

# ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 17<sup>TH</sup> May 2023

11.00am – Guildhall, Civic Centre

2.00pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre

## **This meeting is open to the public**

### **Members of the Council**

The Lord Mayor – Chair

The Sheriff – Vice-chair

Leader of the Council

Members of the Council (See overleaf)

### **Contacts**

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<b>WARD</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>WARD</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR</b>
<b>Banister &amp; Polygon</b>	Evemy Leggett Windle	<b>Peartree</b>	Houghton Keogh Letts
<b>Bargate</b>	Bogle Noon Dr Paffey	<b>Portswood</b>	Savage Barbour Finn
<b>Bassett</b>	Blackman Chapman Wood	<b>Redbridge</b>	Goodfellow McEwing Whitbread
<b>Bevois</b>	Rayment Denness Kataria	<b>Shirley</b>	Kaur Winning Quadir
<b>Bitterne Park</b>	Barnes-Andrews Webb T Bunday	<b>Sholing</b>	J Baillie Vaughan Beaurian
<b>Coxford</b>	3 Vacancies	<b>Swaythling</b>	Fielker M Bunday Mintoff
<b>Freemantle</b>	Shields Kenny Lambert	<b>Thornhill</b>	A Frampton Y Frampton Allen
<b>Harefield</b>	P Baillie Laurent Fitzhenry	<b>Woolston</b>	W Payne Blatchford Ugwoeme
<b>Millbrook</b>	S Galton Moulton Cox		

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### **Role of the Council**

The Council comprises all 51 Councillors. The Council normally meets six times a year including the annual meeting, at which the Lord Mayor and the Council Leader are elected and committees and sub-committees are appointed, and the budget meeting, at which the Council Tax is set for the following year.

The Council approves the policy framework, which is a series of plans and strategies recommended by the Executive, which set out the key policies and programmes for the main services provided by the Council. It receives a summary report of decisions made by the Executive, and reports on specific issues raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. The Council also considers questions and motions submitted by Council Members on matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the City.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

**Questions:-** People who live or work in the City may ask questions of the Lord Mayor, Chairs of Committees and Members of the Executive. (See the Council's Constitution ref Part 4 Council Procedure Rules 10.8)

**Petitions:-** At a meeting of the Council any Member or member of the public may present a petition which is submitted in accordance with the Council's scheme for handling petitions. Petitions containing more than 1,500 signatures (qualifying) will be debated at a Council meeting. (See the Council's Constitution ref Part 4 Council Procedure Rules 10.1)

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

**Deputations:-** A deputation of up to three people can apply to address the Council. A deputation may include the presentation of a petition. (See the Council's Constitution ref Part 4 Council Procedure Rules 10.7)

## **MEETING INFORMATION**

**Use of Social Media:-** The Council supports the video or audio recording of meetings open to the public, for either live or subsequent broadcast. However, if, in the Chair's opinion, a person filming or recording a meeting or taking photographs is interrupting proceedings or causing a disturbance, under the Council's Standing Orders the person can be ordered to stop their activity, or to leave the meeting.

By entering the meeting room you are consenting to being recorded and to the use of those images and recordings for broadcasting and or/training purposes. The meeting may be recorded by the press or members of the public.

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

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

**Mobile Telephones** – Please switch your mobile telephones or other IT to silent whilst in the meeting.

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

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

**Access** – Access is available for disabled people. Please contact the Council Administrator who will help to make any necessary arrangements.

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

**Fire Procedure** – In the event of a fire or other emergency, a continuous alarm will sound and you will be advised by Council officers what action to take.

Proposed dates of meetings	
2023	2024
17 May (AGM)	21 February (Budget)
19 July	20 March
20 September	
15 November	

## **CONDUCT OF MEETING**

### **FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

The functions of the Council are set out in Article 4 of Part 2 of the Constitution

### **RULES OF PROCEDURE**

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

### **BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED**

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

### **QUORUM**

The minimum number of appointed Members required to be in attendance to hold the meeting is 17.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

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

### **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

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

- (i) Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (ii) Sponsorship: Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Southampton City Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expense incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
- (iii) Any contract which is made between you / your spouse etc (or a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.
- (iv) Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Southampton.
- (v) Any license (held alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Southampton for a month or longer.
- (vi) Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) the landlord is Southampton City Council and the tenant is a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest.
- (vii) Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Southampton, and either:
  - a) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or
  - b) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the

shares of any one class in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

### **Other Interests**

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

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

Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature

Any body directed to charitable purposes

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

### **Principles of Decision Making**

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

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

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

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

Richard Ivory, Solicitor  
Director of Governance, Legal and HR  
Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY

Tuesday, 9 May 2023

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL**

You are hereby summoned to attend the Annual Meeting of the COUNCIL to be held on WEDNESDAY, 17TH MAY, 2023 in the GUILDHALL, CIVIC CENTRE at 11.00 am at which meeting the business set out in items 1 and 2 are proposed to be transacted, and in the COUNCIL CHAMBER in the afternoon at 2.00 pm when the business set out in items 3 onwards are proposed to be transacted:-

**1 ELECTION OF A MAYOR FOR ENSUING YEAR**

**2 ELECTION OF A SHERIFF FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

**3 APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies.

**4 MINUTES (Pages 1 - 10)**

To authorise the signing of the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023, attached.

**5 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR AND LEADER**

Matters especially brought forward by the Lord Mayor and the Leader.

**6 ELECTION OF THE LEADER**

To elect a Leader of the Council for the ensuing year. Following the election the Leader will announce membership of the Cabinet.

**7 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION (Pages 11 - 16)**

Report of the Director of Governance, Legal & HR outlining proposed changes to the Constitution.

**8 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES**

A Appointment of Members

The Leader to move that, subject to alterations as may from time to time be made by the Council, the necessary Committees, Sub-Committees and other bodies and external organisations be appointed by the Council with the number and allocation of seats to political groups as set out in a schedule to be tabled at the meeting.

## B Appointment of Chair

To appoint the Chair to each of the Committees and Sub-Committees appointed by the Council.

## 9 **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

To approve the following dates for meetings of the Council in the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

19<sup>th</sup> July 2023

20<sup>th</sup> September 2023

15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 (Budget)

20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (Annual General Meeting)

## 10 **DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

To receive any requests for Deputations, Presentation of Petitions or Public Questions.

## 11 **EXECUTIVE BUSINESS** (Pages 17 - 18)

Presentation from the Leader of the Council, attached.

## 12 **MOTIONS**

## 13 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES OR THE MAYOR**

To consider any question of which notice has been given under Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

## 14 **SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2023** (Pages 19 - 22)

Report of the Returning Officer detailing the results of the 2023 City Council Elections.

## 15 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT - 2022/23** (Pages 23 - 38)

Report of the 2022/23 Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee summarising scrutiny activity over the past twelve months.

## 16 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: SUMMARY OF CALL-IN ACTIVITY**

To note that there has been no use of the Call- in procedure since the previous update.



Richard Ivory  
Director – Governance, Legal and HR





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## SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2023

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#### Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Rayment  
The Sheriff, Councillor Laurent  
Councillors J Baillie, P Baillie, Blackman, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, M Bunday, T Bunday, Coombs, Cooper, Denness, Fielker, Fitzhenry, Frampton, Fuller, D Galton, G Galton, Guthrie, Hannides, Houghton, Keogh, Kataria, Kaur, Leggett, Magee, Professor Margetts, McEwing, Mitchell, Noon, Dr Paffey, J Payne, W Payne, Prior, Renyard, Savage, Shields, Goodfellow, Stead, Vassiliou, Vaughan, White and Winning

#### 54. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Furnell, Guest, Harris, Moulton and Windle.

#### 55. MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Council meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### 56. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR AND LEADER

##### (i) Last meeting of the Municipal Year

Members this is the last meeting of the Municipal Year. I thank all members of the Council for their hard work and contributions made during this past year in sometimes challenging circumstances.

Some Councillors are not seeking re-election Councillors Coombes, Furnell, Mitchell, Margetts, Guthrie, Harris, Prior and J Payne. We thank them for their service to their communities and wish them well.

#### 57. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Council received and noted the following deputation:-

- (i) Sophie Cooper, Oliver James and Aislynn Bushell from Bitterne Park Primary School – Safer Crossing on Manor Farm Road.

The Council received and debated the following Petition which under the Council's Procedure Rules was a qualifying petition which must be debated at Council having triggered the threshold of 1500 verified signatures.

- (i) Say No to Southampton City Council's proposal to close part of Portswood Broadway to through traffic.

58. PAY POLICY 2023 - 2024

Report of the Leader of the Council recommending approval of the Pay Policy 2023-2024.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Pay Policy statement for 2023-2024 be approved;
- (ii) To note the continued implementation of the Foundation Living Wage increase as the minimum hourly rate for National Joint Council (NJC) evaluated posts from 1st April 2023; and
- (iii) To note that negotiations for a cost of living award for 2023 as part of the pay agreement for NJC evaluated roles and Chief Officer and Chief Executive pay are ongoing and that implementation of this, once agreed, is delegated to the Head of HR and OD to be applied for 2023-2024.

59. CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning detailing the Annual Corporate Parenting Report 2021-2022.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the September 2021 – August 2022 annual corporate parenting report be adopted;
- (ii) That all Councillors recommit to our collective responsibility as Corporate Parents, to ensure we champion children and young people in our care, demonstrate aspiration for them, and provide safer and better opportunities for them;
- (iii) That all Councillors consider opportunities for care leavers to be able to train and work in the city; and
- (iv) That all Councillors promote fostering within the city in support of our fostering recruitment challenges.

60. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND APRIL 2023-MARCH 2024

Report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Customer Engagement detailing the Household Support Fund April 2023 – March 2024.

**RESOLVED:** that the Household Support Fund for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 be approved and accepted.

61. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT

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

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

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

## 1. Children's Services Savings

Councillor P Baillie to Councillor Paffey

QUESTION: A major part of balancing the recent budget was the inclusion of £7M of savings /reduced spending from CS. I think the expectation from all councillors was that the route to achieving these savings had been mapped out.

Please would you tell me how these savings are to be achieved, when they will be achieved, and how successful savings' /reduced spending targets have been over the last five years for CS.

ANSWER: Councillors will all recognise the fact that Children's Services in the UK face extreme financial challenges: LGA figures show that placement costs have risen almost 60% in recent years, and £1.6billion of investment is needed just to maintain current service levels – even before recent soaring levels of inflation.

In this financial context, with high levels of demand in the city and with significant impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Labour administration and the Children's Services Leadership Team set in motion the Destination 22 improvement programme which is showing encouraging signs: this year we achieved a reduction of £1.7 million on spending for CLA services and placements, and a £500k reduction of on agency staff costs as we build a stable, permanent workforce.

This work to achieve financial stability and, crucially, better outcomes for children will continue through the transformative "Building Brilliance 23" programme including measures such as reductions to agency staff numbers, demand for residential placements, accommodation costs for care leavers, better commissioning and work with Housing, and redesigning how we deliver services most effectively.

## 2. Housing Improvements

Councillor P Baillie to Councillor Mitchell

QUESTION: According to the recent HRA budget which you passed, some £50M has been removed from the housing improvement pot to pay for homes in Meggeson Avenue. Do you feel it is fair to delay for years improvements to homes, for thousands of people, just because of your ideology?

ANSWER: The Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme that was approved at Council in February 2023 represents a significant increase in funding forecast to be spent on "Improving Quality of Homes" and "Making Homes Energy Efficient" when compared with historic expenditure.

Given the growing need for affordable housing in our city and an increasingly unaffordable private rental market we will continue to explore all options for providing our residents with high quality affordable homes.

## 3. Mini Budget Post Election

Councillor Fitzhenry to Councillor Kaur

QUESTION: Can the Leader of the Council confirm if her administration will be bringing forward a mini budget in the summer of 2023 if they are successful in winning a majority May's Local Election?

ANSWER – Verbal response provided at the meeting.

“That is not the current intention”.

#### 4. Housing Waiting Lists

Councillor Margetts to Councillor Mitchell

QUESTION: How many families are currently on the waiting list for a three bedroom council house? At the current rate of building, how long will it take to reduce to zero the waiting list? Given the collapse of the buy to let market has the council considered options to buy such properties to reduce waiting lists for Southampton People.

ANSWER: We currently have 1536 households on the waiting list with a three bedroom need.

Based on current levels of new build properties and relets, it would take 16 years to bring the waiting list to zero. However need is growing at an alarming rate due to the current national housing crisis and we are also losing homes to right to buy which is soon to affect housing association homes as well.

We will look at all options to reduce this list and provide people with high quality and affordable homes from building our own council homes to working with other affordable housing providers through the affordable housing framework which will allow us nomination rights for residents on our waiting list.

#### 5. Holiday Voucher Scheme

Councillor Margetts to Councillor Paffey

QUESTION: Given that ¼ children are now food insecure and that during the school holidays, nearly 40% of children in poverty are not eligible for food vouchers, can the council confirm that it will extend the holiday voucher scheme to cover all school children. This will ensure that, given the commitment to the Right to Food City status, all children will have access to meals throughout the year not just in term time.

ANSWER: This administration is committed to ensuring that Southampton is a city where people facing food insecurity have a right to food. This commitment drives our current efforts to provide families with support during this Cost of Living crisis. That begins with making sure that we get Free School Meals to those who are entitled to them but are not currently claiming this support.

In addition we have been able to extend the Holiday Activities and Food programme to include the recent half-term holiday, providing hot meals and enriching activities and education to children, as well as over 30,000 hours of childcare, warm spaces for

parents, food pantries and access for parents and carers to get free online training to help them take steps towards new employment opportunities.

We will continue to explore opportunities to fulfil our commitment as a Right-to-Food city.

## 6. High Fat/Salt Sugar (HFSS) Advertising

Councillor Margetts to Councillor Fielker

QUESTION: Will the council follow the example set by Barnsley Council and Transport for London's Healthier Advertising Policy, to restrict all advertising of high fat, salt, and/or sugar (HFSS) on council owned or leased advertising sites?

ANSWER: The council's outdoor advertising estate is managed by third parties under Licence Agreements and the contracts we have with those providers include a requirement for them to adhere to our advertising guidance which prohibits advertising products, such as alcohol and tobacco, or others deemed significantly harmful to health and/or communities.

All of our suppliers are signed up to the Outsmart Schools Policy which prevents them from advertising HFSS foods within 100m of a school boundary.

We are keen to follow the example set by TfL and Barnsley and Public Health colleagues have met with Barnsley to understand more about how their restrictions have been implemented.

Whilst as a Council we can control advertising on our own estate, we have no legal power to restrict advertising on other sites. The most effective way to ensure HFSS advertising is removed from public view is through legislation.

## 7. Southern Water

Councillor Blackman to Councillor Kaur

QUESTION: What action does the Council intend to take against Southern Water in the light of the recent supply failures in Southampton and their persistent polluting of our rivers and coastline?

ANSWER: Verbal response provided at the meeting.

"The City Council acknowledges that the residents of Southampton have hugely been affected by the failures of Southern Water, trust and confidence in Southern Water has been completely eroded and the City Council will hold Southern Water to account for their actions.

Significant contributions were made on behalf of Southampton City Council with officers providing community water stations, provision of water to those most vulnerable in the City and the Council clearly filling the void in the City which was the responsibility of Southern Water to provide.

A letter has been sent to the Chief Executive of Southern Water expressing their less than satisfactory response to the situation alongside other Leaders who have also written with the Chief Executive of Southern Water accepting to meet with Leaders.

A final enforcement letter had also been served on Southern Water regarding drinking water.

Pollution of waters was regulated by the Environment Agency, the current Scrutiny Inquiry has been looking at this and their recommendations were awaited.

The response from Southern Water would be made available to all Members”.

## 8. Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls

Councillor Vaughan to Councillor Renyard

QUESTION: Can you honestly still confirm Southampton City Council believe they want to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls?

ANSWER: We have:

- led the Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategic Partnership Board in overseeing a strategy (published January 2023) which commits to tackling VAWG.
- led on embedding a Coordinated Community Response to DA across the partnership.
- increased funding for perpetrator intervention and victim support.
- improved access to support and safe accommodation for victims.
- an accredited service for predominantly female high-risk victims of DA.
- a “Safe Places” network supporting victims to report any type of abuse including VAWG, day or night.
- provided sexual harassment training for those working in the night-time economy
- 3 male engagement workers supporting perpetrators of DA to change their behaviour.
- introduced specialist advocacy services for marginalised communities.
- commissioned refuge for women including those with children and those with multiple vulnerabilities.
- introduced the ‘Safe and Together’ model to promote children’s welfare by training practitioners to support the non-abusive parent and support the perpetrator change their behaviour.
- recruited a specialist training lead to increase professional’s awareness and build confidence to support victims of DA and VAWG.
- built a data dashboard to inform the Strategic Partnership.
- collaborated to deliver a preventative programme for schools and colleges exploring issues around VAWG, gender roles and healthy relationships.

## 9. Street Lighting

Councillor Vaughan to Councillor Renyard

QUESTION: Safer Streets Funding was introduced for the increased roll out of CCTV and improvements to street lighting as this will help change the attitudes and behaviours which will prevent crimes happening in the first place.

ANSWER:

Neighbouring Local Authorities have already implemented the turning off of street lights and 67% of our consultation respondents were in support of Southampton adopting the same approach. Some national studies have shown that certain crimes reduce in residential areas where streetlights are turned off.

As a result of ongoing work, we have identified a series of 'exemption' areas, which will have the lights left on for the entirety of the night. To summarise, the following areas have been identified as exempt from this initiative:

- The City Centre;
- District and local Shopping Centres including those in Bitterne, Woolston, Portswood and Shirley;
- The Classified Road network;
- Main roads across the city (typically the roads in and out of residential areas and/or key bus routes);
- Key CCTV monitoring locations;
- Areas of high public patronage such as hospitals and community hubs;
- Known anti-social behaviour hotspots;
- Certain streets due to traffic calming measures;
- Roads on which there are high risks of traffic accidents;
- Parks (where highway lighting extends to these areas);
- Safe routes home as identified by educational establishments; and
- Lighting which is not on the public highway such as Council Housing and Leisure land.

Change to 5 redeploy able 4G CCTV cameras. This would give us the opportunity to deploy CCTV quickly and easily to ASB/crime hotspot areas and respond to public concerns far more effectively than we do at the moment. The cameras are solar powered and lightweight, which means they can be put on street furniture without the need for changing lamp columns etc. We can also, for low light/frequent activation locations, put in hardwiring to the columns power supply.

This will be kept under constant review, and if any concerns are raised we will act accordingly.

## 10. Safer Streets Fund

Councillor Vaughan to Councillor Renyard

QUESTION: Will Southampton City Council ensure the effective and efficient deployment of the Safer Streets Fund for preventing neighbourhood crime, crime in public spaces and violence against women and girls?

ANSWER: Yes.

62. MOTIONS

(a) Councillor Blackman moved and Councillor Fielker seconded.

Southampton Young Carers

“The Southampton Young Carer Strategy 2021 to 2026 has a vision that Southampton is a city where children and young carers have the same opportunities as other children to get a good start in life, so they can fulfil their potential and become successful adults.

The Southampton Young Carer Strategy notes that in 20/21 some 420 young people in Southampton were in touch with the Young Carer Service with 80 receiving regular support.

Caring for someone can be very isolating, worrying, and stressful. For young and young adult carers, this can negatively impact on their experiences and outcomes in education, having a lasting effect on their life chances.

Each year Carers Trust organises Young Carers Action Day (YCAD) to raise public awareness of the challenges faced by young people because of their caring role, and to campaign for greater support for young and young adult carers to meet their needs. Young Carers Action Day is 15 March 2023 and this year’s theme is ‘Make Time for Young Carers’.

Council resolves that we commend the young and young adult carers across Southampton and that we promote YCAD on an annual basis. We also continue in the context of the Southampton Young Carer Strategy to promote and work with local care organisations.

Council resolves that the Leader of the Council writes to the Government calling on them to ensure that young carers are actively identified and provided with the support they need. In addition, the Leader writes to our three local Members of Parliament and ask them to join the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Young Carers and Young Adult Carers.”

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

(b) Councillor Keogh moved and Councillor Leggett seconded.

Financial Pressures

“Councils up and down the country are facing unprecedented financial pressures which are not of their own making but due to national policy; Southampton is no exception.

Government measures to reduce public sector spending in the previous decade have seen a significant reduction in local government funding, with the Council’s settlement funding assessment reducing by almost a half.



What is clearly needed is a long-term plan from national government to change their direction and offer fairer, long-term funding to local authorities.

Southampton City Council alongside other councils has been let down by this Government failing to properly fund and protect public services, so this Council joins other Councils of all political backgrounds, in calling for clear action to improve the financial outlook for local authorities.

This morning the Chancellor will have delivered his budget statement to Parliament. For the good of the residents of Southampton, should the Chancellor's statement fail to deliver a funding step change that offers long-term financial stability to councils that Southampton communities deserve, Council resolves that the Leader of the Council writes immediately to the Prime Minister highlighting the injustices, the shortfalls contained within impact on the city's residents and requests fair and sustainable funding for local government."

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

(c) Councillor Winning moved and Councillor Paffey seconded.

Care Experienced People

"Southampton City Council believes that care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives. Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account. Care experienced people often face barriers and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system. As corporate parents, councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us as an authority. All corporate parents should commit to acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to consider their needs in any aspect of council work. Councillors should be champions of our looked after children and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society. Southampton City Council therefore resolves that when making any decisions in relation to its policies or formulating its Council Plan it recognises that care experienced people are a vulnerable group who face barriers to access to services and opportunities. That in the delivery of Council services the Council includes consideration of the elimination of barriers to and promotion of opportunities for care experience and this be included alongside reporting of the Council's compliance with its Public Sector Equality Duty. That this Council will treat care experience in a similar manner to a Protected Characteristic so that future services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through equality impact assessments updated to include consideration of care experienced to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who share a Protected Characteristic. To formally call upon all other bodies to treat care experience in a similar manner and to actively remove barriers and promote opportunities for them until such time as it may be introduced by legislation as a protected group. For the Council to proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views."

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

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

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

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

It was noted that there were no changes to the Appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees and Other Bodies.

# Agenda Item 7

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE COUNCIL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	24 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023 (GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE) 18 <sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023 (COUNCIL)
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE & HR AND MONITORING OFFICER

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	Executive Director of Corporate Services	
	<b>Name:</b>	Mel Creighton	Tel: 023 8083 3528
	<b>E-mail</b>	Mel.creighton@southampton.gov.uk	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Title</b>	Director of Legal, Governance & HR and Monitoring Officer	
	<b>Name:</b>	Richard Ivory	Tel: 023 8083 2794
	<b>E-mail</b>	Richard.ivory@southampton.gov.uk	

<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
N/A	
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	
This report sets out the annual review of the Constitution. This will be considered and initially discussed by Governance Committee on 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2023. The recommendations to both the Governance Committee and Council are included below.	
As ever, the Constitution is a set of documents that changes regularly and, therefore, further revisions may be proposed prior to or at Council.	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	
	<u>Governance Committee</u>
(i)	To consider and recommend the changes to the Constitution to Council for adoption.
	<u>Council</u>
(ii)	To agree the changes to the Constitution and associated arrangements as set out in this report;
(iii)	To authorise the Director of Legal, Governance & HR to finalise the arrangements and wording to any revisions approved by Council and make any further consequential or minor changes arising from the decision; and
(iv)	Approve the City Council's Constitution, as amended, including the Officer Scheme of Delegation, for the municipal year 2023-24.

<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
1.	It is appropriate as a core tenant of good governance for the Council to keep its Constitution under regular review and to amend it, both to reflect experience and changing circumstances.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
2.	The Council has previously resolved to review its Constitution annually. Therefore, it is appropriate that this report is considered by Members. There are a range of recommendations set out within the report, none of which are substantial changes. Members have a range of options about various changes, not least of which is to amend or reject some or all of them.
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
	<u>Officer Scheme of Delegation</u>
3.	Following the Senior Management restructure which was completed in late 2022 the scheme has been updated to ensure all current delegations are allocated to the correct new Executive Director, Director or Head of Service as appropriate. The Director of Governance, Legal and HR has an existing delegation to keep the Scheme (and all parts of the Constitution) updated and to reallocate delegated functions.
4.	The only additions to the officer Scheme of Delegation are in relation to Supported Housing. The proposed delegations are not new but are simply included for completeness to clearly show the actions and decisions that officers currently undertake as “business as usual” matters.
	<u>Council Procedure Rules – Executive Business Report</u>
5.	It has been proposed by the Leader of the Council that the written Executive Business Report (EBR) for noting currently tabled at every ordinary meeting of Council is converted to a verbal update comprising the 15 minute period for Cabinet Members to do so and the 15 minute period for members to ask questions on matters raised.
6.	There is no obligation to present a written, or any, EBR update. Historically it was placed on the agenda some years ago prior to the current live streaming of council meetings and comprehensive use of all forms of “instant” social media, Council communications including the Council’s Twitter account, online mailings etc. By the time the EBR is tabled and considered by Council most matters have already been in the public domain for some weeks or implemented having been previously decided at Cabinet and/or been publicised widely. It is therefore considered that whilst originally there was merit in tabling the report that has now passed to a great extent. Additionally, there is also, of course, an officer resource needed to complete what is often a very comprehensive noting report and it is considered better use could be made of this resource.
7.	One important aspect which holds the Administration to account is the ability for opposition members to ask questions, without notice, on matters contained in the EBR. This will be retained but it is noted that if there is no written report on the agenda if a certain matter is not mentioned verbally by the Cabinet Member the opportunity to ask a question is lost. However, numerous other avenues to hold the Executive/Administration to account are available including tabled Council Questions as below, the well-honed scrutiny function

	and, of course, the ordinary use of emails etc outside of formal meetings. The exact wording in the Constitution will be revised following the Council resolution.
	<u>Council Procedure Rules - Questions from Members</u>
8.	As members will be aware this is a formal opportunity for members to ask written Questions to the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members, the Lord Mayor and Committee Chairs. The system is comprehensively used but despite revisions to the process and criteria over the years members and officers have never found a system that suits everyone given the divergence of views.
9.	It is a core tenet of good governance in a democratic organisation that there are adequate opportunities to hold the Administration to account on matters of major policy and significant budget matters and/or projects. Council Questions are one of those opportunities, others include the scrutiny function and ability for Executive decisions to be “called in”.
10.	The current Council Questions “escalation” criteria and process was adopted by members in 2019 but from experience since that time it has proven rather tortuous and causes tension when Questions are adjudicated upon by the Lord Mayor and Director of Governance, Legal and HR and subsequently ruled out. Judgements are made, most of which are subjective, and members and officers have on numerous occasions interpreted matters differently. The general consensus is that despite revisions to the process it still does not meet everyone’s needs and requires further revision.
11.	For officers there is a significant resource allocated to this aspect of Council business in the week leading up to Council. Whatever revisions are made or criteria applied going forward there is a place for Questions at Council. To assist, officers are developing a SharePoint site which will mean simpler, easier and quicker access to the process by everyone involved. This will lead to a smoother process and involve less officer time. This should be in place for next ordinary Council meeting in July.
12.	With regard to the scope and criteria of Council Questions every authority has their own way of doing things. Most of our peer authorities do not have as many formal Questions tabled regularly and therefore have no need for complicated processes. There is no right or wrong way, it is for each Council to decide what suits their business needs best.
13.	Accordingly, Group Leaders have discussed refinements and proposed a revised and simpler process. Firstly, Questions will be limited in number and the time limited for answering removed; 10 is proposed together with supplementaries as now. The Questions will not be “first come, first served” they will be divided pro rata depending on the political proportionality of the 51 member seats. Questions will be limited to major project or policy items on the following basis and to simplify matters there will be no obligation to ask the Question to the Cabinet Member first before escalating to Council. The Lord Mayor after taking advice from the Director of Legal, Governance & HR will remain the final arbiter:
	a. <b>A Member of the Council may ask: i. the Lord Mayor; ii. Cabinet Members; or iii. the Chair of any committee or sub-committee a question on any</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>major policy, project or strategic matter related to their role, responsibilities and/or office,</b></li> <li>○ <b>which is not similar to any question asked in the preceding Council meeting</b></li> </ul> <p><b>b. Questions on matters relating to the day-to-day provision, management and administration of services will not be permitted. This includes any requests for data or any other operational information where Members should seek this information from officers.</b></p> <p><b>The Lord Mayor will be the final arbiter on whether any Question is to be tabled after consultation with the Director of Governance, Legal &amp; HR. No Question will be struck out without consultation with the tableer and/or Group Leader.</b></p>
14.	<p>In addition, there will be up to 2 supplementary Questions permitted per Question and as now they must strictly relate to the primary tabled Question. In total 30 Questions and supplementaries could therefore be asked at any Council meeting; that is a significant number compared to peer authorities and considered adequate to deal with major matters arising. Importantly, to ensure comprehensive time for responses there will be no time limit on Member Questions as the focus will be on the number tabled. On occasions the current 60 minutes allocated for answers has been insufficient, with some tabled Questions remaining unanswered; under these proposals this will no longer be an issue. The exact wording in the Constitution will be revised following the Council resolution.</p>
15.	<p>For completeness, although not referred to in the CPRs operationally the Question response process is proposed to be as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure a more robust audit trail, the use of email to send and approve member questions between officers and members will no longer be in operation. All approvals and amendments to member questions will be conducted via a central member questions Sharepoint site to ensure the most up to date information is captured and approved. All cabinet members and relevant officers will have access to this area.</li> <li>• When member questions are first submitted, they will automatically populate Sharepoint and capture information ready for review by the Lord Mayor and Director of Legal, Governance and HR.</li> <li>• Cabinet members will then be notified of the questions submitted and will need to indicate (via Sharepoint) whether they require a formal written draft response from officers. This will then create an automated prompt to officers to draft a response.</li> <li>• Where a draft response is requested this will be uploaded to the member questions Sharepoint site by 5pm on the Friday preceding the meeting. Cabinet members will have access to this area and will be prompted to go into the document and approve any responses.</li> <li>• Cabinet Members are to submit any amendments or final responses via Sharepoint no later than 12 noon on the Tuesday preceding the Council Meeting.</li> <li>• Written responses from officers should be no longer than 200 words and uploaded to the member questions Sharepoint site ready for review by members.</li> </ul>

	If the Cabinet Member requires a further briefing to prepare for supplementary or verbal responses they will liaise directly with the Executive Director/other as appropriate.
	<u>Financial Procedure Rules (FPRs)</u>
16.	The Chief Financial Officer will be reviewing the FPRs later in the year once the outcome of the current CIPFA peer review has been completed and officers have initially considered the recommendations/actions required.
	<u>Contract Procedure Rules</u>
17.	<p>The key changes in the Contract Procedure Rules are proposed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification that a Chief Officer (or officer where a sub-delegation has been given) may sign a contract of value up to CPR Threshold.</li> <li>• Clarification that a Chief Officer (or officer with a sub-delegation) may authorise a variation where the variation is provided for within the terms and conditions of the contract.</li> <li>• Additional requirement for Chief Financial Officer to be consulted on a decision to require a parent company guarantee or other security. This is to reflect the new Economic and Financial standing process.</li> <li>• Introduction of requirement for all variations above CPR Threshold which are not provided for within the terms and conditions of the contract to be authorised by the Director of Commissioning – Integrated Health and Care or the Head of Supplier Management. This is to ensure there is sufficient oversight and governance around these variations.</li> <li>• Added clarification that that for sealing purposes, anything above the usual CPR Threshold of £213,477 must go to Legal Services for sealing / signing when it is in respect of CPR 2015 Schedule 3 services. This is to ensure Legal Services has oversight and responsibility for signing and sealing all contracts above an appropriate value.</li> </ul>
18.	In addition to the above proposed amendments, it should be noted that the Procurement Bill is due to be passed into legislation in early 2024 and with a six-month advance preparation period. The Procurement Bill is likely to require a change to elements of the CPRs. It is not known at present how significant the changes will be, so it is proposed that once the impact is confirmed, a decision whether to make further changes to the CPRs will be taken.
	<u>Civic and Ceremonial Protocol</u>
19.	On occasions the Mayor has held informal gatherings in the Parlour and awarded a “Mayor’s Award” for citizens who have made valuable contributions to the life of the city but who do not meet the criteria for becoming an Alderman, given Freedom of the City or a City of Southampton award. It is recognised that a Lord Mayor may wish to hold an informal awards celebration within their Lord Mayoral year as part of their programme of events. If such an event is required, it will be funded from the current Lord Mayoralty budget following consultation with the Lord Mayor’s Office.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
20.	None.

<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
21.	None.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
22.	An up-to-date Constitution is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2000.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
23.	None.
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
24.	None.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
25.	None.

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Tracked changed Constitution (available online)

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None.
2.	

**Equality Impact Assessment**

<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
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**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
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**Other Background Documents**

**Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>
1.	
2.	



**Summary of Questions to Executive**  
**Wednesday 17 May 2023**



QUESTION	FROM	GROUP	TO	SUBJECT	DIRECTORATE LEAD
1.	CLLR J MOULTON	CON	Cabinet Member for Transport	Bus lanes on the Millbrook Western Approach	Adam Wilkinson/Pete Boustred
QUESTION	What is the Administration policy with respect to planned bus lanes on the Millbrook Western Approach and can you set out the timescales and next steps?				
2.	CLLR J MOULTON	CON	Cabinet Member for Transport	Pennine Road resurfacing programme	Mel Creighton/Paul Paskins
QUESTION	Will the Cabinet Member be leaving Pennine Road in the roads resurfacing programme and if so what are the timescales for the work and the planned scope?				
3.	CLLR P BAILLIE	CON	Leader	Auditors' report	Mel Creighton
QUESTION	The Auditors' report into this year's budget was probably the most important financial report this council has received. Please would you explain to Full Council your reasons for not reading it nor being briefed before the scrutiny meeting.				
4.	CLLR P BAILLIE	CON	Leader	Tower block lifts	Adam Wilkinson/Tina Dyer Slade

CON = Conservative Group, LAB = Labour Group, LIB = Liberal Democrat, IND = Independent

<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>GROUP</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DIRECTORATE LEAD</b>
<b>QUESTION</b>	After Labour being in control for 10 of the last years, why is it that (according to a senior current Labour Councillor) 18 lifts in our tower blocks are out of action? And why is it that having both lifts out of action (for potentially 4 months) seemed to be of no consequence to yourself?				
<b>5.</b>	<b>CLLR P BAILLIE</b>	<b>CON</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Children &amp; Learning</b>	<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>Rob Henderson</b>
<b>QUESTION</b>	What level of importance does the UNICEF have to you & thus to the officers within Children's Services?				
<b>6.</b>	<b>CLLR D FITZHENRY</b>	<b>CON</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Mini budget</b>	<b>Mel Creighton</b>
	Now the election results are known, can the leader of the council confirm if her administration will be bringing forward a mini budget before February 2024?				

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2023
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	17 <sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	THE RETURNING OFFICER

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	Chief Executive	
	<b>Name:</b>	Mike Harris	
		Tel: 023 8083 2882	
	<b>E-mail</b>	mike.harris@southampton.gov.uk	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Title</b>	Elections Manager	
	<b>Name:</b>	Mike Hickman	
		Tel: 023 8083 3954	
	<b>E-mail</b>	Mike.hickman@southampton.gov.uk	
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
None			
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>			
Report of the Returning Officer detailing the results of the Southampton City Council elections on Thursday 4 May 2023			
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>			
	(i)	To note the results of the Southampton City Council Elections on Thursday 4 May 2023	
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>			
1.	To officially record the results of the Southampton City Council Elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.		
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>			
	Not applicable.		
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>			
2.	Election of City Councillors for 16 of the 17 wards in the City – due to the unfortunate death of a candidate, the poll for the Coxford was abandoned. The poll for the Coxford ward will be held at a future date in accordance with the provisions in law. There were three vacancies in each ward and the following candidates were duly elected:		
	<b>Ward</b>	<b>City Councillor</b>	<b>Party</b>
	Banister & Polygon	Patricia Mary EVELY	Labour
		Stephen John LEGGETT	Labour
		Vivienne WINDLE	Labour
	Bargate	Sarah Jane BOGLE	Labour
		John NOON	Labour
		Darren James PAFLEY	Labour

Bassett	Richard BLACKMAN Sam Philip CHAPMAN Sarah Louise WOOD	Liberal Democrat Liberal Democrat Liberal Democrat
Bevois	Toqeer Ahmed KATARIA Michael Roger DENNESS Jacqui Michelle RAYMENT	Labour Labour Labour
Bitterne Park	Amanda Jane BARNES-ANDREWS Anthony Wyatt BUNDAY Philip Mark WEBB	Labour Labour Labour
Freemantle	Pamela Christine KENNY Christie Marie LAMBERT David Andrew SHIELDS	Labour Labour Labour
Harefield	Peter Andrew BAILLIE Daniel Raymond FITZHENRY Valerie LAURENT	Conservative Conservative Conservative
Millbrook	Christian Michael COX Steven Graham Patrick GALTON Jeremy Richard MOULTON	Labour Conservative Conservative
Peartree	Alexander Philip Wynne HOUGHTON Eamonn Francis KEOGH Simon Jonathan LETTS	Conservative Labour Labour
Portswood	Katherine Jane BARBOUR Anne Marie FINN John SAVAGE	Green Labour Labour
Redbridge	Sally Victoria GOODFELLOW Catherine MCEWING Lee Keith WHITBREAD	Labour Labour Labour
Shirley	Satvir KAUR Razwana Saffa QUADIR Alexander WINNING	Labour Labour Labour
Sholing	James Edward BAILLIE Jaden William BEAURAIN Sarah Marie VAUGHAN	Conservative Conservative Conservative
Swaythling	Matthew William George BUNDAY Lorna Eileen FIELKER Sharon Elizabeth MINTOFF	Labour Labour Labour
Thornhill	Joshua Mark ALLEN Andrew John FRAMPTON	Labour Labour

		Yvonne Carole FRAMPTON	Labour
	Woolston	Susan Jane BLATCHFORD Warwick Alexander PAYNE Onyinyechi Victoria UGWOEME	Labour Labour Labour
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>			
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>			
3.	Not applicable.		
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>			
4.	Not applicable.		
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>			
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>			
5.	Not applicable.		
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>			
6.	Not applicable.		
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>			
7.	Not applicable.		
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>			
8.	Not applicable.		
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>		<b>No</b>	
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>		All	
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>			
<b>Appendices</b>			
1.	None.		
<b>Documents In Members' Rooms</b>			
1.	None.		
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>			
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.</b>			<b>No</b>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>			
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.</b>			<b>No</b>
<b>Other Background Documents</b>			
<b>Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>			

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	Declaration of Result of Poll for each of the 16 wards

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	17 MAY 2023		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	COUNCILLOR FULLER - CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2022/23		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Scrutiny Manager	
	<b>Name:</b>	Mark Pirnie	<b>Tel:</b> 023 8083 3886
	<b>E-mail:</b>	Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk	
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
None			
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>			
<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) is required to submit a report summarising scrutiny activity over the past twelve months to Full Council each year. The document, attached at Appendix 1, is therefore submitted for information in accordance with paragraph 2.2.7 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules within the Council's constitution.</p>			
<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>			
	(i)	That the report be noted.	
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>			
1.	The report is submitted for information in line with the requirements of the constitution		
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>			
2.	None, since the production of this report is a requirement set out in the Council's constitution.		
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>			
3.	The Council's overview and scrutiny procedure rules require an annual report to be made to Council on the overview and scrutiny function. Attached as Appendix 1 is the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report covering the 2022/23 municipal year. It aims to provide a succinct summary of the main scrutiny activities and inquiries undertaken during the course of the year.		
4.	The 2022/23 Chairs of the OSMC, Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP), Children and Families Scrutiny Panel (CFSP) and the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel have been consulted on the contents of the report.		
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>			
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>			
5.	None		

<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
6.	None
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
7.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
8.	None
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
9.	None directly as a result of this report
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
10.	None directly as a result of this report
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None directly as a result of this report
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23
<b>Documents In Members' Rooms</b>	
1.	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
<b>Other Background Documents - Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None



# SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23



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# Chair's Introduction

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## **Councillor Fuller**

### **Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee – (OSMC) 2022/23**

The scrutiny function in Southampton continues to seek new ways to engage with the public and fulfil the role of the "critical friend" to the decision makers within the council and our local partners. In 2022/23 every scrutiny meeting has been live streamed and recorded enabling more people to view the proceedings and respond to the various issues raised.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel has responded to local concerns by scrutinising dental services, elective waiting lists and feedback from critical inspections of South Central Ambulance Service and mental health services by the Care Quality Commission.

The Children and Families Scrutiny Panel has welcomed the increased stability in Children's Services and, following feedback from peer reviews, has challenged the Cabinet Member and Senior Management Team to prioritise improving the quality of practice and delivering better outcomes for children and young people in Southampton.

The Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton Scrutiny Inquiry generated significant public interest and has been well received by those who participated in this important piece of work. The extensive inquiry benefited from contributions from key partners and community / voluntary organisations that share a passion for the Itchen River. The final report is scheduled to be presented to the OSMC and Cabinet in June 2023.

This year, as well as undertaking scrutiny of the forward plan and contributing to a number of Council strategies, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee has understandably committed additional time to scrutinising the Council's finances. Whilst this approach at times proved frustrating, scrutiny retains a key role in monitoring the budgetary position of the Council and this task is more important than ever given the Council's financial predicament.

Encouragingly, once again the public have been in attendance in significant numbers at scrutiny meetings this year. In particular, at meetings of the Inquiry Panel additional seats had to be found to accommodate members of the public who wanted to engage in the process. Such occasions continue to demonstrate the relevance of scrutiny and it remains a vital ingredient in local democracy that must be supported and valued.

The importance of the scrutiny function was referenced within the review undertaken by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny on the Council's approach to governance and decision-making. The report, considered by the Governance Committee, contained a couple of minor actions for the scrutiny function to deliver but provided assurances regarding the Council's scrutiny arrangements and the thresholds for the use of call-ins.

I am grateful to members of the various scrutiny panels for their dedication and input throughout the year. I am also grateful to the local groups, national organisations, and individuals who have attended meetings, either in person or virtually, and provided evidence for elected members to consider. I am also appreciative of the continued support from council officers and Cabinet Members to effective scrutiny in Southampton. Long may this continue.

# The Purpose and Functions of Overview & Scrutiny

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## Decision making context

The Full Council of 51 councillors approves the policy framework which sets out the key policies and programmes for the main services provided by the Council. In February each year Council meets to set the Council Tax for the following year.

The Executive make decisions relating to services provided by the Council, except for those matters which are reserved for decision by full Council, and planning and licensing matters which are dealt with by specialist regulatory panels. The Executive is made up of a Leader, elected by Council, and their appointed Cabinet Members.

The Scrutiny function helps to inform the decision making process and improve the way the Council works. Scrutineers assess what impact the Executive's policies and plans will have on the city and its residents.

Scrutiny is a process for:

- Holding the Cabinet, chief officers and senior members of staff to account for the discharge of its functions by examining, challenging and, if necessary, requesting changes to executive decisions made but not yet implemented.
- Scrutinising and reviewing policies and practices within a cross-service remit, assisting in the development of such policies and practices and scrutinising policy outcomes – e.g. the implementation of strategic priorities.
- Reviewing decisions and policies made by the Executive and considering whether they are right for the city.
- Assessing the council's performance against its planned targets and monitoring critical success factors.
- Reviewing the work of other partnerships and public sector organisations in the city, particularly the Safe City Partnership and health providers and commissioners.
- Championing issues of local concern to residents and contributing to policy development and service improvement.

## Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC)

The OSMC is a parent committee that manages the overview and scrutiny process and meets on a monthly basis. The membership of the OSMC is appointed for the municipal year at the Annual Council meeting in May.

There are a number of Scrutiny Panels that support the work of the Executive and the council as a whole. The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel carries out a work programme of scrutiny inquiries approved by the OSMC. These arrangements allow citizens to have a greater say in council matters by holding public inquiries into matters of local concern. These member led inquiries lead to reports and recommendations which advise the Executive and the council as a whole on its policies, budget and service delivery.

In addition the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel undertakes the statutory scrutiny of health and adult social care agencies in Southampton, and the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel scrutinises services for children and families in the city, including education.

The OSMC also monitors the decisions of the Executive and can 'Call-In' a decision which has been made by the Executive but not yet implemented. This enables them to consider whether the decision is appropriate.

## Councillor Call for Action

Enables all councillors to refer single ward issues, or 'local government matters', to the OSMC.

## Scrutiny Panels 2022/23

- Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Children and Families Scrutiny Panel
- Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

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**Councillor Fuller**

**Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) - 2022/23**

## **Committee Members (March 2023)**

Councillor Houghton (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Cooper

Councillor Guthrie

Councillor Moulton

Councillor Savage

Councillor Shields

Councillor White

Councillor Winning

## **Appointed Members – Church Representatives    Parent Governors**

Mrs Catherine Hobbs

Mr Rob Sanders

Mr Francis Otieno

This year presented a contrast to last year’s Committee. There were no uses of the Call-In procedure, scrutiny of the Council’s finances was a focus for the Committee, and a different approach was taken to engaging with the development of new Council strategies. However, similar to previous years, when the Committee discussed issues that resonated with the public the Council Chamber was crowded with residents who wanted to engage with the democratic process.

## **Portswood Broadway**

In February 2023 proposals to close Portswood Broadway to through traffic were considered by the OSMC and a passionate audience of residents and shopkeepers. Concerns relating to the impartiality of the consultation survey, the accuracy of the traffic counts, the limited modelling undertaken, and the impact of the proposals on Thomas Lewis Way and the viability of the district centre were raised.

Following the discussion the Executive reflected upon the issues presented and agreed to incorporate the Committee’s recommendations within the second phase of consultation that is due to commence in the summer of 2023. Given the public interest in the scheme I anticipate the Committee will be keen to return to this initiative in the next municipal year.



## **Scrutiny of Council Finances**

In recognition of the precarious financial position of the Authority, the Committee tried on numerous occasions to engage with the Cabinet Member in an informed discussion on the Administration’s plans to address the considerable financial challenges facing the Council.

The Committee were repeatedly frustrated by the obfuscation from the Cabinet Member and his unwillingness to clarify the approach that the Executive were seeking to adopt and the options that had been rejected.

Moving forward, it is imperative that the Committee continues to hold the Executive to account as it works to deliver a balanced budget. Quarterly scrutiny of financial outturns and savings targets must become standing agenda items reflecting the gravity of the current situation.

## Bus Fares Petition

A petition calling for £1 bus fares across Southampton was one of many highways and transport items considered by the Committee this year. The Enhanced Bus Partnership, an update on the Transforming Cities Fund, Portswood Corridor, E-Scooters, fees for Council public electric vehicle chargers, enforcement of moving vehicle violations and the introduction of evening parking charges all featured on OSMC agendas in 2022/23.

The agenda items reflected changes in legislation, successful funding bids, Executive decisions and behavioural changes enabled by technological advances. With national decisions imminent on E-Scooter policy and contentious local transport schemes still to be determined, it is likely that this trend will be repeated in the next municipal year.

## St Mary's Leisure Centre

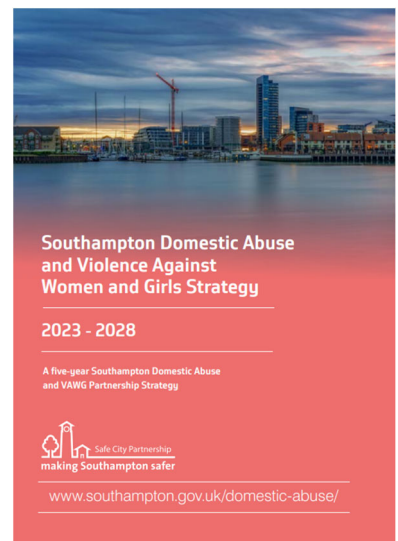
Following the decision to close St Mary's Leisure Centre the issue returned to the OSMC agenda when the Administration opted to recommence leisure services from the centre in August 2022. Since re-opening attendances at St Mary's Leisure Centre have been disappointing and it has required considerable financial support from the Council. It is hoped that the proposed procurement of a long-term operator of the facility will reduce the cost to the taxpayer because, up to now, value for money associated with this political decision has yet to be evidenced.

## Strategies and Policies

The Committee had the opportunity to contribute to a number of Council policies and strategies in 2022/23. This included the Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Strategy, the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and the Household Waste and Fly Tipping Policy.

To enable scrutiny to become key consultees, and to influence the Council's approach, OSMC has engaged with the draft documents at an earlier stage in the process. This has allowed for more open discussions and the opportunity for stakeholders to attend meetings to advocate for specific actions.

This change in emphasis has been welcomed by the Committee, the Executive and officers and has resulted in more cross-party support for the strategies when they have been presented to Council for adoption.



## Key issues for 2023/24

I expect the Committee to continue to utilise the forward plan to schedule timely conversations with Executive Members, thereby enabling public engagement on key issues, and open and transparent decision making to ensue. This remains a strength of our approach in Southampton.

Looking ahead, I would like to see the publication of performance indicators that would enable the OSMC to hold the Executive to account for the delivery of objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan. The Executive have not published any Council wide performance data in 2022/23 that can be scrutinised by the OSMC, alongside the published financial performance. This reflects badly on the Council and cannot be regarded as good practice.

# Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel



**Councillors Professor Margetts / W Payne**

**Chairs of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 2022/23**

## **Panel Members (March 2023)**

Councillor White (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Guest

Councillor Houghton

Councillor Noon

Councillor Shields

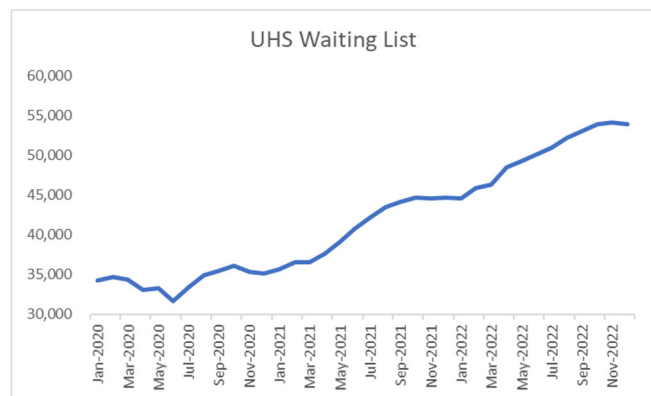
Councillor Windle

Pressure on health and care services, resulting in challenges accessing services for Southampton residents, provided the focus for a number of meetings of the HOSP in 2022/23. At the points of highest demand this winter, nearly all hospital beds were occupied in University Hospital Southampton (UHS), and across the wider Hampshire and Isle of Wight area. This is in addition to the significant pressure experienced by urgent treatment centres, GP practices, minor injuries, social care and ambulance services.

## **Elective waiting times**

In February 2023 the Panel received an update around elective waiting times in Southampton. The UHS waiting list continues to grow and as of December 2022 stands at just under 54,000 patients. The waiting list continues to grow despite UHS delivering approximately 106% of activity (e.g. appointments and surgeries) compared to pre-pandemic levels.

At the end of December 2022, the average wait from referral to first appointment in the trust is 11 weeks. However, 2 week waits (suspected cancer patients), and urgent referrals have a lower average wait in line with their clinical priority.



UHS waiting list for patients awaiting treatment, December 2022

At the meeting the Panel reviewed the plan to improve waiting times developed by the acute alliance, which is a group of the four acute hospitals in Hampshire and Isle of Wight, working closely with the Integrated Care Board.

The plan includes the development of the new Elective Hub at Winchester scheduled to open in 2025 and the creation of new and expanded community diagnostic centres.

## **NHS Dentistry**

Southampton's residents continue to struggle to access NHS dental services, and, reflecting feedback to Healthwatch Southampton, access to dental services is a key concern for local people. To make matters worse, a number of dental practices delivering dental services through NHS dental contracts have terminated their contracts in our area, opting to only treat patients privately.

Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (ICB) now has delegated responsibility for dentistry, alongside pharmacy and optometry. At the December meeting of the HOSP the Panel were informed that additional NHS dental services have been commissioned in Shirley and Woolston. The Panel also discussed the ICB's initial priorities to address the challenges, these include ensuring appropriate oral health strategies are in place, and building relationships with providers, addressing their concerns and supporting them with their services and estates.



Reflecting the concerns of our residents, the Panel have asked to be kept updated as this work progresses, and we expect dental services will return to the HOSP agenda next municipal year.

**South Central Ambulance Service**



In August 2022 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) published an inspection report on South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS) and changed its overall rating to inadequate.

The CQC’s report highlighted serious failings in leadership, culture, and performance. The Panel paid tribute to the hard work and commitment of the frontline staff who work tirelessly, in often trying circumstances, to deliver compassionate care to the people with whom they had contact, but sought, from the Chief Executive, an explanation for the failings identified. The Panel’s discussion focussed on the agreed Trust Improvement Plan which includes targets for improved performance for 999 and 111 call handling and ambulance response times.

SCAS Southampton performance - August 2022

Times show hrs:mins:secs	Southampton			England	
	% of all calls	Mean average	90 <sup>th</sup> centile	Mean average	90 <sup>th</sup> centile
Category 1	5%	07:52	12:50	9:08	16:20
Category 2	55%	42:22	1:31:08	42:44	1:33:20
Category 3	23%	3:35:33	8:28:46	2:16:23	5:41:13
Category 4	2%	4:22:26	10:00:06	2:56:39	7:27:56
Category 5	15%	Hear and treat calls, no crews sent to scene			

**Adult Social Care (ASC) – Performance and transformation**

Adult Social Care services remain under significant pressure. A greater number of people are making requests for assistance and where statutory services have to provide resources the needs identified are increasing in complexity due to increased frailty and co-morbidities.

To provide oversight of this dynamic environment, this year the Panel agreed to undertake scrutiny of ASC performance on a quarterly basis. The performance scrutiny has been considered alongside scrutiny of the transformation programme established to deliver services that are sustainable, person centred, clear and confident in practise and delivering good quality care.

Performance scrutiny has already identified data discrepancies and moving forward it will enable the Panel to monitor, review and analyse outcomes for some of the city’s most vulnerable adults.

**Key issues for 2023/24**

The Panel will continue to oversee Project Fusion, the programme of work to create a single new NHS Trust to provide community, mental health and learning disability services across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Monitoring will resume of the delivery of agreed improvement plans by Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust and South Central Ambulance Service, following critical reports from the CQC.

Away from operational developments, structural reforms and reviewing the delivery of the new Integrated Care Strategy, the Panel may also wish to consider how the Council is embedding a Health in All Policies approach in Southampton to help address the widening health inequalities in our city.



# Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

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**Councillor Winning**

**Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel – 2022/23**

**Panel Members (March 2023)**

Councillor Laurent (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor A Bunday  
Councillor Denness

Councillor D Galton  
Councillor W Payne  
Councillor Vaughan

**Appointed Members – Parent Governors**

Mr Francis Otieno

**Church Representatives**

Mrs Catherine Hobbs  
Mr Rob Sanders

With a full complement of senior managers and leaders now in place, an increasingly permanent workforce and Destination 22 being rolled out, this year has seen a much-needed increase in stability for Children’s Services in Southampton.

The Panel, utilising the regular analysis of the Children Services and Learning (CSL) performance dataset, sought to scrutinise areas where performance was a concern; where services were under increasing pressure; or, where new services had commenced, such as the Young People’s Service and the new Early Help offer.

## Quality of practice

Despite a reduction in temporary staff and a comprehensive training programme being rolled out via the Workforce Academy, the Panel were informed on a number of occasions that children and families in Southampton were not getting consistent and high-quality services from CSL.

At March’s meeting the performance report identified that 53% of cases audited in February were rated as Requires Improvement, indicating the need to improve the quality of practice. This reflects the wider issue of quality assurance raised by Ofsted during the focused visit in November 2022. The visit identified that the quality of audits, and of how effectively they, and the wider quality assurance framework, are used to understand and improve the quality and impact of practice with children and their families, was an area for improvement.



In response to Ofsted’s and the Panel’s concerns, at the January 2023 meeting the Panel reviewed the new CSL Quality Assurance Framework to understand how the revised practice standards are to be embedded into service delivery to improve the quality of practice. Improving the quality of practice is fundamental to reducing demand by, for example, limiting the high number of re-referrals into safeguarding services, lowering the cost of services and delivering better outcomes. Given its importance I anticipate this will be a key focus of the Panel in 2023/24.

## Outcomes for Looked After Children

Reflecting our collective Corporate Parenting responsibilities, the Panel continued to focus on outcomes for Southampton’s Looked After Children in 2022/23. Plans to reduce NEET levels, improve educational attainment, intervene early to reduce the demand for specialist mental health services and provide sufficient places for our Looked After Children were scrutinised this year.

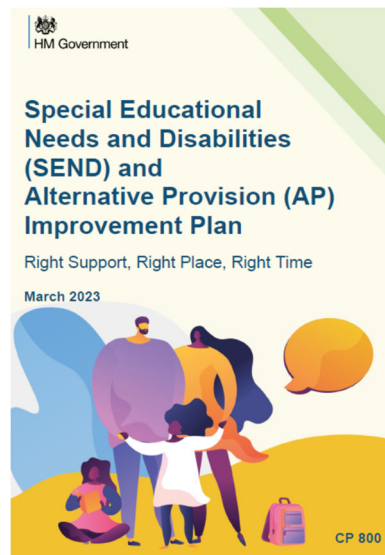
The discussion with the Virtual Headteacher identified that, in 2021/22, 243 pupils who attended the Virtual School had moved school in the year. This represented a 38% increase from the previous year, mostly due to a change in care placement.

Placement stability is recognised to be a key factor in enabling positive outcomes for Looked After Children. For this reason, the Panel have repeatedly championed and challenged the development of new children's homes in Southampton to enable more of our looked after children to be accommodated in the city. Progress delivering this corporate priority will continue to be monitored by the Panel in the next municipal year.

### **Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

The number of Southampton pupils with Education Health and Care Plans is expected to increase from 1,826 in 2021 to 3,408 in 2029. The transformation plans that will enable the needs of this growing cohort to be met in mainstream schools and specialist provision were scrutinised in 2022/23, alongside the Government's SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan.

Children with SEND transitioning from Children's to Adult Services was identified as being an area where improvements need to be made. It is proposed that a discussion involving Adult Social Care and Children's Services and Learning officers is scheduled next year to examine opportunities to address the problems currently being experienced.



### **Improving the skills of the Panel**

To support the relatively inexperienced Panel to understand the complex range of services overseen by the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel, and to improve their scrutiny skills, a number of bespoke training sessions were organised for the Panel in 2022/23.

In November the Local Government Association delivered a workshop to the Panel on 'Effective Scrutiny of Children's Services.' This session proved so popular that plans are being made, subject to the agreement of the Chair in 2023/24, for the Panel to pilot the full LGA training and development offer designed to support councils to improve the effectiveness of their scrutiny of children's services.

### **Key issues for 2023/24**

I have already referenced a number of areas where I anticipate the Panel will want to explore in greater detail next year. The most critical of these is the quality of practice being delivered in Southampton. It will also be essential that the Panel challenges the Cabinet Member and Senior Management Team on delivering value for money and identifying savings to address budget overspends.

Next year the Panel should also challenge the service to improve outcomes for children in Southampton. Currently outcomes remain inconsistent and there is much more to do before the Panel can be confident in the quality of the services that children in Southampton receive. The service transformation has built the foundations upon which improved outcomes can be delivered. This year performance has stabilised, the expectation must be that next year performance will improve.

# Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

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**Councillor Savage**

**Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel – 2022/23**

**Panel Members (March 2023)**

Councillor Moulton (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor A Bunday

Councillor Cooper  
Councillor White

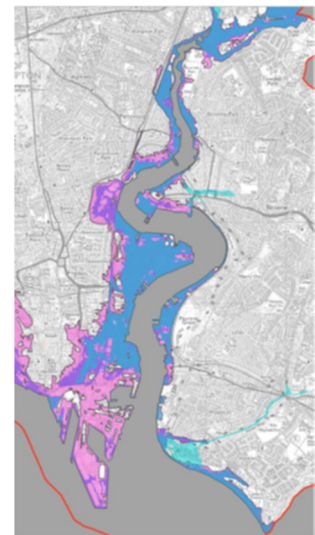
The River Itchen has been the lifeblood of Southampton since Roman times, it divides the city in two and is an important natural and commercial resource.

It is a globally important river of significant ecological interest. Areas of the River Itchen in Southampton are identified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) and, as the Itchen meanders through Southampton, it does, in places, offer opportunities for communities to access the waterfront and enjoy being by the water.

Marinas, wharves, and quays are located at the lower reaches of the river and businesses line its banks. In Southampton the river is also used by numerous clubs involved in water sports as well as SWAC (Southampton Water Activities Centre) and Woodmill Activity Centre.

However, the river is subject to use by numerous, and, at times competing interests that can create pressure on the natural environment and tensions between users. Climate change is also impacting the river. The Itchen corridor is a flood risk zone whilst drought is an increasing concern with water being extracted upstream to provide for our growing demands.

Given the importance of the River Itchen to Southampton, and concerns about its health and resilience, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee recommended at the September 2022 meeting, that an inquiry focussing on protecting, preserving and promoting the River Itchen in Southampton be undertaken by the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel.



Key:  
Present Day Flood Zone 2&3  
Tidal flood risk by 2085  
Tidal flood risk by 2122

**Tidal flood risk in Southampton**

## Consultation

The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertook the inquiry over 6 evidence gathering meetings. The Panel received information from a wide variety of organisations. including Wessex Rivers Trust, Natural England, The Environment Agency, Southern Water, ABP, Ocean Infinity, MDL Marinas, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, Business South, British Canoeing, Glasgow City Council, Thames21 and Solent Forum.

As well as Southampton City Council officers representing various departments, the Panel also received evidence from numerous voluntary, community and recreational groups who are passionate about the River Itchen in Southampton.

## Findings and conclusions

Information presented to the Inquiry Panel identified that:

- The River Itchen is an asset to the city that should be cherished and nurtured.
- Despite, as eloquently put by Graham Linecar from SCAPPs, *'the river giving the city its identity and a sense of place'*, he, like many, are of the view that the River Itchen in Southampton is under appreciated and is taken for granted.
- Despite its huge heritage, wildlife, ecological and recreational value this precious open space within Southampton faces multiple threats from pollution, from increasing restrictions to access, and from development.
- The threats identified leave the river's health in the balance. A healthy river that supports abundant flora and fauna enhances our health and wellbeing, encourages recreation and active community support, and increases the desire to be by the river thereby increasing investment and economic prosperity.
- Reflecting the concerns raised and the evidence presented, a different approach to the river is required. An approach that recognises the value of the River Itchen to Southampton, where the focus is on investing in the health of the river and a high quality river environment rather than, as has historically happened, exploiting the river.
- Fortunately, a number of timely developments mean that this is an opportune moment to commit to the new approach. The most significant of these being the refresh of the Local Plan and the opportunity it presents to guide planning applications and shape the city as a place to 2040 and beyond.
- Progress has been made, and if these opportunities are harnessed there is the potential to rise to the challenges set and to have a fluvial and tidal river that is closer to being of high ecological status; a distinctive waterfront that is well-designed, attractive, sensitive to the character and context of the area which also protects and enhances the natural environment; and a river that effectively links people, places and habitats.

## Recommendations

The final report, approved by the Panel on 20<sup>th</sup> April, contains 20 recommendations in total which, if fully implemented, the Panel believe will contribute significantly to protecting, preserving and promoting the River Itchen in Southampton.

The recommendations reflect key issues presented during the inquiry relating to:

- A healthy and resilient river
- A vibrant river
- A connected river
- Strategic management and partnership working.



## Cabinet

The inquiry report is scheduled to be presented to the OSMC and Cabinet in June 2023. A formal response from the Executive to the recommendations is expected to be considered by Cabinet in the summer.

The final report of the Inquiry Panel can be accessed here:

[Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton - Final Report](#)



# Getting Involved

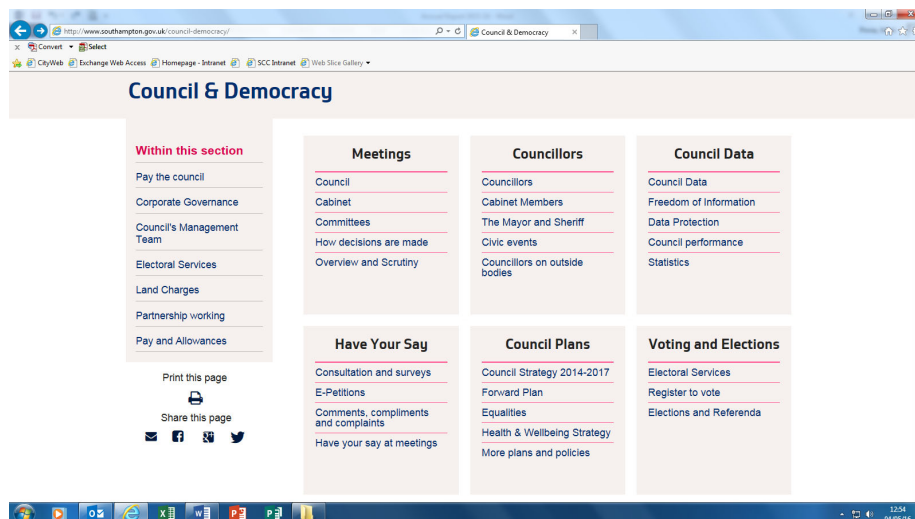
## How can I get involved?

There are a number of ways in which the public and interested organisations can get involved.

- **Attend a meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee or a Scrutiny Panel.** All scrutiny meetings are held in public and anyone is welcome to attend to listen to proceedings. Meetings are currently usually held in the Civic Centre. Only on rare occasions, when certain types of confidential information is being discussed, are members of the public not allowed to attend. All scrutiny meetings are also live streamed on the Council's website.
- Raise issues with your Councillor and request Overview and Scrutiny to consider as part of **Councillor Call for Action.**
- Give your feedback to inquiry meetings as part of evidence gathering.

Details of forthcoming scrutiny meetings, agendas, reports and minutes can be obtained from the City Council's website at:

[Scrutiny at Southampton](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/council-democracy/)



## Providing written evidence

Scrutiny inquiries can consider written evidence and members of the public, community groups, or other key stakeholders can write in to bring evidence to the attention of Inquiry Panel members. Inevitably, scrutiny inquiries have only a limited amount of time so they may not be able to hear oral testimony from all interested people.

Written evidence provides an alternative way to receive evidence from key stakeholders, policy makers, service providers, service users and community groups. Written evidence may put forward a particular perspective of the issue being considered, or may highlight evidence to help the investigation. It can also put forward questions for witnesses which may be taken up by members of the Panel during the discussion.

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