

Council – 7th September 2023

Securing a future for Southend United Football Club

Southend Council notes:

- That Southend United Football Club (SUFC) has been a valued part of our city for 117 years and has an illustrious record of achievement in that time.
- That SUFC contributes immensely to the local economy and community and has one of the most passionate and dedicated group of fans in the country.
- That current club chairman, Ron Martin, is in talks with a new buyer to take the club on going forward.
- That the recent financial troubles that SUFC has experienced have most recently culminated in an adjournment of the HMRC winding up petition until 4 October to allow for the sale to go through.
- That as a result of repeated failure to get control of its finances, SUFC has been docked 10 points by the National League, which puts the club in a difficult position in spite of a positive start to the season.

Southend Council resolves:

- To reaffirm its support for SUFC.
- To recognise the importance of SUFC and the SUFC fan base as a key part of the community of Southend-on-Sea.
- To reach out to other local authorities which have had experience in cooperative working to help secure a future for their local football clubs, such as Hartlepool and Frome, in order to learn from their experience.
- To provide whatever reasonable support possible to assist with the purchase of the club by new owners, and to secure an ongoing future for Southend United Football Club in our city.

Proposer: Cllr Matt Dent

Seconder: Cllr Daniel Cowan, Cllr Lydia Hyde, Cllr Aston Line, Cllr Mandy O'Connor