
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
15 MAY 2024

Present:

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Laurent
The Sheriff, Councillor Shields
Councillors Allen, J Baillie, P Baillie, Blackman, Mrs Blatchford, Barbour,
Barnes-Andrews, Beaurain, Bogle, M Bunday, Chapman, Cooper, Cox,
Denness, Every, Fielker, Finn, A Frampton, Y Frampton, Goodfellow,
Gravatt, Greenhalgh, Houghton, Kataria, Kaur, Kenny, Keogh, Kloker, C
Lambert, G Lambert, Leggett, Letts, McCreanor, McManus, Moulton, Noon,
W Payne, Powell-Vaughan, Rayment, Renyard, Savage, Stead, Webb,
Whitbread, Windle, Winning and Wood.

Apologies – Councillors Galton and Harwood.

1. CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON AWARD

THE LORD MAYOR (COUNCILLOR LAURENT) IN THE CHAIR

RESOLVED: upon the motion of the Lord Mayor (Councillor Laurent) and seconded by the Sherriff (Councillor Shields), that the City of Southampton Award be presented to David Hamilton

2. ELECTION OF A LORD MAYOR FOR ENSUING YEAR

RESOLVED: upon the motion of Councillor Noon and seconded by Councillor Moulton, that Councillor Shields be elected to the Office of 802nd Mayor of Southampton and the 3rd Lord Mayor of Southampton and Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Shields) then made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. LORD MAYOR'S CHARITIES

THE LORD MAYOR (COUNCILLOR SHIELDS) IN THE CHAIR

The Lord Mayor announced that he would be supporting as his charities, Paintings in Hospitals, SoCo Music Project and Southampton National Park City Project.

4. ELECTION OF A SHERIFF FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

RESOLVED: upon the motion of Councillor P Baillie and seconded by Councillor Winning that Councillor J Baillie be appointed the 587th Sheriff of the City of Southampton and Vice-Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

The Sheriff (Councillor J Baillie) then made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5. VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING LORD MAYOR

RESOLVED: upon the Motion of Councillor Beaurain and seconded by Councillor Fielker that the Council places on record that Councillor Laurent carried out the role of our historic 802nd Mayor and 2nd Lord Mayor with distinction and with an unparalleled devotion to duty during the period of her office.

6. SOUTHAMPTON BUSINESS SUCCESS AWARDS 2024

RESOLVED: that the Southampton Business Success Award be presented to The Environment Centre and South Hampshire College Group.

7. FORMER COUNCILLORS

RESOLVED: that former Councillors A Bunday, McEwing, Fitzhenry, Paffey, Quadir, Mintoff and Ugwoeme be thanked for their service to the City during their period in office.

**AT THE RECONVENED MEETING OF THE SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE ON
15th MAY 2024**

8. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20th March 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR AND LEADER

Matters especially brought forward by the Lord Mayor and the Leader.

(i) Appointments – New Councillors

The Lord Mayor thanked all Members for their support in electing him as the City's 802nd Mayor and 3rd Lord Mayor and welcomed everyone back to the Council Chamber after the Local Elections. The Lord Mayor also welcomed to the meeting those Councillors who were attending their first meeting together with those who had successfully defended their seats.

(ii) New Microphone System

Members, you will be aware that we have new digital microphone system which is operated in the same way as the previous system by pressing the button on the right to speak which will show a red light and then by turning it off when you have finished speaking. The system was finessed at our last Council meeting and has been working well since. Therefore, we are not expecting any technical difficulties today, however if we do please bear with us. The new equipment has numerous other features such as allowing electronic voting which we will be looking to roll out of the forthcoming Municipal Year.

(iv) Filming

The Lord Mayor announced that the meeting is open to being film and reminded those filming 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 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 the Lord Mayor 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. As was the case when Council met in the Guildhall the meeting is being live streamed.

(v) Meeting Protocol

The Lord Mayor referred to the need for these meetings to run efficiently and effectively and asked Members to keep in mind through the year the basic courtesies we need to adhere to for this to happen: – timeliness both in arriving at the meeting and listening carefully to the speeches and arguments. The Lord Mayor further requested that Members remembered the courtesies they would like from members when speaking and for the benefit of the public Members remain in the seat allocated or if you wish to move, you give notice of your intention prior to the next meeting so that copies displayed in public areas could be amended.

(vi) Mobile phones and electronic devices

The Lord Mayor reminded Members, wi-fi is available in the Council Chamber. The use of mobile electronic devices can therefore be used in the Chamber and in Committee Meetings. The Lord Mayor urged Members to use their good sense and behave with courtesy, particularly in not tweeting messages which would otherwise be in breach of our rules or the law. For example, tweeting material discussed in confidential session would be a very serious breach. As in previous years, there was a £25 fine for mobile phones ringing and this would go to the Lord Mayor's charity.

(vii) Development and Refresher Sessions for Members

The Lord Mayor reminded Members of the comprehensive development and refresher programme that had been arranged and encouraged both new and existing Members to attend.

(viii) Plans to mark D-Day on 6 June 2024

The Lord Mayor announced that on Thursday 6 June 2024, the UK would commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings in 1944. Southampton would mark the day with a commemorative service and military parade. This would sit alongside other activities which were currently being developed with a range of partners.

Southampton played a pivotal role in preparations for the D-Day landings, with hundreds of thousands of British and American troops based around the city and Southampton waters. Parts of the Southampton Civic Centre was used as a base by the American military until the end of the war.

At 8am on 6 June, Southampton's Town Crier, would begin the city's commemorations with a special proclamation. The tribute would acknowledge the valiant Allied forces who initiated Operation Overlord by storming the beaches of Normandy, a pivotal act that ultimately led to the liberation of Paris and the end of the Second World War.

(x) Commemorative Service and Military Parade

The Lord Mayor announced that a service would be held on the evening of 6 June to recognise and honour the sacrifices made during the Second World War. The service would take place at Holyrood Church in the city centre, which was destroyed by enemy bombing during the Blitz in November 1940.

The 17 Port & Maritime Regiment, based at Marchwood Military Port and who have the Freedom of the City, would attend the service. Following the service, they would lead a parade through the city centre to commemorate this historic occasion, and veterans will be welcomed to attend and take part. The parade would make its way through the High Street, passing the Bargate, and would conclude in Guildhall Square.

When the troops arrived in Guildhall Square, a special beacon would be lit as a further act of commemoration. This would be in tandem with a beacon lit at the British Normandy Memorial, which overlooked Gold Beach. More beacons would be lit in Utah, Omaha, Juno, and Sword, all in Normandy, France.

10. ELECTION OF THE LEADER

The nomination of Councillor Fielker was moved and seconded.

RESOLVED: that in the absence of no other nominations Councillor Fielker be duly elected as Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

Following her election as Leader, Councillor Fielker informed the Council of her Cabinet and their Portfolio responsibilities.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services - Councillor Letts

Cabinet Member for Children & Learning - Councillor Winning

Cabinet Member for Compliance and Leisure - Councillor Kataria

Cabinet Member for Economic Development - Councillor Bogle

Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport - Councillor Keogh

Cabinet Member for Housing Operations - Councillor A Frampton

Cabinet Member for Adults and Health - Councillor Finn

Cabinet Member for Green City & Net Zero - Councillor Savage

Cabinet Member for Communities and Safer City - Councillor C Lambert

11. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

Councillor Fielker moved the report of the Director Legal and Governance detailing the Annual Review of the Council's Constitution and Councillor Leggett seconded.

Amendment moved by Councillor P Baillie and seconded by Councillor Moulton.

1. Chairman of OSMC should be from the opposition party holding most seats where possible.
2. Guidance should be sought from the LGA on the composition of OSMC to improve its democratic accountability.
3. Any Audit Committee should have either an Independent Chair or an opposition councillor as chair.
4. There should be two independent members of the Audit Committee.
5. The members of the panel should receive any necessary training in a timely manner.
6. No councillor should be a member of the Audit Committee who has been a member of the Executive within the preceding 24 months.
7. Regarding point iii on page 15 (page 1 of the report) – the words 'consequential or' to be removed.

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

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR FIELKER WAS DECLARED CARRIED:

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the changes to the Constitution and associated arrangements as set out in this report be approved;
- (ii) That the Director of Legal and Governance be authorised to finalise the arrangements and wording to any revisions approved by Council and make any further consequential or minor changes arising from the decision; and
- (iii) That the City Council's Constitution, as amended, including the Officer Scheme of Delegation, for the Municipal Year 2024-25 be approved.

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

RESOLVED: that subject to certain decisions that may from time to time be made by the Council, the following Committees, Sub-Committees and other bodies be appointed with the allocation of seats to political groups shown therein and they be delegated authority to act within their Terms of Reference:

Political Group	Seats on Council	%
Labour	36	72%
Conservative	10	20%
Liberal Democrats	4	8%
Green	1	n/a

Committees	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Number of Seats to Groups
Overview and Scrutiny Management (9)	Cllr Evey Cllr McManus Cllr Kloker Cllr Leggett Cllr Y. Frampton Cllr Renyard 6	Cllr Powell-Vaughan Cllr Stead 2	Cllr Blackman Chair 1	9
Planning and Rights of Way (7)	Cllr G. Lambert Cllr Cox Cllr Greenhalgh Cllr Windle - Chair Cllr Mrs Blatchford 5	Cllr Beaurain 1	Cllr Wood 1	7
Chief Officer Employment Panel (3)	TBC 2	Cllr P Baillie 1		3
Licensing Committee (10) (Min 10 – max 13)	Cllr Bunday - Chair Cllr Kenny Cllr Windle Cllr Whitbread Cllr Noon Cllr Cooper Cllr Mrs Blatchford Cllr Cox 8	Cllr Moulton Cllr Laurent 2		10
Governance Committee (7)	Cllr Rayment - Chair Cllr McCreanor Cllr Denness Cllr Cooper	Cllr Harwood 1	Cllr Gravatt 1	7

	Cllr Mrs Blatchford 5			
Audit Committee (5)	Cllr Leggett - Chair Cllr Evemy Cllr Bunday 3	Cllr Powell-Vaughan 1	Cllr Chapman 1	5
Sub-Committees	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Number of Seats to Groups
Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (7)	Cllr Payne - Chair Cllr Kenny Cllr Noon Cllr Renyard Cllr Greenhalgh 5	Cllr Houghton 1	Cllr Gravatt 1	7
Children's and Families Scrutiny Panel (7)	Cllr Barnes - Andrews - Chair Cllr Webb Cllr G. Lambert Cllr Allen Cllr Kaur 5	Cllr Beaurain 1	Cllr Chapman 1	7
Scrutiny Inquiry Panel (5)	Cllr Allen Cllr Payne Cllr Greenhalgh 3	Cllr Stead 1	Cllr Blackman (subject dependent) 1	5
Licensing General Sub-Committee (5) (Membership must come from membership of Licensing Committee)	TBC 4	Cllr Laurent 1		5
Standards Sub-Committee	TBC if required	TBC if required		

(3)	2	1		3
Standards Appeal Sub-Committee (3)	TBC if required 2	TBC if required 1		3
TOTAL	49	14	8	71
Committee/ Sub-Committee	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Number of Seats to Groups
Licensing and Gambling Sub-Committee (3) (Any 3 Members drawn from the Licensing Committee membership on rotation basis)				
Other bodies	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Number of Seats to Groups
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (1)	Cllr Goodfellow 1			1
Local Democracy and Accountability Network for Councillors (2)				2

Partnership for South Hampshire – Overview and Scrutiny Committee (1)				
Hampshire Police and Crime Panel (1) <i>(Overall proportionality is calculated across the County. This may require a change in appointment)</i>	Cabinet Member			
Health and Well-Being Board	<p>The Southampton Health and Wellbeing Board voting membership is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Member lead for Health & Social Care (Chair); • Clinical Director for Southampton (representative of Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group), or nominated deputy; • Cllr Houghton, Opposition Member lead for Health & Social Care; • Three additional councillors appointed by Council under the rule of proportionality – Councillor Kenny, Councillor Finn and Councillor Laurent; • Executive Director Wellbeing (Children & Learning); • Executive Director Wellbeing (Adults & Health); • Director of Public Health; • Healthwatch representative, or nominated deputy; • Local mental health clinician; • Local Paediatrician with knowledge of the Community; • Chief Medical Officer at University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust; • SCC Clinical Director for Quality and Integration. <p>The quorum will comprise at least one Councillor, one member of Healthwatch and one representative from health (to include HSIOW CCG, a mental health clinician, local paediatrician with knowledge of the community, and University Hospital Southampton).</p>			
Chipperfield Trust	All 51 Members to be appointed to Chipperfield Trust			

13. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Council amended and approved the following dates for meetings of the Council in the 2024/25 Municipal Year:

17 July 2024
18 September 2024
27 November 2024
26 February 2025 (Budget)
26 March 2025

14. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Council received and noted the following deputation:

- (i) Future of Venny Playground – Nadia Ditta and Tony Twine

The Council noted that no petitions or public questions had been received.

15. 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. 20mph limits on Hill Lane

Councillor Powell-Vaughan to Councillor Keogh

QUESTION: Why did the administration decide to reverse the 20mph limits on Hill Lane and Shirley High Street? And are there plans to increase speed limits on any other roads? If so, which ones?

ANSWER: The following verbal response was given at the meeting.
We all agree that the introduction of 20mph limits is one that we have all supported many times in this Chamber as it means streets and roads are safer and more accessible. I think it is also important as we promised that when concerns are raised on particular roads as there were for Hill Lane and Shirley Road that we respond to those concerns and that is why we said that we would do a review. We are concluding that review. We will go ahead with bringing forward a Road Traffic Order to look whether or not we lift the speed limits on those two roads. In answer to the other question, those are the only two roads at this time that we will be assessing and we have no plans at this time to look at any other roads at this time.

2. SEND Expansion Plan

Councillor J Baillie to Councillor Winning

QUESTION: The SEND Expansion plan is now due to be paused after going back to finance. Can the cabinet member confirm how long this pause will be?

ANSWER: Cabinet have agreed funding for 278 school places as part of the SEND Expansion plan. Work is continuing with full designs being available in November 2024 at which point tenders will be put out. £43m has been invested in these new places, ensuring that children with special education needs and disabilities have access to high quality learning and developmental places. This is a priority for myself as Cabinet Member and the Service and there is no expectation that there will be any pause on the programme as I think we all agree that the additional capacity is absolutely vital. This is something I am really keen to see move forwards now and I look forward to it progressing.

3. Waste Collection Update

Councillor Blackman to Councillor Fielker

QUESTION: When can Southampton residents expect a communication stating that the disruption to waste collections is over?

ANSWER: The following verbal response was given at the meeting:
I am pleased to report that there have been significant improvements in both recycling and domestic waste collections. Work continues to ensure this is sustained. As I have said, collecting bins is a basic service we need to get right and I apologise to residents of those parts of the City which had been affected by the disruption.

4. Political leadership

Councillor P Baillie to Councillor Fielker

QUESTION: In what ways will your approach and policies differ from your predecessor?

ANSWER: The following verbal response was given at the meeting.
All of us on this side of the Chamber and that bit over there at the back, have shared values. We all think it is a disgrace that a City as wealthy as Southampton has so much poverty. As mentioned, that's not an accident, it's the impact of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat austerity agenda unleashed in 2010.

I set out my stall in Executive Business. These are not policies and approaches that have emerged in the past few months. I am building on Councillor Kaur's legacy. She has the foresight to understand that the long-term prosperity of Southampton, which will produce different and better outcomes for people who live here will only happen by genuinely working in partnership with other statutory organisations and the private sector on a shared vision for the future of Southampton.

5. Update on transformation programme.

Councillor Blackman to Councillor Letts

QUESTION: Could you provide an update on the work undertaken to develop the Council's transformation programme since the Budget for 24/25 was set on 6 March?

ANSWER: The overarching Transformation Strategy will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) at the next opportunity. This will set out the strategic context and scope of the Transformation programme. Outline Business Cases (OBC) are in the process of being produced by all service areas to address the c£40m of savings required for the 2025/26 financial year. It is intended that a report covering the scope and content of these OBCs will be presented to Cabinet in July, alongside the overarching Transformation Strategy and programme. This report will also be presented to OSMC prior to the July cabinet. Steps have been taken to strengthen the delivery and assurance capacity and capability of the council. A new Transformation Director has been appointed and is in-post, and additional recruitment to the core Projects/PMO team is underway. New governance arrangements aligned to the Transformation programme are also now in place, with portfolios led by each Executive Director reporting into the Transformation Board chaired by the CEO.

16. MOTIONS

It was noted that no motions had been received.

17. 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 Lord Mayor.

18. SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL AND POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS 2024

The report of the Returning Officer detailing the results of the Southampton City Council and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections on 2nd May 2024 was noted.

19. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Safer City detailing the Household Support Fund:5 April – September 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Household Support Fund for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024 be accepted and approved.

20. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

The report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee detailing the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Annual Report 2023/24 in accordance with the Council's Constitution was noted.

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

It was noted that there had been one use of the Call-in Procedure since the previous update to Council.