
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 APRIL 2021

Present: Councillors S Galton (Chair), Fuller (Vice-Chair), Bell, Bunday, Cooper, Fitzhenry, Harwood and Renyard

Apologies: Councillor Whitbread
Appointed Members: Catherine Hobbs, Rob Sanders, Nicola Brown, Francis Otieno and Claire Rogers

Also in attendance: Councillor Leggett, Cabinet Member for Green City and Place
Councillor Barnes-Andrews, Cabinet Member for Finance and Income Generation

41. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED: that the minutes for the Committee meeting on 4th February 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

42. **THE DISTRIBUTION OF COVID RELATED GRANTS BY SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL**

The Committee considered and noted the report of Executive Director Place providing the Committee with an overview of the distribution of COVID related grants.

Councillor Leggett, Cabinet Member for Green City and Place, Councillor Barnes-Andrews, Cabinet Member for Finance and Income Generation, Kate Martin, Executive Director - Place, Matthew Hill, Economic Development Operations Manager, Steve Harrison, Head of Financial Planning and Management and Andrew Armour, Revenues and Benefits Manager were in attendance and with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Committee discussed:

- the City's approach to distributing the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)
- the process for managing the application for grants, including the steps taken to identify potential fraud
- the complexity of the process given the challenging timescales and the number of different grant schemes supported by the Government;
- the anxiety created by the time lag between the announcement of a Government grant scheme and the subsequent release of Government guidance for administration of the grants; and
- the management of expectations through effective communications.

NOTE: Councillor Renyard declared that he was a trustee of an organisation that had received financial support through the grants programme, however, was not involved in the application for funding and remained at the meeting.

43. **SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL - CARER FRIENDLY SOUTHAMPTON FINAL REPORT**

The Committee considered the report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel recommending that the Committee consider and approve the final report of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel and forward it to the Executive for consideration and further action.

Councillor Fielker – Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care and Councillor Savage – Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel were present, and with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Committee noted that the Inquiry Panel had approved the report with the inclusion of an additional recommendation seeking to facilitate a mechanism that would increase support for young carers as they transition into adults. It was further explained that the work undertaken by the Panel would support the forthcoming development of a Carers Strategy.

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- (i) considered and approved the final report of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel, with the additional recommendation agreed by the Panel at its meeting on 8 April 2021, and forwarded it to the Executive for consideration and further action.
- (ii) delegated authority to the Chair of the Committee to approve any minor amendments arising from considerations raised at the Committee's meeting on 15 April 2021