

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 18th September,
2024
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

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WARD	COUNCILLOR	WARD	COUNCILLOR
Banister & Polygon	Every Leggett Windle	Peartree	Houghton Keogh Letts
Bargate	Bogle G Lambert Noon	Portswood	Barbour Finn Savage
Bassett	Blackman Chapman Wood	Redbridge	Goodfellow McManus Whitbread
Bevois	Denness Kataria Rayment	Shirley	Vacancy Kloker Winning
Bitterne Park	Barnes-Andrews Cooper Webb	Sholing	J Baillie Beaurain Powell-Vaughan
Coxford	Greenhalgh McCreanor Renyard	Swaythling	Bunday Fielker Gravatt
Freemantle	Kenny C Lambert Shields	Thornhill	Allen A Frampton Y Frampton
Harefield	P Baillie Harwood Laurent	Woolston	Blatchford Payne Stead
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	
2024	2025
15 May (AGM)	26 February (Budget)
31 July	26 March
18 September	
27 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 Legal and Governance
Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY

Tuesday, 10 September 2024

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the COUNCIL to be held on WEDNESDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 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 - 10)

To authorise the signing of the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th July 2024, 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 APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER (Pages 11 - 14)

Report of the Chief Executive seeking Council approval to appoint the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.

6 HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND SEPTEMBER 2024 □ (Pages 15 - 24)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Safer City requesting approval to accept government funding relating to the Household Support Fund.

7 COMMUNITY SAFETY / REFRESH OF CITY SAFETY STRATEGY (Pages 25 - 42)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Safer City seeking approval for the Safe City Partnership. The local Community Safety Partnership, 'Southampton Safe City Partnership' (SSCP) has a strategy to prevent and reduce crime, as required by Sections 5-7 Crime and Disorder Act 1998, for 22-27.

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

Appendix 1 of this report is not for publication by virtue of categories 3 (commercial sensitivity) and 7A (obligation of confidentiality) of paragraph 10.4 of Southampton City Council's ("the Council's") Access to Information Procedure Rules, as contained in the Council's Constitution.

It is not in the public interest to disclose this information as the report contains confidential and commercially sensitive information in relation to one of the Council's suppliers. It would prejudice the Council's ability to operate in a commercial environment and obtain best value in contract negotiations and would prejudice the Council's commercial relationships with third parties if they believed the Council would not honour obligations of confidentiality.

9 TRANSFORMATION UPDATE (SEPTEMBER) □ (Pages 43 - 84)

Report of the Leader of the Council detailing progress on the Transformation Programme.

10 EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

Verbal Report of the Leader of the Council.

11 MOTIONS

(a) Moved by Councillor Windle

Southampton City Council notes the important role local assets play in thriving communities and understands that these venues can take various forms, ranging from community centres and pubs to cinemas and music venues.

Further notes that over recent years the decline of high streets together with the UK's poor economic growth has meant our communities are losing the assets that we all find important, with many vital assets left empty and vacant – ultimately becoming an eyesore.

The Council welcomes the news of the UK Government's plans to strengthen a Community Right to Buy and its commitment to strengthen the powers available to communities, including a first refusal on a wider range of assets of community value, as well as doubling the time period for communities to raise finance to buy Assets of Community Value from six months to twelve.

This Council celebrates the role that local people have played in saving and breathing new life into once forgotten venues through schemes such as Assets of Community Value and commits to supporting further work to ensure these processes are as accessible as possible.

Southampton City Council commits to supporting community groups interested in acquiring an asset with connections to local and national funders as well as infrastructure support. This includes working with organisations such as Plunkett UK and Power to Change.

Therefore Southampton City Council resolves to work with Council officers to see how best it can:

1. Promote Assets of Community Value (ACVs)
2. Make it easier for people to apply for an ACV.
3. Celebrate the success stories of ACVs in our community.

(b) Moved by Councillor Gravatt

Protecting and Improving Southampton's Children's Play Parks

This Council notes: Children's play parks provide an essential space for young people to engage in physical activity, develop social skills, and foster a sense of community. These parks are not just recreational areas; they are vital for the health, wellbeing, and development of our city's children.

The condition of some of our parks, such as Octavia Rd Play Park and Portswood Rec, is poor due to equipment being removed and not replaced for a prolonged period of time, in some cases over 2 years. These examples show the pressing need for more consistent maintenance and investment.

This Council believes: The safety and upkeep of play parks should be a priority for Southampton City Council. Given their importance, damaged equipment should be replaced within 6 months at maximum to ensure the safety and enjoyment of local children.

As part of the Council's commitment to environmental responsibility, any future investment in play parks should focus on using sustainable and eco-friendly materials. This approach will help ensure that our play parks remain safe, accessible, and environmentally sustainable for future generations.

With the city's current financial challenges, it is more important than ever to carefully prioritise spending to ensure that critical services like children's play parks are protected from potential cuts.

This Council resolves to:

1. Assess play parks across Southampton to identify equipment in poor condition that either needs replacing, or will need replacing in the next year, and keep a clear record of this.
2. Plan for the replacement of equipment in advance so that when it needs to be removed at the end of its life it can be replaced quickly. Commit to replacing equipment within at most 6 months after its removal and faster where possible.
3. Prioritise the protection of children's play parks in future budget discussions, recognising their long-term value for community health and wellbeing.
4. Ensure that all future repairs and equipment replacements across the city's play

parks incorporate sustainable, eco-friendly materials wherever possible, reducing environmental impact.

5. Develop a long-term plan to future-proof Southampton's play parks, ensuring these essential spaces continue to thrive for the benefit of future generations.

(c) Moved by Councillor Beaurain

Age UK has estimated that 2 million pensioners may go without heating this winter because of the Labour government's decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment. The Winter Fuel Payment has a significant role in ensuring that older residents across Southampton can afford to heat their homes in the coldest months. By removing this benefit from more than 28,000 residents in Southampton, Labour is risking pensioners' health and fuel security this winter at a time when global energy prices are already high due to the continuing impact of the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Consequently, this council resolves to:

- Note the above, and recognise the damaging impact that Labour's policy will have on the fuel security of our older residents this winter, including AgeUK's prediction, which says that 2 million pensioners who need the money to stay warm this winter will not receive it;
- Note that the Winter Fuel Payment has been a lifeline for many older people across Southampton, and that in restricting its availability solely to those on pension credits risks leaving many in financial hardship;
- Request the Leader of the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request a review of the decisions to mean-test Winter Fuel Payments and ask government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty;
- Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those who are eligible, but not yet claiming Pension Credit, of how to receive it, which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need; and
- Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that pensioners in Southampton are supported in claiming their entitlement.

(d) Moved by Councillor P Baillie

This council is dismayed that Labour are likely to remove the single person council tax discount. This may affect over 40,000 Southampton residents, many of whom are in financial difficulty. Council asks that the Leader of the Council writes to the three local M.P.s asking them to oppose this measure which will only worsen the financial situation of many thousands of Southampton residents, many of whom will also be hit with the loss of the winter fuel allowance.

12 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.

13 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

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

NOTE: There will be no formal prayers in the Lord Mayor's Reception Room at 1.45 pm however Members of the Council and Officers are welcome to attend for quiet reflection.



Richard Ivory
Director – Legal and Governance