

# Public Document Pack

## Southend-on-Sea City Council

Civic Centre  
Southend-on-Sea

30 August 2023



I hereby summon you to attend the meeting of the Southend-on-Sea City Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Southend-on-Sea on, **Thursday, 7th September, 2023 at 6.30pm** for the transaction of the following business.

R Tinlin  
Chief Executive

### **A G E N D A**

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- 5 Questions from Members of the Council**
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- 7 Minutes of the meeting of Council held Thursday, 13 July 2023 (Pages 5 - 8)**
- 8 Minutes of the meeting of Special Council held Thursday, 20 July 2023 (Pages 9 - 10)**
- 9 Minutes of the meeting of Special Council held Monday, 24 July 2023 (Pages 11 - 12)**
- 10 Leader of the Council - Update**
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Prayer of Petition

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Notice of Motion
- 18 Delivery of Southend Outcomes and Priorities - Annual Report and Provisional Outturn 2022/23 (Pages 29 - 30)**
- 19 Official Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2023-24 (Pages 31 - 32)**
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**SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL**

**Meeting of The Council**

**Date: Thursday, 29th June, 2023**  
**Place: Council Chamber - Civic Suite**

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**Present:** Councillor S Habermel (Chair)  
Councillors S Aylen, B Beggs, M Berry, M Borton, H Boyd, K Buck, S Buckley, L Burton, O Cartey, P Collins, J Courtenay, D Cowan, T Cowdrey, T Cox, M Davidson, A Dear, M Dent, F Evans, N Folkard, D Garston, S George, I Gilbert, J Harland, L Hyde, D Jarvis, A Jones, D Jones, J Lamb, G Leroy, A Line, R Longstaff, R McMullan, J Moyies, C Mulroney, D Nelson, C Nevin, M O'Connor, D Richardson, K Robinson, M Sadza, M Stafford, M Terry, S Wakefield, C Walker, N Ward, J Warren and R Woodley

**Start/End Time:** 6.30 pm - 6.44 pm

**22 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Campbell, Murphy and Wexham.

**23 Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were made:

(a) Councillor George – Minute 24 (Notice of Motion – Better Queensway) – Brother-in-law sits on the Board of Sanctuary.

(b) Councillor Sadza – Minute 24 (Notice of Motion – Better Queensway) – Is a member of Acorn Community Union.

**24 Notice of Motion - Better Queensway**

The Worshipful the Mayor had agreed to call this Council meeting following a requisition by 5 Councillors, pursuant to Section 3 of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, to consider a Notice of Motion concerning Better Queensway.

During consideration of the matter an amended Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Nelson and Councillor Gilbert and seconded by all Group Leaders. Councillors present at the meeting unanimously supported the amended Motion.

Resolved:

That the following amended Notice of Motion be referred to the Cabinet for consideration:

*'The Better Queensway Project is an investment in the future of our city that aims to create good quality housing and regeneration of the Queensway area and demonstrates this Council's ambition for the future of our city.*

*Whilst the Council has planning permissions in place for the project, we acknowledge that there have been well documented issues with regards to Swan Housing who are now subsidiaries of the Sanctuary Group as well as the wider problems in the economy which have increased building costs in the construction sector.*

*Therefore, Southend-on-Sea City Council resolves to:*

- 1. Recognise that the Better Queensway Project aims to deliver better quality housing for those living in and around Queensway, and those families on the Council Housing Waiting list.*
- 2. Work to improve the living standards of those currently living on the Queensway estate to ensure they have a decent standard of living and make the best temporary use of vacant units whilst the scheme is developing.*
- 3. Regenerates the Queensway area and demonstrates the ambition for the future of our city.*
- 4. Acknowledge that there is currently a hybrid planning permission which has outline planning permission for a housing scheme and full planning permission for a road network scheme has been agreed as acceptable to the Council.*
- 5. Do everything possible to deliver a financially viable Better Queensway scheme that increases genuinely affordable housing and honours promises made to residents.'*

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

### Meeting of The Council

**Date: Thursday, 13th July, 2023**  
**Place: Council Chamber - Civic Suite**

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**Present:** Councillor S Habermel (Chair)  
Councillors S Aylen, B Beggs, M Borton, H Boyd, K Buck, S Buckley, L Burton, C Campbell, O Cartey, P Collins, J Courtenay, D Cowan, T Cowdrey, T Cox, M Davidson, A Dear, M Dent, F Evans, N Folkard, D Garston, S George, I Gilbert, J Harland, L Hyde, D Jarvis, A Jones, D Jones, J Lamb, G Leroy, A Line, R Longstaff, R McMullan, D Nelson, C Nevin, M O'Connor, D Richardson, K Robinson, M Sadza, S Wakefield, C Walker, N Ward, J Warren, P Wexham and R Woodley

**Start/End Time:** 6.30 pm - 10.05 pm

#### **25 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Berry, Moyies, Mulroney, Murphy, Stafford and Terry.

#### **26 Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were made:

(a) Cllr Buck – Minute 37 (Notice of Motion: Sheltered Housing) – Council appointed member to the South Essex Homes Board.

(b) Cllr Line – Minute 36 (Notice of Motion: Proportional Representation) – He is a member and involved in the Labour for a New Democracy, Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform, Make Votes matter and the Electoral Reform Society.

#### **27 Communications**

##### (a) Mayor's Introduction

Prior to the consideration of the matters set out in the agenda, the Mayor outlined his expectations of the standard of conduct and behaviour to be shown at the meeting.

##### (b) Minute Silence

The Council remained silent for one minute as a mark of respect to Mr Grant Littler, former Councillor, who sadly passed away recently.

##### (c) Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor

The Mayor presented the badge of office to the new Youth Mayor, Jocelyn Ayo and the Deputy Youth Mayor, Josh Hosking.

The Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor provided a short presentation on the Youth Council work programme for the next six months.

**28 Questions from Members of the Public**

The relevant Cabinet Members responded to written questions received from the public.

**29 Questions from Members of the Council**

The relevant Cabinet Members responded to written and supplementary questions received from Councillors.

**30 Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held Thursday, 11 May 2023**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 11 May 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

**31 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held Thursday, 18 May 2023**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Thursday, 18 May 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

**32 Minutes of the Appointments Council held Thursday, 18 May 2023**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 18 May 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

**33 Leader of the Council - Update**

The Leader of the Council addressed the Council and provided a brief overview of the work of the Cabinet. The Group Leaders and Councillors Aylen and Longstaff responded.

**34 Petition - Zebra Crossing for Temple Sutton Primary School**

Councillor Beggs presented a petition signed by 193 residents calling on the Council to install a zebra crossing on Royston Avenue by the gates of Temple Sutton Primary School.

Resolved:

That in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.7 the petition be referred to the Cabinet Committee for consideration.

**35 Notice of Motion - Transition Planning for Children and Young People**

Resolved:

That the Notice of Motion concerning transition planning for children and young people be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

**36 Notice of Motion - Proportional Representation**

Resolved:

That the Notice of Motion concerning proportional representation be not adopted.

**37 Notice of Motion - Sheltered Housing**

Resolved:

That the Notice of Motion concerning sheltered housing, be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

**38 Notice of Motion - Idling around schools**

Resolved:

That the Notice of Motion concerning idling of vehicles around schools, be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

**39 Review of the Constitution and associated matters**

The Council considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) seeking approval for some amendments to the Constitution.

Resolved:

1. That the update to the Constitution which deletes the words "*although no individual Cabinet Member shall have executive powers*" from Part 3, Paragraph 3.2, be approved.

2. That the update to the Constitution, under Part 3, Schedule 2, paragraph 6.5.3, which updates senior officer job titles and the added words '*Power to approve Ex Gratia Payments, including retirement and business efficiency, with respect to the Head of Paid Service, Executive Directors and Directors*', be approved.

3. That an amendment to the Pay Policy Statement at Section 7 to include a new paragraph d. '*Ex Gratia Payments. Ex Gratia Payments must be agreed in advance by the Council's Appointments and Disciplinary Committee*', be approved.

**40 Air Quality Action Plan 2023-2027 - Referred to Council**

The Leader of the Council reported that this matter would be dealt with at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**41 Appointments to Committees, etc**

There were no changes to Committees, etc to report at this meeting.

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_



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## SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

### Meeting of The Council

**Date: Thursday, 20th July, 2023**  
**Place: Council Chamber - Civic Suite**

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**Present:** Councillor S Habermel (Chair)  
Councillors S Aylen, B Beggs, M Berry, M Borton, S Buckley,  
L Burton, C Campbell, O Cartey, P Collins, J Courtenay, D Cowan,  
T Cowdrey, T Cox, M Davidson, A Dear, M Dent, F Evans, N Folkard,  
D Garston, S George, I Gilbert, J Harland, L Hyde, A Jones, J Lamb,  
A Line, R McMullan, J Moyies, D Nelson, C Nevin, M O'Connor,  
D Richardson, K Robinson, M Sadza, M Stafford, M Terry,  
S Wakefield, C Walker, J Warren, P Wexham and R Woodley

**Start/End Time:** 6.30 - 7.07 pm

#### **42 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boyd, Murphy, Leroy, Jarvis, Nelson, Buck, D Jones, Mulroney and Ward.

#### **43 Declarations of Interest**

All Councillors – Minute 44 (Honorary Alderman Award) - in so far as they may know or have served on the Council with the recipient for Honorary Alderman.

#### **44 Honorary Alderman Award**

Councillor Cox proposed (seconded by Councillor Cowan) that Mr Andrew Moring be admitted as Honorary Alderman.

It was unanimously resolved:

That, pursuant to Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred upon Mr Andrew Moring in recognition of his eminent services to the Council.

#### **45 Freedom of the City Award**

Councillor Cox proposed (seconded by Councillor Cowan) that Mr David Stanley MEB be admitted as Honorary Freeman of the City of Southend-on-Sea.

It was unanimously resolved:

That Mr David Stanley MEB, be admitted as the Honorary Freeman of the City of Southend-on-Sea, pursuant to S.249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, being a person of distinction who has rendered eminent services to Southend-on-Sea.

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_



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## SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

### Meeting of The Council

**Date: Monday, 24th July, 2023**  
**Place: Council Chamber - Civic Suite**

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**Present:** Councillor S Habermel (Chair)  
Councillors B Beggs, M Borton, H Boyd, S Buckley, L Burton,  
P Collins, J Courtenay, D Cowan, T Cowdrey, T Cox, M Davidson,  
M Dent, F Evans, N Folkard, D Garston, I Gilbert, J Harland, L Hyde,  
D Jarvis, D Jones, J Lamb, A Line, R McMullan, J Moyies,  
C Mulroney, M O'Connor, M Terry, S Wakefield, C Walker, J Warren,  
P Wexham, R Woodley, S Aylen, C Campbell, O Cartey, G Leroy,  
C Nevin, D Richardson and K Murphy

**Start/End Time:** 5.00 - 5.19 pm

#### **46 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors George, Robinson, Stafford, Ward, Dear, A Jones, Berry, Nelson, Buck, Longstaff and Sadza.

#### **47 Declarations of Interest**

All Councillors – Minute 48 (Minutes of Appointments and Disciplinary Committee held 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023) – as far as they may know or have worked with Mr Rob Tinlin MBE.

#### **48 Minutes of the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee held on Tuesday, 18 July 2023**

The Council considered the minutes of the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee held Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 which sought the Council's approval to the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive.

Resolved:

That the appointment of Mr Rob Tinlin MBE to the post of Interim Chief Executive, in accordance with the recommendation of the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee held 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023, be approved.

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Petition for Residential Parking Permits at Osborne Road, Windsor  
Road, Westcliff-on-Sea**

**Prayer of the Petition**

We, the undersigned residents are in favour of and propose for approval, by Southend City Council, that both the above roads have introduced a Residents only Parking Permit system, with a booklet for visitors and workmen permits included.

Presented by: Cllr Mandy O'Connor

Petition signed by: 101 signatures.

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# Motion to stand in opposition to potential closure of Rail Station Ticket Offices in Southend-on-Sea Borough

This Council believes that ticket offices provide a vital service to residents in Southend-On-Sea. Having a clearly sign-posted place in the station for people with ticket enquiries provides certainty and confidence for customers who may struggle to otherwise locate station staff.

Not all residents are able to use station ticket machines, or have the means to book a ticket in advance. Complicated journeys involving connections are likely to require human assistance to ensure customers purchase the most appropriate and cheapest tickets, and do not incur penalties from mis-booked tickets. The well observed unreliability of ticket machines poses the issue of customers not being able to purchase tickets, and the potential to cause delays to travel at peak hours. Furthermore, the periodical outages of the current smart card system has the potential to cause even further disruption at stations with no ticket office.

Council is concerned the closure of ticket offices will disproportionately affect elderly and disabled residents in Southend-On-Sea – as well as those with poor literacy and IT skills. Council also notes the possible implications for current station staff and the concerns that have been raised over possible staff redundancies.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, and the Government Railways Minister, expressing Council's opposition to the possible closure of staffed rail ticket offices at Leigh-on-Sea, Chalkwell, Westcliff-on-Sea, Southend East, Thorpe Bay, Shoeburyness, Southend Victoria and Prittlewell.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to C2C and Greater Anglia expressing the Council's opposition to any plans to close the staffed ticket offices.
- Refer this issue to Place Scrutiny with the recommendation that representatives from C2C and Greater Anglia are invited to attend a Scrutiny Meeting at the earliest possible point to discuss future plans for staffing.

Proposer: Cllr Gabriel Leroy

Seconder: Cllr Daniel Cowan, Cllr Matt Dent

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## Motion for enhancing council practices on animal welfare

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Animal welfare is considered a major matter of importance to many Southend residents.

This Council recognises its existing responsibilities for the licensing and enforcement of licence conditions in respect of a range of activities involving animals, including Dog Breeding, Pet Shops, Animal Boarding, Riding Establishments and Zoos. The Council also has a role in enforcement of a range of other statutory powers in relation to dogs (including dangerous dogs), stray dogs, and dog fouling.

This Council seeks to set the gold-standard for animal welfare and seeks to reinforce support for enforcement, engage residents and enhance its practices to achieve this aim.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1) Support its statutory responsibilities in relation to enforcement, by:
  - a) Ensuring that all relevant officers have full and up-to-date training and support to undertake investigations of animal welfare breaches;
  - b) Liaising closely with other enforcing agencies and charities to ensure a co-ordinated approach to animal welfare;
  - c) Preparing an annual report to this Council summarising the number of reports, investigations, and outcomes of all animal welfare enforcement action;
  - d) Maintaining appropriate records to ensure that dog breeding licenses are obtained where appropriate when Southend breeders advertise the sale of puppies online/ via social media,;
  - e) Reviewing policy, procedures, and inspection schedules in relation to businesses that use animals as part of their business to ensure they are suitably robust and that the appropriate level of licensing has been established. Focus should be given to emerging trends that use animals, such as puppy yoga.
- 2) Empower Southend residents to engage and support efforts to enhance animal welfare in this city, by:
  - a) Publishing an up-to-date list of locally licensed animal breeders on the Southend City Council website so local residents who wish to buy a puppy are signposted to reputable breeders;
  - b) Undertaking a dedicated publicity campaign to raise awareness of illegal puppy breeding and dog fighting, and how to report suspicious activity;
  - c) Creating a reporting form on My Southend for residents to raise concerns on animal welfare;
  - d) Trialling a 'Rocket O'Clock' scheme this year, which will encourage residents to undertake private fireworks displays at a set hour during the fireworks display season.
- 3) Review and enhance Council policy, by:
  - a) Banning outright the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Southend City Authority land;
  - b) Ensuring council emergency plans in this city, including those drawn up for mass evacuations, include provisions for companion and other animals.

Proposer: Cllr Lydia Hyde

Seconder: Cllr Gabriel Leroy, Cllr Mandy O'Connor, Cllr Martin Berry

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There has been a massive increase in use of the course by non-paying golfers and the rest of the park by the public.

When challenged over why simple maintenance jobs are not carried out we are told lack of funding.

Within Belfairs Park lays one of the best golf courses around. A Mr Harry Colt of Messers Mc Kenzie Colt and Allison designed golf course with today some of the best maintained greens in the country and as a lot of people believe, one of the best municipal golf courses in Britain. Once described by Peter Alliss the international golf commentator as a "hidden jewel" it is a picturesque, easy walking course within a woodlands setting but the wide fairways on the front nine are deceptive as the back nine is tree-lined and narrow with many varied challenges. In his 4th book Peter Alliss describes the 14th as one of the best.

When the course was officially opened in 1926 it was rated as the top course to play in Britain and King George Vth was to play there. The course hosted open championships, records show international competitions and was played by many champions of golf.

In the 70s huge queues formed every day to play the course (that I can remember). In 1997 it was proposed Belfairs Park be closed to the public at weekends so golf may take place. The course and the park were patrolled by park keepers in uniform. The gardens in the park were maintained to a high standard. Belfairs Park generated more revenue than the pier and the crematorium.

Cost cutting caused park keepers or as they are called today rangers to be slowly withdrawn. Summer seasonal rangers are no longer provided. People playing golf discovered that they could, as there was no one to check they had paid, simply walk on to the course and play.

The majority of those playing golf at Belfairs have not paid. They start from as soon as it is light through to dusk and even into the darkness, summer 4.30am to 10pm. The course officially opens in the summer at 7 am and closes at 7pm. In the morning for two and half hours golfers are playing without paying as there is no one to challenge them. At £22 a round weekday and £27 weekend and bank holidays just in the morning easily £500 goes uncollected. That is on 20 golfers and simple observation would confirm that is an under estimate. During the day golfers walk on to the 2nd, 4th, 9th, 6th and 13th jumping in gaps of those who have paid and frustrating their games. Although not playing full rounds there is still a loss of income to the council of £300 to £400 a day. Then the evenings after 7pm; in fact as soon as the starters hut closes there is a queue for the 1st tee which I witness daily. A twilight

ticket is £12 weekday and £13.50 weekend and bank holidays. When golfers are challenged the answer is "Every one knows it's free after 7pm". It is estimated and many have witnessed and can confirm that there will be 30 to 40 golfers on the course after 7pm in the summer months. On Sunday 13th of August there were 18 golfers teeing off before 7 am, therefore not paying, playing for free. A loss to Southend city council of £486 in just a few hours.

Observations of numbers in 2016 , 2017, 2018 and questions to the then cabinet holder it was estimated that the course lost in uncollected revenue £30,000 a MONTH. Add to that tennis fees, bowls fees and the amount increases.

With no effective park warden cover to police the golf course and park, regulars are leaving to go to other courses frustrated that their games are being ruined that they have paid for, with people jumping on in front of them. Season ticket sales have dropped massively. Why should regular golfers pay for a season ticket at £850 a year when others do not pay at all. This could be changed.

A person policing the park as a full time park warden for Belfairs Park would not only collect lost revenue. They would reduce council costs from vandalism, assist lost people, ensure emergency gates were not blocked, stop fires and barbeques, reduce speeding cyclists, ensure dogs were under control, help prevent unplanned activities such as mass dog walks. With the withdrawal of Essex Wildlife parks officers a warden would also cover the duties that Essex Wildlife have failed to carry out. Reporting dangerous trees, stopping teams collecting fungi, chestnuts, hazel nuts, apples, blue bells for example. Not forgetting guiding emergency services to put out fires, ambulances to aid persons in trouble. Four people have died from heart attacks on the 14th green as there was no one to guide the ambulance crews to get there in time.

To sum up, the pier as an example has recruited extra staff to ensure fees are collected and had investment and is now receiving record numbers and therefore revenue to reinvest in the pier. The same is clearly possible for Belfairs Park in the future to start the regeneration, all that is currently being asked for is a full time park warden that would be self-financing.

The shocking fact that a number of councillors play golf but when asked if they play at Belfairs the response is no, preferring to play the private course of Garons. Even our own Mayor refusing to support Southend city's only golf course by holding his civic golf match at the private Garons course.

For the benefit of the rate payers of Southend city to safely enjoy cleared footpaths, playing sports, cricket, football, walking dogs, riding horses, especially Riding for the Disabled, children to play safe and secure in the excellent play areas. Those who wish to just enjoy peace and quiet, walk with friends or sit on a bench listening to the beautiful varied bird song or simply read a book or if you are very lucky watch the deer, please support this Motion. Those who do not support should have no issues of being named.

**Therefore this Council resolves to:**

The motion is set down in a skeleton argument to request a full and concise investigation is carried out to the unacceptable loss of revenue on Southend City Councils only golf course and the security and wellbeing of all those who use Belfairs Park by employing a full-time park warden dedicated to Belfairs Park.

This is to reverse the revenue loss and other costs and reinvest in the Belfairs Park infrastructure, wildlife preservation and history. Belfairs Park and golf course is suffering and has seen a steady descent of maintenance to a point where it is now unacceptable.

Proposed by Cllr Stephen Aylen  
seconded by Cllr Christopher Walker

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**Notice of Motion**

15

**Motion for sheltered accommodation heating cost-reduction and energy efficiency improvements**

The energy crisis last winter has left Southend residents anxious about their heating bills, with many desperately seeking better deals or introducing energy saving measures ahead of the winter. However, for residents in our sheltered accommodation, they are locked into communal prices, paying a portion of the bill based on the size of their home and are disempowered to take individual cost saving action.

South Essex Homes currently has just over 1600 residents living across 34 sheltered housing schemes. With many of these properties having been constructed decades ago, many have poor or no insulation, and rely on creaking communal heating systems. With limited zonal control, or even individual temperature control (TRVs) on radiators, residents have often paid for heating empty properties, corridors, and external doorways to scorching temperatures, even in summer months.

The combination of this poor energy efficiency and rampant price increases has resulted in residents facing huge bills. For example, some residents in 1-bed flats saw price rises shoot up from £10 pw to £30pw within months, equivalent to an extra 10% of their state pension. The impact has been severe, with many of these elderly and vulnerable residents cutting back on hobbies, travelling to see relations, or even skipping meals.

So, whilst recent reduction in energy bills has given some relief, these residents remain exposed to future rises unless long-term energy saving improvements are made.

**Therefore, this motion calls on this Council to:**

- Work with South Essex Homes to compose a ranked list of the least energy-efficient homes. Identify a seasonal heating schedule and appropriate zonal plan to reduce energy waste in the short-term;
- Negotiate with South Essex Homes for a reduction in the 15% administration fee on energy bills for properties with the highest equivalent energy bills;
- Form a long-term strategy for modernising legacy heating systems across our sheltered accommodation;
- Evaluate and identify appropriate insulation and energy-saving technology that could be introduced to legacy properties;
- Proactively engage with South Essex Homes, energy companies and the government to seek out grants, schemes, and price reductions to fund energy-saving improvements and provide financial relief to residents in the meantime;
- Send all residents of sheltered schemes a letter detailing all support schemes available through the Council.

Proposer: Cllr Anne Jones

Seconder: Cllr Lydia Hyde, Cllr Donna Richardson

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**Notice of Motion: Southend's Urban Trees**

They say an oak tree spends 300 years growing, 300 years living and 300 years dying. This motion aims to address the way Southend council collectively values its trees, manages them over time and especially during their decline.

Southend's Trees are worth millions as assets of immense community value. Yet these assets are slowly being diminished in the systematic removal of mature trees at a rate that has been unsustainable in Southend over many years.

Our city's urban trees are essential to providing Tree canopy cover (TCC) in an ever heating climate, where, amongst many other benefits, they abate the 'urban heat island effect', which together are responsible for an increasing number of fatalities across Europe. This phenomenon will progressively worsen as the climate continues to heat.

Despite thousands of tree removals over the past 15 years, the replacement strategy has been short sighted in providing minimal and inconsequential replacement trees. Over recent years we have seen a wholesale decline in Southend's mature tree population. TCC now stands at barely 13%, yet the Forestry Commission recommendation for a coastal town/city is 15%. In Leigh-on-Sea it's just 10%. This represents the need for many thousands of more trees.

These facts were established by an independent iTree calculation in 2019, presented by Once-Upon-a-Tree that shows not just TCC, but also a tree populations ability to sequester carbon relative to a town/city's carbon emissions.

It therefore must stand to reason that, amongst many other known benefits, including the mental health of Southend's residents, Trees are an essential part of Southend's bid for carbon neutrality by 2030. Yet we are not planting nearly enough and continue to remove at an alarming rate without adequate replacement.

This motion would be the first step in an enhanced and progressive approach to more refined tree management practices and preservation, that would see more extensive planting across Southend.

Funding would come from more focused grant applications and a collaborative proactive approach to working to address the main issues of TCC decline. Initially providing thousands of locations to plant in preparation for planting seasons between December and March.

Together, Once-Upon-a-Tree group members have personally witnessed many occurrences where trees have been needlessly removed where they could have been saved, better managed and maintained. Indeed some have already been saved due to pressure from local resident groups, where, on second inspection there have been alternatives to removal.

**With no monitoring or QAA procedures I would propose that Southend Council resolves to:**

1. Halt all tree felling, unless there's a perceived immediate risk, until a working party is established, with a mix of council members and external observers, to assess every tree removal to better safeguard our remaining trees and to reassure both member's and the public that every possible alternative has been explored before any further trees are removed. External representatives could be made up of suggested local charitable organisations: Once Upon a Tree, Trustlinks and Essex Wildlife Trust,
2. Develop an alternative methodology toolbox that tree officers and highways engineers can access to do their jobs to the optimum standards, as per best practice under the Tree Design Action Group, the Forestry Commission and the Tree Council of Great Britain,
3. Embed QAA procedures and method statements within the tree policy as part of the proposed toolbox so that common scenarios can be actioned quickly and without ambiguity,
4. Engage the climate change team immediately to assist in making bids for funding to plant thousands of new trees,
5. Project preparation by planning officers, tree offices and highways surveyors to identify locations across Southend in preparation for planting.

Proposer: Cllr R Longstaff

Seconder:

Cllr T Cowdrey

Cllr S Aylen

Cllr K Murphy

Cllr MarinTerry

**Securing a future for Southend United Football Club**

Southend Council notes:

- That Southend United Football Club (SUFC) has been a valued part of our city for 117 years and has an illustrious record of achievement in that time.
- That SUFC contributes immensely to the local economy and community and has one of the most passionate and dedicated group of fans in the country.
- That current club chairman, Ron Martin, is in talks with a new buyer to take the club on going forward.
- That the recent financial troubles that SUFC has experienced have most recently culminated in an adjournment of the HMRC winding up petition until 4 October to allow for the sale to go through.
- That as a result of repeated failure to get control of its finances, SUFC has been docked 10 points by the National League, which puts the club in a difficult position in spite of a positive start to the season.

Southend Council resolves:

- To reaffirm its support for SUFC.
- To recognise the importance of SUFC and the SUFC fan base as a key part of the community of Southend-on-Sea.
- To reach out to other local authorities which have had experience in cooperative working to help secure a future for their local football clubs, such as Hartlepool and Frome, in order to learn from their experience.
- To provide whatever reasonable support possible to assist with the purchase of the club by new owners, and to secure an ongoing future for Southend United Football Club in our city.

Proposer: Cllr Matt Dent

Seconder: Cllr Daniel Cowan, Cllr Lydia Hyde, Cllr Aston Line, Cllr Mandy O'Connor

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**21 Delivery of Southend Outcomes and Priorities - Annual Report and Provisional Outturn 2022/23**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) presenting the Council's Annual Report for 2022/23, highlighting the achievements, successes, and challenges towards delivery of the Corporate Plan.

Resolved:

1. That the achievements, successes and challenges brought to life within the Annual Report 2022/23, as set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be noted.

Recommended:

2. That the provisional 2022/23 revenue outturn position for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA), be noted and that the agreement of any final adjustments, following the completion and audit of the Statement of Accounts, be delegated to the Executive Director (Finance and Resources).

3. That the appropriation of revenue funds to and from earmarked reserves, as set out in the report, be approved.

4. That the potential revenue impact of the 2022/23 outturn on the 2023/24 General Fund budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy, be noted.

5. That it be noted that the expenditure on the capital investment programme for 2022/23 totalled £51.822M against a revised budget of £61.820M.

6. That the relevant budget carry forwards and accelerated delivery requests totalling a net £13.032M moving into 2023/24 and future years, as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be approved.

7. That the virements, reprofiles, additions, deletions and new external funding for schemes, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved and that it be noted that this will result in an amended Capital Investment Programme deliverable by the Council of £137.705M for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

8. That it be noted that the requested changes as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report will result in an amended total Capital Investment Programme deliverable by South Essex Homes Limited, Porters Place Southend-on-Sea LLP and Kent County Council of £59.046M, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

9. That it be noted that a further review of the affordability and prioritisation of the current approved Capital Investment Programme and all the schemes currently listed as subject to viable business cases will be brought back to a future Cabinet meeting.

10. That the content of the Infrastructure Funding Statement 2022/23 (included in Appendix 4 to the report), be noted and that the CIL Main Fund receipts be carried forward from reported year 2022/23 and previous reported years until the CIL Governance Framework and spending plans are reviewed for the reported year 2023/24, or Cabinet authorise any detailed spending proposals.

11. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Growth and Housing, in consultation with Ward Members and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to agree how the CIL Ward Neighbourhood Allocations received up until 31 March 2023 (excluding allocation to Leigh Town Council) are to be spent.

Reasons for decisions:

1. To provide Cabinet with the provisional revenue and capital outturn position for 2022/23.

2. As part of the year end processes, Cabinet is required to approve any appropriations to or from earmarked reserves. This report fulfils that purpose.

3. Cabinet is required to approve capital budget carry forwards, accelerated delivery requests and in year amendments to the current approved programme.

Other Options:

None. This is a factual report setting out the 2022/23 outturn and is a reporting requirement of good financial governance.

Note: The decision in Resolution 1 above constitutes an Executive Function. The Recommendations in 2 to 11 constitute Council Functions.

Not eligible for call-in as the matter has been subject to pre-Cabinet Scrutiny by the Policy and Resources Committee.

Cabinet Member: Cllr Cox

**23 Official Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2023/24**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Environment and Place) presenting the Official Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2023-24.

Recommended:

1. That the achievements against the previous Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2022-23, be noted.
2. That the Official Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2023-24, be approved.

Reasons for decision:

To comply with the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement.

Other options:

None. This is a statutory requirement.

Note: This is a Council Function

Not eligible for call-in as the matter has been the subject of pre-Cabinet scrutiny by the Place Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet Member: Cllr Lamb

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**Minute 9 Extract: Removal of 6-9pm Parking Charges and Enforcement in Zone 1A (Resolution 1)**

20

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Environment and Place) presenting information to enable the Council to decide on revoking its decision to charge for parking between the hours of 6pm and 9pm in Zone 1A; which Budget Council took in February 2023.

The Cabinet was informed that the wording in paragraphs 2.6 and 5.3 of the submitted report was incorrect. The revocation of the hours of enforcement related to the pay and display bays in Zone 1A only and that other contraventions would still be enforced.”

With reference to the proposed introduction of the on-street parking bays in Hartington Road, Pleasant Road, Beach Road and Burdett Road, the Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Parking gave assurances that the proposals were to introduce additional shared use bays and that there would be no loss of the existing capacity for residents in those roads. The Ward Councillors would also be consulted on the proposals prior to the statutory consultation process.

Resolved:

- 1. That the decision made at Budget Council in February 2023 be revoked and that charging for parking in Zone 1A between the hours of 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. be removed, taking into consideration the financial implications as set out in the submitted report.**
2. That the temporary cessation of charges between the hours of 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. during the summer school holidays, pending the relevant activity required by the service, as set out in the submitted report, be approved.
3. That the proposals for the new parking bays as set out in the report be progressed, on the basis that there would be no loss of existing parking capacity from the resident parking scheme in the roads affected.
4. That a one-off budget of £40k be allocated to the parking service for the required changes to be implemented and initially funded from the Business Transformation Reserve and then reimbursed from the additional parking income.
5. That it be noted that there will be capital investment of circa £175k and initially funded from reprioritised highways schemes and then reimbursed by the additional parking income.

Reasons for decision:

To remove the parking charges between the hours of 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Other options:

Not to remove the parking charges and continue with the decisions made by the previous administration.

Note: This is an Executive Function/Council Function

**Called-in to: Place Scrutiny Committee**

Cabinet Member: Cllr Buck

## **Special Place Scrutiny Committee held 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

### **Minute 20 Extract: Removal of 6-9pm Parking Charges and Enforcement in Zone 1A (Resolution 1)**

The Committee considered Minute No. 9 of Cabinet held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023, which had been call-in for scrutiny, together with the report of the Executive Director (Environment and Place) presenting information to enable the Council to decide on revoking its decision to charge for parking between the hours of 6pm and 9pm in Zone 1A, which Budget Council took in February 2023.

The Committee asked questions which were responded to by the Leader of the Council. The Leader of the Council also gave his assurances that:

- The revocation of the hours of enforcement related to the pay and display bays in Zone 1A only and that other contraventions would still be enforced.
- The children's fountain play area on the seafront would not be replaced/removed with any type of car parking provision (i.e. echelon / shriven parking).
- Any future designs or features of parking would not compromise safety and any additional safety measures would be brought to the Traffic and Parking Working Party/Cabinet Committee.

On consideration of the matter reference back was proposed and seconded and was not carried.

Resolved:

That the following recommendation of Cabinet be noted:

**“1. That the decision made at Budget Council in February 2023 be revoked and that charging for parking in Zone 1A between the hours of 6.00pm to 9.00pm be removed, taking into consideration the financial implications as set out in the submitted report.**

2. That the temporary cessation of charges between the hours of 6.00pm to 9.00pm during the summer school holidays, pending the relevant activity required by the service, as set out in the submitted report, be approved.

3. That the proposals for the new parking bays as set out in the report be progressed, on the basis that there would be no loss of existing parking capacity from the resident parking scheme in the roads affected.

4. That a one-off budget of £40k be allocated to the parking service for the required changes to be implemented and initially funded from the Business Transformation Reserve and then reimbursed from the additional parking income.

5. That it be noted that there will be capital investment of circa £175k and initially funded from reprioritised highways schemes and then reimbursed by the additional parking income.”

Note: This is an Executive Function/Council Function  
Cabinet Member: Cllr Buck

**Meeting:** Council  
**Date:** 7 September 2023  
**Classification:** Part 1  
**Key Decision:** No  
**Title of Report:** Designation of Statutory Officer Roles

**Executive Director:** Joe Chesterton (Executive Director Finance & Resources))  
**Report Author:** Kim Sawyer and Colin Gamble  
**Executive Councillor:** Cllr James Moyies

## **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To approve the designation of Monitoring Officer to the post of Director of Legal Services with immediate effect. Kim Sawyer was recently appointed to the role of interim Director of Legal Services and will therefore assume this designation.
- 1.2 To approve the appointment of the Chief Executive, Rob Tinlin as the Council's Electoral Registration Officer (in accordance with Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act 1983) and Returning Officer (in accordance with Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983) with immediate effect.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 **That Council agrees to the designation of Monitoring Officer to the post of Director of Legal Services with immediate effect.**
- 2.2 **That Council agrees appointment the Chief Executive, Rob Tinlin as the Council's Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer with immediate effect in accordance with Sections 8 and 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 respectively.**

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Council is required to designate one of its officers as the Monitoring Officer. The Monitoring Officer holds the statutory responsibilities under section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 3.2 Following the departure of the previous Director of Legal Services, the Council has to agree who will hold the designation of Monitoring Officer. On 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023 the Chief Executive, Rob Tinlin appointed Kim Sawyer to the post Director of Legal Services on an interim basis.

- 3.3 If approved, the Constitution will be amended to ensure that the designation of Monitoring Officer will be held by the future permanent Director of Legal Services.
- 3.4 It is a legal requirement under the Sections 8 & 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to appoint to the roles of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.
- 3.5 The appointment of the Returning Officer, in accordance with Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 is an officer of the Council, but the role of the Returning Officer is independent and separate from their duties as an employee of the Council, and in carrying out this duty they have personal responsibility for the conduct of elections and are directly accountable to the High Court.
- 3.6 Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the Council to appoint an Electoral Registration Officer. They are the person with the statutory responsibility for the creation and maintenance of the register of electors and the lists of absent voters. This person takes responsibility for publishing a revised electoral register and issuing monthly alteration notices. The Electoral Registration Officer is also the Acting Returning Officer for UK Parliamentary Elections.
- 3.7 The Electoral Registration Officer is an officer of the Council, but the role is again a personal responsibility, independent and separate from their duties as an employee of the Council. The roles of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer are typically combined and performed by a single person.
- 3.8 In accordance with Section 2.1 of the Delegations to Officers at Part 3 Schedule 3 of the Council's Constitution, these roles are designated to the Chief Executive. It is therefore proposed to appoint Rob Tinlin, Chief Executive to the roles of Electoral Registration officer and Returning Officer with immediate effect.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the proposals in this report.