

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 2nd September, 2021

Place: Council Chamber - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor D Garston (Chair)
Councillors S Habermel (Vice-Chair), S Buckley, D Cowan, T Cox,
T Cowdrey, M Davidson, M Dent, M Kelly, D McGlone, J Moyies, D Nelson,
I Shead, A Thompson, S Wakefield and P Wexham

In Attendance: Councillors I Gilbert, P Collins, A Jones, M Terry and R Woodley (Cabinet Members), Councillor K Evans, S Brown, J Chesterton, A Richards, S Tautz and J Williams

Start/End Time: 6.30 pm - 7.55 pm

266 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S George (no substitute).

267 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

- (a) Councillors I Gilbert, P Collins, A Jones, M Terry and R Woodley (Cabinet Members) - Interest in the called-in items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19 July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011.
- (b) Councillors I Gilbert, P Collins, A Jones, M Terry and R Woodley (Cabinet Members) - Interest in the referred items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19 July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011.
- (c) Councillor M Davidson – Minute 272 (Anti-Poverty Strategy) - Volunteer with Southend Foodbank - Non-pecuniary interest.
- (d) Councillor A Jones (Cabinet Member) – Minute 276 (Land at Prince Avenue) – Vehicle manufacture mentioned in the debate on the item, husband is employed in the vehicle manufacture industry - Non-pecuniary interest.

268 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public relating to the responsibilities of the Committee.

269 Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 15 June 2021

Resolved:

That the minutes of the special meeting of the Committee held on 15 June 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

270 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 July 2021

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 July 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

271 Southend 2050: Annual Review and Refresh of the Outcomes & Roadmap Milestones

The Committee considered Minute 216 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 July 2021, which had been referred directly to each of the three Scrutiny Committees and called-in, together with a report of the Chief Executive presenting the annual review and refresh of Southend 2050 that set out how the Council would use the evolved Southend 2050 outcomes to drive recovery.

Resolved:

That the following decisions of the Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the refresh of the Southend 2050 outcomes and high-level roadmap milestones, be endorsed.

2. That further developed work on the review and refresh of the Southend 2050 outcomes and associated roadmap milestones be presented to Cabinet in September, including the associated outcome success measures.

3. That the planned engagement over the summer and additional Special Cabinet meeting on 7th September 2021, following the Scrutiny Committees, be noted.

4. That it be noted that the Southend 2050 roadmap milestones will form part of future reports that update on Southend’s recovery journey in order for responsive developments.

5. That it be noted that the performance and measures of success and progress to achieve 2050 will continue to be reported through the Outcome Success Measures Report, reported twice a year to Cabinet.”

Note: This is an Executive Function, save that approval of the final decision is a Council Function

Cabinet Member: Councillor I Gilbert

272 Anti-Poverty Strategy

The Committee considered Minute 218 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 July 2021, which had been called-in to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, together with a report of the Executive Director (Adults and Communities) setting out a strategic approach to promoting food justice and tackling poverty in the Borough, to enable more effective targeting of interventions, avoid duplication, and support a collective recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resolved:

That the following decisions of the Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the work to put in place a Food Justice Champion and the related work plan, be extended to address the wider determinants of poverty.

2. That the work to address the wider determinants of poverty takes into consideration the Notices of Motion raised at Council on 4th March 2021 regarding Welfare Assistance and Fuel Poverty.

3. That an Anti-Poverty Plan be developed with partners and key stakeholders and progressed by an officer/partner task and finish group, supported by a project manager.
4. That, to ensure the project is embedded, the Executive Director (Adults and Communities) act as the Senior Responsible Officer and a Head of Service be identified to lead on and be accountable for the implementation of desired outcomes of the strategy.
5. That the officers and teams currently working on community resilience, and anti-poverty activity across the Council, be responsible for delivering the identified Anti-Poverty Plan actions.
6. That the Executive Councillor for Housing and Communities, be the Councillor Level Champion of this work.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Councillor A Jones

273 In-depth Scrutiny Project – ‘How the Council and Councillors Communicate with Local People and Stakeholders’

The Committee considered Minute 221 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 July 2021, which had been called-in to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, together with a report of the Executive Director (Legal and Democratic Services) presenting the final report of the In-Depth Scrutiny Project – ‘How the Council and Councillors Communicate with Local People and Stakeholders.’

Resolved:

That the following decision of the Cabinet be noted:

“That the report and recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project, be approved.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Councillor P Collins

274 Corporate Risk Register

The Committee considered Minute 223 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 July 2021, which had been called-in to each of the three Scrutiny Committees, together with a report of the Chief Executive presenting the updated Corporate Risk Register summary.

Resolved:

That the following decision of the Cabinet be noted:

“That the updated Corporate Risk Register summary and the position at June 2021, outlined in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Councillor P Collins

275 PSP Southend LLP Update

The Committee considered Minute 224 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 July 2021, which had been called-in to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, together with a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) recommending that a number of sites were conditionally opted into PSP Southend LLP for delivery.

Resolved:

1. That the matter be referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, as the Committee felt that further review should be undertaken with regard to the Thorpedene Campus site proposed to be conditionally opted into PSP Southend LLP for delivery.
2. That in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 39, the matter be referred to full Council for consideration.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Councillor R Woodley

276 Land at Prince Avenue

The Committee considered Minute 225 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 July 2021, which had been called-in to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, together with a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) setting out the strategic principles on the way forward for the potential future development of the Council's land north of Prince Avenue.

Resolved:

1. That the matter be referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, as the Committee felt that further review should be undertaken of the potential development and future use of the site.
2. That in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 39, the matter be referred to full Council for consideration.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Councillor R Woodley

277 SO46 Report

The Committee considered Minute 230 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 July 2021, which had been called-in to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, together with a report setting out action that had been taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 46.

Resolved:

That the following decision of the Cabinet be noted:

“That the submitted report, be noted.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: As appropriate to the item

278 Joint In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2021/22

The Committee received an update on the progress that had been made in respect of the joint In-Depth Scrutiny Project for 2021/22, on the theme of 'Enabling Councillors to be Effective'.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny function

Chair: _____