

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 15th November,
2023 at 2.00 pm

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

Director of Governance, Legal and HR
Richard Ivory
Tel 023 8083 2794
Email: richard.ivory@southampton.gov.uk

Senior Democratic Support Officer
Judy Cordell
Tel: 023 8083 2766
Email: judy.cordell@southampton.gov.uk

Banister & Polygon	Every Leggett Windle	Peartree	Houghton Keogh Letts
Bargate	Bogle Noon Dr. Paffey	Portswood	Barbour Finn Savage
Bassett	Blackman Chapman Wood	Redbridge	Goodfellow McEwing Whitbread
Bevois	Denness Kataria Rayment	Shirley	Kaur Quadir Winning
Bitterne Park	Barnes-Andrews T Bunday Webb	Sholing	J Baillie Beaurain Powell-Vaughan
Coxford	Greenhalgh McCreanor Renyard	Swaythling	M Bunday Fielker Mrs Mintoff
Freemantle	Kenny Lambert Shields	Thornhill	Allen A Frampton Y Frampton
Harefield	Laurent P Baillie Fitzhenry	Woolston	Mrs Blatchford Payne Ugwoeme
Millbrook	Cox Galton Moulton		

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 the you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.
- (iv) Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Southampton.
- (v) Any license (held alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Southampton for a month or longer.
- (vi) Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) the landlord is Southampton City Council and the tenant is a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interests.
- (vii) Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Southampton, and either:
 - a) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or
 - b) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Other Interests

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

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

Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature

Any body directed to charitable purposes

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

Principles of Decision Making

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

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

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

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

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

Tuesday, 7 November 2023

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the COUNCIL to be held on WEDNESDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 2023 in the COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC CENTRE at 2:00pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:-

1 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies.

2 MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

To authorise the signing of the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th September 2023, attached.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR AND LEADER

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

4 DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

5 EXECUTIVE BUSINESS (Pages 9 - 12)

Verbal Report of the Leader of the Council.

6 MOTIONS

(a) Moved by Councillor Moulton

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

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

(b) Moved by Councillor P Baillie

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Moved by Councillor Powell-Vaughan

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

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

Council therefore agrees to propose the following actions:

- Southampton City Council to create, support educational programs, multi-faith learning and community initiatives which promote social cohesion, tolerance, and understanding among diverse communities.
- Regular meetings between Prevent Teams at Southampton City Council who can collaborate with relevant agencies and organisations to identify individuals at risk of radicalisation and provide them with appropriate support and intervention.
- Southampton City Council to encourage local schools, colleges and universities to develop curricula and awareness campaigns that teach critical thinking,

media literacy, and the values of pluralism.

- Southampton City Council to enhance the training and capacity of local councillors, case workers and front-line staff to recognise signs of radicalisation, ensuring it is handled with sensitivity, respect for human rights, free speech and in accordance with established legal procedures.
- Southampton City Council to allocate resources for a public awareness campaign which informs residents about the signs of radicalisation and the available support services.
- Southampton City Council will regularly assess and report on the effectiveness of our efforts in preventing radicalisation and adapt strategies as required.

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

(d) Moved by Councillor Powell-Vaughan

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

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

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

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

7 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.

8 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

To deal with any appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees or other bodies as required.

9 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: SUMMARY OF CALL-IN ACTIVITY (Pages 13 - 16)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager detailing Council with a summary of the use of the Call-in procedure since the previous update in May 2023.

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

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 appendix to the following Item.

The appendix is considered to be exempt from general publication based on Category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. It is not in the public interest to disclose this because doing so would prejudice individual finance and business affairs.

11 ONE GUILDHALL SQUARE – DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST □ (Pages 17 - 32)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change seeking approval for the disposal of One Guildhall Square.

NOTE: There will be prayers by Fr. Anthony Chiatu Njingo in the Mayor's Reception Room at 1.45 pm for Members of the Council and Officers who wish to attend.



Richard Ivory
Director – Governance, Legal and HR