
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2023

Present: Councillors Blackman (Chair), Moulton (Vice-Chair), Every, Y Frampton, Galton, Greenhalgh, Lambert and Dr Paffey

Apologies: Councillor Quadir

26. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr Quadir.

27. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the Chair moved the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of confidential information contained in Appendix 3 to the following item.

Appendix 3 contained information deemed to be exempt from general publication based on Category 1 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. The information was exempt from publication because it related to employee related matters which are not in the public interest to disclose.

The Chair requested that, to enable the discussion to be held in public session, reference was not made to the details contained with the confidential appendix to the Cabinet report. The Committee agreed and the meeting remained in open session for its entirety.

28. **CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION CAB 23/24 37963 – HOLCROFT HOUSE OPTIONS**

The Committee considered the report of the Scrutiny Manager, detailing the Call-In of Executive Decision CAB 23/24 37963 – Holcroft House Options.

Councillor Fielder, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Housing and Claire Edgar, Executive Director Wellbeing and Housing were in attendance and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

Keith Morrell, Linda Hayse, Chris Hodgson, Amanda Guest, Ruth Goldsworthy and Dave Smith representing residents and their families, Nick Chaffey, Socialist Party, and Claire Ransom, Unite also with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

Reflecting the reasons identified within the Call-In Notice, discussion took place on the following issues:

1. Officers in attendance at Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) were unable to provide detailed answers on fire safety works despite this being purported to be the principal reason for the recommendation to close the home. Requests for further details after the OSMC and Cabinet meetings were not provided.
2. 2022 Report of Independent Fire Safety expert was not provided to OSMC or Cabinet despite being referenced in Cabinet papers.
3. Detailed market analysis not provided to OSMC or as part of the Cabinet Decision. At OSMC families said that a March 2023 market survey had not been shared.
4. Concerns raised about market vulnerability – due to pressures of SCC funded places on private homes. This was not sufficiently addressed by the Cabinet Member at OSMC or Cabinet.
5. Lack of timely response to the 43 written questions submitted by Unite. Responses not provided to the Union or OSMC, so were unable to inform discussions and questions at 14th September meeting of the OSMC.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Cabinet does not recommend that the decision be reconsidered and that it can therefore be implemented without delay;
- (ii) to enhance decision making moving forward, sufficient time is allowed for appropriate engagement with stakeholders;
- (iii) the Executive Director for Wellbeing and Housing ensures that the Council effectively supports the movement of residents between care homes and that recommended best practice is followed in this regard; and
- (iv) at an appropriate time, an update report outlining progress with regards to the implementation of the recommendations within the Cabinet report is shared with the Committee.

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2023

Present: Councillors Blackman (Chair), Evely, Y Frampton, Galton, Lambert, Dr Paffey and Quadir and Appointed Member Rob Sanders

Apologies: Councillors Moulton and Greenhalgh

Also in attendance: Councillor Fielker, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Housing
Councillor Keogh, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

29. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

It was noted that following receipt of the temporary resignation of Councillors Greenhalgh and Moulton from the Committee, the Monitoring Officer, acting under delegated powers, had appointed Councillors A Frampton and Fitzhenry to replace them for the purposes of this meeting.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 14th September, 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

31. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Scrutiny Manager which enabled the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to examine the content of the Forward Plan and to discuss issues of interest or concern with the Executive.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

The Committee considered the briefing paper attached to this item and the Cabinet report which was published on 9th October 2023 detailing the forthcoming Cabinet decision regarding the Medium Term Financial Strategy Update.

Councillor Fielker, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Housing, Mike Harris, Chief Executive, Mel Creighton, Executive Director Corporate Services and Steve Harrison, Head of Financial Planning and Management were present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

The Committee discussed the progress made in addressing the financial gap so far, how further savings were being identified, delivered and reported on a monthly basis in line with recommendations from CIPFA.

CHANGE IN CITY CENTRE PARKING CHARGING HOURS

The Committee considered the briefing paper attached to this item detailing the forthcoming Cabinet decision regarding the proposed change in City Centre parking charging hours.

Councillor Keogh, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, Ian Collins, Director of Environment and Richard Alderson, Service Manager Parking and Itchen Bridge were present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

The Committee discussed with the Cabinet Member the reasoning for the proposals being put forward and the impact this would have on residents, visitors, charitable and voluntary organisations and Sunday worshippers.

ST. MARY'S LEISURE CENTRE PROCUREMENT OUTCOME

This item was withdrawn from the agenda due to Cabinet deferring their decision to the November meeting.

RESOLVED:

Medium Term Financial Strategy Update:

- i) That, whilst recognising the need for the Council to take timely decisions, the Executive commits to ensuring that, moving forward, the principles of transparency and openness continue to be employed by the Council when making decisions.
- ii) That clarification was provided with regards to whether additional funding had been provided by the Government in 2023/24 specifically for pothole repairs.

Change in City Centre parking charging hours:

- iii) That, at the earliest opportunity, the Executive seeks to identify solutions that will help to mitigate the impact of the proposals on charitable and community organisations in the city; and
- iv) That, at the earliest opportunity, the Administration invites Go South Coast to engage with faith communities and consider additional bus routes and increasing service frequency to enable modal shift to occur.

32. **DRAFT ADULT SOCIAL CARE CHARGING POLICY**

The Committee considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Housing detailing the proposed draft Adult Social Care Charging Policy.

Councillor Fielker, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Housing and Claire Edgar, Executive Director, Wellbeing and Housing were present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

The Committee discussed with the Cabinet Member the impact of fees and charges on residents, changes to current policy, cost of care both now and in the future and the uptake of service from residents who are presenting with more complex needs.

RESOLVED that the Committee were provided with the Executive's analysis with regards to the percentage of clients who would pay more for their care and the percentage of clients who would pay less for their care following the implementation of the proposed changes.

33. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE**

The Committee noted the report of the Scrutiny Manager which enabled the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to monitor and track progress on recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings.