

## **SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Meeting of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee**

**Date: Wednesday, 10th October, 2018**

**Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite**

**Present:** Councillor B Ayling (Chair)  
Councillors C Mulroney (Vice-Chair), B Arscott, D Burzotta, F Evans,  
N Folkard, D Garston, I Gilbert, R Hadley, A Jones\*, H McDonald,  
D McGlone, D Nelson, G Phillips, M Stafford and M Terry

\*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

**In Attendance:** Councillors Courtenay, Cox and Flewitt (Cabinet Members)  
Councillor J Garston  
A Griffin, J K Williams, F Abbott, J Chesterton, S Houlden,  
G Halksworth and J Ruffle

**Start/End Time:** 6.30 - 8.05 pm

#### **359 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Norman MBE (substitute Cllr A Jones) and Councillor C Walker (no substitute).

#### **360 Declarations of Interest**

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

- (a) Councillors Courtenay, Cox and Flewitt (Cabinet Members) – disqualifying non-pecuniary interest in the called in items / referred item; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19th July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;
- (b) Councillor McGlone - agenda item relating to Housing and Homeless Strategy – non-pecuniary – non-Executive Director South Essex Homes;
- (c) Councillor J Garston - agenda item relating to Housing and Homeless Strategy – non-pecuniary – Council's representative on HARP, who were mentioned during discussion.

#### **361 Questions from Members of the Public**

The responses to the questions from Mr Webb, Mr Grubb and from Mrs Grubb will be forwarded to them as they were not present at the meeting.

#### **362 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 12th July, 2018**

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **363 Monthly Performance Report**

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

In response to questions, the Cabinet Member for Public Protection agreed to circulate the following - information on Public Space Protection Orders and the latest crime statistics provided by the District Commander.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

Note:- This is an Executive Function.

Executive Councillor:- As appropriate to the item.

### **364 Housing and Homeless Strategy**

The Committee considered Minute 264 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 18th September, 2018, which had been called in to Scrutiny, together with a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People) on progress to date in the development of the Housing Strategy.

In response to questions, the Cabinet Member for Adults and Housing agreed to provide the following information:-

- details on the work with the Centre for Homelessness Impact;
- the number of homeless who have been provided with the support they are entitled to under the national Rough Sleeper Initiative funded by Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Resolved:-

That the following decisions of Cabinet be noted:-

“1. That the progress to date in the development of the strategy, including its identified aims and emerging actions, be endorsed.

2. That the proposals to jointly undertake consultation with the Local Plan programme, be endorsed.

3. That, following the conclusion of the consultation, the draft final strategy document and accompanying action plan be submitted to Cabinet in November 2018.”

Note: This is an Executive Function

Cabinet Member: Cllr Cox

### **365 Senior Management Arrangements**

The Committee considered Minute 269 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 18th September, 2018, which had been called in to Scrutiny, together with a report of the Chief Executive setting out proposed changes to the senior management arrangements of the Council.

Resolved:-

That the following recommendations of Cabinet be noted:-

1. That the revised structure at Senior Management level, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, including the deletion of the Department of the Chief Executive, be approved.
2. That it be noted that the appropriate changes to the Senior Management Appraisal System will also be made to reflect this new structure.
3. That it be noted that the Senior Managers Pay Panel will consider senior management salaries in the context of these changes and current market conditions and will make recommendations to Cabinet in this respect at the November meeting.”

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

### **366 Annual Comments, Compliments and Complaints Report**

The Committee considered Minute 271 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 18th September, 2018, which had been referred direct to Scrutiny, together with a 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).

### **367 Fees and Charges Policy**

The Committee considered Minute 277 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 18th September, 2018, which had been called in to Scrutiny, together with a 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

### **368 Standing Order 46 Report**

The Committee considered Minute 284 of Cabinet held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 which had been called in to Scrutiny, concerning this action taken under Standing Order 46 – Disposal of 7 Ceylon Road, Westcliff-on-Sea (item 2.1 refers).

Resolved:-

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:-

“That the submitted report be noted.”

Note:- This is an Executive Function.

Executive Councillor: Cllr Courtenay

### **369 Update on in depth scrutiny project - additional enforcement resources for Southend**

The Committee considered an update on the in depth scrutiny project undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee in 2017/18 on ‘additional enforcement resources for Southend’.

Resolved:-

That the update be noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny Function.

**370 In depth scrutiny project - Re-imaging the town centre for the future, in the context of the vision for Southend 2050**

Further to Minute 146 of its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018, the Committee considered the project plan in relation to the agreed joint in-depth scrutiny project, with the Place Scrutiny Committee for 2018/19 entitled "Re-imaging 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:** \_\_\_\_\_