

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 10th July, 2017

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor K Robinson (Chair)
Councillors P Wexham (Vice-Chair), M Borton*, H Boyd, A Bright, D Burzotta, T Callaghan, N Folkard, J Garston, S Habermel, D Jarvis, D Kenyon, H McDonald, D McGlone, J Moyies, M Terry and N Ward
*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

In Attendance: Councillors T Byford, T Cox, A Holland and J Lamb (Executive Councillors)
Councillors I Gilbert, J McMahon and C Nevin
A Lewis, J K Williams, E Cooney, N Corrigan, S Crowther, S Dolling, S May and T Row

Start/End Time: 6.30 p.m. - 9.10 p.m.

139 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ware-Lane (Substitute: Councillor Borton).

140 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

(a) Councillors Byford, Cox, Holland and Lamb (Executive Councillors) – Disqualifying non-pecuniary interests in all the called-in/referred items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19th July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;

(b) Councillor Borton – Agenda Item No. 9 (Growth Strategy) – Non-pecuniary interest: Works for the DWP and the Job Centre was mentioned in the debate;

(c) Councillor Burzotta – Agenda Item No. 7 (Tourism Strategy) – Non-pecuniary interest: Family business in the Town Centre;

(d) Councillors Cox and Jarvis – Agenda Item No. 7 (Tourism Strategy) – Non-pecuniary interest: Member of Shoeburyness Coastal Community Team;

(e) Councillor Holland – Agenda Item No. 6 (In-depth Scrutiny Final Report – To investigate the case for additional enforcement resources for Southend – Non-pecuniary interest: Son is a Police Officer;

(f) Councillor Holland – Agenda Item No. 7 (Tourism Strategy) – Non-pecuniary interest: Proposed Council appointee to the North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group Board;

(g) Councillor Jarvis – Agenda Item No. 11 (Museums Disposal Policy) – Non-pecuniary interest: Director of Pier Museum Trust;

(h) Councillor Lamb – Agenda Item No. 7 (Tourism Strategy) – Non-pecuniary interest: Director of Leigh Port Partnership; and

(i) Councillor Wexham – Agenda Item No. 7 (Tourism Strategy) – Non-pecuniary interest: Member of the North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group and Leigh Coastal Community Team.

141 Questions from Members of the Public

The Executive Councillor for Transport, Waste and Regulatory Services and the Executive Councillor for Culture, Tourism and the Economy responded to written questions from Mr Webb.

142 Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 10th April, 2017

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 10th April, 2017 be received, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

143 Monthly Performance Report (MPR)

The Committee considered the Monthly Performance Report (MPR) covering the period to end April 2017, which had been circulated recently.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

Note:- This is an Executive Function.

Executive Councillor:- As appropriate to the item.

144 In-depth Scrutiny Final Report - To investigate the case for additional enforcement resources for Southend

The Committee considered Minute 65 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 20th June 2017, which had been called-in to Scrutiny, together with the report of the Director of Legal & Democratic Services which presented the final report of the in depth scrutiny project – ‘To investigate the case for additional enforcement resources for Southend.’

Resolved:

1. That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the submitted report be noted.

2. That the proposals in the report be reviewed in the light of the cost implications.”

2. That, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 39, the matter be referred to full Council for decision. ||

Note:- This is an Executive function
Executive Councillor :- Holland

145 Tourism Strategy

The Committee considered Minute 21 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 20th June 2017, which had been called-in to Scrutiny, together with the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) detailing progress with the development of Southend-on-Sea's Tourism.

Resolved:

That the following recommendation of Cabinet be noted:

“That the Destination Southend – 2017 Tourism Strategy, be adopted.” ||

Note: This is a Council function
Executive Councillor: Holland

146 Digital Strategy

The Committee considered Minute 22 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 20th June 2017, which had been called-in to Scrutiny, together with the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place), detailing the Council's strategic digital intentions for the next three years set out in the 'Digital Strategy 2017/20.'

Resolved:

That the following recommendations of Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the strategic direction contained within the 'Digital Strategy 2017/20', be approved. ||

2. That SMART proof of concept pilots be progressed across 2017/18.

3. That the £500,000 identified in the Council's Capital Programme 2018/19 be brought forward for use in 2017/18 for the creation of the Intelligence Hub.” ||

Note:- This is a Council Function
Executive Councillor: Byford

147 Growth Strategy

The Committee considered Minute 23 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 20th June 2017, which had been called-in to Scrutiny, together with the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) on the development of an Economic Growth Strategy 2017-22.

In response to a question regarding the scale of the fishing industry in Leigh on Sea, the Director of Regeneration and Business Development undertook to circulate the information to Members of the Committee after the meeting.

Resolved:

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

“That, subject to the inclusion of Shoebury High Street and Ness Road in the list of retail/commercial areas (page 22 of the Strategy), the Economic Growth Strategy, be approved.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Executive Councillor: Holland

148 Council Procedure Rule 46

The Committee considered Minute 27 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 20th June 2017, together with the report which summarised the actions taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 46.

Resolved:

That the submitted report be noted. ||

Note:- This is an Executive Function save that item no. 1.3 of the report requires a Council decision.
Executive Councillor:- As appropriate to the item.

149 Museums Disposal Policy

(This is a Pre-Cabinet Scrutiny item)

The Committee received a report by the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) by way of pre-Cabinet scrutiny.

Resolved:

That, subject to the inclusion of the following comments, the report be noted and endorsed for submission to Cabinet:

- a full itinerary of the items to be disposed of should be prepared and circulated to Members prior to disposal;
- any items to be disposed of should be offered to be returned to the donator in the first instance.

Note:- This is an Executive Function
Executive Councillor:- Holland

150 Minutes of the Meeting of Chairmen's Scrutiny Forum held on Tuesday, 20th June 2017

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of Chairmen's Scrutiny Forum held on Tuesday, 20th June, 2017 be received and noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny Function.

151 In depth Scrutiny projects - 2017/ 18

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive concerning the possible in depth scrutiny project to be undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee in 2017/18. The report also included some information about the work carried out by the Scrutiny Committee in the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

Resolved:

1. That the in-depth scrutiny project for 2017/18 be "Maximising the use of technology through the Smart Cities and Digital Futures agendas".

2. That it be noted that the following Members have been appointed to the Panel, which will manage the in-depth project – Councillors Bright, Callaghan, Folkard, J Garston, Kenyon, McDonald, McGlone, Moyies, and Robinson.

3. That the information attached at Appendix 3 to the Report, the summary of work of the 3 Scrutiny Committees during 2015/2016, be noted.

Note:- This is a Scrutiny Function

152 Exclusion of the Public

On the basis that the following confidential report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) entitled Gasworks Site had been withdrawn from the Agenda for this meeting, the Committee was not required to pass a resolution to exclude the public and press from the meeting.

153 Gasworks Site

The Committee was informed that this item was a matter for the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee not the Place Scrutiny Committee and on this basis the report had been withdrawn from the Agenda for this meeting. It had however, been added to the Agenda for the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

Chairman: _____