

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 15th March, 2021
Place: Virtual Meeting via MS Teams

- Present:** Councillor A Moring (Chair)
Councillors K Buck (Vice-Chair), B Ayling, J Beck, A Bright, L Burton, A Chalk, D Cowan, T Cox, M Dent, S George, D Jarvis, L Salter*, S Wakefield, C Walker, N Ward and P Wexham
(*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.)
- In Attendance:** Councillors C Mulroney, M Terry and R Woodley (Cabinet Members) and K Evans
A Lewis, S Moore, J Williams, C Robinson, T Saunders, P Jenkinson, M Sheppard, T Row and E Cook and A Wate
- Start/End Time:** 6.30 pm - 8.10 pm

900 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dear (Substitute: Councillor Salter).

901 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

(a) Councillors C Mulroney, M Terry and R Woodley (Cabinet Members) - Interest in the called-in items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19th July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011.

902 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

903 Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 1st February 2021

Councillor Buck took the opportunity to apologise to the Committee and Councillor Woodley for any unacceptable behaviour by him at the last meeting.

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 1st February 2021 be received, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

904 Southend New Local Plan

The Committee considered Minute 855 of Cabinet held on 25th February 2021, which had been called-in to Scrutiny, together with the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Growth & Housing) presenting a revised and updated Local Development Scheme (LDS), which set out the future programme for the preparation of the Southend New Local Plan.

Resolved:-

That the following recommendations of Cabinet be noted:

“1. That, in order to take forward the Southend New Local Plan in a timely, coordinated and efficient manner, the updated and revised Local Development Scheme (set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report), be approved.

2. That authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Growth and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, to agree any future updates to the Local Development Scheme (Appendix 1 to the report) as required.”

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

905 Minutes of Environment and Planning Working Party held on Wednesday 20th January 2021

The Committee considered Minute 862 of Cabinet held on 25th February 2021, which had been called-in to Scrutiny. This set out the Cabinet’s decision in respect of the recommendations of the Environment & Planning Working Party from its meeting held on Wednesday, 20th January 2021. These related to the various notices of motion that had been referred to the Working Party for consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 30th November 2020.

Resolved:-

That the following decisions of Cabinet be noted:

“1. Ban barbeques on beaches and public open spaces

(a) That the Notice of Motion Note relating to the use of barbeques on beaches, parks and open spaces, be noted.

(b) That officers review the potential use of existing byelaws to address barbeques in inappropriate locations.

(c) That officers develop a robust policy for the management of barbeques to support use at suitable locations.

(d) That consultation be undertaken via YourVoice Southend on the use of barbeques on the beaches and public spaces in the Borough.

2. Make our Gardens and Open Spaces to RHS Britain in Bloom Standard

- (a) That the Notice of Motion to make our Gardens and Open Spaces to RHS Britain in Bloom Standard, be noted.
- (b) That the parks that meet the criteria continue to be entered for the Green Flag awards.
- (c). That it be noted that the Parks Team continue to work with friends' groups and volunteers.
- (d). That, if a community group wishes to set up as an In Bloom Committee to enter the Borough in Britain in Bloom, the relevant sections in the Council will liaise with the group.
- (e). That it be noted that the planting and management of the Borough's parks and green spaces will continue to adapt to the changing climate and environment, to support biodiversity, and help meet the varied needs of citizens.
- (f). That consultation be undertaken on Your Voice Southend to provide up-to-date information about how people use the town's parks and green spaces and how they would like to use them in the future.

3. Water Fountains and Water Bottle Refill Points

- (a) That the Notice of Motion on water fountains and water refill points, be noted.
- (b) That no new public water fountains be installed at this stage.
- (c). That the water bottle refill schemes that are available continue to be promoted, with a view to increasing access points for these schemes.”

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

906 Minutes of Transport, Capital and Inward Investment Working Party held on Thursday 7th January 2021

The Committee considered Minute 863 of Cabinet held on 25th February 2021, which had been called-in to Scrutiny. This set out the Cabinet's decisions in respect of the recommendations of the Transport, Capital & Inward Investment Working Party from its meeting held on Thursday, 7th January 2021. These related to the various notices of motion that had been referred to the Working Party for consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 30th November 2020.

In response to questions in respect of the Ekco Park Estate (see resolution 2 below), the Cabinet Member for Transport, Capital & Inward Investment gave his assurance that a report would be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of Cabinet specifically addressing point 1 in the notice of motion “to investigate the un-adopted highway and land at the Ekco Park Estate with a view to bringing all land on that estate to adoptable standards”.

Resolved:-

That the following decisions of Cabinet be noted:

“1. Cycling Strategy

(a) That an update on the LTP4, including the development of a cycling strategy, be presented to the Working Party at a meeting later in the year.

(b) That a report / briefing be added to the Agenda for the next/future meeting of the Working Party providing an update on the progress of the Transport Strategy to date and what the next steps are.

2. Ekco Park Estate

That a Development Control training session be arranged on the planning rules regarding adoption of highways.

3. Tyre Pump Stations

That Portsmouth City Council be contacted to ascertain their experiences on the installation of communal bike pumps in the City as part of the feasibility study to provide similar facilities in the Borough.”

Note: This is an Executive Function
Executive Councillor: Cllr Woodley

907 SO46 Report

The Committee considered Minute 867 of Cabinet held on 25th February 2021, which had been called-in to Scrutiny, together with the report setting out the actions 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

908 Update on Scrutiny Project

The Committee noted an oral update on the progress that had been made in respect of the in-depth Scrutiny study, entitled “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”.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny function

Chair: _____