

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Department of the Chief Executive

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Date: 20th July 2018

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Dear Councillor

THE COUNCIL - THURSDAY, 19TH JULY, 2018

Please find enclosed, for consideration at the next meeting of the The Council taking place on Thursday, 19th July, 2018, the following items that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No	Item
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| 4 | <u>Questions from Members of the Public</u> (Pages 1 - 6)
Questions and Answers attached |
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| 5. | <u>Questions from Members of the Council</u> (Pages 7 - 8)
Questions and Answers attached |
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| 26. | <u>Minutes of the People Scrutiny Committee held Thursday, 19th July 2018</u>
(Pages 9 - 12)
Minutes attached |
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Robert Harris
Principal Democratic Services Officer
Legal & Democratic Services

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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Council Meeting –19th July 2018

Question 1 from Mr Kelleway to the Cabinet Member for Growth

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Question

At the February meeting of Council I asked whether Leigh Traders had expressed concerns regarding possible impacts on their business in respect of the proposed park and ride scheme at Leigh Railway station.

Part of the answer given was. 'Leigh Town Council and Leigh Traders Association were consulted on the SCAAP, but made no representations in respect of a park and ride.'

Subsequent press comment included in The Leigh Times quoted both Leigh Town Council and Leigh Traders Association denying that there was any consultation.

May I ask precisely in what form Leigh Town Council and Leigh Traders Association were consulted in respect of the proposed scheme?

Answer

When the Council was undertaking the SCAAP process, I can confirm both Leigh Town Council and Leigh Traders Association were consulted (by way of email and letter) about the SCAAP.

It was not proposed within the SCAAP that there should be a park and ride scheme at Leigh-on-Sea train station. The potential of Leigh Station to be utilised as a park and ride site does not form part of any policy in the SCAAP because it only covers the Town Centre and central seafront area.

However the idea was raised during the examination in public hearing, which is why it was referred to by the Inspector in his report.

The reason it was mentioned in the Examination was because it was referred to in a parking report prepared in November 2016 as something to consider for the future.

There is no specific proposal for park and ride at this time should this park and ride option be developed in the future the Council will consult with all interested at the appropriate time.

Question 2 from Mr Kelleway to the Cabinet Member for Growth

Question

At the February meeting of the Council I asked the following question;

The planning Inspector concluded that overall the SCAAP was unsound and has stipulated 22 modifications required to make it sound. He accepted entirely a critical point for businesses on the seafront and high street that developments have to, in his words 'consume their own smoke' (Para 71), of the report. This appears to mean, any developer proposing to redevelop the Seaway car park must ensure the proposed development meets its own needs, as well as ensuring there is no net loss of existing parking. How will the Council ensure that the proposed development at Seaway Car Park incorporates both enough spaces for the development AND maintain the spaces currently provided at Seaway for other users, particularly tourists? Or is the Council facilitating a further relocation of some spaces away from the car park to enable development to come forward, and if so, has the Council identified the proposed site for relocation?

The answer supplied gave absolutely no indication as to how the 480 (currently 661 spaces) proposed spaces in the current proposal will provide sufficient spaces for the development AND maintain the spaces currently provided at Seaway for other users, particularly tourists. So I would now ask the question again and this time may I be given a proper response?

Answer

Care needs to be taken to not confuse: a) the SCAAP, b) the agreement between the Council (as landowner) and Turnstone and c) any application made to the Council (as Planning Authority) by Turnstone.

a) To claim the SCAAP was unsound mischaracterises the position. The SCAAP followed the usual plan making process. The draft SCAAP was consulted on and as a result of that consultation modifications were proposed by the Council to the SCAAP. Some modifications were suggested by the Inspector as a result of the Examination in Public the Inspector in his final report concluded:

"The Southend Central Area Action Plan (SCAAP) provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the Central Area of the Borough over the plan period to 2021 providing a number of main modifications

(MMs) are made to it. Southend-on-Sea Borough Council has specifically requested me to recommend any MMs necessary to enable the plan to be adopted”.

There is nothing unusual in this process.

- b) The Council has agreed with Turnstone that whatever they do on the site they must provide 480 car parking spaces as a minimum. This is the number of spaces that were there at the time that discussions were started and the usual number of spaces provided.

The Council wanting to make best use of its land has been able (chiefly by moving the Coach Park to the newly provided temporary car park at the Gas Works site) to provide some additional temporary parking spaces at Seaway (totally 661 to which you refer).

- c) The Inspector was not considering an actual planning application but the draft SCAAP. Quite separately when Turnstone decided to submit a planning application (there is no current application lodged with the Council) officers will consider, before making a recommendation to members of the Development Control Committee whether that application will provide sufficient spaces.

I am not being awkward here, but until we know exactly what Turnstone wants to provide on the site, I am not in a position to say. When the application is submitted it will be dealt with on its individual merits and assessed against the Council planning policies (including policy DS5).

Question 3 from Mr Webb to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection

Question

Since the contract between Southend Council and Veolia what parts of the contract are Veolia meeting and what parts are Veolia not meeting and what action will the portfolio holder put into place to ensure Veolia meet them to the expected level and agreements in the contract?

Answer

I am very happy to advise that the Veolia contract is fully functioning and delivering high levels of performance across all areas.

In answer to the question I can also advise that Veolia in the main are meeting the requirements of the contract and in some cases exceeding some of the key areas such as cleansing, where their performance has exceeded the set targets with some areas achieving the highest levels of cleanliness since we started measuring standards.

Unfortunately, the recycling performance has been a concern as it has been across the country as the recycling world has changed considerably which has been the main factor for lower recycling nationally. However, our end of year recycling figure was encouraging and recovering at 42.32% and the Council's target for 2018/19 has been set for 46.38% and both Veolia and the Council are very confident that this target will be met.

The 'Unusual Suspects' campaign that was launched last November is already starting to have an impact and Veolia have also engaged 3 new Recycling Officers that will be promoting recycling and undertaking household visits across the borough will further encourage householders to partake in recycling their household waste'.

Question 4 from Mr Webb to the Cabinet Member for Growth

Question

The town centre looks depleted and run down with empty shops, homeless, beggars, etc.

What are the Conservative Council policies and how much funding will be found and where from to regenerate the town centre and how will they attract business, residents, visitors back to the town centre and tackle the infrastructure issues of parking?

Answer

The Council is currently engaging with Southend residents, businesses and visitors as to their aspirations for Southend in 2050. This will be used to establish a vision for the town and action plans over 5, 10, 15 years. The evolution of the town centre will undoubtedly be part of that work going forward and we will need to work with our partners, residents and businesses to achieve it.

We recognise the challenges currently being faced by Southend town centre and that these are trends being seen up and down the country.

The town centre has been a focus for us and we have made significant levels of investment in it as a result both in day to day service delivery and specific major projects. It is complex and must be considered holistically, taking into account the mix of economic, social, health, environmental, education and community factors which influence the look, feel and operation of the town. In order to support the town centre the Council must, and does, work closely with a range of partners who bring different powers, funding streams, resources and expertise. We must also engage with private landlords and businesses as the Council is not a significant property owner in the central area.

Some of our activity in the town centre includes:

- Adoption of the Southend Central area Action Plan which provides a strategic planning framework for the town centre and is vital in shaping development. We are also preparing the Southend New Local Plan which will be a suite of documents identifying how land is used, determining what will be built where. Furthermore we are working with the other South Essex authorities to develop a Joint Strategic Plan to ensure that strategic matters can be planned and co-ordinated effectively across South Essex, therefore ensuring compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework.
- The Better Queensway regeneration scheme which is in the middle of its procurement process and will transform the northern section of the town centre through private investment.
- Progressing the development of Forum 2 in partnership with South Essex College funded by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, the College and the Council which will bring further footfall to the town centre while supporting education provision, the cultural offer and the digital and creative sector.
- Working in partnership with Southend BID through funding, officer support and influencing decisions through the committee. The BID raises most of its funding through a business rates levy.
- Working in partnership with the police, HARP and other related agencies in regards to the street community. We have recently secured £425,000 Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government to fund additional outreach staff
- Approved implementation of a wheeled sports facility at Warrior Square to be funded by the Council.
- Delivering a parking and access strategy which takes a holistic view on access to and around the town centre.

- Secured some £20m from the Local Enterprise Partnership to enhance highways infrastructure on the A127 to improve access to the town as well as in the town centre itself. This includes the Southend Central Area Transport Scheme on London Road which is improving public realm and streetscape at the north of the High Street.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Council Meeting –19th July 2018

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Question 1 from Councillor Aylen to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection

Question

The Cabinet Member for the environment, Cllr Flewitt, suggested in the press that people should be encouraged to use public transport.

Would Councillor Flewitt explain why he has not therefore encouraged the new chair of the Public Transport and Buses Working Party to hold a meeting?

Answer

Regular liaison meetings are held with the bus and train operating companies and Network Rail in order to discuss a variety of current issues and future improvement plans.

In addition to these discussions, the SEAT (South Essex Active Travel) project, which operates across the South Essex region is successfully working with the operators and business to promote modal shift with initiatives that include offering personal travel plans that demonstrate the benefits of switching to bus and train use.

A meeting of the Public Transport & Buses Working Party is being arranged for September.

Question 2 from Councillor Aylen to the Cabinet Member for Growth

Question

Would the Cabinet Member responsible for the airport please explain why the Council has allowed training flights to occur every 6 minutes from London Southend Airport by a large jet airliner that continues for hours during the day?

Answer

As part of the planning permission granted in 2012 for the expansion of the airport new controls on the airports activities were put in place through planning obligations in a Section 106 Agreement. These included more stringent controls on flights, especially night time movements, than was previously the case.

Ensuring that the Airport operator complies with its planning obligations is very important to the Council. In this regard, the Council receives and retains regular data on Air Traffic Movements (ATMs) and noise complaints from the Airport. Compliance with operational controls is monitored by the Airport Consultative Committee and the Council. An Airport Monitoring Working Party has been established to formally review the position annually. The next meeting of the Airport Monitoring Working Party will be held in the autumn. Checks carried out by officers, including spot checks of reporting data compiled by the Airport for the Civil Aviation Authority and the Council, have not cast any doubt on the integrity of the data supplied.

Operational controls on flights include limits on the overall number of ATMs and night time movements and preferential flight paths. It is acknowledged that training flights can be more noticeable, due to the circuits that the aircraft make for training purposes. However, there are no restrictions on training flights during the daytime and this activity does not breach the operational controls, provided that the Airport does not exceed its overall annual limit of 53,300 ATMs within which the number of training flights are included.

The information available provides no evidence that there has been any breach of the operational controls imposed on the airport.

Public Document Pack
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of People Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 19th July, 2018
Place: Committee Room 5 - Civic Suite

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Present: Councillor C Nevin (Chair)
Councillors M Borton (Vice-Chair), B Arscott, L Burton, A Chalk,
D Garne, S Habermel, T Harp, J McMahon, C Mulroney and
C Walker
J Broadbent – co-opted member

In Attendance: Councillor Boyd (Cabinet Member)
F Abbott, S Leftley and B Martin

Start/End Time: 5.00 - 5.35 pm

148 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Buckley (no substitute), Councillor A Dear (no substitute), Councillor Holland (no substitute), Councillor Phillips (no substitute), Councillor Ware-Lane (no substitute) and A Semmence, T Watts and E Lusty (co-opted members).

149 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

- (a) Councillor Boyd (Cabinet Member) – disqualifying non-pecuniary interest in the Schools Progress Report; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19th July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;
- (b) Councillor Arscott - agenda item relating to Schools Progress report – non pecuniary – Governor at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School (Assisi Trust);
- (c) Councillor Borton - agenda item relating to School Progress report – non-pecuniary – Governor at Milton Hall School;
- (d) Councillor Walker - agenda item relating to School Progress report – non-pecuniary – wife teaches at West Leigh Schools; Southend Boys & Girls Training Choirs rehearse at St Mary's School;
- (e) Councillor Borton - agenda item relating to Scrutiny Committee - updates – non-pecuniary – daughter is a mental health nurse at Basildon Hospital;
- (f) Councillor Nevin - agenda item relating to Scrutiny Committee – updates – non-pecuniary – works in NHS outside area; Previous employee at Southend Hospital; 2 children work at MEHT and step sister works at Basildon Hospital;
- (g) Councillor Habermel - agenda item relating to Scrutiny Committee - updates – non-pecuniary – sister is a nurse at Southend Hospital; nephew is a physiotherapist based at Southend; brother is a paramedic with London Ambulance Service;

- (h) Councillor Harp – agenda item relating to Scrutiny Committee - updates – non-pecuniary – Chair of St Lukes PPG and member of PPG Forum;
- (i) Councillor McMahon - agenda item relating to Scrutiny Committee - updates – non-pecuniary – Conservative member for Kursaal – Better Start Ward Panel; NHS retired nurse; work within EPUT facilities as an Advocate.

150 Schools Progress Report

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People) which informed Members of the current position with regard to the performance of all schools, including those causing concern and updated on known Academy developments.

The Committee asked that their congratulations be forwarded to schools which have performed well in the KS2 outcomes.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

Note:- This is an Executive Function.

Cabinet Member:- Cllr Boyd

151 Scrutiny Committee - updates

The Committee received a report of the Chief Executive which updated Members on a number of scrutiny matters.

With reference to section 4 of the report, which updated the Committee on the work of the Joint Scrutiny Committee looking at the Mid and South Essex Sustainability & Transformation Partnership (STP), the Committee received a copy of the decisions what had been taken by the CCG Joint Committee at its meeting held on 6th July 2018.

Resolved:-

1. That the report and any actions taken be noted.
2. To note the terms of reference for the Joint Scrutiny Committee looking at the Mid and South Essex STP, attached at Appendix 1 to the Report.
3. That Councillors McMahon, Mulroney and Phillips be appointed as substitute Members to the Joint Scrutiny Committee looking at the Mid and South Essex STP.
4. To agree to the establishment of a sub group to scrutinise the Primary Care Strategy for south east Essex and the following Members of the Committee be appointed to the sub group – Councillors Arscott, Borton, Chalk, McMahon and Mulroney.
5. That the report and recommendations from the in depth scrutiny project 'Connecting communities to avoid isolation' detailed at Appendix 2 to the Report, be agreed and the Chairman be authorised to agree any final

amendments to the draft report and that in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 10 (Part 4 (e) of the Constitution), and the Chairman of the Project Team present the report to a future Cabinet meeting.

6. That the Youth Council be invited to present the outcomes from the mental health survey to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Note:- This is a Scrutiny Function

152 In depth Scrutiny Projects 2018/19 and Summary of Work

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive concerning the possible in depth scrutiny project to be undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee in 2018/19. The report also attached some information about the work carried out by the Scrutiny Committee in the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

Resolved:-

1. That, in the context of the vision for Southend 2050, the Committee's in depth scrutiny project for 2018/19 will be on the vision and gateways for children and young people which improves lives.
2. To note that the following Members have been appointed to the Panel, which will manage the in depth project – Councillor Nevin (Chairman), Councillors Buckley, Dear, Garne, McMahon, Walker, Borton and Stafford.
3. That the project will involve groups such as the Youth Council, Children in Care Council, colleges and the university in the review.
4. That the information attached at Appendix 3 to the Report, the summary of work of the 3 Scrutiny Committees during 2017 / 2018, be noted.

Note:- This is a Scrutiny Function.

153 Minutes of the Meeting of the Chairmen's Scrutiny Forum held on Monday, 11th June 2018

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of Chairmen's Scrutiny Forum held on Monday, 11th June 2018 be received and noted and the recommendations therein endorsed.

Note: This is a Scrutiny Function.

Chairman: _____

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