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## SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2022

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#### Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Rayment  
The Sheriff, Councillor Laurent  
Councillors J Baillie (except item 43, 44 (b) and (d), 45-48), P Baillie, Blackman, Blatchford, Bogle, Bunday, Coombs, Cooper, Denness, Fielker, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Furnell, D Galton, G Galton, Guest (except items 45-48), Guthrie, Hannides, Houghton, Keogh, Kataria, Kaur, Leggett, Magee, Professor Margetts (except part items 40 and 44(c)), McEwing, Mitchell, Moulton (except items 45-48), Noon, Dr Paffey, J Payne, W Payne, Prior, Renyard, Savage, Shields, Goodfellow, Stead, Vassiliou, White, Windle and Winning

#### 36. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors M Bunday, Harris and Vaughan.

#### 37. MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022, be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### 38. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR AND LEADER

Announcements from the Lord Mayor:

- (i) The Lord Mayor confirmed that she had now received the official Letters Patent dated by the Crown Office giving formal recognition of conferring the new Lord Mayor on the City. Following this we await confirmation of when the Royal visit to the city would take place and in what format.
- (ii) The Lord Mayor expressed her thanks and gratitude to all those involved with the arrangements for this year's commemorations on Remembrance Sunday. She had received messages of appreciation from many people who attended who also enjoyed the knitted poppies that were on display.
- (iii) The Lord Mayor invited Council to stand for a minute's silence in memory of HM The Queen, former Councillor Terry Streets and former Honorary Alderman and Leader of the Council Alec Samuels.

Announcements from the Leader:

- (iv) The Leader announced the following new appointments  
Claire Edgar, Executive Director Wellbeing and Housing (DASS)  
Mel Creighton, Executive Director Corporate Services (Section 151)

- (v) The Leader announced the following leaving the authority

Mary D'Arcy, Executive Director Communities, Culture and Homes  
Janet King, Service Director – HR and OD  
Steve Smith, Head of Stronger Communities, Neighbourhoods and Housing

39. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Council received and noted the following deputations:-

- (i) Ms Ely Iles, Mencap – issues relating to the unadopted lane behind Portswood Road
- (ii) Mr Sam Thompson, Portswood Residents Gardens Conservation Area – relating to the Portswood Corridor proposals
- (iii) Ms Jenny Davies, Mrs Barbara Hancock and Ms Emma Rowe – regarding the deterioration of the Harefield bus service and the impact it has had on the community.

40. TRANSFORMING CITIES UPDATE REPORT

Report of the Cabinet Member for Transport and District Regeneration providing an update on TCF (Transforming Cities Fund) programme seeking approval for delegation of decision to accept funding and implement scheme proposals.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) To approve capital expenditure of £47.70M (£27.89M in 2022/23 and £19.81M in 2023/24) for all schemes within the programme, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
- (ii) To approve budget virements of £5.02M between schemes within the programme as detailed in paragraph 35 and set out in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of the report.

41. FLEXIBLE CAPITAL RECEIPTS STRATEGY

Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change seeking approval of the Flexible Capital Receipts Strategy.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) To approve the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2022-23, as set out in Appendix 1 and comply with the Secretary of State's Direction for the use of capital receipts to fund service reform and transformation;
- (ii) To approve an increase in the capital programme budget for 2022-23 of £1.20m, to reflect the capitalisation of the transformation activities to be funded by capital receipts under the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

42. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON CIVIC UNIVERSITY AGREEMENT

Report of the Chief Executive seeking approval to enter into the University of Southampton Civic University Agreement.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) To endorse the University of Southampton Civic University Agreement, as appended at appendix 1 of the report.
- (ii) To be delegated to the Chief Executive to agree minor amendments to the agreement, following consultation with the Leader of the Council.

43. MEMBER'S ALLOWANCE SCHEME

Report of the Director of Legal and Business Services. Under the Local Government (Members Allowance) (England) Regulations 2003, local authorities are required to have Independent Remuneration Panels for the purpose of reviewing their schemes of Members' allowances. Southampton City Council is required to review its scheme by 19 November 2022 at the latest and have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel before adoption of a new one.

It was agreed to modify the recommendations with a new (iii) recommendation, details below.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) After having regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel as set out in the Panel's report, not to accept the recommendations except in respect of (a) the proposed dependant carer's allowance and (b) to remove the members IT allowance and adopt a core Members Allowance Scheme based on the current scheme from 8th May 2023.
- (ii) To sincerely thank the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for their work in reviewing the Members' Allowance Scheme.
- (iii) To freeze Members' Allowances in 2023/24.

44. MOTIONS

- (a) Councillor Guthrie moved and seconded by Councillor Goodfellow (Originally tabled by the late Councillor Streets)

Southampton City Council notes that 1 in 4 adults and one child in six will experience a mental health problem in any year, mental ill health costs some £119 billion each year in England alone. Southampton has higher proportions of GP registered patients with deprivation and severe mental illness than the England average, risk factors linked to poor mental health can include deprivation, poor physical health, loneliness, lack of social interaction and a range of other individual factors including social relationships. People with severe mental illness in England die on average 15-20 years earlier than the general population and timely diagnosis, treatment and support can improve long term health and wellbeing. The Covid-19 pandemic and the current pressure on the

cost of living has put extra strain on people's mental health, and this is likely to last for some time after.

This Council believes as a local authority we have a crucial role to play in improving the mental health of everyone in our community and tackling some of the widest and most entrenched inequalities in health. Mental health should be a priority across all the local authority's areas of responsibility. All councillors, whether members of the Executive or Scrutiny and in our community and casework roles, can play a positive role in championing mental health on an individual and strategic basis.

This Council resolves to sign the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge run by Centre for Mental Health, we have and will continue to commit to appointing an elected member as 'mental health champion' across the Council. We will support the member champions to enable them to take on this role.

The Council will also continue to support positive mental health in our community, including in local schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces and continue to work on reducing inequalities in mental health in our community. We will continue to work with local partners as a member of the Integrated Care System to offer effective support for people with mental health needs and tackle discrimination on the grounds of mental health in our community. We will proactively listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED CARRIED

**RESOLVED**: that the motion be approved.

(b) Councillor Shields moved and seconded by Councillor Margetts

This Council notes the alarming consequences of the cost-of-living crisis, which has already seen many individuals and families in Southampton struggling to eat and is set to get worse.

This Council applauds the Labour administration's timely initiative in co-convening a Southampton Cost of Living summit in October and requests that it continues to work with organisations, businesses, and other bodies across the city to find practical ways to support residents in greatest need.

This Council agrees that a key objective should be an end to food poverty in our city and we therefore commit to:

1. Join other cities across the UK, including nearby Portsmouth, to declare Southampton a Right to Food City
2. Build on the City Council's child obesity strategy by taking steps to support community kitchens and other local healthy food initiatives
3. Designate a lead member for food poverty in Southampton to act as a champion and coordinate cross-party and multi-agency efforts

This Council further calls on the city's three MPs to press Rishi Sunak to adopt and pursue Government policies that ensure a comprehensive and meaningful response to the wider cost of living crisis.

Amendment moved by Councillor P Baillie and seconded by Councillor Fitzhenry

Delete paragraph two 'This Council applauds the Labour administration's timely initiative in co-convening a Southampton Cost of Living summit in October and requests that it continues to work with organisations, businesses and other bodies across the city to find practical ways to support residents in greatest need.'

Replace with 'This Council notes the Southampton Cost of Living summit in October and requests that the administration now takes action, working alongside organisations, businesses, and other bodies across the city to find practical ways to support residents in greatest need. This council commits to providing leadership, resources, and the funding required to make this successful.'

Delete bullet point 1. 'Join other cities across the UK, including nearby Portsmouth, to declare Southampton a Right to Food City.'

Replace with 1. 'This council commits to investigating what a Right to Food City would look like for our residents, and how we as a council can take proactive steps to ensuring our residents have a healthy, balanced diet.'

#### AMENDED MOTION TO READ:

This Council notes the alarming consequences of the cost-of-living crisis, which has already seen many individuals and families in Southampton struggling to eat and is set to get worse.

This Council notes the Southampton Cost of Living summit in October and requests that the administration now takes action, working alongside organisations, businesses, and other bodies across the city to find practical ways to support residents in greatest need. This council commits to providing leadership, resources, and the funding required to make this successful.

This Council agrees that a key objective should be an end to food poverty in our city and we therefore commit to:

1. This council commits to investigating what a Right to Food City would look like for our residents, and how we as a council can take proactive steps to ensuring our residents have a healthy, balanced diet.
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3. Designate a lead member for food poverty in Southampton to act as a champion and coordinate cross-party and multi-agency efforts

This council further calls on the city's three MPs to press Rishi Sunak to adopt and pursue Government policies that ensure a comprehensive and meaningful response to the wider cost of living crisis.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAMES OF COUNCILLOR P BAILLIE WAS DECLARED LOST.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR SHIELDS WAS DECLARED CARRIED.

**RESOLVED** that the motion be approved.

(c) Councillor Fitzhenry moved and seconded by Councillor Laurent

Council recognises that bus services to and from Harefield are no longer fit for purpose and are causing considerable hardship for residents.

In these difficult times it is vital that residents are able to get around for whatever purpose.

Council calls upon the executive to work immediately with the bus companies to find a solution to this serious situation before Christmas.

Amendment moved by Councillor Keogh and seconded by Councillor Paffey

First paragraph, first line, delete 'are no longer fit for purpose and'  
Insert at the end of the first paragraph 'and need improving.'

Third paragraph, first line, delete 'calls upon the executive to work immediately with the bus companies to find a solution to this serious situation before Christmas.'  
Replace with 'regrets Southampton was not given any national Government BSIP funding and calls upon the executive to continue their work in improving bus services, working with bus companies, local residents and other partners to make these continued improvements as soon as possible.'

AMENDED MOTION TO READ:

Council recognises that bus services to and from Harefield are causing considerable hardship for residents and need improving.

In these difficult times it is vital that residents are able to get around for whatever purpose.

Council regrets Southampton was not given any national Government BSIP funding and calls upon the executive to continue their work in improving bus services, working with bus companies, local residents and other partners to make these continued improvements as soon as possible.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLORS KEOGH WAS DECLARED CARRIED.

**RESOLVED** that the amended motion be approved.

(d) Moved by Councillor Fuller

This Council commits to the renaming of Guildhall Square to the Elizabeth Square in dedication to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; to also begin exploratory works into the commissioning through public subscription and donations of a statue of Her late Majesty to adorn the newly renamed square. Southampton has many public works of art to exemplary people, but there is a distinct lack of monuments to great women, and who better to put that right with than one of the greatest female role models of the modern times, Elizabeth the Great.

The Council further commits to ensuring the Coronation of King Charles III is commemorated in Southampton with due public ceremony and with events across the city, and to work cross-party to ensure the Coronation brings together residents from across our city in a celebration of this truly and uniquely British institution.

Amendment moved by Councillor Guthrie and seconded by Councillor Kaur

First line, first paragraph delete 'renaming of Guildhall Square to the Elizabeth Square in dedication to' and replace with 'creation of a fitting tribute to mark the reign of'

Also in first line, first paragraph delete 'to also begin exploratory works into the commissioning through public subscription and donations of a statute of Her late Majesty to adorn the newly renamed square. Southampton has many public works of art to exemplary people, but there is a distinct lack of monuments to great women, and who better to put that right with than one of the greatest female role models of the modern time, Elizabeth the Great.'

Replace with 'in recognition of her lifetime of duty and service to our country. The Council will create a cross-party working group, that will take into account the views of local residents, to look at options for such a tribute. This will include, but not limited, to looking at the renaming of Guildhall Square, and the commissioning of a statute of Her late Majesty, funded through public subscription and donations, as a starting point for discussions.

First line, second paragraph insert after 'events across the city,' 'and that the aforementioned working group will ensure'

AMENDED MOTION TO READ:

This Council commits to the creation of a fitting tribute to mark the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in recognition of her lifetime of duty and service to our country. The Council will create a cross-party working group, that will take into account the views of local residents, to look at options for such a tribute. This will include, but not limited, to looking at the renaming of Guildhall Square, and the commissioning of a statue of Her late Majesty, funded through public subscription and donations, as a starting point for discussions.

The Council further commits to ensuring the Coronation of King Charles III is commemorated in Southampton with due public ceremony with events across the city, and that the aforementioned working group will ensure the Coronation brings together residents from across our city in a celebration of this truly and uniquely British institution.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAMES OF COUNCILLORS GUTHRIE AND KAUR WAS CARRIED.

**RESOLVED** that the amended motion be approved.

45. **EXECUTIVE BUSINESS**

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. SEN Sector

Question from Councillor Guest to Councillor Paffey

QUESTION: Will the Cabinet member commit to ensuring the support and resources are put in place to support the SEN sector and ensure their needs are catered for in Southampton?

ANSWER: The Labour administration is committed to ensuring that children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities receive the support they need. Members will be aware of the current proposals for the expansion and reconfiguration of the city's special schools, a programme launched when we were previously in office to ensure the best educational opportunities and support possible for Southampton's children. With all feasibility studies now complete, we anticipate bringing forward the next stage and going to full public consultation shortly.

Further work is ongoing to improve our offer for pupils with SEND in mainstream education, with the aim of developing consistent and inclusive provision across the city. This is in line with the Inclusion priority in the SEND, Education and Children's Services strategies, and will include a bid to government for more investment in this area.

2. Children's Homes

Councillor Guthrie to Councillor Paffey

QUESTION: What are the Cabinet Member's plans to ensure that the city's children's homes are adequately and sustainably staffed once they are completed and can care for children?

ANSWER: Recruiting the highest quality staff is a priority in ensuring our proposed children's residential homes can improve outcomes for children in our care.

We plan to stagger the opening of children's homes, allowing for the recruitment and establishment of teams in stages. This will avoid creating recruitment pressures in a short space of time, and will help to ensure sustainability of multiple homes.



Staff will be supported through therapeutic clinical supervision which will be available on a group and individual basis as required. The aim will be to establish stable, supported, and resilient teams across the homes.

Staff salaries have been benchmarked and we are confident that remuneration will be competitive and attractive in the current market.

Finally, leadership is key to operating a successful children's home and so the salary of the registered manager position will attract an experienced manager with an established track record for delivering excellent services to children.

### 3. Youth Offending

Councillor Vaughan to Councillor Renyard

QUESTION: First time offenders within Youth Offending are not having their cases heard for up to two to three years. Instead of going to court for one minimal crime, a young person can end up going to court for three of a more serious nature. Can the Cabinet Member advise what the administration is doing to resolve this issue?

ANSWER: We welcome your interest in the matter.

First time entrants (FTE) are children and young people who receive a youth caution or above. FTE for Southampton reduced from 2020 to 2021. The rates in Southampton are in line with our statistical neighbours.

Two thirds of Southampton Youth Justice work is dealt with 'out of court', i.e. away from the court system: each week a Joint Decision-making Panel carefully considers all children who have been referred by the police following investigation.

Once a referral is received the Council Youth Justice Service acts quickly in response. We do not have control over the length of police investigations. The Youth Justice Service has developed a diversion programme and is developing a prevention offer to reduce the risk of offending early.

Some young people, generally those with more serious offences, by-pass the out-of-court system and miss the opportunity to be diverted from Court. On occasion, for a range of reasons, it takes a long time for a case to reach court. For these young people the period between the alleged offence and appearing in court, can be challenging for the young person, the family and agencies who are supporting them. This means that they do not face the consequences of their offending swiftly and do not, as a result, receive the intervention and support they need in a timely way.

The primary factors contributing to the delays between arrest and criminal justice outcome are the volume and resource pressures within the Police which result in investigation taking longer, backlogs within the Crown Prosecution Service, and availability of court time due to these pressures, as well as the pandemic having an impact on this. These factors contribute to situations where some young people are waiting between 12 and 18 months for an offence to be dealt with.

We are working with Police and the CPS to address these issues, which are national, including trying to push expediency of youth cases. We welcome the appointment of a new Superintendent for Southampton (Supt. Phil Lamb) and look forward to meeting with them at their earliest opportunity with this item as a key component of that agenda.

#### 4. Uncapped rises on energy bills

Councillor Blackman to Councillor Kaur

QUESTION: Could the Leader of the Council report on what representations have been made to central government on behalf of businesses, schools and other organisations in Southampton to press for support in the face of uncapped rises in energy bills this autumn?

ANSWER: Since you submitted your Question under Liz Truss the Government has introduced some support for energy price rises this autumn. To reassure you, we continue to lobby Central Government as Southampton does not receive enough resources, something that all three of the City's MPs highlight and advocate. As a Council we will continue to fight for our fair share so that local residents and businesses can continue to benefit from much needed investment. We are part of several campaigns that the LGA and other national organisations run. This week I signed, along with other Leaders from across the County, a letter to the Chancellor ahead of his Autumn Statement tomorrow.

#### 5. Portswood Corridor

Councillor Moulton to Councillor Keogh

QUESTION: In light of significant concerns around the Administration's proposal, as part of the Portswood Corridor Transforming Cities scheme, to close a section of Portswood Road to traffic and concerns expressed around the online consultation, will the Leader / Cabinet Member agree to extend the consultation date and to amend the survey to expressly ask if residents support the road closure proposal?

ANSWER: The scheme for the Portswood Road corridor has been on consultation from 26 September to 23 October 2022 and has been since extended to 11 November 2022. As part of the consultation process, a consultation brochure was prepared, provided information on the Connecting Southampton website, written to 6,487 residents in the area twice, held an information session at October Books store on 4 October 2022, met with the Portswood Residents Gardens on 31 October 2022, held drop in sessions at Portswood Broadway on 4 and 5 November 2022, attended an information session at Highfield Church Hall on 8 November 2022 and attended a drop in session at Southampton University on 9 November 2022. Over 1,300 responses and comments to the online survey and via email responses were received, and it will now be analysed. The next phase of consultation and engagement will occur in the new year. This will focus on updating the proposals for the area which will take into account the responses received, and if there are gaps identified from the previous consultation, these will be addressed in the future consultation to facilitate community co-design and support.

#### 6. Unadopted roads

Councillor Moulton to Councillor Keogh

QUESTION: Does the Cabinet Member plan to put in place a policy which sets out what support and action the council might take in respect of unadopted roads which are in desperate need of repair?

ANSWER: Officers have recently updated the council's road maintenance webpage to include reference to an intervention procedure when receiving a request to intervene to repair an unadopted road. The Council has a procedure in place for intervening to repair defects on an unadopted road only in exceptional circumstances and if it deems, by way of an assessment, that there is a need to urgently remove a clear and present danger to persons or traffic. Southampton City Council has no statutory responsibility to repair privately maintained highways and private streets (both also commonly referred to as unadopted roads). In most circumstances, maintenance of such roads is the responsibility of the adjacent landowners whose property fronts onto them.

This is in line with highways legislation, in particular the Highways Act 1980 which contains provisions granting Highway Authorities limited powers to intervene in certain circumstances.

#### 7. Savings Breakdown

Councillor Hannides to Councillor Leggett

QUESTION: Can you provide a more detailed breakdown of the £15m of savings already found as part of the budget process? The items identified in the recent public presentation accounted for only £1.1m.

ANSWER: A detailed breakdown on savings will be sent.

#### 8. In-Year Savings

Councillor Hannides to Councillor Leggett

QUESTION: With a further £29m of savings required to be identified over the next 3 months, can you indicate which areas are under consideration?

ANSWER: All options are being looked at to address the budget for next financial year.

#### 9. Disposing of Assets

Councillor Hannides to Councillor Leggett

QUESTION: Due to the inevitable rise in interest rates, the increased cost of borrowing will deprive front line services of much needed revenue, what steps are you taking to reduce debt by disposing of assets?

ANSWER: The council continues to review its corporate operational and commercial assets to seek to ensure that they meet service needs and provide the best return for the council. This involves reviewing the potential ongoing revenue return, the opportunity of future regeneration and development together with disposal opportunities.

## 10. Anti-Social Behaviour

Councillor Vaughan to Councillor Renyard

QUESTION: What improvements are the administration making when it comes to ASB with Motorcycles and cars driven by young people off-road?

ANSWER: Southampton City Council has limited powers, with enforcement being primarily the domain of the Police and activity taking place on private land not within SCC's remit to resolve. A motorbike nuisance task force was set up and has been an effective multi-agency forum to work through proposals to target harden hotspots in a way that supports accessible access for all residents. We have worked closely with the OPCC on its ASB Task Force which has secured the equipping of new dirt bikes and training of Police Officers.

Engagements with communities have effectively promoted the importance of reporting, to share intelligence with the Police and raise confidence that action can be taken. Stronger Communities has conducted ASB surveys in Sullivan Road and Millbrook.

The Safer Neighbourhoods Fund, has secured CIL money to progress preventative works in Coxford Ward. This will allow us to pilot new techniques and area improvements that can inform actions in other parts of the city.

SCC is working with Police (Operation Trail) in the West of the City using Safer Streets funding to prevent thefts of motorcycles. We are in regular contact with the Insp to support their activity (see Southampton Cops FB).

## 11. Safer Neighbourhoods Fund

Councillor Vassiliou to Councillor Renyard

QUESTION: Can the Cabinet Member for Communities explain why when rebranding the Community Fund to the new "Safer Neighbourhoods Fund", the Protecting Communities element of this has been removed and where has the money previously allocated to the Protecting Communities element now gone?

ANSWER: The Protecting Communities element will now be managed centrally by SCC to ensure coordination of works on a data and intelligence led approach, including working with the CCTV Working Group.

The new Safer Neighbourhoods capital strand, has also removed the 'cap' that was in place with the previous fund, as this was not sufficient for some larger projects which required both a different process as well as being able to look more strategically at requirements across the city.

In total, the overall budget for the Safer Neighbourhoods Fund has increased.

There is strong alignment with Safer Streets activity as well potential within UKSPF to supporter effective targeting of resources to priority hotspots that will benefit from target hardening.

As cabinet member for safety, I am happy to continue to receive suggestions as to where those needs might be and work with officers to review the data and intelligence around such suggestion and put together realistic and sustainable plans to deliver them, if there is a demonstrable need.

## 12. Solar Panels

Councillor P Baillie to Councillor Mitchell

QUESTION: The HRA own hundreds of walk up blocks and thousands of houses. In the middle of an energy crisis, please would you explain why your department feels that solar panels are not a good idea.

ANSWER: Solar energy will be part of the energy strategy for the city. The immediate priority is to improve energy efficiency so that not as much energy is needed to power a home.

Our focus is a fabric first which directly works to reduce residents' energy needs. This is also a cheaper and easier approach to energy efficiency which would have the greatest benefit to tenants. Typically, these types of work are insulation of homes (i.e. loft, cavity, floor), installation of new energy efficient windows and doors, and installation of high energy efficiency electric heating (i.e. Quantum electric heating appliances).

## 13. Tenant Controlled Heating

Councillor P Baillie to Councillor Mitchell

QUESTION: Over 4000 council homes do not have the ability to regulate their own heat, & thus regulate their bills. Aren't you ashamed of that figure in 2022?

ANSWER: Within the constraints of the HRA capital programme, SCC has a dedicated work programme to install space heating systems and remove tenants' landlord supply. The planned investment is £2.6M for the next 4 years.

## 46. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES OR THE MAYOR

It was noted that no requests for Questions from Members to the Chairs of Committees or the Lord Mayor had been received.

## 47. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

The following appointments were noted:

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee:

Councillors Savage and Moulton to replace Councillors Furnell and Stead

Children's and Families Scrutiny Panel:

Councillors Denness and Warwick Payne to replace Councillors McEwing and Windle

HOSP:

Councillor Shields to replace Councillor T Bunday

Scrutiny Inquiry Panel - Protecting, Preserving and Promoting The River Itchen in Southampton:

Councillors T Bunday, Cooper, Moulton, Savage and White

Licensing Committee Councillor Fitzhenry.

48. 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.

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## SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2023

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#### Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Rayment  
The Sheriff, Councillor Laurent  
Councillors J Baillie, P Baillie, Blackman, Blatchford, Bogle, M Bunday,  
T Bunday, Coombs, Cooper, Denness, Fielker, Fitzhenry, Frampton, Fuller,  
Furnell, G Galton, Guest, Guthrie, Hannides, L Harris, Houghton, Keogh,  
Kataria, Kaur, Leggett, Magee, Professor Margetts, McEwing, Mitchell,  
Noon, Dr Paffey, W Payne, Prior, Renyard, Savage, Shields, Goodfellow,  
Stead (except part item 53), Vassiliou, Vaughan, White, Windle and Winning

#### 49. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors D Galton, J Payne and Moulton.

#### 50. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR AND LEADER

Announcements from the Lord Mayor:

- (i) The Lord Mayor referred with sadness as the Earthquake disaster in Turkey and Syria unfolded. As the death toll continues to rise, our thoughts are with the families affected and those who are on the ground offering medical and humanitarian aid. On behalf of Southampton City Council letters of condolence have been written to both Turkish and Syrian Embassies and today the Lord Mayor had received a letter from the Turkish Ambassador to the UK who was very thankful for the work that is going on in Southampton for those affected with our Turkish and Syrian communities present in the City.
- (ii) The Lord Mayor informed Council that Councillor Professor Margetts had resigned from the Labour Group and now sits as an Independent Member representing Coxford Ward. Legally, that creates vacancies on both Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Health and Wellbeing Board as only political groups, by law, can have seats on committees.
- (iii) Members, I was delighted to receive the Princess Royal when she visited us on 3rd February. A Royal visit was expected as we had received Lord Mayor status, a Royal visit was expected but we did not know when, so I was delighted when her Royal Highness visited the City to officially receive the Letters Patent which I believe you have now all seen. She had the opportunity to meet a number of members of staff, she asked not to meet politicians. We arranged for business leaders who had been part of the representation on the lord mayoralty and officers of this Council who play an important role including representing cleaners, facilities management and the town sergeants office, people who go above and beyond their duties and who I know you believe as I do, that they do not always receive the recognition they deserve. Whilst she was here, she unveiled The Queen's Green Canopy Award. As a City Champion Southampton was one of only three

cities who planted more trees than other authorities during the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I think that is a real accolade and shows our green credentials.

- (iv) Members, I am also pleased to announce that the Lord Mayor's Ball held this month raised in excess of £5,500 after expenses for my chosen charities. There were a number of Councillors present who were very supportive on the evening and I wanted to thank you personally for that. We did have a great evening and I would like to pay tribute to the staff who gave up their own time and who put in a lot of hard effort to help me organise the evening making sure it was such a success.
- (v) Members, I would like to formally welcome Claire Edgar to the Council, Claire has been appointed as the Executive Director for Wellbeing and Housing. We all look forward to working with Claire in her new role.
- (vi) Members, today we say goodbye to John Harrison, Executive Director for Finance and Commercialism. Honorary Alderman Barnes-Andrews offered his thanks and gratitude for John's service during his time as Cabinet Member for Finance.

Announcements from the Leader:

- (vii) The Leader announced the following appointments – Councillor Windle be appointed to Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Councillor Savage be appointed to Health and Wellbeing Board.

## 51. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Council received and noted a deputation from Mr Marks, Trade Unionist & Socialist Coalition – Annual Budget.

## 52. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - EXEMPT PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM (IF NEEDED)

The Chair moved in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the exempt appendix to the following Item.

Appendix 7 is exempt from publication by virtue of category 3 of rule 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules i.e. information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information due to an ongoing commercial dispute which is subject to a protected alternative dispute resolution procedure. If the information was disclosed then the Council's financial position would be available to other parties to the dispute and prejudice the Council's ability to achieve best value.



53. THE REVENUE BUDGET 2023/24, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change detailing the Revenue Budget 2023/24, Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2023/24 to 2026/27. The report also sets out the Capital Strategy and Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy and provides details of the capital programmes for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the period 2022/23 to 2027/28.

The report identifies how the 2023/24 budget has been balanced since the forecast shortfall reported to Cabinet on 8 November 2022, which was £28.9M. It outlines how additional funds arising from the November 2022 Autumn Statement and confirmed in the local government finance settlement, including extra council tax flexibilities (£3.3M), together with further savings (£4.98M) and use of reserves (£22.0M) have helped both balance the budget and meet new pressures arising since November.

The following additional recommendation was tabled at the meeting:

Arts Council England has recently agreed in principle to offer Southampton City Council a grant of up to £2.23M in capital towards the cost of repairs to the Art Gallery roof.

There is a requirement for the Council to match fund this grant which has already been budgeted for within the Capital programme. Given the urgent nature of this grant, which the Arts Council requires to begin by 15 May, it is resolved that

- (i) the above sum is applied to the Capital Programme as funding; and
- (ii) Executive Director for Growth, following consultation with the Executive Director, Corporate Services and the Leader be delegated authority to apply this grant as considered appropriate.

The recommendations therein, including the additional recommendations above, were moved by Councillor Leggett and seconded by Councillor Kaur.

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

- (i) to enable any amendments to be proposed, seconded and considered at the same time;
- (ii) to enable any amendment to be re-introduced later into the meeting; and
- (iii) to revise the time allowed for speakers as follows:-

Movers of motions - 20 minutes

Seconders - 10 minutes

Liberal Democrat/Independent Members – 10 minutes

Other Speakers - 4 minutes

Right of Reply (Executive only) – 10 minutes

**RESOLVED** that the Revenue Budget 2023/24, Medium Term Financial Strategy, and Capital Programme be adopted as detailed in the report recommendations, including additional recommendation detailed above.

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

NOTE – FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION: Councillors Blatchford, Bogle, M Bunday, T Bunday, Coombs, Cooper, Denness, Fielker, Frampton, Furnell, Goodfellow, Kataria, Kaur, Keogh, Leggett, McEwing, Mitchell, Noon, Paffey, W Payne, Rayment, Renyard, Savage, Shields, Windle and Winning.

NOTE – AGAINST THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION: Councillors J Baillie, P Baillie, Fitzhenry, Fuller, G Galton, Guest, Guthrie, Hannides, Harris, Houghton, Laurent, Magee, Margetts, Prior, Vassiliou, Vaughan and White.

NOTE – ABSTAINED THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION: Councillor Blackman