

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of People Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday, 29th January, 2019

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor C Nevin (Chair)
Councillors M Borton (Vice-Chair), B Arscott, L Burton, A Chalk, A Dear, D Garne, S Habermel, T Harp, A Holland, D Nelson*, C Mulroney, G Phillips, M Stafford and C Walker
K Jackson, J Broadbent, T Watts and Rev'd Canon J Collis (co-opted members)

*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

In Attendance: Councillors J Lamb, H Boyd, T Cox and L Salter (Cabinet Members)
Councillor A Jones
J K Williams, F Abbott, S Leftley, J Chesterton, K Ramkhelawon, B Martin, J O'Loughlin, S Baker and M Sargood

Start/End Time: 6.30 - 7.40 pm

646 Councillor Julian Ware-Lane

The Committee stood in silent tribute in memory of Councillor Julian Ware-Lane, who very sadly passed away the previous week following illness.

647 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Buckley (substitute Cllr Nelson), Councillor J McMahon (no substitute) and from M Mann and A Burdett (Youth Council observers).

648 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:-

- (a) Councillors Lamb, Cox, Boyd, Salter (Cabinet Members) – interest in the referred items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19th July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;
- (b) Councillor Boyd – 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;
- (c) Councillor Salter – agenda item relating to Scrutiny Committee - updates – non-pecuniary - husband is consultant Surgeon at Southend Hospital; son-in-law is GP in the Borough; daughter is a doctor at Basildon Hospital (was not present for agenda item however);
- (d) Councillor Walker – agenda items relating to St Mary's School – non-pecuniary – Southend Boys & Girls Training Choirs rehearse at St Mary's School;

- (e) 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;
- (f) Councillor Nevin - agenda item relating to Scrutiny Committee updates – mid and south Essex STP - non-pecuniary – Previous association at Southend & MEHT Hospitals; sons work at MEHT; sister works Basildon Hospital; work at NHS Trust outside this area;
- (g) Councillor Nelson - agenda item relating to Scrutiny Committee updates - non-pecuniary – wife is a nurse at Southend Hospital;
- (h) Councillor Harp - agenda item relating to Scrutiny Committee updates - non-pecuniary – Chair of St Lukes PPG and member of PPG Forum;
- (i) Councillor Phillips – agenda items relating to – Draft General Fund Revenue Budget; Corporate Risk Register – non-pecuniary – son works in Brexit team in Westminster civic service;
- (j) Councillor Borton – agenda items relating to - Draft General Fund Revenue Budget; Revenue & Capital Monitoring – non-pecuniary – work for DWP, dealing with Universal Credit claimants;
- (k) Councillor Burton – agenda item relating to Schools Progress report – non-pecuniary – Director of English and Maths at USP (formally SEEVIC) College and Southend schools are feeder schools;
- (l) Councillor Arscott – agenda item relating to Schools Progress report – non-pecuniary – Governor at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School (Assisi Trust);
- (m) Councillor Jones – agenda item relating to SEND Inspection – non-pecuniary – member of organisation referred to in report.

Councillor Holland advised that she had interests in the following agenda items - Draft Capital Investment Programme; Draft General Fund Revenue Budget; Revenue & Capital Monitoring; MPR – as her son works for the Council and would withdraw if any relevant projects were discussed.

649 Questions from Members of the Public

The responses to the questions submitted by Mr Webb will be forwarded to him as he was not present at the meeting.

650 Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 27th November, 2018

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 27th November, 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

651 Southend 2050 - Strategic Delivery Plans

The Committee considered Minute 604 of Cabinet held on 17th January 2019, which has been referred direct by Cabinet to all three Scrutiny Committees together with a report of the Chief Executive providing the Southend 2050 Strategic Delivery Plans (SDPs).

Resolved:-

That the following decisions of Cabinet be noted:-

“1. That the Strategic Delivery Plans supporting the delivery of the Southend 2050 Ambition and the Southend 2050 Five Year Road Map, be adopted.

2. That the Transforming Together work be noted and the new Council values, be endorsed.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Lamb

652 Draft Capital Investment Programme 2019/20 to 2023/24

The Committee considered Minute 610 of Cabinet on 17th January 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to all three Scrutiny Committees together with a report of the Strategic Director (Finance and Resources) outlining a draft programme of capital investment for the period 2019/20 to 2023/24.

Resolved:-

That the following decisions of Cabinet be noted:-

“1. That the current approved programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22 of £153.1m as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be noted.

2. That the Capital Investment Strategy for 2019/20 to 2023/24, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

3. That the following be approved:

(i) New schemes and additions to the Capital Investment Programme for the period 2019/20 to 2023/24 totalling £14.5m for the General Fund and £20.8m for the Housing Revenue Account (Appendix 6 to the submitted report);

(ii) Schemes subject to external funding approval for the period 2019/20 to 2020/21 totalling £3.0m (Appendix 6 to the report);

(iii) Schemes subject to viable business cases for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 totalling £48.6m (Appendices 6 and 7 to the report).

4. That it be noted that the changes to the approved Programme will result in a proposed Capital Investment Programme of £177.0m for 2019/20 to 2023/24, as set out in Appendix 7 to the report, of which £70.7m is supported by external funding.

5. That it be noted that a final review is being undertaken on the 2018/19 projected outturn and the results will be included in the report to Cabinet on 12 February 2019.”

Note: This is an Executive Function save that approval of the final budget following Cabinet on 12 February 2019 is a Council Function.

Cabinet Member: Cllr Lamb

653 Draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/20

The Committee considered Minute 611 of Cabinet held on 17th January 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to all three Scrutiny Committees, together with a report of the Corporate Management Team presenting the draft revenue budget for 2019/20.

Resolved:-

That the following decisions of Cabinet be noted:-

“1. That the 2019/20 draft revenue budget and any required commencement of consultation, statutory or otherwise, be endorsed.

2. That it be noted that the 2019/20 draft revenue budget has been prepared on the basis of a Council Tax increase of 4.49%, being 2.99% for general use and 1.5% for Adult Social Care.

3. That it be noted that the 2019/20 draft revenue budget has been prepared using the provisional local government finance settlement and that the outcome from the final settlement will need to be factored into the final budget proposals for Budget Cabinet and Budget Council.

4. That the 2019/20 revenue budget, as endorsed, be referred to all three Scrutiny Committees, Business sector and Voluntary sector to inform the Budget Cabinet, which will then recommend the Budget and Council Tax to Budget Council.

5. That the Schools budget position and that the recommendations for the Education Board on 22 January 2019, as set out in Appendices 11 and 11(i) to the submitted report, be noted and referred to the People Scrutiny Committee and then to Budget Cabinet and Budget Council.

6. That the direction of travel for 2020/21 and beyond, noting the need for the organisation to move to a longer term and outcome based budgeting approach as set out in Section 15 of the report, be endorsed.”

Note: This is an Executive Function save that approval of the final budget following Cabinet on 12th February 2019 is a Council Function.

Cabinet Member: Cllr Lamb

654 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inspection

The Committee considered Minute 613 of Cabinet held 17th January 2019, which had been referred to the People Committee together with the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People). This presented the outcomes of the SEND Area Inspection conducted in October 2018.

With regard to the comment in the inspection report about assessments for autistic spectrum disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, the Healthwatch Southend member mentioned that they had contacted the CCG for a formal guidance sheet they could publish to assist parents about the process and this is in progress at the moment.

Resolved:-

That the following decisions of Cabinet be noted:-

“1. That the findings from the inspection report, including both those areas that were indicated as strengths alongside those areas that show significant concern, be noted.

2. That the requirement for the Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group to joint produce a Written Statement of Action (WSOA), be noted.

3. That the proposed actions contained within the submitted report that will ensure the necessary improvements are made, be approved.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Boyd

655 St Mary's Primary School Consultation

The Committee considered Minute 614 of Cabinet held on 17th January 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to the People Scrutiny Committee together with a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People). This presented the results of the consultation to permanently set the pupil admission number (PAN) at St Mary's Prittlewell Church of England (CofE) Primary School at 90 pupils per year group, starting from admission into the reception year in September 2019.

Resolved:-

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:-

“That the pupil admission numbers (PAN) at St Mary's Prittlewell CofE Primary school be set at 90 pupils per year group, starting from admission to the reception year in September 2019 and work up through the school year on year until all year groups are at 90.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Boyd

656 School Term Dates 2020/21

The Committee considered Minute 615 of Cabinet held on 17th January 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to the People Scrutiny Committee together with a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People). This proposed the guideline school term and holiday dates for the academic year 2020/21.

Resolved:-

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:-

“That the school term and holiday dates for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, for community schools and as a guide to academy schools in the borough, be approved.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Boyd

657 Corporate Risk Register

The Committee considered Minute 617 of Cabinet held on 17th January 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to all three Scrutiny Committees together with a report of the Chief Executive presenting the corporate risk register Quarter 3 update.

Resolved:-

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:-

“That the 2018/19 Corporate Risk Register and the Quarter 3 updates outlined in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be noted.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Lamb

658 Revenue and Capital Monitoring to 30 November 2018

The Committee considered Minute 620 of Cabinet held on 17th January 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to all three Scrutiny Committees together with a report of the Strategic Director (Finance and Resources) presenting the Revenue and Capital budget report for the period ending 30th November 2018.

Resolved:-

That the following decisions of Cabinet be noted:-

“That, in respect of the 2018/19 Revenue Budget Monitoring as set out in appendix 1 to this report:

1. That the forecast outturn for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account, as at November 2018, be noted.
2. That the planned management actions of £3,230,000 to achieve that forecast outturn, be noted.
3. That the planned budget transfers (virements) of £949,000, be approved.
4. That the transfer of £413,000 from the Children Social Care reserve to support additional secured placements, be approved.

5. That the transfer of £472,000 from the Dedicated School Grant reserve to support 2018/19 in year funding pressures, be approved.

6. That the potential transfer of £1,505,000 to the Business Transformation Reserve in respect of the forecast General Fund underspend, be noted.

7. That the potential transfer of £24,000 to the HRA Capital Investment Reserve in respect of the forecast HRA underspend, be noted.

That, in respect of the 2018/19 Capital Budget Monitoring as set out in appendix 2 of this report:

8. That the expenditure to date and the forecast outturn as at November 2018 and its financing, be noted.

9. That the requested changes to the 2018/19 capital investment programme as set out in Section 2 of Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.”

Note: This is an Executive Function

Cabinet Member: Cllr Lamb

659 Monthly Performance Report (November 2018)

The Committee considered Minute 621 of Cabinet held on 17th January 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to all three Scrutiny Committees together with the Monthly Performance Report covering the period to end November 2018.

In response to comments regarding CP 3.2 (proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services), the Cabinet Member for Adults and Housing confirmed that the indicator was under review, with potential to re scope / re focus the indicator.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

Note:- This is an Executive Function.

Executive Councillor:- As appropriate to the item.

660 Schools Progress Report

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People) which informed the advised about the current position with regard to recent Ofsted Inspections and the Pupil Premium Strategy. There have been no additional Academy conversions since September 1st 2018.

The Committee asked that their congratulations be forwarded to staff, parents, carers, pupils and officers at The Eastwood Academy and to Porters Grange Primary School and Nursery on their recent inspection results.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

Note:- This is an Executive Function.
Cabinet Member:- Cllr Boyd

661 Scrutiny Committee - updates

The Committee considered a report by the Strategic Director (Legal & Democratic Services) which updated the Committee on a number of Scrutiny matters.

Resolved:-

1. That the report and any actions taken be noted.
2. That the updated protocols between the Scrutiny Committee and NHS Southend CCG, Healthwatch Southend and the Health & Wellbeing Board attached at Appendices 1, 2 and 3 be noted.
3. To note the updated referral letter sent on 15th January 2019 to the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care re the Mid and South Essex STP, as attached at Appendix 4.

Note:- This is a Scrutiny Function.

Chairman: _____