

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of People Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday, 28th August, 2024

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor C Nevin (Chair)
Councillors S W Allen, S Badger, J Harland, M Faulkner-Hatt,
P Kinsella, R McMullan*, J Moyies, K Murphy, S Nadeem, J Norman,
M O'Connor, D Richardson, L Salter and Rev. Canon L Williams
(Church of England Diocese), O Richards (Healthwatch Southend)
(Co-opted Members).

(*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 30.)

In Attendance: Councillor D Cowan (Leader of the Council) and Councillors L Burton
and M Sadza (Cabinet Members).
L Hunt, M Marks and S Cox

Start/End Time: 6.30 - 7.13 pm

8 Chair's Introduction & Apologies for Absence

(a) Chair's Introduction

Prior to the consideration of the matters set out in the agenda, the Chair outlined their expectations of the standard of conduct and behaviour to be shown at the meeting.

(b) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Poulton (Substitute: Councillor R McMullen) and Councillor S Habermel.

Apologies were also received from A Quinn (Co-opted Member, SAVS)

9 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

- (a) Councillor S Nadeem – Minute No.12 (Transitions Working Party Report and Recommendations) – family member attends Southend Adult Community College and has special needs.

10 Questions from Members of the Public

The Committee noted the response of the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Healthier Communities to a question presented by Ms Mitchell.

The Committee noted the response of the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Healthier Communities to a question presented by Ms Cowdrey.

The Committee noted the response of the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Healthier Communities to a question presented by Mr Webb.

11 Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th July 2024

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday 9th July be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

12 Transitions Working Party Report and Recommendations

The Committee received a report from the Executive Director (Children and Public Health), by way of pre-cabinet Scrutiny, that summarised the outcomes of the Transitions Working Party.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and SEND presented the report and provided background behind the working party, which had been established in response to a motion that was received by Council in July 2023.

The Committee asked a number of questions that were responded to by the relevant Cabinet Member and Director of Education, Early Years and Inclusion.

It was noted that an update on the implementation of the SEND Area Partnership action plan would be reported on a 6 monthly or twice-yearly basis to the People Scrutiny Committee.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and SEND agreed to provide a written response to the Committee on the current number of requests for Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessments and the percentage which were being completed within the required timescales.

Councillor J Moyies suggested an amendment be made to strengthen the recommendations in the report to Cabinet, to which the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cowan agreed. The new recommendation was proposed and agreed as follows:

- 1. To implement the findings of the Transitions Working Party in full to meet statutory duties.*

Members thanked Councillor Sadza and ex-Councillors H Boyd and T Cowdrey for their work on the Transitions Working Party.

Resolved:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. To implement the findings of the Transitions Working Party in full to meet statutory duties.

2. To note that this report will close the work of the working party.

Note: This is an Executive function

Cabinet Member: Councillor L Burton (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and SEND)

Chair:
