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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 29th November, 2021

Place: Council Chamber - Civic Suite

- Present:** Councillor N Folkard (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)
Councillors C Walker, K Buck, A Bright, D Cowan, T Cox*, K Evans,
S George, D Jarvis, A Line*, K Mitchell, D Nelson*, K Robinson,
S Wakefield, N Ward, J Warren and P Wexham
(*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.)
- In Attendance:** Councillors I Gilbert, C Mulroney and R Woodley (Cabinet Members)
G Gilbert, J Burr and T Row
- Start/End Time:** 6.30 pm - 6.40 pm

487 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair, Councillor Moring (substitute: Councillor Nelson) and from Councillors Dent (substitute: Councillor Line) and F Evans (substitute: Councillor Cox).

488 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

(i) Councillors Gilbert, Mulroney and 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.

489 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

490 Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 4th October 2021

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 4th October, 2021 be received, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

491 Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Tuesday, 12th October 2021

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the special meeting held on Tuesday, 12th October 2021 be received, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

492 Annual Report - Comments, Complaints and Compliments 2020/21

The Committee considered Minute 424 of Cabinet held on Tuesday, 2nd November 2021, which had been referred direct to all three scrutiny Committees for consideration. The Committee also had before it the report of the Executive Director (Legal and Democratic Services) providing performance information about comments, complaints and compliments received across the Council for 2020/21.

Resolved:-

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the Council’s performance in respect of comments, complaints, and compliments and Ombudsman investigations for 2020/21, be noted.

2. That the matter be referred to all three Scrutiny Committees (Sections 4 and 5 of the submitted report referred to the People Scrutiny Committee only).”

Note: This is an Executive Function

Cabinet Members: Cllr Collins (overarching), Cllr Nevin (Section 4) and Cllr Burton (Section 5).

493 SO46 Report

The Committee considered Minute 429 of Cabinet held on Tuesday, 2nd November 2021, which had been called-in to scrutiny, together with the report summarising out 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

494 Joint In-depth Scrutiny Project 2021/22

The Committee noted an oral update on the progress that had been made in respect of the joint in-depth Scrutiny study, entitled ‘Enabling Councillors to be Effective’.

During the debate of this item, Councillors expressed concern at the rising levels of Covid, including the increase in the levels of the new Omicron variant, and the potential risks that holding physical meetings brings. It was therefore suggested a letter be sent to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities urging him to consider the re-instatement of the provisions for remote and/or hybrid meetings.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny function

Chair: _____

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