: Minimum Revenue Provision.
- (iii) That the Council's Non-Treasury Investment Strategy detailed in Appendix 3 be approved.
- (iv) That the Council's Treasury Management Strategy detailed in Appendix 4 be approved.
- (v) That the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy detailed in Appendix 5 be approved.
- (vi) That the revised fully funded General Fund Capital Programme, which totals £264.81M (as detailed in paragraphs 18 to 21) and the associated use of resources be approved.
- (vii) That the addition and spend of £31.09M which has been added to the General Fund programme be approved. These additions are detailed in paragraphs 24 to 48 and Appendix 7.

- (viii) That the removal of schemes from the capital programme totalling £2.18M, set out in paragraphs 40 and 48 and detailed in Appendix 7 be approved.
- (ix) That the spend of £39.66M for the SEND Expansion Programme, as set out in paragraph 32 be approved.
- (x) Approve the spend of £27.03M for the Outdoor Sports Centre, as set out in paragraph 37.
- (xi) To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Place following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Leisure, Executive Director for Corporate Services (S151 Officer), Head of Supplier Management Services and Head of Corporate Estate and Assets to conclude all necessary negotiations on the Football Foundation Grant Terms and Conditions be approved.
- (xii) To delegate authority to the Head of Corporate Estate and Assets to conduct actions necessary to enable decisions required and enter contracts for the delivery of the Outdoor Sports Centre project be approved.

NOTE: NOTE: FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS: Councillors Allen, Barnes-Andrews, Blatchford, M Bunday, Cox, Denness, Evely, Fielker, Finn, A Frampton, Y Frampton, Goodfellow, Greenhalgh, Kataria, Kaur, Kenny, Keogh, Lambert, Leggett, Letts, McCreanor, McEwing, Mintoff, Noon Paffey, Payne, Quadir, Renyard, Savage, Shields, Ugwoeme, Whitbread, Winning and T Bunday.

NOTE: AGAINST THE RECOMMENDATIONS: Councillors P Baille, Beaurain, Fitzhenry, Galton, Houghton, Laurent, Powell-Vaughan,

NOTE: ABSTAINED THE RECOMMENDATIONS: Councillors Blackman, Wood and Barbour.