
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2020

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor P Baillie
Councillors Barnes-Andrews, J Baillie, Bell, Fielker, Fitzhenry, Guthrie,
Hammond, Houghton, Kaur, Keogh, Leggett, Prior, Rayment, Savage and
Shields

71. APOLOGIES

It was noted for the official record that this meeting was purposely being held with only the minimum of a quorum of 16 due to the unprecedented Covid 19 Pandemic that was affecting not only the United Kingdom but the World. As such the meeting would now only deal with core business that had been published in the papers for this meeting.

72. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November and 26th February be approved as a correct record.

73. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

- (i) The Mayor welcomed representatives from the Chinese Association who donated Covid 19 testing kits.
- (ii) The Mayor announced that due to the Covid 19 restrictions on social gatherings the Mayors Ball had been cancelled.
- (iii) The Mayor announced that this was the last Full Council meeting of the Municipal Year and thanked all Members for their hard work and commitment over the year.
- (iv) The Mayor announced that there would be an emergency motion at the end of the meeting to deal with the unprecedented impact Covid 19 was having on the City.
- (v) The Leader thanked the Mayor and his wife for their work over the last year and the Mayor for chairing the Council meetings.
- (vi) The Leader announced that these were unprecedented times and paid tribute to all those working in the NHS who were going above and beyond at this time. As a Council the following top ten priorities had been identified in order to continue to adapt to the fast changing situation:-
 - Making sure the right services were in place to continue to support and safeguard the most vulnerable residents.
 - Making sure that residents and businesses had access to the information needed about how to stay safe, including signposting to the latest public health guidance, as well as keeping them up to date on disruptions to normal services.
 - Working with communities to reach those who might be more vulnerable and not go online for advice. A personal written letter to all residents and businesses this week so that everyone had access to the latest information.

- Working closely with community groups and the voluntary sector to help communities help each other, and encourage the wonderful community spirit which has been shared across the City.
- Reviewing the need for face to face meetings, and moving to telephone contact where possible, to minimise risk to residents and staff.
- Protecting staff, many of whom were also City residents. We have encouraged staff to work from home if possible where this would not affect the day to day running of essential services. For those who cannot work remotely, making sure that they have access to hand wash and sanitisation facilities.
- Keeping the Council's buildings and venues safe and clean to stop infections spreading, recognising the role as the largest landlord in the City.
- Working with schools to support them, including helping those who rely on free school meals. All schools were working with the Council to maintain provision for the children of key workers such as NHS and emergency services.
- Working with partners and contracted services to make sure that there was capacity to support people in care homes, nursing homes, refuges and hostels. This included making sure that support was in place for people who were homeless or rough sleeping, so that they had safe spaces to go if they needed to isolate.
- Working with partners across the City to support local businesses in particular smaller businesses so they could access the support and advice available.

74. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

This item was withdrawn from the meeting.

75. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

This item was withdrawn from the meeting.

76. MOTIONS

Motions (a) and (b) were withdrawn from the meeting.

Emergency Motion moved at the Meeting:-

Councillor Hammond moved and Councillor Fitzhenry seconded

The Covid-19 pandemic is the worse seen in generations and requires a civic undertaking not seen since the Second World War. During this time, the Council has a vital role in ensuring that the city has the resilience to cope and to continue providing vital services to our residents.

To aid delivery of Council functions, the usual decision-making processes may become impossible or unlawful to carry out. Therefore, Council resolves to temporarily suspend all parts of the Constitution that require formal decision making by elected members in person.

Council delegates to the Service Director; Legal and Business Operations and Monitoring Officer, the power to cancel any formal Council, committee or panel meeting as considered appropriate after consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Mayor (only in respect of full Council meetings). Council would use these powers following Government direction or the Director of Public Health's advice that the Council is advised not to hold public meetings."

To ensure continuity and agility when dealing with the pandemic, and in the potential absence of Full Council meetings, further authority is delegated to the Chief Executive, Executive Directors and Service Director; Legal and Business Operations, and Heads of Service in their absence, to exercise all decisions that would ordinarily be decided by members. Decisions would only be valid after consultation with the Leader of the Council and/or the relevant Cabinet Member as appropriate.

This would include suspending all financial limits and the Key Decision criteria but does not include setting new strategic policy or Council priorities which have a democratic mandate by the citizens of Southampton.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED: that the motion be approved.

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

This item was withdrawn from the meeting.

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

Membership had been requested for the new Combined Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority which would exist in "shadow form" for its first year from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Mintoff who was the current Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority Member be appointed to the new Combined Authority for its shadow year which would be reviewed as part of the Annual General Meeting in May 2020 when all appointments for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year would be confirmed.

79. PAY POLICY 2020 - 2021

Report of the Leader seeking approval of the Pay Policy for 2020-2021.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Pay Policy statement for 2020-2021 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 2020 be noted; and
- (iii) That negotiations for a cost of living award for 2020 - 2021 as part of the pay agreement for NJC evaluated roles and Chief Officer and Chief Executive pay are ongoing and that implementation of this, once agreed, is delegated to

the Service Director HR and OD to be applied for 2020-2021 be noted. The budget proposals for 2020-2021 included an indicative uplift of 2% across all pay points.

80. SOUTHAMPTON CITY HEALTH AND CARE STRATEGY 2020 - 2025

Report of the Cabinet Member for Healthier and Safe City seeking approval of the Southampton City Health and Care Strategy 2020-2025.

RESOLVED: That the Southampton City Health and Care Strategy, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

81. LOCAL PLACEMENT PLAN - CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE

Report of the Cabinet Member for Aspiration, Children and Lifelong Learning seeking approval for the Local Placement Plan Proposal for Children's Residential Care.

RESOLVED: That the financial commitment of £2,311,500 Capital spend and Revenue spend from Children and Families budget as detailed below to deliver the project be approved.

- FY 20/21 - £686,200
- FY 21/22 - £2,476,400
- FY 22/23 - £2,880,800