
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
21 MARCH 2018

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor L Harris
The Sheriff, Councillor Barnes-Andrews
Councillors P Baillie, J Baillie (mins 65-68 and 70(c)), Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Burke, Chaloner, Claisse, Coombs, Denness, Fitzhenry (mins 65-77), Fuller, Furnell, Hammond, Hannides, B Harris, Hecks, Houghton, Jordan, Kaur, Keogh (mins 65-68 and 70(c)), Laurent, Letts, Lewzey, McEwing, Mintoff (mins 65-77), Morrell (mins 65-69 and 70(c)), Moulton, Murphy, Noon, O'Neill, Dr Paffey, Painton, Parnell (mins 65-69 and 70(c)), Payne, Pope, Rayment, Savage, Shields, Taggart, D Thomas (mins 65-69 and 70(c)), Vassiliou, Whitbread, White and Wilkinson

65. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Inglis and Tammy Thomas.

66. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 15th September 2017 and 21st February 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

67. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

Last Meeting of the Municipal Year

It was noted that this was the last meeting of the Municipal Year. On behalf of the Council the Mayor thanked Members for their hard work and the contribution they had made during the year. In particular it was noted that Councillors Burke, Hecks, Inglis and Lewzey were retiring from the political arena and individual tributes were made.

Last Meeting for Dawn Baxendale, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

It was noted that this was the last Council meeting before the departure of Dawn Baxendale, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service who had given her commitment, loyalty and hard word during her 9 years with the Council. The Mayor presented a small gift on behalf of the City Council and recognition of what she had achieved.

Salisbury Poisoning Attack

The Mayor acknowledged the recent poisoning attack in Salisbury and on behalf of the Council expressed its thoughts and support to all those affected at this time.

68. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Council received and noted a deputation from Mr Renyard concerning “Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour in the West of the City”.

69. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

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. Fly-Tipping

Question from Councillor O’Neill to Councillor Rayment

In view of the increase in fly-tipping, will the Council look again at using covert CCTV to increase enforcement against fly-tippers and other anti-social behaviour?

Answer

The use of CCTV, particularly covert surveillance is regulated by laws which are intended to protect individual’s rights to privacy.

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 requires the use of covert surveillance by a local authority to be authorised by a Magistrate. Authorisation requires periodic review and a covert CCTV surveillance cannot be left in place indefinitely.

Authorisation can only be granted for serious offences, i.e those which attract a six month custodial sentence. Some fly tipping offences meet this threshold but the use of surveillance must be proportionate and justifiable.

The Council operates both fixed and moveable CCTV cameras. There are costs to providing additional cameras, typically £8,000 to install an additional fixed camera. The Council has two moveable cameras, which can be located to overtly monitor priority areas. The cameras are currently deployed in areas where police have highlighted concerns around violent crime (for example violence linked to drug supply and prostitution). Relocating a camera can cost around £800.

Overt cameras can be deterrent and may discourage fly-tipping from hotspots. Installation of overt cameras does not require authorisation by a Magistrate. Work to identify enforcement priorities by risk can be undertaken to determine whether a moveable camera may be deployed to cover a fly-tipping hot spot, but should be balanced against the risk presented by violent crime and any decision should be taken in consultation with the police.

2. Stoneham Tower

Councillor Painton to Councillor Letts

Leader after the motion on Stoneham Tower was passed by all what has happened since and have the university been asked their intentions and what time scale are they looking at for moving forward.

Answer

A member of University staff was at the meeting at which we discussed Stoneham tower and you will recall I asked them to note the strength of feeling about the issue and to initiate some action. I have recently written to the University to receive an update and will share this as soon as it is received.

3. Snow Disruption

Councillor McEwing to Councillor Rayment

Can the Cabinet Member agree, what a brilliant job our Highways Partners team and SCC staff done, from Wednesday night 28th February until the weekend, with the onslaught of winter weather.

Answer

Verbal response as follows provided by Councillor Rayment

“Can I answer this in two parts? I accept on the first snow fall parts of the City struggled. We had been gritting since the early hours, and when it started laying we saw a build-up of traffic all leaving early, and the police deciding to close flyovers and bridges in the City.

I make no excuse but nothing we could do would have stopped this. Behind the scenes we had officers staying in hotels at their own cost to ensure they were close and on hand. We had staff volunteers in 4x4's moving key people around the City. A special mention should go to:-

Amanda, Boorer, Nigel Fulbrook, Lozz Scott, Sarah Kiss, Phil Moore, Sam Harrison, Jeff Turner, Dave Tyrie and Kevin McLaughlin.

We had extra crews at the hospital and stadium. Our refuse collectors were out gritting pavements and parks, but let me explain, grit or rock salt works by assisting ice to melt by a combination of having a lower freezing point than water and friction from tyres or feet. It cannot work under the following conditions; temperatures below around -4, having snow on top of more than 40mm and not having moving traffic continually flowing on top of it once it has been put down. It is rock salt not magic dust. So, credit to all our staff and Balfour Beatty who worked hard to keep us moving.

With regard to this weekend just gone we had the same approach and when it became apparent that Balfour Beatty had missed at that point 1 grit bin I arranged to get it filled. What further transpired is that 14 out of 400 bins were missed and as we were notified we refilled. We are now in the process of

ensuring that they are refilled. We are also playing catch up with the bins that should have been collected in the East of the City on Monday.

We also reviewed our comms strategy and beefed up what updates went to Councillors and the Public over the weekend. Again thanks to those comms officers who worked non-stop to answer and supply information – Samantha Gibson, James Marshall, Rossanna Coppen, Vanessa Veal and others in the team. Members we can always learn lessons, we can always do better but within my limited resource we are doing what we can”.

70. MOTIONS

(a) Lack of new homes being built

Councillor P Baillie moved and Councillor Fitzhenry seconded.

This Council is dismayed at the lack of new homes built by this administration. This Council calls upon the administration to recognise that we are in a housing crisis, that it has wasted six years, now needs to start actually building homes and to have a coherent plan for future home building.

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

RESOLVED: that the Motion be rejected.

(b) Closure of South Western Arms

Councillor Savage moved and Councillor Noon seconded.

This Council notes with alarm the sudden closure of the South Western Arms, St. Denys, Portswood. We urge the Executive to take necessary measures to safeguard and protect this community asset.

Amendment moved by Councillor O'Neill and seconded by Councillor Claisse

Delete Motion B:

This Council notes with alarm the sudden closure of the South Western Arms, St. Denys, Portswood. We urge the Executive to take necessary measures to safeguard and protect this community asset.

Replace with:

This council is pleased to note the owners of the South Western Arms have no plans to close the pub however as it is a valued asset to the people of St Denys and beyond, we look forward to working with the community to have the South Western Arms registered as an Asset of Community Value if possible.

Amended Motion to read:

This council is pleased to note the owners of the South Western Arms have no plans to close the pub however as it is a valued asset to the people of St Denys and beyond, we look forward to working with the community to have the South Western Arms registered as an Asset of Community Value if possible.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR O'NEILL WAS DECLARED CARRIED.

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

RESOLVED: that the Motion be approved.

(c) Increases in recorded crime

Councillor Denness moved and Councillor Kaur seconded.

Council believes that worrying recent increases in recorded crime – following a long period of steady decline since the mid 1990s – is a direct result of reductions in police numbers following year-on-year cuts in budgets.

Council believes that our police are doing a fantastic job in holding the line against increasing crime levels but we are worried that a dangerous tipping point may now have been reached. Council notes the particular impact of these Policing cuts on Southampton and urges the police and crime commissioner to spend more of his resources in the city.

Council, therefore, urges the Leader of the Council to work with other political leaders in Hampshire to lobby the Home Secretary on the issue of the underfunding of Hampshire police. Council notes a particular issue in the city around motorcycle nuisance. It calls on the Executive to work with the Police to bring in affective preventive interventions in relation to this issue on public land.

Amendment moved by Councillor Moulton and seconded by Councillor Vassiliou

1st Paragraph, 2nd line delete “is a direct result of reductions in police numbers following year on year cuts in budgets.”

Replace with “may amongst other things (such as drug and alcohol addiction) have links to reductions in police budgets. Council resolves to work closely with Hampshire Constabulary to properly understand the root causes of increases in crime in Southampton and to ensure that this directly links to priorities and action in the Safe City Strategy.”

2nd Paragraph, 1st line delete “in holding the line against increasing crime levels but we are worried that a dangerous tipping point may now have been reached”

Replace with “but we remain worried about crime levels in the City.”

2nd Paragraph, 3rd line delete “particular” and “these”

Insert after “Policing cuts on Southampton” (whilst recognising the Constabulary’s ongoing commitment to protecting neighbourhood policing)

2nd Paragraph, 5th line, add “particularly in relation to tackling drug related crime. Furthermore Council notes and supports the campaign by Hampshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner to receive a fairer share of the national policing budget.”

3rd Paragraph, 2nd line after Hampshire insert “including the Police and Crime Commissioner”

After “issue of” delete “the under” and “of” replace with “for”

Amended Motion to read:

Council believes that the worrying recent increases in recorded time - following a long period of steady decline since the mid 1990s - may amongst other things (such as drug and alcohol addiction) have links to reductions in police budgets. Council resolves to work closely with Hampshire Constabulary to properly understand the root causes of increases in crime in Southampton and to ensure that this directly links to priorities and actions in the Safe City Strategy.

Council believes that our police are doing a fantastic job but we remain worried about crime levels in the city.

Council notes the impact of policing cuts on Southampton (whilst recognising the Constabulary's ongoing commitment to protecting neighbourhood policing) and urges the Police and Crime Commissioner to spend more of his resources in the city, particularly in relation to tackling drug related crime. Furthermore council notes and supports the campaign by Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner to receive a fairer share of the national policing budget.

Council therefore urges the Leader of the Council to work with other political leaders in Hampshire including the Police and Crime Commissioner to lobby the Home Secretary on the issue of funding for Hampshire Police.

Council notes a particular issue in the city around motorcycle nuisance. It calls on the Executive to work with the Police to bring in effective preventative interventions in relation to this issue on public land.

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

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED: that the motion be approved.

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

It was noted that there were no Questions from Members to the Chairs of Committees or the Mayor.

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

Council noted that the Putting People First Group had withdrawn from one of their allocated seats on Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and will therefore be noted as a vacancy.

73. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

Council noted that the Chief Officer Employment Panel had taken the decision not to appoint to the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service following interviews that had taken place on 13th March 2018 and would be going back out to advert. Richard Crouch would continue as interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service in the meantime.

74. PAY POLICY 2018/19

The report of the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Services seeking approval of the Pay Policy 2018 – 2019 was submitted.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Pay Policy statement for 2018-2019 be approved;
- (ii) That the continued implementation of the Living Wage Foundation increase as the minimum hourly rate for NJC evaluated posts from 1st April 2018 be noted; and
- (iii) That authority be delegated to the Service Director HR and OD to implement the 2018/19 cost of living award which had yet to be agreed for NJC evaluated roles, Chief Officer and Chief Executive Pay

75. DEVELOPMENT OF AN OFFER FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The joint report of the Service Directors Quality and Integration and Children and Families seeking approval of the financial envelope for the Development of an Offer for Children with Disabilities was submitted.

Amendment moved by Councillor Moulton and seconded by Councillor O'Neill.

Delete Council Recommendation:

- (i) To approve a financial envelope of up to £7,275,000 for a maximum period of 5 years (3+2 year extension when applied to contracts), maintaining the current level of annual investment in Short Breaks.

Replace Council Recommendation with:

- (i) As a minimum the budget envelope be enlarged to take account of inflation over the 5 year period and that analysis be done to determine growth in demand over the 5 year period and that budget envelope be sufficient to match this increased demand.

Amended Recommendation to read:

- (i) As a minimum the budget envelope be enlarged to take account of inflation over the 5 year period and that analysis be done to determine growth in demand over the 5 year period and that budget envelope be sufficient to match this increased demand.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT WAS DECLARED LOST.

RESOLVED: that a financial envelope of up to £7,275.000 for a maximum period of 5 years (3 + 2 year extension when applied to contracts), maintaining the current level of annual investment in short breaks be approved.

76. SAFE CITY STRATEGY 2017-2020 UPDATE

The report of the Service Director Intelligence, Insight and Communications seeking approval of the updated Safe City Strategy 2017-2020 was submitted.

RESOLVED: that the updated Safe City Strategy 2017-2020 be approved.

77. YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY 2017-20 UPDATE

The report of the Service Director Children's and Families seeking approval of the updated Youth Justice Strategy 2017-2020 was submitted.

RESOLVED: that the updated Youth Strategy 2017-2020 be approved.

78. PROCUREMENT OF A CLIENT CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The report of the Service Director Business Operations and Digital seeking approval of the Procurement of a Client Case Management System was submitted.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the addition of the Client Case Management Scheme to the Finance Portfolio Capital Programme in 2018/19 for the sum of £2.5M be approved; and
- (ii) that authority to spend be delegated to the Service Director Business Operations and Digital, subject to consultation formal sign-off of a detailed business case by Council Capital Board.