

**Council – 7<sup>th</sup> 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.
- *To call a Special Council if Council investment would make the difference in saving the club, to consider an offer.*

Proposer: Cllr Matt Dent

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