

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 8th October, 2018

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor K Robinson (Chair)
Councillors B Ayling*, A Bright, K Buck, D Burzotta, T Byford,
A Chalk, M Davidson, M Dent, N Folkard, J Garston, A Jones,
D McGlone, D Nelson, N Ward, P Wexham and C Willis
*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

In Attendance: Councillors J Courtenay, T Cox, M Flewitt, A Moring, L Salter
(Cabinet Members) and C Mulroney
A Lewis, J K Williams, N Corrigan, E Cooney, S Dolling, P Geraghty,
G Gilbert, M Murphy and T Row

Start/End Time: 6.30 pm - 8.20 pm.

329 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Terry (Substitute: Councillor Ayling).

330 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

(a) Councillors Courtenay, Cox, Flewitt, Moring and Salter (Cabinet Members) – Disqualifying non-pecuniary interests in all the called-in/referred items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19th July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;

(b) Councillor Davidson – Agenda Item No. 6 (Fire Safety Report) – Non-pecuniary interest: Non-executive director of South Essex Homes;

(c) Councillor Flewitt – Agenda Item No. 6 (Fire Safety Report) – Non-pecuniary interest: Friends and family are tenants of South Essex Homes;

(d) Councillor J Garston – Agenda Item No. 9 (Centenary Fields) – Disqualifying non-pecuniary interest: Lives opposite the area to be dedicated (withdrew); and

(e) Councillor McGlone – Agenda Item No. 6 (Fire Safety Report) – Non-pecuniary interest: Non-executive director of South Essex Homes.

331 Questions from Members of the Public

The Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities and Wellbeing and the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure responded to written questions from Mr Webb.

332 Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 9th July 2018

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 9th July 2018 be received, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

333 Monthly Performance Report

The Committee considered the Monthly Performance Report (MPR) covering the period to end July 2018, which had been circulated recently.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

Note:- This is an Executive Function.

Cabinet Member:- As appropriate to the item.

334 Fire Safety Report

The Committee considered Minute 260 of Cabinet held on 18th September 2018, which had been called in for scrutiny together with the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) setting out the progress in delivering the Council's Fire Safety Review, which was established following the Grenfell Tower fire on 14th June 2017.

In response to questions regarding the consultation with tenants and residents, the Cabinet Member for Adults and Housing undertook to circulate the details of the consultation that had been undertaken to Members of the Committee.

Resolved:-

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

"1. That the work undertaken by the Council and South Essex Homes with respect to Fire Safety, be noted and endorsed.

2. That the Council's initial response to the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety, be noted and endorsed.

3. That a further update be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet (Spring 2019)."

Note: This is an Executive Function

Cabinet Member: Cllrs Courtenay, Cox and Flewitt

335 Access, Parking and Transport Strategy for Southend

The Committee considered Minute 266 of Cabinet held on 18th September 2018, which had been called in for scrutiny together with the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) updating Members on the report recently produced by Steer Davies Gleave entitled the "Borough-wide Parking and Access Strategy" and proposals for a wider "Access, Parking and Transport Strategy for Southend".

The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure provided the following points for clarification:

- i) the report by Steer, Davies, Gleave was an external specialist report;
- ii) the recommendations in the Steer Davies Gleave report would be reviewed by the newly formed Working Party as part of the development of the Access, Parking and Transport Strategy for Southend;
- iii) for the avoidance of doubt, the recommendations of the newly formed Working Party would be the subject of consultation, and the final recommendations would then be considered through the Council's decision making and scrutiny processes. Only then would the Access, Parking and Transport Strategy for Southend become Council Policy;
- iv) In the first sentence of Cabinet Resolution 4 below, the Strategy referred to means the Borough-wide Parking and Access Strategy produced by Steer Davies Gleave; and
- v) The first 5 words of Cabinet Resolution 6 below lack precision and should be replaced by the following: - "To support the development of the Council's Access, Parking and Transport Strategy for Southend...."

In response to questions regarding improved accessibility for emergency services and residents, the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure:-

- a) gave his assurance that these would be included as part of the review; and
- b) confirmed that he was content for the proposed terms of reference of the Working Party to refer throughout to the Borough, rather than referring to Southend.

Resolved:-

That the following recommendations of Cabinet, as amended (see underlined text), be noted:

- "1. That the strategy be broadened to include a range of transportation related issues and be known as the Access, Parking and Transport Strategy for Southend (APT).
2. That a new Access, Parking and Transport Working Party be established to be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure to replace the Public Transport and Buses Working Party (including the new terms of reference, as set out at Appendix 2 to the submitted report as modified by paragraph (b) in the preamble to this Minute).

3. That a complementary adjustment to the terms of reference of the Traffic and Parking Working Party (as set out in Appendix 3 to the submitted report) be made, which will be known as the Traffic Regulations Working Party.

4. That the implementation plan identified in the Borough-wide Parking and Access Strategy be progressed as a package of pilot projects. The new Access, Parking and Transport Working Party to receive reports, previews and updates on these pilots.

5. That consultation be undertaken on the Borough-wide Parking and Access Strategy as set out in paragraph 6.6 of the submitted Report.

6. To support the development of the Council's Access, Parking and Transport Strategy for Southend and to maintain the impetus, a dedicated resource is required. This would consist of a project manager and a transport or suitably qualified highways engineer. The funding estimated to be in the region of £125,000 to be met from the Business Transformation Reserve.”

Note: This a Council Function.
Cabinet Member: Cllr Moring

336 Annual Comments, Compliments and Complaints Report

The Committee considered Minute 271 of Cabinet held on 18th September 2018, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to all three Scrutiny Committees for consideration, together with the report of the Chief Executive providing performance information about comments, complaints and compliments received across the Council for 2017-18.

Resolved:-

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

“That the Council's performance in respect of comments, complaints and compliments for 2017-18 be noted and the report at Appendix A to the submitted report be referred to each Scrutiny Committee and the reports at Appendix B and Appendix C be referred to the People Scrutiny Committee.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Cllrs Lamb, Cox and Boyd (as appropriate).

337 Centenary Fields

The Committee considered Minute 275 of Cabinet held on 18th September 2018, which had been called in for scrutiny together with the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) setting out the potential implications on future maintenance and improvement of Southend Cliffs Gardens that might result as a consequence of dedicating the gardens to Fields in Trust as part of the Centenary Fields Programme.

Resolved:-

That the following decisions of Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the application to dedicate the Southend Cliff Gardens to Fields in Trust, be approved.

2. That, if the application is successful, it be noted that the Council may be restricted from future changes to the gardens.

3. That the responsibility for agreeing the final detailed area of the Southend Cliff Gardens to be dedicated as a Centenary Field be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member.

4. That the allocation of £10,000 from the contingency for the investment in any procurement memorabilia, be noted.”

Note: This is an Executive Function

Cabinet Member: Cllr Salter

338 Fees and Charges Policy

The Committee considered Minute 277 of Cabinet held on 18th September 2018, which had been called in for scrutiny together with the report of the Chief Executive on proposals for the introduction of a fees and charges policy for services to allow for the setting of fees and charges.

Resolved:-

That the following recommendations of Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the fees and charges policy set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.

2. That the existing delegation in Paragraph 3.2(k) in Part 2, Schedule 3 of the Constitution be deleted and replaced with the following wording:”

“To set fees and charges in their areas of responsibility (save for parking charges) including making in year changes subject to:

- *Compliance with the Council’s Fees & Charges Policy;*
- *Compliance with all legal requirements relating to the setting of statutory and discretionary fees and charges, including undertaking any necessary public consultation and assessing the equality impacts; and*
- *Prior consultation with the Council’s Director of Finance & Resources and the relevant Cabinet Member”*

“and that Article 4.02(2) be amended as follows:”

“To approve and adopt the Council’s Budget.

(The Budget includes the allocation of financial resources to different services and projects, proposed contingency funds, setting fees and charges (save that fees and charges, other than parking charges, can be set by Chief Officers in accordance with paragraph 3.2(k) in Part 3 Schedule 3), the Council Tax Base, setting the Council Tax and decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing requirement, investments, the control of capital expenditure and the setting of virement limits)."

Note: This is a Council Function.
Cabinet Member: Cllr Lamb

339 In-depth Scrutiny Project - Re-imagining the town centre for the future, in the context of the vision for Southend 2050

Further to Minute 112 of its meeting held on 9th July 2018, the Committee considered the project plan in relation to the agreed joint in-depth scrutiny project, with the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee for 2018/19 entitled "Re-imagining the Town Centre in the context of the vision for Southend 2050".

The Committee also received an oral update on the progress that had been made with the study to date.

Resolved:-

That, subject to the involvement of the Youth Council and residents' input into the study, the project plan be agreed.

Note:- This is a Scrutiny Function.

Chairman: _____