

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

## The Conservative and UKIP Groups on the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

### 1. Pre-ambble

- 1.1 Following the Local Elections held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016 the Conservative Group fell 2 seats short of securing an overall majority on the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council ("the Council").
- 1.2 The financial and other challenges facing Southend-on-Sea and the Council require strong leadership and a stable political environment to ensure the best possible services are provided.
- 1.3 This Memorandum of Understanding sets out details of a confidence and supply agreement reached between the Conservative and UKIP Groups on the Council to ensure that a Conservative Administration can operate effectively and efficiently.

### 2. Terms of Agreement

We, the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the Conservative and UKIP Groups on the Council agree on behalf of ourselves and our respective Groups as follows:

- 2.1 That the Conservative Group will form the Administration of the Council with the Cabinet made up from members of the Conservative Group.
- 2.2 That the UKIP Group will support:
  - (a) Councillor John Lamb for appointment as the Leader of the Council at the special Council in May 2016;
  - (b) The Conservative Group's nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman of Committees (subject to 2.3 and 2.4 below), Sub-Committees, Working Parties and appointments to outside bodies at the special Council in May 2016 and 2017;
  - (c) The Conservative Administration and its Leader on any motion of no confidence or vote to remove the Leader or the Administration; and
  - (d) The annual Budget proposals submitted by the Conservative Administration to the full Council for approval.

- 2.3 That Councillor Waterworth be supported for appointment as chairman of Development Control Committee and Councillor McGlone be supported for membership of that Committee.
- 2.4 That Councillor McGlone be supported for appointment as chairman of the Licensing Committee for the second half of each municipal year and as vice chairman for the first half. Nominees of the Conservative Group be supported for appointment as chairman / vice chairman of Licensing Committee for the corresponding periods.
- 2.5 To work together on the basis of democratic principles of trust, equity, openness and fairness.
- 2.6 To promote strong working relationships with Council Officers based on mutual trust and respect.
- 2.7 To act in the best interests of Southend-on-Sea and its residents reflecting their views and with the aim of creating a better Southend.
- 2.8 To deliver on the following specific commitments:
  - (a) No changes will be made to the layout of the Kent Elms junction without the agreement of both the Conservative and UKIP Groups.
  - (b) Fees for tables and chairs placed outside café or restaurants will be abolished as part of the 2017/18 Budget.
  - (c) Funding for a new museum will be sought from outside bodies including Government, the Lottery Fund and European Funds and it is recognised that match funding may be needed for such external funding. However save for money in the 2016/17 Budget, no further sums shall be spent or committed on the new museum project without the agreement of both the Conservative and UKIP Groups.
  - (d) Respite holidays for the disabled and dementia patients and/or their carers will be ring fenced in the 2016/17 Budget and no reduction in funding total will be made in future budgets.
  - (e) The Council will give notice by March 2017 to cease membership of the Local Government Association with effect from March 2018.
  - (f) The Conservative Group will obtain the agreement of the UKIP Group to any property acquisitions in excess of £500,000 which are made for investment purposes.
- 2.9 That this Memorandum of Understanding constitutes the whole agreement between the parties and it will be made public and displayed on the Council's website.

2.10 That this Memorandum of Understanding shall be reviewed after the next Local Elections in May 2018.

This memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the Conservative and UKIP Groups to confirm their agreement and the agreement of their respective Groups, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2016.

**Conservative Group**

Councillor John Lamb (**Leader**)

JL

Councillor Ann Holland (**Deputy Leader**)

AH

**UKIP Group**

Councillor Floyd Waterworth (**Leader**)

FW

Councillor David McGlone (**Deputy Leader**)

DM