
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2023

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Laurent
The Sheriff, Councillor Shields
Councillors Allen (except items 38 (b), 39-40), J Baillie (except items 38(b), 39-40), P Baillie, Blackman, Mrs Blatchford, Barbour, Barnes-Andrews, Beaurain, Bogle, M Bunday, T Bunday, Chapman, Cox, Denness, Every, Fielker, Finn, Fitzhenry, A Frampton, Y Frampton, Galton, Goodfellow, Greenhalgh, Houghton, Kataria, Kaur, Kenny, Keogh, Lambert, Leggett, Letts, McCreanor, McEwing, Mrs Mintoff, Moulton, Noon, Dr Paffey, W Payne, Powell-Vaughan, Quadir, Rayment, Savage, Ugwoeme, Webb, Whitbread, Windle (except items 38 (b), 39-40), Winning and Wood

33. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillor Renyard.

34. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 19th July 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

35. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR AND LEADER

Announcements from the Lord Mayor:

- (i) The Lord Mayor announced that the meeting was open to being filmed and reminded those filming that the right to film was limited to the duration of the meeting and recording must cease when the meeting closed. Filming or recording was not permitted if the effect would be to interrupt or disturb the proceedings or if it was intrusive of a specific individual or individuals. If in her opinion this was occurring, it would not be permitted, and she would ask you to stop. Similarly, some members of the public attending the meeting may object to being filmed, photographed or recorded. The Lord Mayor would be making those attending the meeting today aware and would ask those filming, to respect their wishes, and would expect that these were complied with.
- (ii) The Lord Mayor reminded Members that during the meeting they should treat each other with due respect during debates. At the last meeting of Council The Lord Mayor was particularly disappointed in the quality of the debate. The debate should be Council business only, not what has happened in the past or refer to personal experiences. All Members were asked to remember the courtesies they would expect from Members when speaking and extend this courtesy to others.
- (iii) The Lord Mayor encouraged all Members and staff to join her for a Charity Fashion Show held in conjunction with John Lewis in West Quay on Wednesday, 27th September. Details of the event to be found on Eventbrite.

36. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Council received and noted the following deputation:

- (i) Proposed Closure of Holcroft House Residential Care Home - Linda Hayse, Lisa Stead and Amanda Guest.

The Council received and debated the following Petition which under the Council's Procedure Rules was a qualifying petition which must be debated at Council having triggered the threshold of 1500 verified signatures.

- (i) Save Council owned care home Holcroft House.

37. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

A verbal report of the Leader of the Council was given 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. Capital Programme

Councillor Moulton to Councillor Winning (Councillor Keogh to respond

QUESTION: Is the Labour Administration committed to delivering a new play park at Paignton Park and to retaining the £100K investment allocated by the previous Conservative council in the Capital Programme?

ANSWER: The administration is currently undertaking a review of the Capital Programme to ensure that all investment, either revenue or capital, has a clear purpose and strong business case. Play Area procurement (including Paignton Park proposals) will be considered at a future meeting of the Strategic Capital Board.

2. Portswood Broadway

Councillor Moulton to Councillor Keogh

QUESTION: In the council's latest consultation on proposed changes to Portswood Broadway, have any restrictions been put in place to prevent people completing it multiple times online?

ANSWER: The Portswood Broadway consultation is carried out via an online survey. To mitigate multiple copies of the survey being completed by individuals, website cookies are used, which restrict respondents completing multiple copies of the survey.

3. Budget

Councillor Fitzhenry to Councillor Letts

QUESTION: Can the Cabinet Member for Finance advise council of the most up to date budget gap and outline what measures have been taken since July's meeting to balance the books?

ANSWER: The in-year budget gap for 2023/24, as reported to 19 September Cabinet is £16M. That is as at the end of period 5 (to 31 August 2023).

In terms of future budget gap, the estimate is being continually updated. For 2024/25, the gap was £46.14M as reported to Council in July and the most recent estimate is £43.56M. The most recent estimate for 2025/26 is £48.53M and for 2026/27 is £55.17M shortfalls.

Additional proposed savings will be presented to Cabinet in October to reduce the gap both this year and also next year. Those proposals are being finalised. Where necessary consultation will need to take place before decisions are made on those proposals.

4. Southampton City Council Workforce

Councillor P Baillie to Councillor Letts

QUESTION: Have you found out yet what the large number of SCC staff taken on over the last 6 years actually do?

ANSWER: Summary information regarding the number of new roles across the last few years has been shared with me. There have been increases in both public and non-public facing roles. I am meeting with our Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development later this month to look at some of the detail.

I am pleased to be able to say, though, that there is now a downward trend in overall posts and headcount, largely as a result of cost control measures and service redesign.

5. University Technical College

Councillor J Baillie to Councillor Kaur (Councillor Winning to respond)

QUESTION: Will the council do all it can to support the new University Technical College (UTC)?

ANSWER: We welcome the opportunity for students to have more choice in the Post 16 sector with links to employers. The Council will continue to work with all relevant government departments to ensure that the breadth of education and skills training that is needed for the young people in Southampton is achieved.

6. Air Quality

Councillor Chapman to Councillor Keogh

QUESTION: Poor air quality is the greatest environmental risk to health globally with air pollution particularly effecting the most vulnerable in society: children, the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions - often from less affluent areas. For

visitors to the city particularly for those travelling in groups, active travel is impractical, and railways too expensive. What would this administration advise as an alternative to the convenience of the car and relatively cheap parking found in the city? What can residents reasonably expect to be delivered in the next two years to reduce both pollution and the traffic burden in the city?

ANSWER: The SCC Local Transport Plan (LTP) – Connected Southampton 2040 has a vision to make Southampton a modern, liveable and sustainable place to live, work and visit by investing in better and more innovative transport. The goals of the Plan include widening people’s sustainable travel choices and so encouraging them to get around actively and healthily, and helping Southampton become a zero emission city.

The goals of the Plan are being actioned through the LTP4 Implementation Plan 2022 – 2025, which identified a range of projects being delivered and in development. Our City Centre is transforming with improvements to Southampton Central Interchange and a new bus hub at Albion Place, an Enhanced Partnership has been signed with local bus operators which will help deliver improved bus services and reduced price ticketing options (such as the group fare 5 for £5 offering and evening fare offers), the roll out of new EV charging to move towards lower emission vehicles, multi modal transport corridors which provide bus priority and promote alternative travel on corridors such as Portswood and A33 Western corridor. These align with our Green City 2030 commitments - delivering clean air with low emission transport options.

7. Safer Journeys to School

Councillor Wood to Councillor Winning (Councillor Keogh to respond)

QUESTION: How we work has changed dramatically in recent years. In many families with primary school aged children both parents work. In many single parent families, the sole parent works. Many more people are now working from home and options for before and after school childcare are either expensive or limited. As a single parent I know that childcare can take a significant part of income.

Not all children are in an easy walk from their school. Due to increases in traffic and other safety concerns even a short walk won’t be safe for young children to walk unaccompanied.

What is the Council doing to make it easier for parents, especially working parents, to get their children safely to school, to reflect changes in employment practices?

ANSWER: Our Local Transport Plan – Connected Southampton 2040 has the goals of creating a System for Everyone and A Better Way to Travel – which for school travel means safer routes to school, supporting sustainable travel options, creating a completed coherent cycling network, and school streets that have timed closures for general traffic that create safe conditions for all.

The Council is constructing new crossings and safer routes to school for Springhill, Freemantle C of E, Hightown Primary, Bassett Green, Glenfield and Beechwood Junior School with funding from Active Travel England. Enforcement of existing parking restrictions and Keep Clear zig zags at schools is being done with new camera enforcement at six schools which will make accessing schools safer.

Southampton has thirteen permanent school streets and a further five sites under a trial to assess their suitability for permanent school street. The Sustainable Travel Team provide initiatives such as Bikelt programme, promote Park & Stride locations for schools and contribute to Modeshift Stars school awards which help schools promote walking / wheeling / cycling.

38. MOTIONS

(a) Councillor Noon moved and seconded by Councillor Greenhalgh

Over the last 10 years we have seen a loss of confidence by many communities in the Police. In the retail sector, data released by the Co-op (July 27th 2023) revealed the highest ever level of retail crime.

This Council notes that due to Conservative government austerity 20,000 experience police officers were made redundant.

Council further notes that after accepting that this austerity measure was a massive error the Conservative government has reversed this policy. However, this is yet to have any significant impact on the level of retail crime in Southampton.

Southampton city Council stands with Unions and employers in calling on Hampshire police and Crime commissioner Donna Jones to act on improving retail workers' protection in Southampton, by prioritising the response to and investigate all retail crime. This Council request that the Cabinet Member writes to the Police and Crime Commissioner and invites her as a matter of urgency to meet local unions and business representatives to discuss a plan of action on retail crime.

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

RESOLVED that the motion be approved.

NOTE: Councillors Greenhalgh and Whitbread declared pecuniary interests and remained at the meeting.

(b) Moved by Councillor Blackman and seconded by Councillor Wood

Council notes the implementation of 20mph zones in residential areas across the city and the widespread support for them. Furthermore, Council agrees that the implementation of the remaining areas where 20mph zones have not yet been established should take place as soon as possible.

Similarly, Council notes the reduction of speed limits on a number of roads from 40mph to 30mph, including Bassett Avenue and Bassett Green Road, and the positive impact this has had.

However, residents regularly express serious concerns about speeding on residential roads and the lack of enforcement of speed limits. Residents are rightly concerned about the dangers posed by speeding vehicles and should be able to feel safe in going about their daily lives.

Council therefore calls for increased efforts to tackle the problem of speeding, including installation of more roundels on the road surface to remind motorists of the speed limits and more effective and permanent use of electronic signs.

Amendment moved by Councillor Keogh and seconded by Councillor Blackman

Paragraph 4, **delete** “including” **insert** “by all partners and notes the work the Council’s Highways Team has already achieved through Safer Streets, zebra crossings and other traffic calming works and that it will work towards “

After “more” **insert** “enforcement cameras, build out island and “

After “surface” **insert** “where appropriate”

AMENDED MOTION TO READ

Council notes the implementation of 20mph zones in residential areas across the city and the widespread support for them. Furthermore, Council agrees that the implementation of the remaining areas where 20mph zones have not yet been established should take place as soon as possible.

Similarly, Council notes the reduction of speed limits on a number of roads from 40mph to 30mph, including Bassett Avenue and Bassett Green Road, and the positive impact this has had.

However, residents regularly express serious concerns about speeding on residential roads and the lack of enforcement of speed limits. Residents are rightly concerned about the dangers posed by speeding vehicles and should be able to feel safe in going about their daily lives.

Council therefore calls for increased efforts to tackle the problem of speeding by all partners and notes the work the Council’s Highways Team has already achieved through Safer Streets, zebra crossings and other traffic calming works and that it will work towards installation of more enforcement cameras, build out islands and roundels on the road surface where appropriate to remind motorists of the speed limits and more effective and permanent use of electronic signs.

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

RESOLVED that the amended motion be approved.

39. 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.

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

The following appointments were noted:

Councillors Every, McEwing, Powell-Vaughan, Windle and Wood to be appointed to the How do we get a better deal for private sector renters in Southampton? Scrutiny Inquiry.