

Minutes of Council Meetings:

- 15 November, 2017
- 21 February, 2018 - Budget

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
15 NOVEMBER 2017

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor L Harris
The Sheriff, Councillor Barnes-Andrews
Councillors P Baillie, J Baillie, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Burke, Chaloner,
Claisse, Coombs, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Furnell, Hammond, Hannides, B Harris,
Hecks, Houghton, Inglis, Jordan, Kaur, Keogh, Laurent, Letts, Lewzey,
McEwing, Mintoff, Morrell, Moulton, Murphy, Noon, O'Neill, Dr Paffey,
Painton, Payne, Pope, Rayment, Savage, Shields, Taggart, D Thomas,
T Thomas, Vassiliou, Whitbread, White and Wilkinson

49. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Denness and Parnell.

50. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

51. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

It was noted that there were no announcements from the Mayor and the Leader.

52. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

It was noted that there were no Deputations, Petitions or Public Questions.

53. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT

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. Appearance of the High Street Above Bar

Question from Councillor Laurent to Councillor Rayment

What plans are there to improve the sorry state of the High Street Above Bar?

Answer

A deep clean was carried out in early September of this year. The Business Improvement District provided some support and we are liaising with them over continued support.

2. Maintenance of the Cenotaph

Question from Councillor Laurent to Councillor Rayment

The Cenotaph is the focus of Remembrance Day in the City. Why is it not maintained to a high standard?

Answer

The Cenotaph is maintained on a routine basis within the resources we have the teams involved include Parks, Street Cleansing and the Ancient Monuments Teams. The routine tasks include:

- On a daily basis we litter pick, empty bins, and inspect the paving and monument for any obvious defects.
- During the spring and summer the grass is cut in line with our city wide program (approximately every 4 weeks)
- Hedges are cut two to three times per year dependant on growth
- Graffiti is removed from the monument as required
- Chewing gum, detritus etc. is jet washed from the paving as required
- Leaf debris is swept and cleared away during autumn.

In the weeks leading up to remembrance Sunday the teams work together to ensure that the Cenotaph and surrounding area is to a good standard. During this time they will usually:

- Ensure that the hedges are all clipped
- Ensure that the grass is cut
- Ensure that there is no residual litter
- Undertake a deep clean of the paving areas
- Ensure the glass panels are all thoroughly cleaned
- Ensure the monument itself is cleaned

The standard therefore is in line with the resources available to the Council. We usually get good feedback after the remembrance event.

3. Fly Tipping Fines

Question from Councillor Laurent to Councillor Rayment

It has been reported that Southampton has not fined anyone for fly tipping. What is the reason for this?

Answer

The investigation of serious fly tipping offences is carried out by the Environmental Health service, sometimes working in partnership with the Environment Agency. These investigations focus on organised commercial activity or fly-tips that have an impact on public health (e.g. the deposit of asbestos containing material). The covert nature of fly tipping, together with restrictions on the use of covert CCTV evidence presents challenges to these investigations.

In 2016, legislation allowed local authorities to issue a £200 fixed penalty notice as an alternative to prosecution. Southampton City Council has not issued any fixed penalties for fly tipping using these powers due to the need to witness the fly-tip or to have evidence beyond all reasonable doubt to identify the culprit.

Smaller fly tips where there is some indication as to who may have dumped the rubbish or who the rubbish may belong to are followed up, but without the necessary evidence formal action cannot be taken.

4. Guildhall Square

Question from Councillor Fuller to Councillor Letts

Can the Leader provide a date for the pedestrianisation of Guildhall Square?

Answer

Examinations into the pedestrianisation of Guildhall Square have commenced in conjunction with Council's Highway Delivery Partner. The examination has identified the need for some vehicle access into the Square to be retained to service Council's Civic Building,

At this stage, Council's Highway Delivery Partner has indicated that once the appropriate approvals are in place, works will commence March 2018 with a delivery window of 1 to 3 months in total (with vehicle access restrictions to occur early on in the delivery process).

5. City Welfare Wardens

Question from Councillor Fuller to Councillor Letts

Where have the resources come to fund the new City Welfare Wardens and are these posts secured in future or reliant on government money?

Answer

Dealing with the beggars and the homeless on our streets and in our car parks is a priority for this administration. The two City Welfare Wardens will be working to deal with the street litter and antisocial behaviour sometimes associated with these activities. They will also signpost those in need of support to agencies that can offer assistance.

Funding for these posts has been identified from existing general revenue fund budgets and from the Off Street Parking reserve fund, so these posts are not reliant in any way on government funding.

6. Determining Planning Applications

Question to Councillor Fuller from Councillor Letts

Does the Leader believe that the timescales for determining planning applications in Southampton is acceptable?

Answer

The answer is Yes.

Assuming the Member was trying to ask – is the Cabinet member happy with the performance of the planning team in respect of the speed that planning applications are being determined? Then the answer is as follows.

We have not been hitting the target of eight weeks in recent months. As the cabinet member I have raised this issue with officers following representations by applicants. I am now content that the reasons for the delays (staffing and IT) are being addressed and that we will soon be back on track.

7. Hawthorns Centre

Question from Councillor O'Neill to Councillor Rayment

Many establishments in urban parts of the city are dog friendly. In stark contrast The Hawthorns Centre takes an opposite position and is dog-unfriendly. Since the Common is one of the main dog walking areas in the city doesn't it make sense to welcome dog walkers (and their dogs) into the Hawthorns?

Answer

Historically the Hawthorns has excluded dogs from the buildings and grounds for the following reasons:

- There used to be animals kept at the study centre and it was considered not appropriate to allow dogs in the same area;
- The centre is an education centre where many children come and learn about environmental subjects, as with Schools and their grounds which are dog exempt, it is not considered appropriate for dogs to enter the premises whilst school children are present as many children are nervous around dogs;
- Dogs have not been kept under control within the garden area which has sensitive wildlife areas within it, including the European protected Great Crested Newt and a colony of lizards, this has resulted in dog fouling and disruption of the sensitive areas;
- There is no facilities for washing dogs paws before entering the centre and owners have brought wet and muddy dogs into the building causing mess to floors and walls.

Although most of the animals have now gone, with the exception of a tank with newts in, the other reasons for exclusion are still relevant.

In addition to these historical reasons the centre now also runs a café and although not a legal requirement to exclude dogs, the café licensee does have the right to exclude dogs if they wish. It is a legal requirement that dogs are kept out of food preparation areas.

At the Hawthorns dog walkers are welcome to use the picnic benches situated at the front of the building and can also use the tying up rings next to the front door. There is always a bowl of water just outside the front door for dogs to drink from.

Assistance dogs are not banned from the premises.

8. Penalties for Landlords

Question from Councillor O'Neill to Councillor Hammond (Councillor Shields)

Can Cllr Shields answer the supplementary questions I asked at July Council Questions? Cllr Shields promised to provide answers but has not done so despite 2 email reminders. In particular, what resources are provided to wardens to assist with enforcement activities? What are the extreme circumstances of non-compliance? And what is the enforcement action that will be taken?

Answer

The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Warden role is to investigate issues, complaints and take action relating to the HMO Additional Licensing scheme currently operating in 8 central wards of the city. This includes liaising with landlords over issues such as waste, noise and antisocial behaviour with the ability to refer any enforcement work to the wider environmental health and waste team as necessary.

Extremes of non-compliance could include serious waste build up at licensed properties, pests, noise nuisance, anti-social behaviour and failure to license an HMO. Formal enforcement of these issues is referred and dealt with by the environmental health team or HMO licensing EHO, and could result in service of enforcement notices (Environmental Protection Act 1990, Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005). Failure to comply with such notices is an offence which could lead to prosecution.

In addition serious breaches of HMO license conditions would lead to enforcement action under the HMO Management Regulations 2006 or Housing Act 2004. Failure to license a property can result in prosecution. There have been 15 successful prosecutions since the licensing scheme started in 2013.

9. Keeping bins off pavements

Question from Councillor O'Neill to Councillor Rayment

Does the council have a policy regarding the use of black and clear bin bags for properties where it is inconvenient for residents to keep bins on their property and off of the pavement?

Answer

Yes, Southampton City Council does have a policy regarding the use of black and clear bin bags for properties where it is inconvenient for residents to keep bins on their property and off of the pavement.

Paragraph 6.3 of the Managing the Local Environment Policy and Customer Charter states:

“Where there is no space available to store a wheeled collection bin within the premises the council will, on a six monthly cycle, deliver black sacks for general waste and clear sacks for recycling.”

The policy can be found on SCC webpages at:

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/bins-recycling/waste-mgt-policy.aspx>

10. Access to services for the elderly

Question from Councillor O'Neill to Councillor Payne

If an elderly person without internet access wants to get in touch with Actionline how do they do it?

Answer

They should ring on 023 8083 3006 (option 2) or speak to a Neighbourhood Warden or Supported Housing scheme staff.

11. LED Lighting

Question from Councillor O'Neill to Councillor Rayment

What percentage of Southampton's street lights are now using LEDs?

Answer

9.58% of Southampton's street lights are now using LEDs. Data correct as at end October 2017.

12. Local investment

Question from Councillor P Baillie to Councillor Payne

Research has shown that councils that implement a strategy of buying locally can boost the economy and increase jobs. For example Preston has increased local spending and created 800 local jobs last year alone. What percentage of Southampton's budget is spent locally?

Answer

I am delighted that the Councillor chooses to single out 'Jeremy Corbyn's favourite Councils Preston as an exemplar for Southampton. Having spoken to

Preston Leader Cllr Peter Rankin about this matter, the Strategy referred to in the question isn't about what the council does (it's a district council with responsibility for a small proportion of public spending) but about what the whole public sector does in Preston. An approach I am keen to pursue in Southampton.

The situation for us is complicated by the fact that the procurement function lies with Capita. The contract extension agreed last year with the support of all three council groups included a procurement guarantee which incentivises savings above other factors (like local procurement). However the administration is keen that these procurement processes are made as simple as possible to encourage local smaller companies to seek work with the council.

The exact amount of our current contracts spent locally is not known (or even easy to define) and the amount of research required to determine it could not have been completed in the timescales allowed for the answering of questions.

13. Direct Payments

Question from Councillor P Baillie to Councillor Payne

The number of Direct Payment users has gone down by 7% over the last 12 months. Yet, you still have the target of increasing the current number of users receiving Direct Payments by 50% by March 2018, and by a further 20% by March 2019. Why should we have any confidence in your ability to meet these targets?

Answer

The percentage of people receiving a direct payment (excluding carers) has remained stable at 18% over the last year. The council's target is to increase this to 27% by 31 March 2018. In order to achieve this, approximately 175 new or existing clients will be supported to take up a direct payment. Several workshops have recently been held to fundamentally redesign the process. The new process makes it easier and quicker for individuals to take up a direct payment, and to benefit from the extra choice and flexibility that this brings. A new team is also now in place with additional staff to support delivery. The number of carers taking up a direct payment remains on target at 79%, which has increased significantly from 52% over the last year.

14. Southampton's Suicide Rate

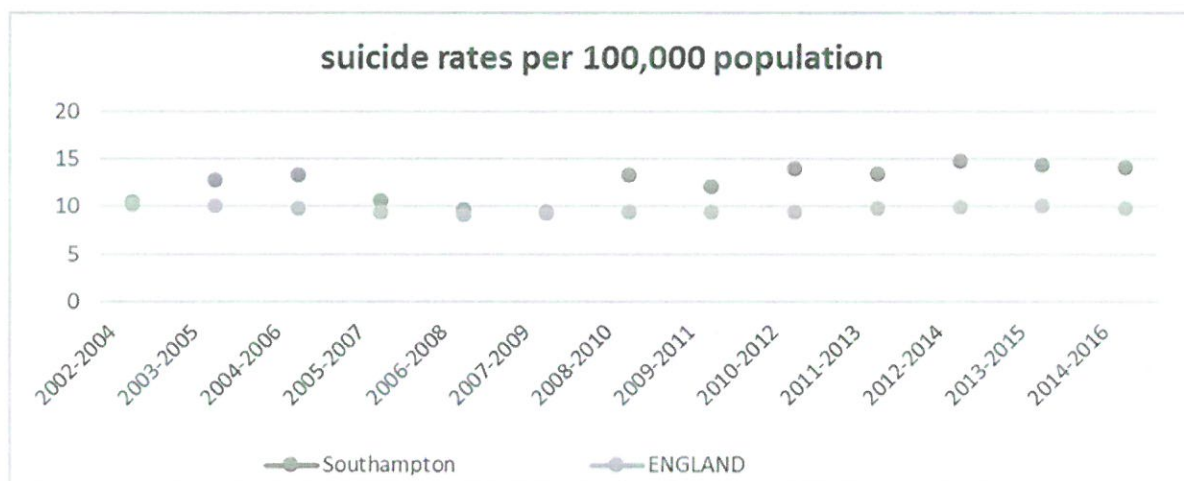
Question from Councillor P Baillie to Councillor Shields

Southampton's suicide rate is some 40% higher than the national average, 6th worst in England, and worst in the ONS comparator rankings. Each suicide has a cost of well over one million pounds. When are you going to introduce some funded policies to reverse this terrible blot on your administration?

Answer

In the three year period 2002-2004 the City's age-standardized suicide rate (10.5 per 100,000 population) was very similar to the England rate (10.2 per 100,000).

However in the latest three year period for which data is available (2014-16) Southampton's rate – following a period of steady decline immediately prior to the economic crash in 2008 – had risen quite markedly to 13.3 suicides per 100,000 population compared with a slight fall in the England rate to 9.9 per 100,000.



Southampton's national rankings on this indicator are 4th highest amongst England's unitary authorities – behind only Middlesbrough, Cornwall and Brighton & Hove. Torbay, the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth also rank amongst England 10 worst performing upper tier local authorities on this indicator. Six out of the ten worst areas for suicide, therefore, are to be found in the south of England.

Currently our priorities are to: reduce the risk of suicide in high risk groups; tailor approaches to improve mental health and wellbeing; reduce access to the means of suicide; provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide; support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to reporting suicide and suicidal behaviour and support further research, data collection and monitoring.

Our biggest challenge is the limit on the available level of resources to support us in providing suicide prevention training and development of a suicide bereavement service. This is primarily due to the reduction by central government in the Council's public health grant. Whilst the government has outlined its expectations for suicide prevention from local authorities no new resources have been assigned. Indeed the City Council currently faces a £3 million p.a. shortfall in its public health grant allocation by 2020.

The council has a statutory obligation to take steps to improve the health of the city which includes responsibility for coordinating and implementing work on suicide prevention. In 2012 the government published a national strategy "Preventing Suicide in England" whose objectives are to (1) reduce the suicide rate in the general population and (2) provide better support for those bereaved or affected by suicide. Southampton's Suicide Prevention Plan was adopted by the Health & Wellbeing Board in 2016 and it supports the Public Mental Health Strategy "Be Well" which aims to reduce suicides in the city by 10% although there is a growing body of support locally for adopting a far more challenging

target in line with the zero suicide ambitions adopted in other parts of the country experiencing unacceptably high rates.

15. Leaking Pipes

Question from Councillor P Baillie to Councillor Payne

Would you explain the health benefits of tenants living in flats next to pipes leaking liquid including effluent?

Answer

The down pipes referred to are common to Redbridge and Canberra Towers and Millbrook Towers. They are designed to carry surface water run off to balconies and waste from kitchen sinks. They are not connected to bathrooms or toilets and the systems are not connected so they should not carry effluent from these sources.

The original pipes are cast iron and have corroded in places. We have already completed a programme of replacement with plastic pipework at Redbridge Towers and Millbrook Tower.

Replacement pipework has been ordered for Canberra Towers and is expected to be delivered on 27th November. Our Housing Operations team plan to commence work to replace the pipes week commencing 4th December.

16. Housing and Adult Care Portfolio Schemes

Question from Councillor P Baillie to Councillor Payne

Over the last two years, how many schemes in your portfolio have gone ahead, despite you personally being against that scheme?

Answer

None I can recall, but if Councillor P Baillie has a particular scheme(s) in mind that he feels I shouldn't have supported, in order to save time I'd suggest he contacts me before the meeting with those concerns to avoid any further delay.

17. Health and Well Being of Southampton

Question from Councillor P Baillie and Councillor Shields

The Health and Well Being of Southampton seems to have relatively worsened over your tenure as Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Indeed, you said you had become distracted with other matters. Was the health of the people in Southampton of so little concern to you that you were unable to focus? and since you are now going to focus, what four areas will be your top priority?

Answer

The 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation shows Southampton has become relatively more deprived since the beginning of the Government's austerity programme in 2010. Of the 326 councils in England Southampton is now ranked 54th most deprived (worse than its 72nd ranking in 2010).

The latest public health profile for the city (2017) shows how the health of people in Southampton is generally worse than the England average. About 23% (10,000) of children live in low income families. Life expectancy for men is lower than the England average. Life expectancy is 8.4 years lower for men and 5.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Southampton than in the least deprived areas.

In Year 6, 22.5% (508) of children are classified as obese, worse than the average for England. The rate of alcohol-specific hospital stays among those under 18 is 77 per 100,000 population, worse than the average for England. This represents 37 stays per year. Levels of teenage pregnancy, GCSE attainment and smoking at time of delivery are all worse than the England average.

The rate of alcohol-related harm hospital stays for adults is 753 per 100,000 population, worse than the average for England. This represents 1,651 stays per year. The rate of self-harm hospital stays is 347 per 100,000 population, worse than the average for England and representing 963 stays per year.

The rate of smoking related deaths is 354 per 100,000 population, worse than the average for England. This represents 368 deaths per year. Estimated levels of adult smoking are worse than the England average. Rates are also worse than average for: hip fractures; sexually transmitted infections; and the number of people killed and seriously injured on the roads.

The Health & Wellbeing Strategy seeks to create physical, social and legislative environments to encourage and enable healthy lifestyles and in particular reduce physical inactivity and the harms from smoking, alcohol and other substance use. Our Key priorities are:

1. Maintaining a Focus on Mental Health (including Suicide Prevention; Drug and Alcohol-related Harm and action on Stigma and Discrimination)
2. Ensuring a Healthy Start in Life (including reduced Smoking in Pregnancy, action on Childhood Obesity and reduced preventable admissions to Hospital – e.g. from injuries and poor Dental Health)
3. Addressing some of the key Wider Determinants (including exercise as part of everyday living; tackling the health effects of Poor Air Quality; reduced Excess Winter Deaths)
4. Tackling Loneliness and Isolation amongst Older People and preventing falls.

We want to adopt a 'whole city' approach to improving people's health by (a) putting health into all Council policies and making every contact count. Our biggest challenge, though, is the reduced level of resources available to the Council due to the cuts by central government to the public health grant. The City Council currently faces a £3 million p.a. shortfall in its public health grant allocation by 2020 which will severely limit our ambitions to stem and reduce the city's widening and unacceptable levels of health inequality.

18. Improving Secondary Education

Question from Councillor J Baillie to Councillor Paffey

What are the council's priorities for improving the standard of secondary education in Southampton?

Answer

The Council's priorities for improving secondary education in Southampton necessarily reflect the improvement priorities of the Department for Education. The key focus continues to be Maths, English and Science and the progress of students from key stage 2 to 4.

The Progress 8 measure across the city's schools has improved since last year and reflects well on the forensic focus on monitoring and tracking students' progress over the time they are at school. This has led to a marked improvement in a number of schools in the authority.

In addition, the top three performing schools in 2017 in the whole of Southampton and Hampshire are within this local authority area, and schools in more challenging circumstances have seen their improvements recognised recently by Ofsted, with one no longer in special measures, and another making good progress.

54. MOTIONS

(a) Southampton University Student Tower Block on Wessex Lane

Councillor Painton moved and Councillor Vassiliou

This Council expresses its concern that the former Southampton University Student Tower Block on Wessex Lane still remains empty after 7 years and believes that it is an eyesore that impacts adversely on the local area and is a waste of valuable land at a time when there is great need for both housing for local people and indeed university accommodation.

Council notes the strong desire from local ward councillors, residents and the Woodmill Neighbourhood Watch to see something done with the site.

Council urges the Executive and the Chief Executive to have urgent dialogue with the University of Southampton and to push for a plan for the site.

Amendment moved by Councillor Mintoff and seconded by Councillor Letts:

First paragraph:

Lines 1 – 2: Delete "the former Southampton University Student Tower Block"
Replace with "South Stoneham Tower"

Line 2: Delete “7”
Replace with “12”

Line 3: After “local area and is” delete the remainder of that paragraph “a waste of valuable land at a time when there is great need for both housing for local people and indeed university accommodation.”

Replace with “costing the University a considerable amount of money to maintain the scaffolding around it. Additionally, it is a waste of valuable land at a time when there is a great need for housing for local people and purpose-built accommodation for our student population.”

Third paragraph:
Line 1: Delete “have”
Replace with “continue”

Amended Motion to read:

This Council expresses its concern that South Stoneham Tower on Wessex Lane still remains empty after 12 years and believes that it is an eyesore that impacts adversely on the local area and is costing the University a considerable amount of money to maintain the scaffolding around it. Additionally, it is a waste of valuable land at a time when there is a great need for housing for local people and purpose-built accommodation for our student population.

Council notes the strong desire from local ward councillors, residents and the Woodmill Neighbourhood Watch to see something done with the site.
Council urges the Executive and the Chief Executive to continue urgent dialogue with the University of Southampton and to push for a plan for the site.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAME OF
COUNCILLOR MINTOFF WAS DECLARED CARRIED

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the motion be approved.

(b) Welfare Reforms

Councillor Kaur moved and Councillor Savage seconded:

Council notes that the Welfare Reforms have created hardship in Southampton for individuals and families both in work and out, since 2013. Universal Credit, the so-called ‘flagship’ of these reforms, has proven not to be without its issues, especially for the most vulnerable. Since its full rollout in Southampton earlier this year, we have seen individuals wait as long as three months for their first payment, a 22% increase in the use of foodbanks and a rise in rent arrears with private landlords refusing to take families on benefits.

Having already written to the Minister of Work and Pensions expressing our concerns prior to rollout of Universal Credit, Council will continue to work with and support local charities and organisations raising these important issues locally and nationally.

Council supports the national campaign to pause the roll out of Universal Credit, but also calls on Government to commit to fixing the problems raised in places like Southampton, and asks all three Southampton MPs to do the same.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the Motion be approved.

(c) Tourism

Councillor Hecks moved and Councillor J Baillie:

Council recognises the considerable contribution that tourism makes to the local economy. Southampton is an historic city with many surviving elements of its mediaeval past, many of which, regrettably, are inaccessible to residents and visitors alike, are deteriorating and are in urgent need of repair and restoration. Of particular concern are the many mediaeval vaults off High Street, French Street, Simnel Street and Western Esplanade.

Council therefore calls upon the executive, as a matter of urgency, to undertake a comprehensive review of the condition of our entire mediaeval heritage and bring forward a programme of repair and refurbishment with a view to greatly increasing public access to these historic but sadly underused elements of the City's heritage to the benefit of visitors and residents alike.

In addition, Council calls upon the executive to open discussion with partners to re-establish a conveniently located and meaningful Tourist Information Centre to actively promote tourism within the City.

Amendment moved by Councillor Kaur and seconded by Councillor Bogle:

Typo correction "medieval"

First paragraph, third line:

Delete "many" and replace with "some"

Second paragraph, first line:

Delete "therefore calls upon the executive, as a matter of urgency,"
Replace with "notes the significant investment the executive has put in place for heritage in recent years. It is pleased by the decision already taken by the executive"

Second line:

After "comprehensive review" insert ", which is currently in process,"
After "medieval heritage" insert "in order to" delete "and"

Third paragraph, first line:

Delete “calls upon the executive to open discussion” replace with “is pleased by efforts that have already taken place”

Amended Motion to read:

Council recognises the considerable contribution that tourism makes to the local economy. Southampton is an historic city with many surviving elements of its medieval past, some of which, regrettably, are inaccessible to residents and visitors alike, are deteriorating and are in need of urgent repair and restoration. Of particular concern are the many medieval vaults off High Street, French Street, Simnel Street and Western Esplanade.

Council notes the significant investment the executive has put in place for heritage in recent years. It is pleased by the decision already taken by the executive to undertake a comprehensive review, which is currently in process, of the condition of our entire medieval heritage in order to bring forward a programme of repair and refurbishment with a view to greatly increasing public access to these historic but sadly underused elements of the City’s heritage to the benefit of visitors and residents alike.

In addition, Council is pleased by efforts that have already taken place with partners to re-establish a conveniently located and meaningful Tourist Information Centre to actively promote tourism within the City.

(d) Right to Buy Receipts

Councillor Fuller moved and Councillor P Baillie seconded:

This Council condemns the shameful incompetence of the Labour administration who have handed back over £2 million from Right to Buy Receipts to Central Government. This is money that could have been used to build affordable housing in Southampton and help some of the thousands of households, including families with children, on the housing waiting list in the city.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED LOST

RESOLVED that the Motion be rejected.

(e) NJC Pay Claim

Councillor Shields moved and Councillor McEwing seconded:

This Council notes that:

- NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% since 2010 in real terms
- NJC workers had a three-year pay freeze from 2010-2012
- Local terms and conditions of many NJC employees have also been cut, impacting on their overall earnings
- NJC pay is the lowest in the public sector
- Job evaluated pay structures are being squeezed and distorted by bottom-loaded NJC pay settlements needed to reflect the increased National Living Wage and the Foundation Living Wage
- There are growing equal and fair pay risks resulting from this situation

This Council therefore supports the NJC pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers and calls for the immediate end of public sector pay restraint. NJC pay cannot be allowed to fall further behind other parts of the public sector. This council also welcomes the joint review of the NJC pay spine to remedy the turbulence caused by bottom-loaded pay settlements.

This Council also notes the drastic ongoing cuts to local government funding and calls on the Government to provide additional funding to fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees and the pay spine review.

This Council resolves to:

- Call immediately on the LGA to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review and notify it of its action in this regard;
- Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and highlighting that cross-party effort is meeting the need to reduce the council's budget and that pay increases to the level sought requires additional funding;
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the Motion be approved.

55. 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.

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

Council noted that the Putting People First Group had given notice that they would be taking up their allocated seats on Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee with immediate effect.

57. TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES

The report of the Service Director Transactions and Universal Services seeking approval of the Triennial Review of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Principles was submitted.

RESOLVED that Council considered the draft revised Gambling Act policy attached at Appendix 1 and adopted it as its Statement of Licensing Principles for the Gambling Act 2005.

58. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL LIMITS MID YEAR REVIEW 2017/18

The report of the Service Director Finance and Commercialisation seeking approval of the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Limits Mid Year Review 2017/18.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the current and forecast position with regards to these indicators and approve any changes;
- (ii) To note that the continued proactive approach to Treasury Management has led to reductions in borrowing costs and safeguarded investment income during the year;
- (iii) To note the cost implication of the Capital Programme on the Authority as detailed in Table 5;
- (iv) To note the proposed changes to the Prudential and Treasury Management Codes, in particular the inclusion of non-treasury investments such as commercial investments in properties in the definition of “investments” as well as loans made or shares brought for service purposes, as detailed in paragraphs 13 to 17 below;
- (v) Continue to delegate authority to the Service Director – Finance & Commercialisation, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to approve any changes to the Prudential Indicators or borrowing limits that will aid good treasury management. For example increase the percentage for variable rate borrowing to take advantage of the depressed market for short term rates. Any amendments will be reported as part of quarterly financial and performance monitoring and in revisions to this strategy.

59. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - SUMMARY OF CALL IN ACTIVITY

It was noted that there had been no use of the call-in procedure since last reported to Council.

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2018

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor L Harris
The Sheriff, Councillor Barnes-Andrews
Councillors P Baillie, J Baillie, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Burke, Chaloner, Claisse, Coombs, Denness, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Furnell, Hammond, Hannides, B Harris, Hecks, Inglis (except items 63 and 64), Jordan, Kaur, Keogh, Laurent, Letts, Lewzey, McEwing, Mintoff, Morrell, Moulton, Murphy, Noon, O'Neill, Dr Paffey, Painton, Parnell, Payne, Rayment, Savage, Shields, Taggart, T Thomas, Vassiliou, Whitbread, White and Wilkinson

60. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Houghton, Pope and D Thomas.

61. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- (i) The Council received and noted a deputation from Mrs Amanda Guest and Mrs Lisa Stead concerning the Adult Social Care financial budget (Kentish Road Respite Centre); and
- (ii) The Council received and noted a deputation from Mrs Sue Atkins, Chair of Southampton TUSC concerning proposals for a Southampton People's Budget to end cuts to city services, as part of a campaign to restore Central Government Council funding and vital services lost since 2010.

62. INTERIM APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

The Leader of the Council reported to Council that the Chief Officer Employment Panel met on the 19th February, 2018. Shortlisting for the permanent role of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service was completed and an interview for the interim role. Following interview the Panel selected Richard Crouch, Chief Operating Officer, as a suitable candidate for the interim position.

In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 the appointment was confirmed by Council that Richard Crouch as interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service effective from 23rd March, 2018 until a new permanent appointment was made.

63. COUNCIL TAX SETTING AND RELATED MATTERS

- (a) The Revised Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2021/22
- (b) The General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy and Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22

The reports of the Cabinet Member for Finance were submitted seeking approval to the Revised Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2021/22, and the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy and Programme for 2017/18 - 2021/22 and outlining the main issues that needed to be addressed in considering the Cabinet's budget and Council Tax proposals. The recommendations therein as amended by Executive Budget Resolution 2018/19 to comprise the Executive's budget proposals were moved by Councillor Chaloner and seconded by Councillor Letts (a copy of the amended Executive Budget resolution as circulated at the meeting attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes).

The Council agreed to suspend Council Procedure Rules 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, 14.8, 14.9 and 16.2:-

- (i) to enable the above items to be considered together;
- (ii) to enable any amendments to be proposed, seconded and considered at the same time;
- (iii) to enable any amendment to be re-introduced later into the meeting;
and
- (iv) to revise the time allowed for speakers as follows:-
 - Movers of motions - 20 minutes
 - Seconders - 10 minutes
 - Other Speakers - 4 minutes
 - Right of Reply (Executive only) – 10 minutes

With the consent of the Mayor, Honorary Alderman Vinson addressed the meeting.

Amendment moved by Councillor Hannides and seconded by Councillor Moulton:

"Add £250,000 from general resources to the Adult Services GF capital programme for 2018/2019 for the refurbishment and upgrade of the former respite centre at 32 Kentish Road, to enable the centre to be reopened to deliver 7 day a week respite and other services to those with learning difficulties, in co-operation with local charities."

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT WAS DECLARED LOST

NOTE – FOR THE AMENDMENT: Councillors J Baillie, P Baillie, Claisse, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Hannides, B. Harris, L. Harris, Hecks, Laurent, Morrell, Moulton, O'Neill, Painton, Parnell, T. Thomas, Vassiliou, White and Wilkinson.

NOTE – AGAINST THE AMENDMENT: Councillors Barnes-Andrews, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Burke, Chaloner, Coombs, Denness, Furnell, Hammond, Jordan, Kaur, Keogh, Letts, Lewzey, McEwing, Mintoff, Murphy, Noon, Paffey, Payne, Rayment, Savage, Shields, Taggart and Whitbread.

Amendment moved by Councillor Morrell and seconded by Councillor T Thomas:

"This Council agrees to amend the Executive's 2018/19 General Fund Budget proposals as follows:

1. Make a revenue provision of £110,000 (in addition to the existing Budget provision of £190,000) to enable the re-opening of the Kentish Road Respite

- Centre on a full-time basis, to be funded from the recently-received Adult Social Care Grant of £693,000;
2. Make a capital funding provision of £175,000 to carry out a refurbishment and enhancement of the Centre and its facilities, to be funded from reserves.”

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT WAS DECLARED LOST

NOTE – FOR THE AMENDMENT: Councillors J Baillie, P Baillie, Claisse, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Hannides, B. Harris, L. Harris, Laurent, Hecks, Morrell, Moulton, O’Neill, Painton, Parnell, T. Thomas, Vassiliou, White and Wilkinson.

NOTE – AGAINST THE AMENDMENT: Councillors Barnes-Andrews, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Burke, Chaloner, Coombs, Denness, Furnell, Hammond, Jordan, Kaur, Keogh, Letts, Lewzey, McEwing, Mintoff, Murphy, Noon, Paffey, Payne, Rayment, Savage, Shields, Taggart and Whitbread.

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

RESOLVED that the Revised Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2018/19 to 2021/22 including the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes 2016/17 to 2021/22, as amended by the Executive Budget Resolution 2018/19 (Appendix 1 to these minutes) be adopted.

NOTE: All Members of the Council declared a pecuniary interest in the above matter, as payers and setters of Council Tax, and remained in the meeting during the consideration of the matter.

ABSTAINED – Councillors Morrell and T Thomas.

NOTE – FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION: Councillors Barnes-Andrews, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Burke, Chaloner, Coombs, Denness, Furnell, Hammond, Jordan, Kaur, Keogh, Letts, Lewzey, McEwing, Mintoff, Murphy, Noon, Paffey, Payne, Rayment, Savage, Shields, Taggart and Whitbread.

NOTE – AGAINST THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION: Councillors J Baillie, P Baillie, Claisse, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Hannides, B. Harris, L. Harris, Hecks, Laurent, Moulton, O’Neill, Painton, Parnell, Vassiliou, White and Wilkinson.

64. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL LIMITS 2018/19 TO 2021/22

The report of the Service Director Finance and Commercialisation was submitted detailing the context within which the Council’s treasury management activity operates and setting out a proposed strategy for 2018/19 to 2021/22.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve the Council's Treasury Management (TM) Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22, as detailed within the report.
- (ii) To approve the 2018 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement as detailed in paragraphs 85 to 94 and to delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to approve any changes necessary that aid good financial management whilst maintaining a prudent approach.
- (iii) To approve the Annual Investment Strategy as detailed in paragraphs 43 to 66.
- (iv) To note that at the time of writing this report the recommendations in the Capital update report, submitted to Council on the 21 February 2018, have not yet been approved. The indicators in the report are based on the assumption that they will be approved, but should the recommendations change, the Prudential Indicators may have to be recalculated.
- (v) To continue to delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to approve any changes to the Prudential Indicators, Minimum Revenue Provision or borrowing limits that will aid good treasury management. For example, agreeing an increase in the percentage for variable rate borrowing to take advantage of the depressed market for short term rates. Any amendments will be reported to cabinet as part of quarterly financial and performance monitoring and in revisions to the TM Strategy.

Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget

- i) Note the position on the forecast adverse outturn position for 2017/18 as set out in paragraphs 32 to 38 of the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2018/19 to 2021/22 report on the Council agenda.
- ii) Approves the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2018/19 to 2021/22 detailed in Appendix 2 of the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2018/19 to 2021/22 report on the Council agenda.
- iii) Approves the aims and objectives of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- iv) Notes that the Executive's budget proposals are based on the assumptions detailed within the MTFS and that this includes a Council Tax increase of 5.99%, 2.99% under general powers to increase Council Tax without a referendum and 3.00% Social Care Precept in 2018/19.
- v) Approves additional general fund pressures totalling £10.07M as detailed in paragraphs 42 to 46 and 58 to 59 of the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2018/19 to 2021/22 report on the Council agenda, along with the proposed funding mitigations.
- vi) Approves direct investment in services totalling £2.46M, with a further sum of £1.18M invested in an Enterprise Resource Planning Programme in 2018/19 as detailed in paragraph 60 of the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2018/19 to 2021/22 report on the Council agenda, along with the proposed funding mitigations.
- vii) Notes that further proposals will need to be considered to address the 2019/20 and future years budget gap.
- viii) Notes and approve the arrangements made by the Leader, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, for the Cabinet Member for Finance to have responsibility for financial management and budgetary policies and strategies, and that the Cabinet Member for Finance will in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Rules as set out in the council's Constitution, be authorised to finalise the Executive's proposals in respect of the Budget for 2018/19, in consultation with the Leader, for submission to full Council 21 February 2018.
- ix) Delegates authority to the Service Director - Finance & Commercialisation (S151 Officer) following consultation with the Cabinet member for Finance, to do anything necessary to give effect to the proposals contained within the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2018/19 to 2021/22 report and any implications from the Final Local Government Settlement
- x) Sets the Council Tax Requirement for 2018/19 at £95.93M as per Appendix 3 and of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2018/19 to 2021/22 and item c) of the resolution
- xi) Notes the estimates of the precepts on the council tax collection fund for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 4 of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget report 2018/19 to 2021/22.
- xii) Delegates authority to the Service Director – Finance & Commercialisation (S151 Officer), to implement any variation to the overall council tax arising from the final notification of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority precept and the Police

and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire precept.

Housing Revenue Account

- xiii) To approve that from the 1st April 2018 a standard decrease to be applied to all dwelling rents of 1.0% as set out in paragraph 107 of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget report 2018/19 to 2021/22, equivalent to an average decrease of £0.85 per week in the current average weekly dwelling rent figure of £84.57.
 - xiv) To approve an increase in weekly service charges of 3% from 1st April 2018 (including supported accommodation) based on a full cost recovery approach – as detailed in paragraph 108 of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2018/19 to 2021/22.
 - xv) To approve an increase in the charges to council tenants for garages by 15% and parking spaces by 10% from 1st April 2018 as detailed in paragraph 106 of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2018/19 to 2021/22.
 - xvi) To approve savings totalling of £3.94M in 2018/19 as laid out in Appendix 9 of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2018/19 to 2021/22.
 - xvii) To approve the Housing Revenue Account Revenue Estimates as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2018/19 to 2021/22 report.
 - xviii) To approve the 30 year Business Plans for revenue and capital expenditure set out in Appendices 7 and 8 respectively of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2018/19 to 2021/22., that based on current assumptions are sustainable and maintain a minimum HRA balance of £2M in every financial year.
 - xix) To note that rental income and service charge payments will continue to be paid by tenants in 48 instalments across a 52 week period.
- General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & Programme
- xx) Approve the revised General Fund Capital Programme, which totals £194.43M (as detailed in paragraph 77 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22) and the associated use of resources.
 - xxi) Approve the revised HRA Capital Programme, which totals £216.89M (as detailed in paragraph 77 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22) and the associated use of resources.
 - xxii) Note that £1.21M has been added to the programme, with approval to spend, either under delegated powers or by Cabinet subject to the relevant financial limits. These additions are detailed in paragraph 7 and Appendix 1 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.
 - xxiii) Approve the addition of £0.25M to the Communities, Culture & Leisure programme and the request for approval to spend £0.25M as detailed in paragraph 10 and Appendix 1 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.
 - xxiv) Approve the addition of £67.45M to the Education & Childrens Social Care programme and the request for approval to spend £67.45M as detailed in paragraph 11 and Appendix 1 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.
 - xxv) Approve the reduction of £1.53M to the Education & Childrens Social Care programme as detailed in paragraph 11 and Appendix 1 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.

- xxvi) Approve the addition of £0.16M to the E&T – City Services programme and the request for approval to spend £0.16M as detailed in paragraph 12 and Appendix 1 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- xxvii) Approve the addition of £1.20M to the Finance programme and the request for approval to spend £1.20M as detailed in paragraph 13 and Appendix 1 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- xxviii) Approve the reduction of £1.50M to the Housing & Adult Social Care programme as detailed in paragraph 14 and Appendix 1 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- xxix) Notes the addition of £0.09M to the Leaders programme and the request for approval to spend £0.09M as detailed in paragraph 15 and Appendix 1 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- xxx) Approve the virement of £7.13M within the Leaders programme as detailed in paragraph 16 and Appendix 1 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- xxxi) Approve the reduction of £20.10M to the Leaders programme as detailed in paragraphs 17 – 18 and Appendix 1 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- xxxii) Approve the addition of £11.97M to the Transport – E&T programme and the request for approval to spend £11.97M as detailed in paragraphs 19 - 21 and Appendix 1 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- xxxiii) Approve the addition of £34.01M to the HRA programme and the request for approval to spend £34.01M as detailed in paragraphs 22 - 26 and Appendix 1 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- xxxiv) Approve the slippage and re-phasing as set out in paragraph 27 – 70 and as detailed in Appendix 2 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- xxxv) Notes that the capital programme remains fully funded up to 2021/22 based on the latest forecast of available resources although the forecast can be subject to change; most notably with regard to the value and timing of anticipated capital receipts and the use of prudent assumptions of future Government Grants to be received.
- xxxvi) Approve the Capital Strategy as detailed in Appendix 4 of the General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Strategy & programme 2017/18 to 2021/22.

Council Tax Setting Matters

- xxxvii) Approves the following amounts now calculated by the Council for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Section 32 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended (the Act).
- xxxviii) Determines in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Act that the Council's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2018/19 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC of the Act.

a)	Aggregate the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) of the Act.		£537,753,757
b)	Aggregate the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) of the Act.		£441,819,401
c)	Calculation in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, of the Council's council tax requirement for the year, being the amount by which the aggregate at a) above exceeds the aggregate at b) above. (Item R in the formulae in Section 33(1) of the Act.		£95,934,356
d)	The amount at c) above (Item R), divided by the Council Tax Base of 64,345.0 (Item T in the formula in Section 33(1) of the Act), as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year.		£1,490.94
e)	Precepting Authority – Southampton City Council	Valuation Band	Amount
		A	£993.96
		B	£1,159.62
		C	£1,325.28
		D	£1,490.94
		E	£1,822.25
		F	£2,153.58
		G	£2,484.89
		H	£2,981.87
	Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount of d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in the proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amount to be taken into account for the year in respect of the dwellings listed in different valuation bands.		
f)	That it be noted for the year 2018/19 that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire is provisionally recommending the following amounts of precepts issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown in the following table:	Valuation Band	Amount
		A	£118.31
		B	£138.02
		C	£157.74
		D	£177.46
		E	£216.90
		F	£256.33
		G	£295.77
		H	£354.92
g)	That it be noted for the year 2018/19 that the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority is		

	provisionally recommending the following amounts of precepts issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown in the following table:	Valuation Band	Amount
		A	£43.83
		B	£51.13
		C	£58.44
		D	£65.74
		E	£80.35
		F	£94.96
		G	£109.57
		H	£131.48
h)	That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at e), f) and g) above, the Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby set the following amounts of the Council Tax for the year 2018/19 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below subject to final notification of the precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority:	Valuation Band	Amount
		A	£1,156.10
		B	£1,348.77
		C	£1,541.46
		D	£1,734.14
		E	£2,119.50
		F	£2,504.87
		G	£2,890.23
		H	£3,468.27

