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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 10th October, 2022

Place: Council Chamber - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor J Courtenay (Chair)
Councillors J Warren (Vice-Chair), M Berry, K Buck, S Buckley,
T Cox*, D Cowan*, L Hyde, D Jarvis, A Jones, J Moyies,
A Thompson, N Ward, P Wexham and R Woodley
(*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.)

In Attendance: Councillors P Collins, S George, I Gilbert, C Mulroney, M Terry and
S Wakefield (Cabinet members)
Councillor K Evans
J Burr, K Gearing, N Hoskins, A Richards and T Row

Start/End Time: 6.30 pm - 9.40 pm

332 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Borton (substitute: Councillor Cowan), Councillor Davidson (substitute: Councillor Cox), Councillor Dent (no substitute) and Councillor Kelly (no substitute).

333 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

(i) Councillors Collins, George, Gilbert, Mulroney, Terry and Wakefield (Cabinet Members) - Interest in the items referred direct; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19 July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;

(ii) Councillor A Jones – Minute No. 336 (Resourcing Better Outcomes – Finance and Corporate Performance Report 2022/23 – Period 4) – Civic Tower Block is mentioned and two of her sons are employed at the Council but work from home most of the time;

(iii) Councillor A Jones – Minute No. 337 (City Centre Strategy & Investment Plan) – Buses and C2C mentioned and two of her sons work in those organisations;

(iv) Councillor Gilbert – Minute No. 337 (City Centre Strategy & Investment Plan) – Place of employment is located close to City Centre;

(v) Councillor Hyde – Minute No. 338 (Endorsement of Transport East Transport Strategy) – Subject matter refers to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (main employment) (withdrew for this item);

(vi) Councillor A Jones – Minute No. 338 (Endorsement of Transport East Transport Strategy) – Husband works for Fords and in the port, a son works for

C2C, a son works for the Council's Strategic Passenger Transport and another son works in skills and recruitment within the Council.

(vii) Mr A Richards – Minute No. 337 (City Centre Strategy & Investment Plan) and Minute No. 341 (SO46 Report) – Better Queensway: Council appointed representative on the Porters Place LLP Board.

334 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions for members of the public.

335 Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 30th August, 2022

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 30th August 2022 be received, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

336 Resourcing Better Outcomes – Finance and Corporate Performance Report 2022/23 – Period 4

The Committee considered Minute 314 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 29th September 2022, which had been referred direct by Cabinet for scrutiny by each of the Scrutiny Committees, together with a report of the Executive Director (Finance & Resources) reviewing the Council's financial performance.

The Committee discussed the report in some detail and asked a number of questions of the relevant Cabinet Members. In response to questions on the following matters, the relevant Cabinet Member undertook to provide written responses:

- the increase in cost for handling cashless payments for parking;
- the cost of implementing the Southend Pass parking scheme;
- the figure used in the report as the level of inflation;
- the level of reserves that has been built up by the Council that are available, its utilisation and what they can be used for;
- an explanation of what the carry forward of £529k in respect of the Bell Junction scheme relates to;
- when the approval was granted by Cabinet for the procurement of the Waste Disposable Contract, a brief outline of the decision-making process that was followed and if not and explanation as to why this was not the case;
- a breakdown of the where the "Works to property" will be spent totalling £7.790m as detailed on page 3 of Appendix 2 Capital Investment Programme; and
- what the loss of revenue of £60k as mentioned in paragraph 4.23 of the report under Park and Ground Maintenance relates to.

Resolved:-

That the following recommendations of Cabinet be noted:-

"1. That, in respect of the 2022/23 Revenue Budget Performance as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report: ||

1. That the forecast outturn for 2022/23 for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account as at 31 July 2022, be noted.
2. That the management action taken and to be taken to reduce the forecast overspend of the Council's revenue budget for 2022/23, be noted.
3. That the transfer of £500,000 from HRA reserves to support the increase in repairs and maintenance costs, be approved.
4. That the planned budget transfers (virements) of £2,327,766 from earmarked reserves, as set out in the submitted report, be approved.
2. That, in respect of the 2022/23 Capital Budget Performance as set out in Appendix 2 of the submitted report:
5. That the expenditure to date and the forecast outturn as at 31 July 2022 and its financing, be noted.
6. That the requested changes to the capital investment programme for 2022/23 and future years, as set out in section 4 of Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be approved.
7. That the Corporate Performance Report as at 31 July 2022 set out in Appendix 3 to the submitted report, be noted.

Note: This is a Council Function
Cabinet Members: Cllr George and Cllr Collins

337 City Centre Strategy & Investment Plan

The Committee considered Minute 315 of Cabinet held on 29th September 2022, which had been referred direct by Cabinet for scrutiny, together with the report of the Interim Director for Growth and Housing presenting the City Centre Strategy and Implementation Plan. This had been developed with partners following significant public and stakeholder engagement, and outlined the actions, both short and long term, to create a thriving, active, safe, and sustainable City Centre.

Resolved:-

That the following decisions of Cabinet be noted:-

- “1. That the City Centre Strategy & Investment Plan, set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, as a means to create a thriving, active, safe and sustainable City Centre, be approved.
2. That the governance arrangements and next steps, including Day One actions, be approved.”

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

338 Endorsement of Transport East Transport Strategy

The Committee considered Minute 318 of Cabinet held on 29th September 2022, which had been referred direct by Cabinet for scrutiny, together with the report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) presenting the Transport East Transport Strategy.

Resolved:-

That the matter be referred back for reconsideration and that Cabinet be recommended that the need for a new major east-west corridor from Shoeburyness be Included in the strategy.

Note: This is an Executive function

Cabinet Member: Councillor Wakefield

339 PSPO - Jet Skis and Beach Barbecues

The Committee considered Minute 321 of Cabinet held on 29th September 2022, which had been referred direct by Cabinet for scrutiny, together with the report of the Executive Director (Adults and Communities) presenting the outcomes of the recent consultation for a PSPO to be introduced for personal watercraft (PWC) such as jet skis, barbecues and bonfires on beaches.

Resolved:-

That the following decision of Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the introduction of a ban on barbecues under PSPO legislation on designated beaches, be approved.

2. That a PWC code of conduct under PSPO legislation, be adopted.”

Note: This is an Executive function

Cabinet Member: Councillor Mulroney

340 The Official Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2022-23

The Committee considered Minute 322 of Cabinet held on 29th September 2022, which had been referred direct by Cabinet for scrutiny, together with the report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) presenting the Official Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2022- 23.

Resolved:-

That the following recommendation be noted:

“1. That the achievements against the previous plan 2021-22 and the ability to achieve targets is reliant on the ability to maintain staffing levels and the ability to recruit to vacant posts, be noted.

2. That the Official Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2022-23 'The Plan', set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.”

Note: This is a Council function
Cabinet Member: Councillor Terry

341 SO46 Report

The Committee considered Minute 326 of Cabinet held on 29th September 2022, which had been referred direct by Cabinet for 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

342 In-depth Scrutiny Project - 'Preparing Southend-on-Sea for the Electric Vehicle Revolution'

The Committee noted an oral update on the progress that had been made in respect of the in-depth scrutiny project entitled “Preparing Southend for the EV revolution.”

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

This is a Scrutiny function.

343 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:-

That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the items of business set out below, on the grounds that they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

344 SO46 Report - Confidential Sheet

The Committee considered Minute 328 of Cabinet held on 29th September 2022, which had been referred direct by Cabinet for scrutiny, together with the confidential sheet relating to 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

Chair: _____