

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday, 16th March, 2022

Place: Council Chamber - Civic Suite

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

*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

In Attendance: Councillors I Gilbert, C Mulrone and M Terry (Cabinet Members),
G Gilbert, S Meah-Sims and S Tautz

Start/End Time: 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm

796 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Davidson (Substitute: Councillor B Beggs), Councillor S George (Substitute: Councillor M Berry) and Councillor I Shead (no substitute).

797 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

(a) Councillors I Gilbert, C Mulrone and M Terry (Cabinet Members) - Interest in the called-in item; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19 July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011.

(b) Councillors I Gilbert, C Mulrone and M Terry (Cabinet Members) - Interest in the referred item; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19 July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011.

(c) Councillor D Cowan - Agenda Item 5 (PSPO Consultation) - Family members live within the area of designation of the existing Public Spaces Protection Order - non-pecuniary interest.

(d) Councillor M Dent - Agenda Item 5 (PSPO Consultation) - Lives within the area of designation of the existing Public Spaces Protection Order - non-pecuniary interest.

(e) Councillor J Moyies - Agenda Item 6 (City Council Branding) - Employed in the marketing industry - non-pecuniary interest.

(f) Councillor D Nelson - Agenda Item 6 (City Council Branding) - Employed in the marketing industry - non-pecuniary interest.

(g) Councillor M Terry (Cabinet Member) - Agenda Item 5 (PSPO Consultation) - Lives within the area of designation of the existing PSPO - non-pecuniary interest.

798 Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe & Anoosheh Ashoori

The Committee expressed its congratulations to Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori for their safe return to the United Kingdom, following release from detention in Iran.

799 Questions from Members of the Public

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

800 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 February 2022

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 February 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

801 PSPO Consultation

The Committee considered Minute 729 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 22 February 2022, which had been called-in for scrutiny, together with a report of the Assistant Director (Legal Services) on whether the Council should commence statutory consultation on extending and varying the Public Spaces Protection Order (Southend Town Centre, Seafront and Adjoining Areas) No 1 of 2019.

In response to questions from members of the Committee, the Cabinet Member for Public Protection confirmed that he would be prepared to extend the scope of the proposed consultation process to incorporate the area between Toledo Road and Queensway that was immediately adjacent to the existing area of designation of the PSPO, and to add reference within the consultation that the Council was minded to prohibit the use of barbeques across the area of the PSPO, including at the existing dedicated barbecue area at East Beach, Shoeburyness. In supporting the extension of the scope of the proposed PSPO consultation process, the Cabinet Member for Public Protection indicated that there was an existing evidence base of anti-social behaviour issues in the additional areas identified by the Committee.

Resolved:

That the following decisions of the Cabinet be noted:

“1. That a consultation be undertaken into the possibility of the Council extending and varying (and/or making a new) Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) under Sections 59, 60 & 61 of the Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014 in respect of the area and activities detailed in the submitted report.

2. That the proposed consultation process commences as soon as practically possible.

3. That delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director for Legal Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Protection to:

a) Finalise the draft PSPO to form part of the consultation;

b) Settle the final form of the consultation; and

c) explore and report back to Cabinet following the consultation any additional resource requirements to effectively enforce the PSPO.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Councillor M Terry

802 City Council Branding

The Committee considered Minute 780 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14 March 2022, which had been referred directly to the Committee for scrutiny, together with a report of the Executive Director (Transformation) setting out the opportunities connected to the update of the corporate branding for the Council and presenting branding options to engage upon more widely.

Resolved:

That the matter be referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration with the recommendation that a full brief should be developed for the update of the corporate branding for the Council.

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

803 Association of South Essex Local Authorities - Joint Committee

The Committee received the draft minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA), held on 10 February 2022.

Resolved:

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities held on 10 February 2022, be noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny function

804 Joint In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2021/22

The Committee received an update on progress with regard to the joint in-depth scrutiny project for 2021/22.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny function

Chair: _____