

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of The Council

Date: Thursday, 10th December, 2015

Place: Council Chamber - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor Moring (Chair)
Councillors Velmurugan (Vice-Chair), Arscott, Assenheim, Ayles, Ayling, Betson, Buckley, Butler, Byford, Callaghan, Courtenay, Cox, Crystall, Davies, Davidson, Endersby, Evans, Flewitt, Folkard, D Garston, J Garston, Gilbert, Habermel, Hadley, Holland, Jarvis, Jones, Kenyon, Lamb, McGlone, McMahon, Moyies, Mulroney, Nevin, Phillips, Robertson, Robinson, Salter, Stafford, Terry, Van Looy, Walker, Ware-Lane, Ward, Waterworth, Willis and Woodley

Start/End Time: 6.30 - 9.30 pm

477 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Longley, Norman and Borton.

478 Declarations of Interest

Members declared the following interests:

- Councillor Arscott

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 3rd December 2015

Minute 470 - Capital Monitoring – non-pecuniary – friends members of Westcliff Rugby Club mentioned, near Airport;

- Councillor Assenheim

Cabinet – 10th November 2015

Minute 403 - Review of ALMO and Minute 409 - Issues facing HRA – Disqualifying Non-Pecuniary Interest - Board member South Essex Homes – attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed by the Standards Committee on 19th February 2015, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011 to participate in the debate and vote;

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 3rd December 2015

Minute 471 - Issues facing HRA – non-pecuniary – sister lives in Adams Elms House & would be in receipt of refund and Board Member South Essex Homes – attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed by the Standards Committee on 19th February 2015, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011 to participate in the debate and vote;

Minute 469 – Monthly Performance Report (police presentation) - Board Member South Essex Homes - attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed by the Standards Committee on 19th February 2015, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011 to participate in the debate and vote;

- Councillor Ayling

Full Council – 10th December 2015

Minute 498 – Opposition Business (Drop Kerbs/Highway Issues) – Non-pecuniary – supporting a resident with a PVX application;

- Councillor Betson

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 3rd December 2015

Interest in the referred/called-in items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19th July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;

Minute 471 - Issues facing HRA - Board member South Essex Homes – attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed by the Standards Committee on 19th February 2015, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011 to participate in the debate and vote;

- Councillor Buckley

Council – 10th December 2015

Agenda Item 6 – Petition (Green Lane Speeding) – non-pecuniary – has discussed the issue with chief petitioner and knows him;

Cabinet – 10th November 2015

Minute 405 – Capital Monitoring – non-pecuniary – Airport Business Park – lobbying as to potential traffic issues for a segment of St Laurence Ward;

People Scrutiny Committee – 1st December 2015

Minute 442 - Notice of Motion: HIV Testing – non-pecuniary – shares residential address with Councillor Flewitt;

- Councillor Callaghan

Full Council – 10th December 2015

Minute 498 – Opposition Business (Drop Kerbs/Highway Issues – non-pecuniary – family involved in PVX application;

- Councillor Cox

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 3rd December 2015

Minute 475 - PSP – non-pecuniary – Trustee Shoebury Community Association;

- Councillor Evans

Development Control Committee – 11th November 2015

Minute 428(b) - 15/01458/FUL – Non-pecuniary interest: Previously involved with HARP (withdrew);

- Councillor Flewitt

Council – 10th December 2015

Agenda Item 6 – Petition – Green Lane – non-pecuniary – have discussed the issue with chief petitioner and knows him;

Cabinet – 10th November 2015

Minute 400 – Notice of Motion (Refugees) – non-pecuniary - had seconded the motion;

Minute 403 – Notice of Motion (HIV) – non-pecuniary – seconded the motion and lobbied for Terrence Higgins Trust;

Minute 405 – Capital Monitoring – non-pecuniary – Airport Business Park – lobbying as to potential traffic issues for a segment of St Laurence Ward;

Minute 409 – Issues facing HRA & Minute 420 - HRA Land Review – non-pecuniary – friends and family are tenants of South Essex Homes;

Development Control Committee – 11th November 2015

Minute 428 – 15/01228/S106BA – non-pecuniary – lobbied as to originally refused planning application;

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 3rd December 2015

Minute 471 - Issues facing HRA and Minute 476 - HRA land review project - non-pecuniary – friend, family tenants of SEH Ltd;

Minute 469 – Monthly Performance report (police presentation) – non-pecuniary – sits as a JP in east London area;

Minute 470 - Capital Monitoring – non-pecuniary – Airport Business Park –potential impact upon section of highway within his ward;

People Scrutiny Committee – 1st December 2015

Minute 442 – Notice of Motion (HIV) – non-pecuniary – spoke for endorsing the motion and lobbying with Terrence Higgins Trust and the Halve It campaign;

- Councillor Folkard

People Scrutiny Committee – 1st December 2015

Minute 445 - Scrutiny Committee update – non-pecuniary - ambassador for fundraising team at Southend Hospital; on reading panel at Southend Hospital for information leaflets;

- Councillor D Garston

Development Control Committee – 11th November 2015

Minute 428(b) - 15/01458/FUL – Non-pecuniary interest: Member of Leigh Rotary Club supporting HARP;

- Councillor Gilbert

Place Scrutiny Committee – 30th November 2015

Interest in the referred/called-in items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19th July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011.

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 3rd December 2015

Interest in the referred/called-in items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19th July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;

- Councillor Hadley

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 3rd December 2015

Minute 475 - PSP – non-pecuniary – Shoebury Community Association;

- Councillor Holland

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 3rd December 2015

Minute 470 - Capital Monitoring; Minute 471 - Issues facing HRA; Minute 475 – PSP Southend LLP and Minute 476 - HRA Land Review project – Disclosable non-pecuniary - sons involvement (withdrew);
Minute 469 – Monthly Performance Report (police presentation) – non-pecuniary – son is police officer;

- Councillor Jarvis

Cabinet – 10th November 2015

Minute 407 – CPO Authority: re Land at Roots Hall – Disclosable Non-pecuniary interest
– season ticket holder (withdrew);

- Councillor Jones

Development Control Committee – 11th November 2015

Minute 428(b) - 15/01458/FUL – Pecuniary interest (withdrew);
Minute 428(d) – 15/01189/FULM – Disqualifying non-pecuniary interest: Executive Councillor for Children & Learning;

People Scrutiny Committee – 1st December 2015

Interest in the referred/called-in items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19th July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;
Minute 442 - Notice of Motion: HIV Testing – non-pecuniary – knows one of the workers;

- Councillor McMahon

Development Control Committee – 11th November 2015

Minute 428(b) - 15/01458/FUL – Non-pecuniary interest: Co-founder of HARP (although no longer a member), overseer of the homeless integration process and homeless resources on behalf of the Council and trustee is a member of the Labour Party;

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 3rd December 2015

Minute 469 – Monthly Performance Report (police presentation) – non-pecuniary – work & worked with Street pastors;
Minute 470 - Capital monitoring – non-pecuniary – mention of Rochford Club, is home to sport activity for NFL – a family member is a team member of this.

- Councillor Moyies

People Scrutiny Committee – 1st December 2015

Interest in the referred/called-in items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19th July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;

- Councillor Mulroney

Development Control Committee – 11th November 2015

Minute 428(j) – 15/01540 – non-pecuniary – member of Leigh Town Council who were consultees;

Minute 428(k) – 15/01417 – non-pecuniary – member of Leigh Town Council who were consultees;

- Councillor Nevin

People Scrutiny Committee – 1st December 2015

Minute 446 - Scrutiny Committee update - non-pecuniary - previous employee at Southend Hospital and as employee of BARTS who provide dentists to Southend;

- Councillor Robinson

Development Control Committee – 11th November 2015

Minute 428(b) - 15/01458/FUL – Non-pecuniary interest: Trustee of HARP is a member of the Labour Party;

People Scrutiny Committee – 1st December 2015

Minute 439 - Public Questions - non-pecuniary – parent of children at school mentioned in the public question;

Minute 446 - Scrutiny Committee update – non-pecuniary – NHS employee of Trust in Southend;

Minute 449 - Schools Progress Report -, parent of child at school mentioned in report;

- Councillor Salter

People Scrutiny Committee – 1st December 2015

Minute 446 - Scrutiny Committee update - non-pecuniary - husband is Business Unit Director at Southend Hospital for surgical services including oral surgery - urology;

- Councillor Terry

Cabinet – 10th November 2015

Minute 407 - CPO – Land at Roots Hall – Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interest - Southend United FC season ticket (withdrew);

- Councillor Velmurugan

Development Control Committee – 11th November 2015

Minute 428(h) - 15/01274/FUL – Non-pecuniary interest: Daughter owns a property in the neighbourhood;

- Councillor Ward

Cabinet – 10th November 2015

Minute 407 – CPO Authority: re Land at Roots Hall – Pecuniary interest – share holder at SUFC (withdrew);

Full Council – 10th December 2015

Minute 498 – Opposition Business (drop kerbs/highway issues) – non-pecuniary – supporting a resident with PVX application;

- Councillor Woodley

Cabinet – 10th November 2015

Minute 416 – Council Procedure Rule 46 (beach hut leases) – Pecuniary – beach hut owner (withdrew)

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 3rd December 2015

Interest in the referred/called-in items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19th July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;

Minute 472 – Council Procedure Rule 46 (Beach Hut leases) – Pecuniary – beach hut owner (withdrew)

- Councillor Walker

Development Control Committee – 11th November 2015

Minute 428(h) - 15/01274/FUL – Non-pecuniary interest: A friend lives close to the application site.

- Councillor Moring

Full Council – 10th December 2015

Minute 499 – Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen and changes to the constitution – non-pecuniary – had suggested proposals around honorary aldermen/alderwomen detailed in the report;

All Councillors

Development Control Committee – 11th November 2015

non-pecuniary interest in respect of application no. 15/01604/BC3 on the basis that the applicant is the current Mayor of the Council;

Officer Declarations

Simon Leftley

Cabinet – 10th November 2015

Minute 407 - CPO – Land at Roots Hall – Disclosable non-pecuniary interest - Southend United FC season ticket holder – withdrew;

479 Communications

(a) Presentation of Yule Log

Councillor Aylen presented to the Council a Yule Log.

(b) Planning Team of the Year Award

The Worshipful the Mayor informed Members that the Council's Development Management Team were joint winners with Plymouth City Council at the Planning Team of the Year Awards 2015.

The Worshipful the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated all officers involved.

(c) Royal Anglian Regiment

The Worshipful the Major informed Members that Tony Jones of the Royal Anglian Regiment had kindly given the Council a book on the history of the Regiment 1964-2014.

(d) Risk Manager of the Year Awards

The Worshipful the Mayor informed Members that Ms K Slowther was awarded the Risk Manager of the Year at the CIR Risk Management Awards held in November 2015.

The Worshipful the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Ms Slowther on her prestigious award.

480 Questions from Members of the Public

The relevant Executive Councillors responded to questions from members of the public.

481 Questions from Members of the Council

The relevant Executive Councillors responded to written questions received from Councillors D Garston, Aylen, Courtenay, Cox, Flewitt and J Garston.

482 Petition - Green Lane Speeding Action Group

Councillor Walker presented a petition on behalf of local residents requesting road safety measures to be implemented in the Green Lane area.

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.5, the petition be referred to Cabinet Committee.

483 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 22nd October 2015

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd October 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

484 Minutes of the meeting of Appeals Committee B held on Wednesday, 28th October 2015

Resolved:

That the minutes of this meeting be noted.

485 Minutes of the meeting of Appeals Committee A held on Monday, 2nd November 2015

Resolved:

That the minutes of this meeting be noted.

486 Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on Tuesday, 10th November 2015

Resolved:

That the minutes of this meeting be noted and the recommendations contained in Minutes 405, 406, 407, 413, 414, 420 and 421 be adopted.

487 Minutes of the meeting of Development Control held on Wednesday, 11th November 2015

Resolved:

That the minutes of this meeting be noted.

488 Minutes of the meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee held on Monday, 30th November 2015

Resolved:

That the minutes of this meeting be noted and the recommendations contained in Minute 435 be adopted.

489 Minutes of the meeting of People Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 1st December 2015

During consideration of Minute 442 (Notice of Motion – HIV Testing) a requisition for a named vote was made in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.1 to refer the matter back to Cabinet for further consideration.

The voting was as follows:-

For reference back:

Cllrs Arscott, Assenheim, Ayling, Ayles, Buckley, Butler, Byford, Callaghan, Courtenay, Cox, Davidson, Evans, Flewitt, Folkard, D Garston, J Garston, Habermel, Hadley, Holland, Jarvis, Lamb, McGlone, Phillips, Robertson, Salter, Van Looy, Walker, Ward and Waterworth (29)

Against reference back:

Cllrs Betson, Crystall, Davies, Endersby, Gilbert, Jones, Kenyon, McMahon, Moyies, Mulroney, Nevin, Robinson, Stafford, Terry, Ware-Lane, Willis and Woodley (17)

Abstentions:

Cllrs Moring and Velmurugan (2)

Absent:

Cllrs Borton, Longley and Norman (3)

Accordingly it was resolved:

That Minute 442 (Notice of Motion – HIV Testing) be referred back to Cabinet for further consideration.

It was also resolved:

That the minutes of this meeting be noted and the recommendations contained in Minute 448, be adopted, subject to the removal of the following paragraph from Minute 442 (Notice of Motion – HIV Testing):

'In response to questions from Members of the Committee the Executive Councillor for Health & Adult Social Care agreed to explore all options to raise awareness.'

490 Minutes of the meeting of Health & Wellbeing Board held on Wednesday, 2nd December 2015

Resolved:

That the minutes of this meeting be noted.

491 Minutes of the meeting of Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 3rd December 2015

Resolved:

That the minutes of this meeting be noted and the recommendations contained in Minutes 470 and 476, be adopted.

492 Notice of Motion - Sunday Trading

Resolved:

That in accordance with Standing Order 8.4 the following notice of motion be referred to the Cabinet:

“This Council notes that:

The Government has launched a consultation on whether to devolve the power to set the hours of Sunday trading.

Council further notes that whilst Council would generally welcome the devolution of new powers that these are powers that local government has not asked for.

In addition, Council notes that the government’s own economic evidence states that longer Sunday opening will not generate more consumer spending and will lead to fewer retail jobs, so this is not a tool for economic regeneration and that longer Sunday opening is unpopular with the public – the latest survey showed 77% support the current opening arrangements – and will have negative consequences for communities including shop workers, who are already pressured to work longer hours than they wish on Sundays, convenience stores which are often a ‘lifeline’ to communities will lose trade and the government’s evidence shows that some stores will close and Sundays will become more like any other day, making it harder to hold community events.

This Council resolves to:

Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government advising that this Council believes that the Sunday Trading Act has worked well for 20 years and ensures that Sunday remains a special day whilst allowing shops to trade.

Council further resolves to write to all local MPs outlining the Council’s position.”

Proposed: Cllr Ware-Lane

Seconded: Cllr Willis

493 Notice of Motion - Support to Refugees

Resolved:

That in accordance with Standing Order 8.4 the following notice of motion be referred to the Cabinet:

“This Council notes that:

Conflicts in the Middle East have created the largest refugee crisis in generations.

Thousands of people have died while seeking sanctuary from the violence this year alone trying to cross the Mediterranean sea; many of them were children.

The United Kingdom has played a leading role as one of the world's top international donors, supporting refugees in Syria and the surrounding area.

The UN estimates there are over 320,000 people though who live in urgent need of resettlement. Survivors of torture or sexual violence, the very elderly or disabled, there are people who cannot survive in UN refugee camps near in countries surrounding Syria.

The UK has a long and important tradition of offering sanctuary to those who need protection. 100,000 Huguenots, 10,000 Jewish Kinder transport children spared the Nazi concentration camps, 160,000 Poles following the Second World War many of whom had served in the Battle of Britain, the Vietnamese Boat People, the 28,000 Asian Ugandans fleeing Idi Amin and the people who fled the war in Kosovo. This is our proud and decent tradition.

To play its part fully in solving this global crisis the British government must work for durable long term political solutions in the region, lead as a major international donor, and live up to its reputation as a place of sanctuary, integration and protection.

This Council believes:

- That this crisis will be better managed if incoming refugees are accommodated around the whole country;
- We can best rise to the crisis if a National Welcome and Resettlement Board bringing together local and national government, civil society and business leadership, is created to oversee efforts to resettle refugees and mobilise public support as in times past;
- Long term political solutions are needed to ease the crisis, but in the mean time we must do what we can;
- The UK must welcome its fair share of refugees to ease this crisis.

This Council resolves to:

- Formally express an interest in both the VPR and Gateway programmes to the Home Office, requesting that 100 refugees be resettled here;
- Write to local housing associations to encourage them to make properties available to resettle refugees;
- To commit to ensuring that refugees are welcomed in this area and help facilitate this process by coordinating local service provision and coordinating the immense public will to help;
- Write to the Prime Minister to assure him that the country stands ready and willing to help at this time of crisis.”

Proposed: Councillor Ware-Lane

Seconded: Councillor Willis

494 Notice of Motion - Review/Change Housing Policy

Resolved:

That in accordance with Standing Order 8.4 the following notice of motion be referred to the Cabinet:

"We call on the Council to review and amend the 3 year local entitlement for social housing rule to 7 years in line with Basildon District Council's policy who have adopted this entitlement for the last 5 years and have had no challenges. With an ever increasing local housing need we feel this is the time to review and change the policy/rule."

Proposed: Cllr Callaghan

Seconded: Cllr Davies

495 Notice of Motion - Southend Borough Patrol

Resolved:

That in accordance with Standing Order 8.4 the following notice of motion be referred to the Cabinet:

"That this Council recognises the importance of an effective Police Force in the Borough because the situation we are facing at this present time with the ever decreasing Police services and presence on our streets means we have a duty of care to the residents of our town who need to be reassured that their security is paramount.

It is therefore requested that the Cabinet explore the possibility of reintroducing the Southend Borough Patrol back on the streets of the town. The Southend Borough Patrol was extremely successful and effective, from the late 1990's until they were dissolved into Essex Police in the early 2000's, with many of the Patrol Officers becoming PCSO's or Special Constables."

Proposed: Councillor Assenheim

Seconded: Councillor Ward and Supported by Councillors Terry, Kenyon and Endersby.

496 Notice of Motion - Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP)

Resolved:

That in accordance with Standing Order 8.4 the following notice of motion be referred to the Cabinet:

"This council notes:

- That the EU and USA launched negotiations in July 2013 on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).
- That negotiations are underway to determine which goods and services TTIP will apply to and if new rules can be agreed to protect investors,

harmonise standards, reduce tariffs and open new markets throughout the EU and USA.

- That there has been no impact assessment about the potential impact on local authorities.
- That there has been no scrutiny of the negotiating texts by local government and no consultation with local government representatives
- That MPs are also unable to scrutinise the negotiating documents.

This council believes that:

- TTIP could have a detrimental impact on local services, employment, suppliers and decision-making.
- A thorough impact assessment of TTIP on local authorities must be undertaken before the negotiations can be concluded.
- The proposed Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism has been used by corporations to overturn democratic decisions by all levels of governments at significant public cost. Local decision-making must be protected from ISDS.
- The EU's food, environmental and labour standards are better than those in the US and TTIP negotiations must raise and not lower these standards across the EU and USA.
- Sourcing supplies and employment locally is important to strengthening local economies and meeting local needs. TTIP must not impact on local authorities' ability to act in the best interests its communities.

This council resolves:

- To write to the secretary of state for communities and local government, local MPs, and all East of England MEPs, raising our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and the secrecy of the negotiating process.
- To write to the local government association to raise our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and ask them to raise these with government on our behalf.
- To call for an impact assessment on the impact of TTIP on local authorities.
- To publicise the council's concerns about TTIP; join with other local authorities which are opposed to TTIP across Europe and work with local campaigners to raise awareness about the problems of TTIP.
- To contact the local authorities of municipalities twinned with Southend-on-Sea Borough Council asking them to consider passing a similar motion on TTIP."

Proposed: Councillor Nevin

Seconded: Councillor Willis

497 Notice of Motion - Changes in Electoral Arrangements

Resolved:

That in accordance with Standing Order 8.4 the following notice of motion be referred to the Cabinet:

“That in the light of the financial constraints faced by the Council and the need to make substantial savings in future years as a consequence of Government budget cuts, this Council should now consider changes to its electoral arrangements.

“Whole-Council Elections

At present the Council is elected by thirds, with one third of the Councillors elected at a time. The Council should now move towards holding elections every four years which would produce an annual saving of around £50,000.

Information received from the Electoral Commission indicates that 38 of the 56 English Unitary Authorities currently have whole-Council elections. All of the London Boroughs and County Councils have whole-Council elections and 128 (out of 201) of the second tier district authorities have this form of elections.

The Council would be required to undertake a public consultation exercise on the proposed change. Following the conclusion of the exercise, if it is decided to move to all-out elections, an Extraordinary Council meeting will be needed to pass a resolution to move to whole-Council elections. There is a requirement that the resolution must be passed “by a majority of at least two thirds of the Members voting on it”.

Reduction in the Number of Councillors

The Council has downsized in recent years and there has been a significant reduction in the number of staff without a corresponding percentage reduction in the number of councillors. The Council should now consider reducing the number of councillors from 51 to 34 (2 per ward) which would produce an annual saving of around £155,000 in members’ allowances, ICT equipment and printing. A case would need to be submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) which would consider whether to carry out a review and, if so, would proceed to carry out a public consultation exercise. Draft recommendations would be produced upon which a second round of consultation would take place. The LGBCE would publicize its final recommendations and then an Order would be made giving effect to the changes.

It is proposed:

- (i) That a change in the cycle for electing councillors to Southend-on-Sea Borough Council from elections by thirds to whole-Council elections with effect from May 2018 be supported in principle and that a public consultation exercise be undertaken in accordance with the statutory requirements.
- (ii) That a reduction in the number of councillors from 51 to 34 (2 per ward) from May 2018 be supported in principle and that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Group Leaders, be authorised to put the case for such a proposal to the LGBCE for their consideration.”

Proposed: Councillor Woodley

Seconded: Councillor Moyies

498 Opposition Business - Drop kerbs & Highway Issues

The Worshipful the Mayor advised that under Council Procedure Rule 19, a minority group may request an item to be placed on the Council agenda for discussion and be treated as opposition business. The Conservative Group had activated this Procedure Rule and Drop Kerbs and Highway Issues in general were debated.

Resolved:

That the review of the PVX Policy be expedited and that Cabinet be requested to bring forward a report on the matter as soon as possible.

499 Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen and Changes to the Constitution

The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director for Corporate Services which sought consideration on the appointment of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen and recommended minor changes to the Constitution.

Resolved:

1. That in principle the Council confers the title of Honorary Aldermen/Honorary Alderwomen on past Members who have rendered eminent services to the Council pursuant to the procedures and criteria set out in Section 3.8 of the submitted report and that Paragraph 6.7.3(f) of the Terms of Reference of the General Purposes Committee in Part 3 Schedule 2 of the Constitution be amended by the addition of the words “and conferring the title of Honorary Alderman/Honorary Alderwoman.”

2. That Group Leaders be invited to make recommendations for conferring the title of Honorary Aldermen / Honorary Alderwomen on specific past Members who meet the agreed criteria to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee, with a view to holding an extraordinary meeting of the Council to formally confer the titles immediately prior to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

3. That the minor amendments to the Constitution as set out in Section 4 of the submitted report and in Appendix 1, be approved.

500 Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2016/17

The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director for Corporate Services which presented the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2016/17.

Resolved:

1. That the current Local Council Tax Support Scheme be re-adopted for 2016/17.

2. That it be noted that the criteria for awarding an exceptional hardship scheme is being amended to make the discount more accessible to the most vulnerable.

501 Changes to Committees, etc

The Council was asked to endorse the nominations of the Liberal Democrat Group to replace Councillor Longley (on Committees, Working Parties and Outside Bodies) and Councillor Betson (on the Audit Committee and Scrutiny Bodies). The Council was also asked to endorse the nominations of the Independent Group to replace Councillor Ward on the Development Control Committee and Councillors Ayles and Velmurugan on the Public Transport and Buses Working Party. In addition, the Council was asked to appoint to the position of Chairman of the Audit Committee.

In response to questions on the rules governing the appointments on working parties, Members were advised of:

(a) The legal requirement (contained in S.15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989), which stipulates that places on Committees must be allocated to political groups on the basis of the proportionality rules.

(b) The legal requirement (contained in S.16 of the 1989 Act) which places a duty on a local authority to give effect to the wishes of political groups in making appointments to positions allocated to them; and

(c) The Council's Constitution which applies these same requirements to appointments to working parties. Therefore a motion not to give effect to the wishes of a political group in respect of a place allocated to them was not possible.

Resolved:

That the following appointments and changes be made to committees, working parties, and other bodies, subject to the replacement of Councillor Cox with Councillor Ayles on the Public Transport and Buses Working Party:

Scrutiny Bodies:

People Scrutiny Committee – Cllr Crystall

People Scrutiny Committee Programme Working Party – Cllr Crystall

LSCB Scrutiny Panel – Cllr Crystall

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Cllr Crystall

(It was noted that Mr Vincent Copeland is no longer the Roman Catholic Diocese representative on the People Scrutiny Committee).

Committees

Audit Committee – Cllr Ayling (Chairman)

Appointments & Disciplinary Committee – Cllr Betson

Health & Wellbeing Board – Cllr Betson

Cabinet Committee – Cllr Betson

Development Control Committee – Cllr Ward

Working Parties

Biodiversity & Environmental Awareness Working Party – Cllr Betson
Cultural, Tourism and Events Working Party – Cllr Betson
Grants Strategy Working Party – Cllr Betson
Traffic and Parking Working Party – Cllr Betson
Performance Related Pay Panel – Cllr Betson
Member Advisory Forum (re: trading companies) – Cllr Betson
London Southend Airport Monitoring Working Party – Cllr Betson
People Management, Accommodation and Digital Strategy Working Party – Cllr Mulroney
Rochford and Southend-on-Sea Area Action Plan Committee – Cllr Betson
Southend Business and Tourism Partnership – Cllr Betson
Public Transport & Buses Working Party – Councillor Woodley (Chairman) and Councillor Assenheim

Outside Bodies

Southend Business Improvement District Committee (relevant Executive Councillor) – Cllr Betson
Southend Business Partnership Executive Committee (relevant Executive Councillor) – Cllr Betson
Southend Pier Museum Trust (relevant Executive Councillor) – Cllr Betson
Community Safety Partnership Priority Leadership Group – Cllr Betson
East of England LGA Local Government Employers Panel – Cllr Betson
Enterprise Priority Leadership Group – Cllr Betson
Key Cities – Cllr Betson
Local Government Association General Assembly – Cllr Betson
London Southend Airport Consultative Committee – Cllr Betson
PSP Southend LLP – Cllr Betson
Southend-on-Sea Arts Council – Cllr Betson
Southend-on-Sea Forum Management Ltd – Cllr Betson

*In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 40.2 the following Members had their vote recorded against the action of the Independent Group to replace Councillor Ayles on the Public Transport and Buses Working Party:

Cllrs Arscott, Ayles, Buckley, Butler, Byford, Courtenay, Cox, Davidson, Evans, Flewitt, Folkard, D Garston, J Garston, Habermel, Hadley, Holland, Jarvis, Lamb, McGlone, Phillips, Robertson, Salter, Walker and Waterworth.

Chairman: _____