

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 8th July, 2019

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor A Moring (Chair)
Councillors M Flewitt (Vice-Chair), B Ayling, J Beck, A Bright, K Buck,
L Burton, A Chalk, D Cowan, T Cox, M Dent, George, D Jarvis,
S Wakefield, C Walker and P Wexham

In Attendance: Councillors I Gilbert, C Mulroney, K Robinson and R Woodley
(Cabinet Members) and K Evans
A Lewis, E Cooney, P Geraghty, G Gilbert, A Penn, S Fox and T Row

Start/End Time: 6.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

137 Apologies for Absence

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

138 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

(a) Councillors Gilbert, Mulroney, Robinson and Woodley (Cabinet Members) – 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; and

(b) Councillor Ayling - Agenda Item Nos. 7 (Petition Against New Parking Charges - Referred by Council on 17th April 2019) and 8 (Petition Relating to the High Street and Two Hours Free Parking - Referred by Council 17th April 2019) – Non-pecuniary interest: Handed the petitions at full Council; and

(c) Councillor Gilbert – Agenda Item No. 6 (Reimagining the Town Centre in the Context of 2050) – Non-pecuniary interest: Place of work is close to the High Street.

139 Questions from Members of the Public

The responses to the questions that had been submitted by Mr Grubb and Mr Webb to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning will be forwarded to them as they were not present at the meeting.

140 Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 8th April, 2019

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 8th April, 2019 be received, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

141 Revised Southend 2050 - Five Year Road Map

The Committee considered Minute 71 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct to all three Scrutiny Committees by Cabinet. The Committee also had before it the report of the Chief Executive setting out the content of the revised Southend 2050 Five Year Road Map timeline, following the formation of the Joint Administration at Council on 3rd June 2019.

Resolved:-

That the following recommendation of Cabinet be noted:

“That the revised Southend 2050 Road Map time-line as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be agreed, reflecting the policy objectives of the new Joint Administration.”

Note: This is a Council Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Gilbert

142 Reimagining the Town Centre in the Context of 2050

The Committee considered Minute 73 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct to the Place and Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee by Cabinet. The Committee also had before it the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) presenting the recommendations of the 2018/19 scrutiny project ‘Reimagining the Town Centre in the context of 2050’.

Resolved:-

That the following decisions of Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the report and conclusions from the in depth scrutiny project set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be endorsed.

2. That a multi-organisation task and finish group be established in line with the principles set out in paragraphs 3.11-3.14 of the report and that the Director of Regeneration and Business Development be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business, Tourism and Culture, to agree membership of the group.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Robinson

143 Petition Against New Parking Charges - Referred by Council on 17th April 2019

The Committee considered Minute 80 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct to scrutiny by Cabinet. This was in respect of the petition opposing new parking charges which had been presented by Councillor Ayling at the meeting of Council held on the 17th April 2019 (Minute 874 refers).

Resolved:-

That the matter be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Woodley

144 Petition Relating to the High Street and Two Hours Free Parking - Referred by Council 17th April 2019

The Committee considered Minute 81 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct to scrutiny by Cabinet. This was in respect of the petition relating to the high street and 2 hours free parking, which had been presented by Councillor Ayling at the meeting of Council held on the 17th April 2019 (Minute 875 refers).

Resolved:-

That the matter be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Woodley

145 Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

The Committee considered Minute 82 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct to scrutiny by Cabinet. The Committee also had before it the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) that set out the legal obligations on the Council, acting as Licensing Authority, and the timetable for the review of the Licensing Policy. The report also set out a draft revised Policy Statement, as the basis for formal consultation.

Resolved:-

That the following recommendation of Cabinet be noted:

“That the draft revised Policy document enabling consultation to commence, be endorsed.”

Note: This is a Council Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Terry

146 The Official Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2019/20

The Committee considered Minute 84 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct to scrutiny by Cabinet. The Committee also had before it the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) which outlined the Official Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2019-20 required by the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

Resolved:-

That the following recommendation of Cabinet be noted:

“That the Official Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2019-20, be approved.”

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Note: This is a Council Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Terry

147 Year End Performance Report 2018/19

The Committee considered Minute 86 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct to all three Scrutiny Committees by Cabinet. The Committee also had before it the report of the Strategic Director (Transformation) that outlined the end of year position of the Council’s corporate performance for 2018/19.

In response to questions regarding CP 2.2 (% acceptable standard of cleanliness: litter [Cumulative YTD]), the Cabinet Member for Environment & Planning undertook to provide more detailed comments to the Committee.

Resolved:-

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

“That the 2018/19 end of year position and accompanying analysis, be noted.”

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

148 Southend 2050 Corporate Performance Framework for 2019/20 Onwards

The Committee considered Minute 87 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct to all three Scrutiny Committees by Cabinet. The Committee also had before it the report of the Strategic Director (Transformation) which outlined the new Southend 2050 Corporate Performance Framework for 2019/20 onwards.

Resolved:-

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

“That the proposed Corporate Performance Framework for 2019/20 onwards, as set out in appendix 1 to the submitted report, be adopted.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Gilbert

149 Corporate Risk Register

The Committee considered Minute 88 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct to all three Scrutiny Committees by Cabinet. The Committee also had before it the report of the Strategic Director (Finance and Resources) setting out the 2018/19 Corporate Risk Register year end update together with the proposed approach to refreshing the Corporate Risk Framework.

Resolved:-

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the 2018/19 Corporate Risk Register and the year-end updates, set out in appendix 2 to the submitted report, be noted.

2. That the proposed approach to refreshing the Corporate Risk Management Framework, be endorsed.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Woodley

150 Capital Outturn Report 2018/19

The Committee considered Minute 90 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct to all three Scrutiny Committees by Cabinet. The Committee also had before it the report of the Strategic Director (Finance and Resources) concerning the capital investment programme outturn for 2018/19, which sought approval of the relevant budget carry forwards and accelerated delivery requests and in year amendments for the current approved programme.

In response to questions regarding the addition of £0.250m to the capital investment programme to undertake a two year programme of street lighting infill, the Cabinet Member for Transport, Capital and Inward Investment undertook to inform the Committee of the roads and infill proposals as soon as the details had been confirmed.

Resolved:-

1. That the following recommendation of Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the expenditure on the capital programme for 2018/19 totalling £50.899m against a revised budget of £52.648m, a delivery of 96.7%, be noted.

2. That the relevant budget carry forwards and accelerated delivery requests totalling a net £3.059m moving into 2019/20, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the submitted report, be approved.

3. That the virements, reprofiles and amendments and new external funding for schemes, as detailed in Appendices 3, 4 and 5 to the report, be noted.

4. That in respect of the A127 Kent Elms Junction Improvements project:

(i) That it be noted that the delays to the project have led to an overspend against the scheme budget of £2.446m with £1.075m of this incurred in 2018/19.

(ii) That a further budget of £1.371m be added to the capital investment programme to deliver the scheme over the following years, 2019/20 £1.331m and 2020/21 £0.040m, to be financed by borrowing.

5. That in respect of the Priory, Delaware and Viking new build project:

- (i) That the updated financial business case position, be noted.
- (ii) That this project be moved from the 'Schemes subject to viable business cases' section into the main capital investment programme.
- (iii) That the procurement exercise undertaken which has resulted in an additional budget requirement, be noted.
- (iv) That a further budget of £1.519m is added to the capital investment programme in 2020/21 to be financed by borrowing, to enable the scheme to be delivered.
6. That a budget of £4.3m to be added to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital investment programme in 2019/20 to facilitate the HRA Affordable Housing Acquisitions Programme, funded 30% from retained Right to Buy capital receipts and 70% from the HRA Capital Investment Reserve, be approved.
7. That a budget of £0.250m be added to the capital investment programme, £0.125m in 2019/20 and £0.125m in 2020/21, to undertake a two year programme of street lighting infill, to be financed by borrowing.
8. That the relevant changes to the budget identified since the approved capital investment programme was set at Council on 21 February 2019, as detailed in Appendix 6 to the report, be approved.
9. That it be noted that the above changes will result in an amended Capital Investment Programme of £233.166m for the period 2019/20 to 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 7 to the report.
10. That the schemes subject to viable business cases for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 totalling £37m be noted.
11. That the content of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Annual Financial Report 2018/19 be noted and that the CIL Main Fund receipts from 2018/19 and previous financial years be carried forward until spending plans are reviewed in early 2020/21.
12. That authority be delegated to the Director for Planning and Transport (in consultation with Ward Members and the Executive Councillor for Environment and Planning) to agree how the Ward Neighbourhood Allocations received up until 31st March 2019 (excluding allocation to Leigh Town Council) are to be spent.”
2. That, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 39, the matter be referred to full Council.

Note: This is a Council Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr Woodley

151 Council Procedure Rule 46

The Committee considered Minute 93 of Cabinet held on 25th June 2019, which had been referred direct to all three Scrutiny Committees by Cabinet. The Committee also had before it the report summarising the actions that had been taken under Council Procedure Rule 46.

Resolved:-

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

“That the submitted report be noted.”

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

152 Requests for Waiting Restrictions

The Committee considered Minute 57 of Cabinet Committee held on 6th June 2019, which had been called-in for scrutiny. The Committee also had before it the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) which sought approval to authorise the advertisement of the amendments and/or new waiting restrictions at the locations indicated in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, in accordance with the statutory processes and, subject to there being no objections received following statutory advertisement, to arrange for the relevant orders to be sealed and implement the proposals.

During the debate the Cabinet Member for Transport, Capital and Inward Investment clarified his previous comments regarding further requests for traffic regulation orders by Councillors. He explained that there was currently a significant backlog in progressing schemes that had already been approved. Therefore, any new requests would not be considered for some time, save that any traffic regulation orders that were required as a matter of urgency for safety reasons would be dealt with as a priority as appropriate. The Cabinet Member also undertook to circulate to all Councillors details of the existing approved schemes awaiting implementation.

Resolved:-

1. That the following decision of Cabinet Committee be noted:

“That the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) be authorised to publish the relevant statutory notice and undertake the necessary consultation for a traffic regulation order(s) for the following requests and, subject to there being no objections received following statutory advertisement, to arrange for the order to be sealed and the proposals implemented:

(i) the introduction of “no waiting at any time” restrictions on the bend in Snakes Lane, Southend on Sea;

(ii) the amendment of limited waiting in Shorefield Road, from 1 hour no return in 4 hours to 2 hours no return in 4 hours;

(iii) the introduction of a shared loading and parking bay in the Victoria Avenue Service Road, outside the property at 47 Victoria Road, Southend on Sea; and

(iv) the amendment of the existing waiting restrictions in Royston Avenue at its junction with Eastern Avenue Service Road and Eastern Avenue to provide “no waiting at any time” junction protection on the north kerbline of Eastern Avenue Service Road opposite the junction of Royston Avenue, Southend on Sea.”

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

Note: This is an Executive function
Cabinet Member: Councillor Woodley

153 In depth Scrutiny Projects and Summary of Work

The Committee considered a report by the Strategic Director (Legal & Democratic Services) concerning the possible in depth scrutiny project to be undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee in 2019/20. The report also attached some information about the work carried out by the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal year.

Resolved:-

1. That the in depth project for 2019/20 will be “To review the level of domestic waste recycling in the Borough, in order to examine what influences residents in terms of their recycling habits and the barriers to achieving a higher rate of recycling and to consider ways of working with residents to improve domestic waste recycling”.

2. That it be noted that the following Councillors have been appointed to the Project Team which will manage the in depth project – Councillors A Bright, K Buck, L Burton, A Chalk, S George, D Jarvis, S Wakefield and P Wexham.

3. That the information attached at Appendix 3 to the report, the summary of work of the three Scrutiny Committees during 2018/19, be noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny Function.

154 Statutory Scrutiny Guidance

The Committee considered a report by the Strategic Director (Legal & Democratic Services) which advised about the publication of the Statutory Scrutiny Guidance on 7th May 2019 (‘the 2019 Guidance’). The 2019 Guidance was produced following a commitment that Government made in early 2018 following on from the Communities & Local Government Select Committees’ inquiry into overview and scrutiny and supersedes guidance published in 2006.

The 2019 Guidance, a copy of which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report, does not require the Council to change any of its scrutiny arrangements but does provide the opportunity to enhance the scrutiny processes. Section 4.5 of the report set out some areas to be explored further – namely around greater use of local experts, developing an Executive / Scrutiny Protocol and encouraging

greater use of 'information bulletin's / briefings' to reduce pressure of items on Committee agendas.

Resolved:-

That the approach, set out in paragraph 4.5 of the report, be agreed.

Note: This is a Scrutiny Function.

155 Minutes of the Meeting of Chair's Scrutiny Forum held on, Tuesday, 18th June, 2019

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting on the Chair's Scrutiny Forum held on Tuesday, 18th June, 2019 be received and noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny Function.

Chair: _____