
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
21 JULY 2021

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Houghton
The Sheriff, Councillor Rayment
Councillors Magee, Guest, J Payne, Moulton, Vassiliou, D Galton, Denness,
Stead, P Baillie, J Baillie, Bell, Bogle, Bunday, Coombs, Cooper, Fielker,
Fitzhenry, Fuller, G Galton, S Galton, Guthrie, Hammond, Hannides,
B Harris, L Harris, Harwood, Kataria, Kaur, Laurent, Leggett,
Professor Margetts, McEwing, Mitchell, Noon, Dr Paffey, W Payne, Prior,
Savage, Shields, Spicer, Streets, Vaughan, White and Windle

Absent due to Covid-19 self-isolation – Councillors Chaloner and Renyard.

8. HONORARY ALDERMAN

RESOLVED unanimously:

That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the office of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former Councillor Stephen Barnes-Andrews in recognition of his eminent service to the City and his name be recorded in the Roll of Honorary Aldermen.

9. PRESENTATION OF PAST MAYOR'S BADGE

Council noted the presentation of the Past Mayor's Badge to Councillor Peter Baillie, Mayor for the Municipal Year 2019/20 and his consort Kim Baillie which had been delayed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

10. PRESENTATION OF SHERIFF'S CONSORT BADGE FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

Council noted the presentation of the Sheriff's Consort Badge to Marcus Rayment for the Municipal Year 2021/22 which had been delayed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

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Absent due to Covid-19 self-isolation – Councillors Chaloner and Renyard.

11. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19th May 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record as amended to include the recording of Ex Councillor and Mayor Mrs Blatchford as being in the Chair for the start of the meeting and the vote of thanks that was made to her.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

(i) Filming

Members, today's meeting is being live streamed and will also be available for members of the public to view online after the meeting. For any member of the public filming I remind you that the right to film is limited to the duration of the meeting and recording must cease when I close the meeting.

Filming or recording is not permitted if the effect would be to interrupt or disturb the proceedings or if it is intrusive of a specific individual or individuals. If in my opinion this is occurring, it will not be permitted, and I will ask you to stop.

Similarly, some members of the public attending the meeting may object to being filmed, photographed or recorded and will expect that these wishes are complied with.

(ii) Meeting Protocol

Members, you have all been sent the revised Full Council Covid Meeting Protocol which has been updated in light of Step 4 out of lockdown which took place on Monday this week which you should abide by.

(iii) Change of Agenda Order for Today's Meeting

Councillors, following agreement from Group Leaders I will be changing the running order on the agenda today.

The running order will be the Petition, the ten decision reports followed by Executive Business, tabled Questions and Appointments.

To assist in identifying those Councillors who wish to speak given how spread out we are, there is a coloured piece of card on each table that can be used when raising your hand if that helps.

(iv) Announcement by the Leader

I'm sure many of you will be aware that John Harrison, the Council's Chief Financial Officer has been taken poorly and will not be at work for the foreseeable future. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

The Council needs to have a Chief Financial Officer in place at all times and as such Steve Harrison has been appointed under the urgency provisions in the Scheme of Delegation, with Keith Petty as his deputy for when Steve Harrison is off on leave over the Summer.

13. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

It was noted that no deputations or public questions had been received, however the following petition had been received which under the Council's Procedure Rules was a qualifying petition which must be debated at Council.

- (i) Stop Cancellation of Bedford Place Pedestrianisation Zone containing 1,596 signatures.

It was noted that there was no obligation for the Council to resolve anything at the conclusion of the debate and as such no resolution was passed.

NB: Councillor Hammond declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting.

14. 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. Parking

Question from Councillor Bogle to Councillor Moulton.

What evidence is there that free parking supports the local economy?

Answer

Price affects demand. This is fundamental economic principle. The Administration wants to do everything possible to support businesses and the jobs they support as we come out of the COVID pandemic. The hospitality and retail sectors are particularly vulnerable, and this policy is principally aimed at supporting them.

2. Sustainable Travel

Question from Councillor Bogle to Councillor Moulton.

What are the Cabinet Member's plans for encouraging sustainable travel options?

Answer

At the June 2021 Cabinet the administration committed to supporting the development of an Enhanced Bus Partnership, a commitment to supporting a step change in bus travel in the city.

SCC continues to support and deliver the Future Transport Zone programme working with the three other Solent Transport authorities. This includes innovative projects delivering sustainable freight solutions such as the Sustainable Distribution Centre as well as supporting businesses with last mile delivery solutions including e-Cargo bikes. It also includes developing improvements in integrated ticketing for public transport and links to the development of local mobility hubs that will provide communities with a range of mobility options including e-vehicles, bike hire, e-scooters and parcel collection points.

The E-scooter trial is continuing to expand across the city and work is underway to support further developments with the trial through to March 2022 in line with the Government's national trial extension.

SCC continues to support and deliver travel planning for schools and workplaces along with supporting measures under the banner of My Journey. This is further supported by the continuation of the Council's School Streets programme. The ETRO for existing School Streets is being extended and work is underway with participating schools to consider permanent options.

A raft of community led solutions are being developed including ongoing work to improve the accessibility and safety of residential streets through the established Active Travel Zones, which will be expanded with additional focus on delivery of 20mph zones, where there is strong community backing.

Alongside a full review of the Transforming Cities Fund Programme, projects are being implemented such as the improvements on The Avenue and a number of TRO consultations now underway where we seek community feedback to inform final proposals.

Resources have been committed to develop a new plan for a mass transit solution for the city, working with our partners Solent Transport, Network Rail and the Train Operating Companies.

3. Transforming Cities

Question from Councillor Bogle to Councillor Moulton.

How much of the £57m Transforming Cities Fund allocation is under review?

Answer

The complete Integrated Transport and Highways capital programmes, which includes the SCC proportion of the Transporting Cities Fund Dft grant (£39m) is under review.

Note – HCC is a partner in the TCF bid and £18m of the £57m total award is allocated directly to HCC who have responsibility for decision making and delivery of the TCF schemes within the Hampshire highway authority area.

4. Speed Limits

Question from Councillor Bunday to Councillor Moulton.

Can the Cabinet Member clarify the process for decision-making regarding the introduction of 20mph speed limits?

Answer

The Council will engage with local communities about measures that can support safer residential streets for all. This is successfully being delivered at present as part of the Active Travel Zones at St Denys, St Mark's and with new areas being supported with additional resource as set out in the July mini-Budget, which will be supplemented where possible with external grant.

We will be developing a process in the coming months that will support new requests and aim to be reactive and agile to proposals where the community can demonstrate strong support. This new guidance will use best practice such as the processes set out in the consideration of Resident Parking Schemes and as with any TRO, we will engage with our statutory consultees such as the Police.

5. Green City

Question from Councillor Mitchell to Councillor S Galton.

Is the new Administration still committed to Southampton's Green City Charter and its aims?

Answer

The Green City Charter, in my opinion, was a really big missed opportunity when the previous Labour administration reneged on its commitment to fully consult and engage with all interested parties and ploughed on with its own agenda. I have some serious concern over elements within it and like other inherited policies will be fully reviewing the best way to get the outcomes our City needs.

6. Pollution

Question from Councillor Mitchell to Councillor S Galton.

Is the new Administration still committed to reducing pollution and if so, what are their plans for this?

Answer

We are fully committed to a greener, healthier City; as our mini budget demonstrates. One of the biggest and best ways to reduce pollution immediately has been to review and reverse the previous Labour run Council's plans for congestion (pollution) causing bus lanes on our main arterial routes – something we have already delivered on.

7. Waste Services

Question from Councillor Kataria to Councillor S Galton.

Is the Cabinet Member aware of the chaos in waste services?

Answer

As I have already written to the Cllr to state: "I have been shocked at what I've discovered since taking over the portfolio – as performance issues existed that I had not previously been made aware of; either as the shadow Cabinet Member or as the chair of OSMC." Fixing the chaos, we have inherited from the previous 9 years of a Labour administration is exactly what we are currently doing. Recycling rates especially have seen an alarming drop in recent years under the previous Labour run Council.

8. Capita Service in-house

Question from Councillor Leggett to Councillor Harwood.

Does the Cabinet Member believe the Labour Administration were right to bring Capita back in-house?

Answer

I don't hold a view on the decision the previous administration made.

9. Southampton First

Question from Councillor Leggett to Councillor Harwood.

Will the new administration continue the Southampton First policy?

Answer

It hasn't been a priority of the administration to review this.

10. Kentish Road

Question from Councillor Fielker to Councillor White.

Can the Cabinet Member assure Southampton's residents that they intend to keep Kentish Road and Holcroft House open? Will both facilities continue to be managed by staff directly employed by Southampton City Council?

Answer

The situation regarding these two services remains unchanged.

11. 1000 Homes

Question from Councillor Kaur to Councillor Vassiliou.

Will the new administration still deliver 1000 quality, affordable, council homes by 2025?

Answer

This administration is more ambitious, and we are not limiting ourselves to 1000 homes. We would like to see thousands of new homes built for social housing by working with housing associations and partners.

12. Car Parking

Question from Councillor Kaur to Councillor Fitzhenry

By when will the new administration deliver on its commitment of 1000 car park spaces in our estates?

Answer

The finance for the delivery of 1,000 parking space in our estates is in place and has been agreed at this Cabinet Meeting. Officers are now working on the plan for delivery and we are aiming to deliver the majority of the spaces by April 2023

13. Feed the Future

Question from Councillor Paffey to Councillor J Baillie.

What is the new administration's commitment to sustaining the Feed the Future scheme, which plays a key role in supporting healthy eating for some of the city's most vulnerable children?

Answer

The pilot scheme to provide free fruit, vegetables, and yoghurt to KS2 children began in September 2019 in 11 primary schools but was paused due to COVID. It restarted in September 2020 and was due to expand to a further 12 schools from January 2021 though due to COVID, only 17 schools took part. We are now reviewing the scheme in advance of the next phase.

As an administration we are committed to tackling child hunger in our city and as such have added an additional £150,000 in our budget to fund this.

14. Childhood Obesity

Question from Councillor Margetts to Councillor J Baillie. Councillor P Baillie to respond with verbal answer.

What support and commitment will the administration make to reducing inequalities in childhood obesity, following support at full council for the scrutiny report on childhood obesity in the city?

Answer

The implementation of the scrutiny inquiry recommendations (which are shown to be effective) are a starting point. The Administration will be looking at any other measures which may help to reduce obesity in children.

15. Universal Credit

Question from Councillor Shields to Councillor Vassiliou.

Does the new administration support the Conservative government's removal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift that many Southampton families are relying on to survive?

Answer

The Conservative government has been fantastic in providing a variety of support measures to help people during the Covid-19 pandemic. The £20 Universal Credit uplift was part of a package of temporary measures which also included the Furlough Scheme and support to businesses all of which saved many jobs, livelihoods and supported people in Southampton.

16. SureStart Centre

Question from Councillor Paffey to Councillor J Baillie

Given the essential role of our Sure Start centres for over 20 years, will the new administration commit to keeping all centres open?

Answer

The administration has no plans to close any Sure Start centres.

17. Community Fund

Question from Councillor Paffey to Councillor J Baillie. Councillor Vassiliou to respond.

How does the administration intend to spend the £500,000 community fund for children's activities that it promised?

Answer

We have created a Community Fund of £500,000 which is going to be split in half to cover a two-year period as 'seed funding projects' for community groups and organisations wishing to provide activities and services to give young people something positive to do around the City.

It is envisaged that the majority of the fund will be made available for community groups and organisations to bid for money to the Council to assist with projects. We are currently working through the full detail on this and how it will work.

18. Outdoor Sports Centre

Question from Councillor Kaur to Councillor Hannides.

Can the Cabinet Member explain why they are pausing plans to redevelop Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre?

Answer

There are no plans to delay the scheme. Indeed, I am fully committed to improving the outdoor Sports Centre. The consultation period is expected to commence in the Summer, as originally intended. Before committing to a £17m project, it was appropriate to allow the newly appointed Cabinet to review the proposals before giving final approval. I would suggest the delay sits firmly with the Labour Group. It took the former Labour Administration 9 years to bring forward a scheme for the much-needed improvements.

NOTE: In accordance with the Council's Constitution and the allocated time for Council Questions (90 minutes) questions 19 and 20 that had been received on notice were not discussed as the allocated time period had elapsed.

15. MOTIONS

It was noted that no motions had been received.

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

It was noted that no questions to the Chairs of Committees or the Mayor had been received.

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

The following Appointments to Committees, Sub Committee's and Other Bodies were noted:-

- Councillor Guthrie had replaced Councillor B Harris on Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
- Councillor Margetts had replaced Councillor Chaloner on Health Overview Scrutiny Panel

In addition, following discussion with Group Leaders it was agreed to amend the proportionality on sets by increasing the number of seats by two, one for each group on Planning and Rights of Way Panel, Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Governance Committee.

The following appointments were noted:-

- Councillors Vaughan and Savage to Planning and Rights of Way Panel
- Councillors Stead and Chaloner to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
- Councillors J Payne and Leggett to Governance Committee

18. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

Report of the Service Director Legal and Business Operations and Monitoring Officer seeking approval of the Annual Review of the Constitution.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Save for the Financial Procedure Rules referred to below that the minor changes to the Constitution and associated arrangements as set out in this report be approved;
- (ii) That the Director of Legal & Business Operations be authorised to finalise the arrangements as approved by Full Council and make any further consequential or minor changes arising from the decision;
- (iii) That the City Council's Constitution, as amended, including the Officer Scheme of Delegation, for the Municipal Year 2021-22 be approved; and
- (iv) With regard to the Financial Procedure Rules:-
 - a) That the revisions to the Financial Procedure Rules as set out in this report be approved;
 - b) That the update to the Constitution covering the Budget Policy Framework as set out in this report be approved; and
 - c) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director – Finance and Commercialism, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Assets, to amend the terms of reference of the Change Authority Board and the Capital Review Group.

19. CORPORATE PLAN

Report of the Leader of the Council detailing the revised Corporate Plan. It was noted that there was a slight amendment to the timetable with the Southampton City Vision Local Plan submission to the Secretary of State now taking place in Winter 2023 with adoption in Spring 2025.

RESOLVED: that subject to the amendment to the Southampton City Vision Local Plan submission date the Corporate Plan 2021-25 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

20. BUDGET 2021-22 AND BEYOND – UPDATE

Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Assets seeking approval of the Budget 2021-22 and beyond.

It was noted that there had been a need to use officer delegated urgency powers for a decision regarding School Meals Payment over the school summer holidays which was reported to Council verbally as part of this report.

RESOLVED:

CAPITAL PROGRAMME (GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT)

- (i) That the proposed additions to the General Fund capital programme to 2022/23 and its financing as shown in table 1 (paragraph 12) of the report, and associated financing be approved;
- (ii) That the total additions amount to £22.007M for the General Fund be noted and agrees that these schemes be included in the capital

- programme with £21.007M having approval to spend and a further £1.000M (as detailed in paragraph 14) of the report which would require subsequent approval to spend;
- (iii) That the proposed additions amounting to £4.431M to 2022/23 in the HRA capital programme with approval to spend and its financing as shown in table 3 (paragraph 19) of the report be approved.

GENERAL REVENUE FUND

- (iv) That the proposed additions to the budget, as set out in table 2 (paragraph 15) of the report be approved and noted;
- (v) That the revised Medium-Term Financial Forecast (MTFF) estimate for 2022/23 as set out in table 5 and paragraphs 23 to 27 of the report be noted, with an update of the MTFF to be brought forward during the autumn;
- (vi) That the proposed additional net revenue spend for 2021/22 of £2.132M would be funded from the central contingency budget be approved;
- (vii) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director, Communities, Culture & Homes following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Heritage, to decide on the eligibility criteria and process for administering the proposed Community Fund budget (of £0.5M) to tackle anti-social behaviour.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

- (viii) That the additions to the Housing Revenue Account budget estimates as set out in table 4 (paragraph 21) of the report be approved.

NOTE: Councillor Vassiliou declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Solent Sky Museum as a Council appointed representative to their Board and remained in the meeting.

21. BUDGET MATTERS: REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2020-21

Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Assets seeking approval of the Revenue and Capital Outturn 2020/21.

RESOLVED:

GENERAL FUND – REVENUE

- (i) That the General Fund revenue outturn for 2020/21 was a balanced position after transfer of £8.63M surplus to reserves, as outlined in paragraph 4 of the report and in paragraph 2 of Appendix 1 be noted;
- (ii) That the performance of individual Portfolios in managing their budgets as set out in paragraphs 3 to 6 of Appendix 1 and Annex 1.1 be noted;
- (iii) That the budget carry-forward requests totalling £6.06M as outlined in paragraph 8 of Appendix 1 and detailed in Annex 1.3 be approved;
- (iv) That the performance of the Property Investment Fund (PIF) as detailed in paragraphs 9 to 11 of Appendix 1 and Annex 1.4 be noted.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

- (v) That the HRA revenue outturn for 2020/21 as outlined in paragraph 6 and paragraphs 21 to 23 of Appendix 1 and Annex 1.6 be noted.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- (vi) That the actual capital spending in 2020/21 for the General Fund was £50.20M and for the HRA was £33.97M, as outlined in paragraphs 10 and 11 in the report and detailed in paragraphs 3 to 6 of Appendix 2 be noted;
- (vii) That the capital financing in 2020/21 as shown in table 3 of Appendix 2 be noted;
- (viii) That the revised capital programme for 2020/21 to 2025/26 and its financing as summarised in paragraph 11 of Appendix 2 and detailed in Annex 2.2 be approved;
- (ix) That the latest prudential indicators for the revised capital programme as detailed in Annex 2.3 be approved.

22. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Report of the Director of Public Health for Southampton City Council detailing the 2020/21 Annual Public Health Report for Southampton.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2020/21 be received and noted; and
- (ii) That the recommendation from the Director of Public Health was for a focus on reducing health inequalities as a priority in Covid-19 recovery be recognised and noted.

23. NATIONAL MONUMENT TO THE SPITFIRE

Report of the Leader seeking strategic support for the Southampton Spitfire Memorial proposal.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Southampton City Council formally records its strategic support to the concept of a national monument to the Spitfire in the city and commits to work together with the National Spitfire Project Charity and funding partners to help bring this project to fruition;
- (ii) That a further capital contribution of £350,000 in 2021/22 as a significant funding contribution towards this asset as a National Spitfire Monument be approved. This was to be added to the General Fund capital programme, requiring subsequent approval to spend at Cabinet. The detailed terms relating to the award of this funding would be worked up by the Executive Director of Place following consultation with the Executive Director of Finance

- and Commercialisation and the Service Director, Legal and Business Operations prior to approval to spend being considered;
- (iii) That an additional revenue budget of £150,000 in 2021/22 be approved as both a contribution towards the council's initial internal costs associated with working with the National Spitfire Project Charity, development of funding submissions to support the project and a grant towards the National Spitfire Project Charity to undertake surveys, feasibility, detailed design and other related work via a specialist project management consultancy to be appointed by the charity. That the detailed terms relating to the use and allocation of this funding be delegated to the Executive Director of Place following consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercialisation and the Service Director, Legal and Business Operations.

NOTE: Councillor Hannides declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting.

24. SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2021

Report of the Returning Office detailing the Southampton City Council Election Results 2021 was received and noted. In receiving the report, it was noted that Councillors Paffey and Shields stood as Labour and Co-operative Party Candidates and not as listed in the report and that Councillor Jeremy Moulton's name had been listed incorrectly in the report.

25. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Report of Councillor S Galton, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 2020/21 detailing the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21 was received and noted.

26. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: SUMMARY OF CALL-IN ACTIVITY

Report of the Service Director Legal and Business Operations detailing the Overview and Scrutiny Summary of Call-In Activity was received and noted.

