
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
20 MARCH 2024

Present:

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Laurent
The Sheriff, Councillor Shields
Councillors Allen, J Baillie (except items 72 (part), 73-80), P Baillie,
Blackman, Mrs Blatchford, Barbour, Barnes-Andrews, Beaurain, Bogle,
M Bunday, T Bunday, Chapman (except items 73 (part), 74-80), Cox,
Denness, Evemy, Fielker, Finn, Fitzhenry, A Frampton, Y Frampton, Galton
(except items 72 (part), 73-80), Goodfellow (except items 78 (part), 79-80),
Greenhalgh, Houghton, Kataria, Kenny, Keogh, Lambert, Leggett, Letts,
McCreanor, Mrs Mintoff, Moulton (except items 72 (part), 73-80), Noon,
Dr Paffey, W Payne, Powell-Vaughan, Quadir (except items 72 (part), 73-
80), Rayment, Renyard, Savage, Ugwoeme, Webb, Whitbread, Windle and
Winning

68. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Kaur and McEwing.

69. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 15th November 2023, 3rd January 2024, 21st February 2024 and 6th March 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

70. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR AND LEADER

Announcements from the Lord Mayor

(i) New Microphone System

Members, you will see that there is a new digital microphone system in operation which is operated in the same way as the previous system by pressing the button on the right to speak which will show a red light and then by turning it off when you have finished speaking. Sound Engineers have been working this week to finesse the acoustics and are on hand for today's meeting to assist if needed, but please bear with us if there appears to be any feedback on sound. The new equipment has numerous other features such as allowing electronic voting but those will be in place in due course.

(ii) Last meeting of the Municipal Year

Members as you know this is the last meeting of the Municipal Year. I have enjoyed my time as Chair of these meetings even if often they have been challenging circumstances.

I also thank all Members of the Council for their hard work and contributions made during this past year.

Some Councillors are not seeking re-election Councillors Fitzhenry, Paffey, McEwing, Quadir and T Bunday. We thank them for their service to their communities and wish them well.

(iii) Goodbye to Adam Wilkinson

Members, I would like to formally say goodbye to Adam Wilkinson, Interim Executive Director of Place and thank him for all his hard work, dedication, and commitment to the City Council.

(iv) Change in order of today's business

Members, you will note from the order of the summons for today's meeting that item 13, Asset Development and Disposal Programme (ADDP) is last on the agenda in order that we can consider the confidential appendix should we need to. As that would require the Chamber to be cleared of the press and public, I intend to deal with that item last.

In addition, we have a linked item on the agenda today. We have an Executive Question in the name of Councillor Moulton, linked to the Public Question from Mr Obiri-Danso. I would suggest that we change the agenda running order so that we bring forward Executive Question 2 and hear it directly after Mr Obiri-Danso's questions.

Members, you will also be aware it is practice to bring forward the items of business on the agenda ahead of Executive Business and Motions, therefore items 9 – 11 will be taken ahead of items 5 – 8 with items 12 – Exclusion of the Press and Public and item 13 – Asset Development and Disposal Programme moving to the end of the meeting in order that the meeting can go into confidential session

The running order will therefore be the public questions followed by Executive Question 2 in the name of Councillor Moulton. We will then deal with items 9-11 followed by items 5-8 and then items 12 and 13.

(v) Lord Mayor Charity Events

Members, I have some upcoming charity events to remind you of:-

28th March, Friends of Old Southampton will be presenting Mayoral Connections with Southampton Old Cemetery, a talk and exhibition with tea and cake.

14th April, Classic Car Display against the ancient walls of West Quay.

5th May, Blessing of the Water on Rogation Sunday on the SS Shieldhall at 2.30pm.

I look forward to seeing you there.

(vi) Easter Egg Collection

As many of you will be aware the Council alongside our highways partner Balfour Beatty Living Places supports collecting Easter eggs for children across the city (i.e. children in our care, food banks etc). Last year 3,000 eggs were donated. We hope to beat that this year.

Thank you to those officers and members who have already contributed. If you haven't already donated the last day to receive collections is today, donations can be left with the Member's Services team, Main Reception or Councillor Rayment, who is organising the drop off. Monetary donations can also be made and the buying can be done for you.

(vii) Filming

Members, today's meeting is being live streamed and will also be available for members of the public to view online after the meeting. For any member of the public filming, I remind you that the right to film is limited to the duration of the meeting and recording must cease when I close the meeting. Filming or recording is not permitted if the effect would be to interrupt or disturb the proceedings or if it is intrusive of a specific individual or individuals. If in my opinion this is occurring, it will not be permitted, and I will ask you to stop.

Similarly, some members of the public attending the meeting may object to being filmed, photographed or recorded and will expect that these wishes are complied with.

Announcement by the Leader:

Members, it gives me great pleasure to announce a new park in the city following the recent Daily Echo's competition to name it. With a reader's poll of more than 2,600 the winning name was "Arundel Gardens" which closely links with our rich heritage and the iconic Arundel Tower, which dates all the way back to the 13th Century.

We are incredibly proud of our heritage in Southampton and the winning name reflects that residents are too. I'm excited to see how both the bus hub and the park projects progress. The bus hub will support a better bus provision for both residents and visitors, as well as a choice of transport options and will boost the city's economy by encouraging more tourists to visit.

We hope to open Albion Place Bus Hub and Arundel Gardens by the end of the year, so that the community can enjoy the new facilities.

71. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Council received and noted the following deputation:

(i) Glen Eyre Quietway – Mr Obiri-Danso

The Council received the following Public Questions from Mr Obiri-Danso which was responded to by Councillor Keogh, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

I work in the Southampton Science Park in Chilworth and live in Bitterne. Since I don't have a car, I previously cycled, and due to recent health problems, now use the Voi hire scooters to get to work at least twice a week.

My usual route takes me through Glen Eyre Road, which has recently had traffic calming measures implemented in order to improve the safety for vulnerable road users and pedestrians.

Some of these measures include the kerb buildouts around the northern part of the road, between Bassett Avenue and Glen Eyre Halls.

While it is claimed that this is to make motor traffic slow down, I feel, and have concurred with a colleague of mine that cycles through the same road, that it has made travelling down this road more treacherous, since there were weeks of road closures to put the buildouts in, but none of the potholes were filled in on this side of the road, making the ride quality worse as there is no way of avoiding these.

QUESTION 1

Why were kerb buildouts deemed to be the best idea for this stretch of road rather than keeping the road layout as it was?

ANSWER

Build outs were installed to help reinforce the lower 20mph speed limit along Glen Eyre Road. The buildouts have been positioned to compliment on-street car parking bays, which in the previous set up would have required road users to move out and pass a parked vehicle. The width of the carriageway at the buildouts are in accordance with design guidance to reduce the chance of drivers performing a close pass on cyclists.

Ongoing post-scheme monitoring indicates an 85% reduction in vehicle speed along Glen Eyre Road, from 28.1 mph to 21.1 mph. The reduced speeds will result in a safer environment for cycling and walking.

QUESTION 2

In either case, why weren't the potholes filled and the road resurfaced during the works, as they were past Violet Road junction, and is there any scope to do this in the near future?

ANSWER

Some surface defects in the carriageway have been corrected during the scheme. During a post scheme review, additional areas have now been identified for repair and are programmed to be addressed under the annual Roads Maintenance Programme.

72. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

A verbal report of the Leader of the Council was given setting out the details of the business undertaken by the Executive.

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

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

1. Lifts in tenant's buildings

Councillor Galton to Councillor A Frampton

QUESTION: Given the record increases to Tenants' Rents, are you meeting your duty with regards lift provision in Council buildings and what would your message be to those that continually have to cope with broken down lifts when using their homes or visiting friends locally?

ANSWER: The maintenance of lifts and other repairs and maintenance to council owned homes, are funded by the Housing Revenue Account. Income to this account, to ensure sufficient funds are available, is raised through the rent charged for those homes. I remain committed to improving the services Southampton City Council tenants receive.

2. Glen Eyre Cycle Scheme

Councillor Moulton to Councillor Keogh

QUESTION: Is £850,000 good use of money for the Glen Eyre Cycle Scheme?

ANSWER: The Glen Eyre cycle scheme is part of the Southampton Cycle Network (SCN) route 5, facilitating connections for the University of Southampton campus and the largest halls complex, where approximately 1,900 students reside. SCN5 also serves as a link for Cantell High School, Chilworth Science Park, and the broader city region to Chandlers Ford. This scheme is funded from the Transforming Cities Fund by the UK Government. The scheme has delivered a new 1.1 km quietway cycleway, incorporating traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds. Additionally, it features an improved traffic signal junction at the intersection of A35 Burgess Road and Glen Eyre Road. This upgraded junction includes bus priority signal technology, pedestrian countdown timers, and expanded pedestrian waiting areas. Furthermore, the scheme allocates space for innovative technologies such as EV charging, escooter and bike hire. Ongoing post-scheme monitoring indicates a reduction in 85th %ile vehicle speeds along Glen Eyre Road, from 28.1 mph to 21.1 mph. The reduced speeds will result in a safer environment for cycling and walking – from the Southampton Walking and Cycling Index report 2023, 50% of respondents would find streets with 20mph speed limits would be useful to walk more and 45% to cycle more.

3. Paignton Road Play Park

Councillor Moulton to Councillor Letts

QUESTION: Can the Cabinet Member advise on the status of the £100,000 funding for the Paignton Road Play Park that was allocated to the budget by the previous Conservative Administration? When will the money be released and the play park redeveloped?

ANSWER: Verbal response given at the meeting.

It's an entirely valid question. Councillor Moulton has been here a long time and has a rich history of campaigning on behalf of his residents and I am sure this is part of that process. We all have aspirations to support additional capital schemes in our area to support our residents and that is entirely fair. We paused the programme on play parks earlier in the year so that we could look at the whole capital programme. We have allocated £700k to Play Parks for next year. The decision on which of those play parks will be invested in lies with my Cabinet colleague Councillor Keogh and he will be considering those options over the next couple of months or so. The broader issue for us is the need to find capital resources to invest in our City and we will have a broader debate on that later in the meeting. So that is where we are. The answer is it will come, but not necessarily as fast as you want.

4. Children's Services Budget

Councillor J Baillie to Winning

QUESTION: Because of the parlous state of the SCC finances, the budget for Children's Services has been hit. How confident are you that the good work over the last 3 years will not be undone because of budgetary pressures?

ANSWER: Verbal response given at the meeting.

Thank you for the question and rightly pointing out the good work that has been achieved over the last three years within Children Services. We mentioned that earlier and I know everyone in this Chamber is very proud of that. It's a short answer, we are very confident the good work will not be undone. We are building a strong and robust service that is ultimately sustainable and fit for the future that is the priority. I would also point out that the budget has been increased from last year, so it hasn't been hit, but I think it is really important to recognise nationally that social care is in crisis, not funded properly by Government, not prioritised by Government. We have to tread carefully but given the leadership and dedicated workforce we have here in Southampton, as well as the initiatives we are working towards, I do have total confidence that the work will not be undone.

5. Southampton Children's Play Association Grant

Councillor Beaurain to Councillor Winning

QUESTION: What steps did the Cabinet Member take to prevent the closure of a fifty year old Southampton charity, Southampton Children's Play Association, which couldn't survive without the council grant which you have withdrawn?

ANSWER: When Southampton Children's Play Association's (SCPA's) contract with the Council came to an end on 31 December 2023, Southampton City Council offered the organisation a grant of £36k to support with their core back office costs whilst they reviewed their business model and sought additional income from external sources and contracts to cover their overheads. Commissioners had been working closely with them to support this process. As a general rule we would expect organisations to distribute their overheads and core costs evenly across all their service contracts. In addition to offering the £36k grant, council officers have also continued to work with SCPA around their HAF (Holiday Activity and Food) programme application. All organisations are open to bid for HAF funding and SCPA has been a valued and significant provider of HAF activities in the past. Additionally Council officers have been

meeting regularly with the organisation and have offered support with both identifying and responding to external funding opportunities (e.g. support with reviewing applications); and mentoring of the organisation's Trustees as well as support with recruiting new Trustees. We have also been encouraging them to work with Young Southampton, the newly formed Young People's alliance in the city, to identify and secure alternative sources of funding from external grants and local investors. The decision of SCPA to close came as a surprise following several positive meetings where the organisation was indicating that it had secured income from a number of sources to cover its costs and is of much disappointment, as we were in the middle of discussions around the profiling of the grant and open to flexing this to whatever worked best for SCPA.

6. Prevention of anti social behaviour

Councillor Beaurain to Councillor Renyard

QUESTION: The residents of Laxton Close have play area which attracts anti-social behaviour and crime. Despite progress being with the police with the support of the Police and Crime Commissioner to tackle this, the council seems disinterested fulfilling its duties as a partner in the prevention of crime. What does the Cabinet Member intend to do to help residents in Laxton Close and across the city who feel council does not do enough to prevent anti-social behaviour?

ANSWER: Tackling ASB is a key Safe City Partnership objective, bringing the Council, Police, key partners and residents together to make the city a safer place to live. From Mar 23- Feb 24 that partnership working has helped reduce ASB offences by 20% across the city (compared to the same period 22/23). Issues around Laxton Close have been previously raised and you have received responses from several council departments, including looking at Public Space Protection Orders and the suggestion of an ASB case review. The partnership response under Operation Auction was that police agreed to increase patrols in the area, which you have acknowledged in your question has helped progress matters. Our Stronger Communities team works with police in coordinating Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings and leads the weekly Partnership Action Groups where ASB issues are brought for joint problem solving so we have a number of routine meetings where residents or Police can raise ASB issues. The Team have also previously successfully bid for Home Office Safer Streets funding to tackle ASB and are in the process of submitting further funding bids to the PCC, supported by Police. This has included the purchase and deployment of temporary CCTV cameras to react swiftly to monitor crime and ASB hotspots, deployed through the PAG's or at police request. We still face challenges of ASB in certain areas, and I sympathise with residents in Laxton Close and am glad that police, who we work with closely, are able to support them.

7. Pedestrian crossing Osborne Road

Councillor Barbour to Councillor Keogh

QUESTION: If we want to encourage more people to walk around the city we need to make it easier for them. With increasing traffic on Thomas Lewis Way and with the planned busgate local roads will become busier. On the corner of St Denys Road and Thomas Lewis Way there is not a button to press to cross the road, can this be

investigated with a view to installing a crossing from Osborne Road S to Osborne Road N.

ANSWER: The junction of A335 Thomas Lewis Way and A3035 St Denys Road underwent upgrades in 2022-2023 as part of the Transforming Cities Fund program. These enhancements included the installation of new traffic signal technology to alleviate congestion along the corridors, as well as the addition of a new cycle facility. For the western arm (specifically Osborne Road North / South), several improvements were implemented:

- Enhanced drop kerbs for improved accessibility;
- New tactiles to assist visually impaired pedestrians; and
- A new road surface. Due to a number of underground utility services on this corner it is not possible to install traffic signal poles in the correct location for a controlled pedestrian crossing without significant and costly relocation of the services. Pedestrians using this arm are required to wait and assess traffic gaps before crossing safely.

8. Southampton Climate Assembly

Councillor Blackman to Councillor Keogh

QUESTIONS: Recommendations made by the Southampton Climate Assembly include longstanding ambitions for transport in the city, including Park and Ride, a metro system, and making cycling safe and attractive for everyone. How will the administration prioritise the Assembly's recommendations?

ANSWER: Verbal response given at the meeting.

As we know in 2023 the Citizens Assembly in Southampton focussed on climate change and transport. Randomly selected residents were tasked with the question of how to create an accessible, affordable, and connected transport system while reducing carbon emissions and meeting climate targets. Their vision statement 'people in Southampton using public transport and active travel as their main ways of getting around'. The Assembly made a number of recommendations covering a metro style transport system, cycling infrastructure, walking, park and ride, traffic flow improvements, accessibility enhancements, affordability measures, safety initiatives, education, communication and connectivity. The Council has acknowledged these recommendations, and we will be updating our Local Transport Plan in 2025. We will be incorporating and recognising the value of those recommendations. Some of those recommendations are already in our current Local Transport Plan including progress on the Southampton Cycle network, exploration of mass transit operations and the development of a park and ride service for Southampton General Hospital staff. As part of the Local Plan Review we have to produce a three year implementation plan which will be created prioritising improvements to the Local Plan based on the funding available, deliverability, timelines etc. So, I think that commitment is there and I for one was truly inspired to be at that event and as I mentioned our grateful thanks to Councillor Savage for promoting that and all the others that were there. We couldn't have helped be inspired by the enthusiasm of those residents that were there, their knowledge their commitment and certainly I know I have that commitment, this Administration has that commitment to continue to work with our residents and particularly to take on board what was said through the Assembly. One of the things I would finish with is their request to all of us as Elected Members that we need to make sure that we can work together collaboratively and maybe that means we can discuss

things in a very mature and civilised way. I know that you are always capable of doing that.

9. Signage improvements

Councillor Chapman to Councillor Keogh

QUESTION: In September, Full Council passed a motion supporting the introduction of both additional signage and electronic signage aimed at reducing speeds on various roads, including Bassett Avenue and Bassett Green Road. Since then, I have been working with officers to deliver elements of this on Bassett Avenue specifically. Despite my best efforts officers are yet to agree to any signage improvements despite reasonable legal options being available. Can you provide assurance that the necessary resources and efforts will be allocated not just to this but elsewhere in the City where Councillors raise reasonable requests for signage improvements?

ANSWER: If a Councillor wishes to raise a request for signage improvements related to speed limit changes, they can do so, and the request will be reviewed against the national guidance from the Department for Transport on the use of speed limit signs. If the review identifies that additional signage is required to comply with the guidance, steps will be taken to rectify the location. The guidance does not allow for the use of additional 30mh signage as repeater signage on street lit roads. The Council has funding in place to continue the use of Vehicle Activated Signs for the use of speed limit awareness and will be continuing the programme in 2024 / 2025. The Signs were last in place at Bassett Avenue in January 2024 and will be in place again in July 2024.

73. MOTIONS

(a) Councillor Fielker moved and seconded by Councillor Lambert

This council notes that in the lead up to a General Election the Household Support Fund has been extended for an additional six months, the lateness of the notification announcement and that guidance was not provided at the same time.

This council also notes that the Household Support Fund provides hardship support for the poorest households in Southampton who are most impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and that a failure to continue the fund after October or replace it with a more permanent crisis support system would lead to a surge in families unable to meet basic living costs in the winter.

This council resolves to write to the Leaders of the three largest political parties to ask that if they are in government following the election they commit to:

- continuing to provide support to those most in need through hardship funds delivered by local authorities
- that funds are distributed to local authorities based on need
- that local authorities, who understand the needs of their communities best, are able to make local decisions on how those funds are distributed.

- that a multi-year commitment is made to enable local authorities to enable them to plan distribution in an efficient manner

Amendment moved by Councillor P Baillie

Insert the following paragraph after paragraph 2 and before paragraph 3

"This Council notes with dismay the huge increase in HRA rents, together with the large rises in Energy Bills for our tenants, which disproportionately hit the poorest families trying to meet their basic living costs, which have already increased due to the impact of inflation from COVID and the Ukraine War. This Council also notes with relief that the national Conservative Government did not agree to the Labour Administration's request for catastrophic council tax rises this year".

Amended Motion to read:

This council notes that in the lead up to a General Election the Household Support Fund has been extended for an additional six months, the lateness of the notification announcement and that guidance was not provided at the same time.

This council also notes that the Household Support Fund provides hardship support for the poorest households in Southampton who are most impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and that a failure to continue the fund after October or replace it with a more permanent crisis support system would lead to a surge in families unable to meet basic living costs in the winter.

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- that funds are distributed to local authorities based on need
- that local authorities, who understand the needs of their communities best, are able to make local decisions on how those funds are distributed.

that a multi-year commitment is made to enable local authorities to enable them to plan distribution in an efficient manner.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR P BAILLIE WAS DECLARED LOST

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR FIELKER WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the motion be approved.

(b) Revised Motion tabled at the meeting, moved by Councillor Barbour, seconded by Councillor Wood

This motion recognises the river Itchen as one of the natural assets of our city and calls on the Council to ensure that commerce can thrive and that the balance between private and public access to the waterfront is maintained and improved.

The banks of the river Itchen have been used for centuries for commerce. In recent years sites have been built on for residential flats. With the decarbonisation of electricity production transportation now produces a greater percentage of CO₂ than any other sector. Transportation by sea only produces 1% of the CO₂ compared to by lorry for a given distance per tonne.

The Hampshire Waste & Mineral plan calls on SCC to put safeguards in place to protect important aggregate sites; including limiting the loss of existing sites along the river Itchen, without as good or better local alternatives to replace any lost provision. If we want this to remain a possibility for future generations, we need to ensure such sites are safeguarded, until such times when they are no longer needed; are relocated; or the merits of the development clearly outweigh the need for safeguarding, in accordance with the Hampshire Minerals and Waste plan.

There are businesses in Northam that currently use bulk transportation by water of scrap for recycling importing aggregate and cement for concrete production. This is carbon efficient transport and should be supported. There are limited locations around the UK where shipping and use of wharfs is possible. Southampton is one of these few precious locations. Shipping of materials also requires multiple locations around Britain to thrive.

The River Itchen Flood alleviation scheme and any other potential future development or regeneration along the river Itchen gives us an opportunity to not only improve and safeguard local communities; but to provide better access and a healthier river environment for Southampton land and waterside.

To reduce climate change we will need to make difficult choices.

For the wellbeing of the citizens access to the waterfront needs to be maintained and improved as its benefits for mental and physical health are well described.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. use all powers at its disposal such as the Local Plan, planning controls, and any relevant policy such as the Hampshire Mineral and Waste plan to ensure we secure the right mix of economic, social, ecological and environmental benefits that protect the wellbeing of our residents both now and in the future.
2. maintain waterfront access, and where sites are being redeveloped, make it a planning expectation that improved public access to the waterfront is a default position.
3. Move towards a greater % of river access than the current access of at least 25% on the west side and 30% on the east side.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR BARBOUR WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the motion be approved.

(c) Moved by Councillor P Baillie

Southampton Council has just passed a budget for 24/25 balanced only by a loan of £40M from the government.

This financial disaster was one of this Labour Council's own making and was entirely preventable.

The recovery plan assumes the underlying £40M structural deficit for 25/26 is solved within the next seven months.

This council has no confidence whatsoever in the current administration's ability to procure the required savings and transformation in that timescale – the failure of which will cause even more financial misery on the people of Southampton.

This council calls upon the Labour administration to apologise now to the people of Southampton for their past, current and future financial failures.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR P BAILLIE WAS DECLARED LOST

RESOLVED that the motion be rejected.

74. 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.

75. 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.

76. SOLENT LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP INTEGRATION INTO THE SOLENT UNITARY AUTHORITIES

Report of the Leader of the Council detailing the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Integration into the Solent Unitary Authorities.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader and Executive Director for Corporate Services (and S151 officer), to agree the final details of the transfer of LEP functions to the UTLAs, including future governance arrangements.
- (ii) To approve in principle the proposed draft governance structures attached as Appendix One that demonstrate how SCC plans to work with our sub-regional partners to achieve our economic growth ambitions which will need to be outlined in an updated Solent 2050 Strategy.
- (iii) Subject to the agreement of PCC and IOWC, to agree that PCC is confirmed as the Accountable Body for the new a new joint UTLA Board, with the Leader of SCC acting as the first board chair.

- (iv) SCC agrees that the existing LEP funding, should be disaggregated to the three Solent UTLAs and be pooled (subject to the agreement of Isle of Wight Council and Portsmouth City Council), for the benefit of economic growth of the sub-region, defined as the combined geographies of the three Solent UTLAs.
- (v) Agree that, subject to the three Solent UTLA area being recognised by the Government as an area for LEP Integration, with appropriate legal due diligence, to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader to determine whether SCC will become a Member of Solent Partners (SP). This agreement to be conditional on all three UTLAs agreeing to become Members of Solent Partners in conjunction.
- (vi) To agree that SCC should not appoint a Director to the Board of Solent Partners to ensure that there is no conflict of interest with the wider governance needed for the new LEP integration arrangements. The three UTLAs will seek appropriate requirements, within the articles of Solent Partners, to ensure representatives of the three Solent UTLAs are entitled to observe board meetings.
- (vii) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader to work with all sub-regional partners to develop an agreement on how to deliver economic growth for the functional economic area and take ownership of the Solent 2050 strategy.
- (viii) To support the creation of a Solent Economic Partnership, inviting adjacent Districts and Boroughs, Hampshire County Council (HCC), and other key public sector stakeholders to participate, to enable Local Authorities leaders and the private sector to have an opportunity to discuss and support economic growth in the Solent sub-region.
- (ix) To approve the proportional disaggregation of existing assets held by the SLEP to the Accountable Body (PCC) on behalf of the Upper Tier Local Authorities, including HCC (subject to the agreement of the three Solent unitary UTLAs).

77. CORPORATE PLAN 2024

Report of the Leader of the Council seeing approval of the new Corporate Plan.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve the Corporate Plan (2024 update), appended to the report.
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make minor amendments to the corporate plan following consultation with the Leader of the Council.

78. PAY POLICY 2024-2025

Report of the Chief Executive detailing the Pay Policy 2024-25.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve the Pay Policy statement for 2024 -2025.
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Executive Director Corporate Services to amend the Pay Policy once the proposed revisions to the Severance & Pensions Payments: Discretionary Powers Policy are agreed by the Governance Committee.

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

RESOLVED: To move that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press

and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the exempt appendices to the following Item.

Appendix 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this report contains information deemed to be exempt from general publication based on Category 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding the information)) of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. In applying the public interest test this information has been deemed exempt from the publication due to commercial sensitivity. It is not considered to be in the public interest to disclose this information as it would reveal information which would put the Council at a commercial disadvantage.

80. ASSET DEVELOPMENT AND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME (ADDP)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Developing seeking detailing the Asset Development and Disposal Programme (ADDP).

RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve the overall Asset Development and Disposal programme and disposal of assets (as detailed in Appendix 2 and 3) which includes assets with a combined value at over £5M.