

Public Document Pack

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Housing & Communities Working Party

Date: Monday, 15th February, 2021

Place: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present: Councillor I Gilbert (Chair)
Councillors H McDonald (Vice-Chair), M Davidson, C Mulroney and M Stafford

In Attendance: Councillor D Cowan, S Brown, R Davis, T Forster, G Halksworth, T Harris and S Tautz

Start/End Time: 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm

18 Apologies for Absence & Substitutions

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

19 Declarations of Interest

The following councillors declared interests as indicated:

- (a) Councillor I Gilbert - Minute 21 (Notice of Motion - Food Justice Champion) - Council's representative on the Board of Southend Association of Voluntary Services - Non-pecuniary interest.
- (b) Councillor M Davidson - Minute 21 (Notice of Motion - Food Justice Champion) - Volunteer with Southend Foodbank - Non-pecuniary interest.
- (c) Councillor D Cowan - Minute 21 (Notice of Motion - Food Justice Champion) - Volunteer with various food banks and similar community initiatives - Non-pecuniary interest.

20 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2021

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Working Party held on 28 January 2021 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

21 Notice of Motion - Food Justice Champion

The Working Party considered a report of the Executive Director (Adults and Communities) in response to a Notice of Motion referred by the Cabinet at its meeting on 14 January 2021 (submitted to Council on 10 December 2020), concerning the appointment of a Food Justice Champion.

Councillors asked a number of questions in relation to the causes of food poverty which were responded to by officers. The Working Party was advised that the Council had an effective working relationship with the Southend Food Alliance and that there was a will amongst all partners to work together to provide a solution to instances of food poverty in the Borough, through a co-ordinated approach that would benefit local families and people in need.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Notice of Motion seeking the appointment of a Food Justice Champion be noted.
- (2) That the Cabinet be recommended to initiate a project for the establishment of a member-level Food Justice Champion, or similar role.
- (3) That the Cabinet be recommended to ensure that the proposed Food Justice Champion (or similar) is fully supported in the delivery of their objectives and priorities, through the provision of dedicated officer support and resources.
- (4) That the Cabinet be recommended to ensure that the proposed Food Justice Champion (or similar) is fully able to co-ordinate existing interventions to address issues of food poverty in the Borough in conjunction with local voluntary and public sector partner organisations, and to identify likely future demand on current arrangements to reduce food poverty.
- (5) That the Cabinet be recommended that progress with regard to the ongoing work programme of the proposed Food Justice Champion (or similar) to identify, understand and address issues that contribute to local food poverty, be reported to the Working Party on a regular basis.

Chair: _____