

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of People Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday, 9th July, 2019

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor L Salter (Chair)
Councillors N Folkard (Vice-Chair), H Boyd, A Chalk, D Cowan*,
A Dear, M Dent, F Evans, D Garne, B Hooper, M Kelly, K Mitchell,
C Nevin, I Shead, M Stafford, A Thompson and C Willis
Mr T Watts – co-opted member
*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

In Attendance: Councillors I Gilbert, T Harp, A Jones and C Mulroney (Cabinet Members)
Councillors K Evans, K Buck and S George
S Leftley, D Simon, F Abbott, S Baker, A Keating, B Martin,
J O'Loughlin and K Ramkhelawon

Start/End Time: 6.30 p.m. - 8.55 p.m.

156 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Borton (substitute Cllr D Cowan) and K Jackson, J Collis and J Broadbent (co-opted members).

157 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:-

- (a) Councillors Gilbert, Jones, Harp and Mulroney (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 Salter – agenda item relating to Scrutiny Committee - updates – non-pecuniary - husband is consultant Surgeon at Southend Hospital; daughter is a consultant at Basildon Hospital; son-in-law is GP in the Borough;
- (c) Councillor Nevin - agenda items relating to – Annual Public Health Report; Scrutiny Committee updates - non-pecuniary – NHS employee at external Trust; previous association at Southend & MEHT Hospitals; sons work at MEHT; sister works at Basildon Hospital; niece works for Public Health England;
- (d) Councillor Folkard – agenda item relating to Scrutiny Committee - updates – non-pecuniary – Ambassador for Fund Raising Team at Southend Hospital; relative works at Broomfield Hospital; on the reading panel at Southend Hospital;
- (e) Councillor Kelly - agenda item relating to Scrutiny Committee - updates – non-pecuniary – employer is EPUT, mentioned in report;
- (f) Councillor Mitchell - agenda item relating to Southend Safeguarding Partnership – non-pecuniary – employer is Essex County Council, in Children & Families Directorate; adult child in supported living in receipt of continuing health care / social care funding;

- (g) Councillor Hooper - agenda item relating to Schools Progress Report – non-pecuniary – son attends secondary school in Borough; Director of Blade Education (a not-for-profit company);
- (h) Councillor Mulroney - agenda item relating to Scrutiny Committee - updates – non-pecuniary – relative works at Broomfield Hospital.

158 Questions from Members of the Public

The responses to the questions submitted by Mr Webb to the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care and the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning will be forwarded to him as he was not present at the meeting.

159 Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th April, 2019

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th April, 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

160 Revised Southend 2050 - Five Year Road Map

The Committee considered Minute 71 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to all three Scrutiny Committees together with a report of the Chief Executive setting out the content of the revised Southend 2050 Five Year Road Map timeline, following the formation of the Joint Administration at Council on 3 June 2019.

In response to a question regarding the aim to become a living wage employer, the Leader said that he would be happy to provide more information / detail on this.

Resolved:

That the following recommendation of Cabinet be noted:

“That the revised Southend 2050 Road Map time-line as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be agreed, reflecting the policy objectives of the new Joint Administration.”

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

161 In the context of the vision for Southend 2050, what is the vision of young people which improves their lives, and what are the pathways to achieve this

The Committee considered Minute 72 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to Scrutiny together with a report of the Strategic Director (Legal & Democratic Services). This presented the recommendations of the 2018/19 scrutiny project *‘In the context of the vision for Southend 2050, what is the vision of young people which improves their lives and what are the pathways to achieve this ambition’*.

Resolved:

That the following decisions of Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the report and conclusions from the in depth scrutiny project set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be endorsed.

2. That it be noted that approval of any recommendations with budget implications will require consideration as part of future years’ budget processes prior to implementation.”

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

162 Southend Safeguarding Partnership

The Committee considered Minute 77 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to Scrutiny together with a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People). This gave an overview of Southend Safeguarding Partners response to the changes in governance required by the “Working Together to Safeguard Children - A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children – July 2018”.

Resolved:

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

“That the report be noted and approved.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Members: Cllr Harp and Cllr Jones

163 Annual Public Health Report

The Committee considered Minute 79 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to Scrutiny together with a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People), which presented the 2018-19 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health.

In response to questions regarding the mental health statistics, the Interim Director of Public Health said that he would provide a written response about the pathways from ‘Therapy for You’ services to intensive therapeutic support.

Resolved:

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

“That the content and recommendations of the 2018-19 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health, be noted.”

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

164 Year End Performance Report 2018/19

The Committee considered Minute 86 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to all three Scrutiny Committees together with a report of the Strategic Director (Transformation) that outlined the end of year position of the Council's corporate performance for 2018/19.

Resolved:

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

"That the 2018/19 end of year position and accompanying analysis, be noted."

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Councillor Gilbert

165 Southend 2050 Corporate Performance Framework for 2019/20 Onwards

The Committee considered Minute 87 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to all three Scrutiny Committees together with a report of the Strategic Director (Transformation) which outlined the new Southend 2050 Corporate Performance Framework for 2019/20 onwards.

In response to questions about the content of the measures to be included in the quarterly Corporate Performance report, the Leader said that he would be happy to consult the Scrutiny Committee Chairs on the proposed content. He also confirmed that Cabinet will continue to refer the report to Scrutiny to consider.

Resolved:

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

"That the proposed Corporate Performance Framework for 2019/20 onwards, as set out in appendix 1 to the submitted report, be adopted."

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

166 Corporate Risk Register

The Committee considered Minute 88 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to all three Scrutiny Committees together with a report of the Strategic Director (Finance and Resources) setting out the 2018/19 Corporate Risk Register year end update together with the proposed approach to refreshing the Corporate Risk Framework.

Resolved:

That the following decisions of Cabinet be noted:

"1. That the 2018/19 Corporate Risk Register and the year end updates, set out in appendix 2 to the submitted report, be noted.

2. That the proposed approach to refreshing the Corporate Risk Management Framework, be endorsed.”

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

167 Capital Outturn Report 2018/19

The Committee considered Minute 90 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to all three Scrutiny Committees together with a report of the Strategic Director (Finance and Resources). This concerned the capital investment programme outturn for 2018/19, which sought approval of the relevant budget carry forwards and accelerated delivery requests and in year amendments for the current approved programme.

Resolved:

That the following recommendations of Cabinet be noted:

- “1. That the expenditure on the capital programme for 2018/19 totalling £50.899m against a revised budget of £52.648m, a delivery of 96.7%, be noted.
2. That the relevant budget carry forwards and accelerated delivery requests totalling a net £3.059m moving into 2019/20, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the submitted report, be approved.
3. That the virements, reprofiles and amendments and new external funding for schemes, as detailed in Appendices 3, 4 and 5 to the report, be noted.
4. That in respect of the A127 Kent Elms Junction Improvements project:
 - (i) That it be noted that the delays to the project have led to an overspend against the scheme budget of £2.446m with £1.075m of this incurred in 2018/19.
 - (ii) That a further budget of £1.371m be added to the capital investment programme to deliver the scheme over the following years, 2019/20 £1.331m and 2020/21 £0.040m, to be financed by borrowing.
5. That in respect of the Priory, Delaware and Viking new build project:
 - (i) That the updated financial business case position, be noted.
 - (ii) That this project be moved from the ‘Schemes subject to viable business cases’ section into the main capital investment programme.
 - (iii) That the procurement exercise undertaken which has resulted in an additional budget requirement, be noted.
 - (iv) That a further budget of £1.519m is added to the capital investment programme in 2020/21 to be financed by borrowing, to enable the scheme to be delivered.
6. That a budget of £4.3m to be added to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital investment programme in 2019/20 to facilitate the HRA Affordable Housing Acquisitions Programme, funded 30% from retained Right to Buy capital receipts and 70% from the HRA Capital Investment Reserve, be approved.

7. That a budget of £0.250m be added to the capital investment programme, £0.125m in 2019/20 and £0.125m in 2020/21, to undertake a two year programme of street lighting infill, to be financed by borrowing.

8. That the relevant changes to the budget identified since the approved capital investment programme was set at Council on 21 February 2019, as detailed in Appendix 6 to the report, be approved.

9. That it be noted that the above changes will result in an amended Capital Investment Programme of £233.166m for the period 2019/20 to 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 7 to the report.

10. That the schemes subject to viable business cases for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 totalling £37m be noted.

11. That the content of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Annual Financial Report 2018/19 be noted and that the CIL Main Fund receipts from 2018/19 and previous financial years be carried forward until spending plans are reviewed in early 2020/21.

12. That authority be delegated to the Director for Planning and Transport (in consultation with Ward Members and the Executive Councillor for Environment and Planning) to agree how the Ward Neighbourhood Allocations received up until 31st March 2019 (excluding allocation to Leigh Town Council) are to be spent.”

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

168 Council Procedure Rule 46

The Committee considered Minute 93 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct by Cabinet to Scrutiny, concerning action taken under Standing Order 46.

Resolved:

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

“That the submitted report be noted”.

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

169 Schools Progress Report

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

It was noted that several of the initiatives outlined in the report are a direct implementation of the 2019-20 2050 Outcome Delivery Plan for Opportunity and Prosperity - readiness for school and work.

The Director of Learning provided a verbal update on the outcome of the recent OFSTED Inspections and the published MPR % pupils attending Good or Outstanding schools.

In response to questions about the work being undertaken by ISOS, the Director of Learning said that he will circulate the research methods being used.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Note: This is an Executive Function.

Cabinet Member: Cllr Jones

170 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.

With reference to section 5 of the report, which updated the Committee on the Mid and South Essex STP referral to the Secretary of State, the Chair referred to the stakeholder letter received from Clare Panniker, Chief Executive of Mid and South Essex University Hospitals Group (MSG), attached at Appendix 2, which had caused a significant amount of disquiet. The Chair advised the Committee that a meeting had taken place with Ms Panniker, at which the contents of the letter had been discussed and explored the implications. The Chair also read out a statement position and a copy was circulated at the meeting which explained and clarified the process being followed. Further discussions with the MSG are planned.

Resolved:

That the report and actions taken be noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny Function.

171 Statutory Scrutiny Guidance

The Committee considered a report by the Strategic Director (Legal & Democratic Services) which advised about the publication of the Statutory Scrutiny Guidance on 7th May 2019 ('the 2019 Guidance'). The 2019 Guidance was produced following a commitment that Government made in early 2018 following on from the Communities & Local Government Select Committees' inquiry into overview and scrutiny and supersedes guidance published in 2006.

The 2019 Guidance, a copy of which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report, does not require the Council to change any of its scrutiny arrangements but does provide the opportunity to enhance the scrutiny processes. Section 4.5 of the report set out some areas to be explored further – namely around greater use of local experts, developing an Executive / Scrutiny Protocol and encouraging great use of 'information bulletin's / briefings' to reduce pressure of items on Committee agendas.

Resolved:

That the approach, set out in paragraph 4.5 of the report, be agreed.

Note: This is a Scrutiny Function.

172 In depth Scrutiny Projects and Summary of Work

The Committee considered a report by the Strategic Director (Legal & Democratic Services) concerning the possible in depth scrutiny project to be undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee in 2019/20. The report also attached some information about the work carried out by the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal year.

Resolved:

1. That the in depth project for 2019/20 will be on the appropriate use of reablement for older people (65 and over) when discharged from hospital, to maximize the number of people at home after period of 91 days ('Home First' approach).
2. To note that the following Councillors have been appointed to the Project Team which will manage the in depth project – Councillors A Dear, D Garne, F Evans, M Borton, C Nevin, A Chalk, I Shead and A Thompson.
3. That the information attached at Appendix 3 to the report, the summary of work of the three Scrutiny Committees during 2018/19, be noted.
4. That a briefing note be circulated to the Committee about domestic abuse and the multi agency work taking place to address this issue.

Note: This is a Scrutiny Function.

173 Minutes of the Meeting of Chair's Scrutiny Forum held on, Tuesday, 18th June, 2019

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting on the Chair's Scrutiny Forum held on Tuesday, 18th June, 2019 be received and noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny Function.

Chair: _____