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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 3rd September, 2020

Place: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present: Councillor D Garston (Chair)
Councillors D McGlone (Vice-Chair), B Ayling, D Burzotta, D Cowan, T Cox, P Collins, M Davidson, M Dent, S George, S Habermel, H McDonald, D Nelson, I Shead, M Stafford, S Wakefield and P Wexham

In Attendance: Councillors I Gilbert, C Mulroney, M Terry, R Woodley (Cabinet Members), Councillor K Evans, A Lewis, L Reed, J Ruffle, J Williams, M Ambrose (South Essex Homes), E Cook, S Ford, R Harris, T Holland, C Robinson and S Tautz

Start/End Time: 6.30 pm - 7.50 pm

279 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence from the meeting.

280 Declarations of Interest

The following councillors declared interests as indicated:

- (a) Councillors I Gilbert, C Mulroney, M Terry and R Woodley (Cabinet Members) - Interest in the called-in items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19 July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;
- (b) Councillor M Davidson - Minute 284 (Balmoral Estate) - Non-Executive Director of South Essex Homes - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (c) Councillor S Wakefield - Minute 284 (Balmoral Estate) - Sub-contractor for South Essex Homes – Non-pecuniary interest;
- (d) Councillor M Dent - Minute 286 (Notice of Motion: No Overnight Camping in the Borough) - Former member of scouting organisations - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (e) Councillor P Wexham - Minute 284 (Balmoral Estate) - Board member of South Essex Homes - Non-pecuniary interest; and
- (f) Councillor M Terry - Minute 285 (Notice of Motion: Footpath Cycling) - Keen cyclist within the Borough - Non-pecuniary interest.

281 Questions from Members of the Public

The Committee noted the responses of the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Customer Contact to questions submitted by Mr. D. Webb, which would be sent to the questioner as he was not present at the meeting.

282 Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 11 June 2020

Resolved:

That the minutes of the special meeting of the Committee held on 11 June 2020 be

confirmed as a correct record and signed.

283 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 July 2020

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

284 Balmoral Estate

The Committee considered Minute 209 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28 July 2020, which had been called in to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, together with a joint report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Growth and Housing) setting out a programme of structural and improvement works required at the Balmoral tower blocks (Grampian, Brecon and Blackdown) and seeking agreement to utilise funding from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the works.

In response to questions of councillors with regard to similar works to be undertaken at other properties within the Borough, the Leader of the Council agreed to circulate details of any currently programmed fire safety and structural or improvement works at other high-rise tower blocks, to the Committee after the meeting.

Resolved:

That the following decisions and recommendations of the Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the programme of works to the Balmoral tower blocks, to include both structural and improvement works (structural insulation and heating upgrades), be progressed.

2. That the Council and South Essex Homes undertake full consultation and engagement with affected residents.

Recommended:

3. That a budget of £2.325m to be added to the HRA capital investment programme to be funded from the HRA Capital Investment Reserve, be approved.”

Note: The decisions in 1 and 2 above constitute an Executive function. The decision in 3 above constitutes a Council function

Cabinet Member: Cllr I Gilbert

285 Notice of Motion: Footpath Cycling

The Committee considered Minute 212 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28 July 2020, which had been called in to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, together with a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) in response to a Notice of Motion presented to the meeting of the Council on 16 July 2020, concerning cycling on footways.

Resolved:

That the following decisions of the Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the introduction of a legal process at Southend Council which allows Community Safety Officers or other Council Officers designated with CSAS accreditation status (Community Safety Accreditation Scheme) to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to individuals

caught cycling on the footway or in No Cycling zones across the whole Borough (including Southend High Street and Southend seafront from Old Leigh to East Beach), be approved.

2. That cycling on footpaths not be included as an addition to the current PSPO prohibitions.

3. That the Notice of Motion be acknowledged and further consultation be undertaken with stakeholders and local communities before making the final decision.

4. That the new guidance/laws that are due from Government regarding the legal use of electric scooters and return to use of electric scooters on footpaths at a later date, be monitored.”

Note: This is an Executive function
Cabinet Member: Cllr M Terry

286 Notice of Motion: No Overnight Camping in the Borough

The Committee considered Minute 213 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28 July 2020, which had been called in to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, together with a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) in response to a Notice of Motion presented to the meeting of the Council on 16 July 2020, concerning no overnight camping in the Borough.

Resolved:

(1) That the following decisions of the Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the proposed Notice of Motion and the current inability of either the Council or the police to enforce a Public Spaces Protection Order as set out in the Notice of Motion, be noted.

2. That the current process by which the Council and Essex Police approach traveller sites/the traveller community in the Borough continues to be supported.”

(2) That this matter be referred to full Council for consideration in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 39.

Note: This is an Executive function
Cabinet Member: Cllr M Terry

287 In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2019/20-2020/21

The Democratic Services Officer reported that it was intended that a meeting of the Working Party leading the current in-depth scrutiny project would be arranged in the near future, in order to progress the project that had been carried forward from 2019/20.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny function.

Chair: _____

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