

DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 25 June 2024 at 2 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Suzy Horton (in the Chair)

Chris Attwell
Kimberly Barrett
Peter Candlish
Hugh Mason
Matthew Winnington

In attendance:

Raymond Dent - agenda item 7
Russell Simpson - agenda item 9

44. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Pitt, Dave Ashmore, Lee Hunt and Darren Sanders. Councillor Winnington gave apologies for arriving at 2.29 pm as he was giving blood.

Members agreed to consider agenda item 5 (ASC Self-assessment for inspection: Improvement Plan) at the end of the agenda to accommodate Councillor Winnington but for ease of reference the minutes will be kept in the original order.

45. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

Councillor Candlish declared an interest in agenda items 8 and 9 as he had been a member of the ECYP and EDCL Scrutiny Panels in the previous municipal year.

46. Record of previous decision meeting - 15 May 2024 (AI 3)

The record of the previous decision meeting held on 15 May 2024 was agreed as a correct record.

47. Appointments to Outside Bodies and Member Champions (AI 4)

Councillor Graham Heaney made a deputation. Deputations are not minuted but can be viewed on the website

[Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 25th June, 2024, 2.00 pm Portsmouth City Council](#)

James Harris, Senior Local Democracy Officer, introduced the report, drawing attention to any remaining vacancies and Appendix 2 (Part 4E of the Council's Constitution) and the Code of Conduct. The table of company appointments was included for completeness and was for information only.

In response to Councillor Heaney's deputation, which expressed concern that members and officers were not informed of the decision of the council and the Kings Theatre Trust to reduce the number of nominations to one, Councillor

Mason said he was a trustee the previous year and did not know about the decision until well into the year. Councillor Horton did not know about it either. She suggested proceeding with the proposed nomination but it was a fair point to follow up with the Trust and to check if they wanted one nomination.

Although there was no official deputy for the Southern Coastal Group & Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline (SCOPAC), Councillor Mason said it was not a very formal grouping so Councillor Judith Smyth would be welcome to attend meetings.

Members noted that the positions of Member Champion for Heritage and Third Sector & City of Service were deleted as they were now contained within portfolios. They also noted there was now a deputy for the LGBTQ+ & Young People Member Champion.

Aspex Visual Arts Trust (Registered Charity and Company)	Cllr Chris Attwell
Baffins Community Association (Registered Charity)	Cllr Abdul Kadir
Buckland Community Association (Registered Charity)	Cllr Richard Adair Cllr Jason Fazackarley Cllr Rajah Ghosh (observer)
Building Control Partnership	Cllr Hugh Mason
City of Portsmouth Sports Council	Cllr Rajah Ghosh Cllr Lee Hunt Cllr Asghar Shah Cllr Lee Tindal
Eastney Area Community Association (Registered Charity)	Cllr Peter Candlish
Elementary Education Act Trust Board	Cllr Tom Coles Cllr Nick Dorrington Cllr Darren Sanders Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson Terry Norton
European Cities Twinning Committee	The Lord Mayor Cllr Steve Pitt Cllr Asghar Shah Cllr Hannah Brent (appointed 2024) Cllr Charlotte Gerada (appointed 2024)
Farlington Marshes Management Committee	Cllr Graham Heaney Cllr Hugh Mason Cllr Steve Pitt
Fratton Big Local	Cllr Tom Coles
Fratton Community Association	Cllr Dave Ashmore
Haifa Portsmouth Friendship Committee	Cllr Yinka Adeniran Cllr Dave Ashmore Cllr Hugh Mason

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation (PCC Community Fund)	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Government Association	Cllr Darren Sanders Cllr Asghar Shah
Hampshire Archives Trust - Annual Meeting	Jane Singh
Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust – Annual Meeting (Registered Charity)	Cllr Nick Dorrington
Honor Waite's Almshouses	Cllr Leonie Oliver
Improvement & Efficiency South East (IESE) LGA representative	Cllr Darren Sanders
Improvement & Efficiency South East (IESE) LGA representative - Non Exec Director	Cllr Matthew Winnington
Key Cities	Cllr Hugh Mason
Kings Theatre Trust Ltd	Cllr Hugh Mason
LGA Coastal Issues Special Interest Group	Cllr Hugh Mason
Lord Mayor of Portsmouth's Coronation Homes - Board	Cllr Jason Fazackarley (Lord Mayor)
Maritime Archaeology Trust (formerly Hants & Isle of Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology)	Cllr Nick Dorrington
Mary Rose Trust (Registered Charity and Company)	Cllr Jason Fazackarley (Lord Mayor, ex officio) Cllr Tom Coles
Milton Village Community Association (Registered Charity)	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Motiv8 (Registered Charity)	Cllr Leonie Oliver
New Theatre Royal Trust (Registered Charity and Company)	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Overlord Embroidery Trust Liaison Committee	Cllr Steve Pitt Cllr Chris Attwell Cllr Hugh Mason
Parking & Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL)	Cllr Peter Candlish Cllr Graham Heaney (deputy)
PATCH Ltd (Registered Company)	Cllr Chris Attwell Cllr Ian Holder Cllr Rajah Ghosh
PfSH (Partnership for South Hampshire) Joint Committee (formerly PUSH)	Cllr Steve Pitt Cllr Peter Candlish (deputy)
PfSH (Partnership for South Hampshire) Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Mary Vallely
Port Advisory Board	Cllr Steve Pitt (Leader, ex officio) Cllr Kimberly Barrett

	<p>Cllr Peter Candlish Cllr Charlotte Gerada Cllr Brian Madgwick Cllr Hugh Mason Cllr Judith Smyth Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson</p>
Portico Shipping Limited	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Portsmouth Fostering Panel	Cllr Leonie Oliver
Portsmouth Historic Quarter Trust (formerly Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust)	<p>Cllr Steve Pitt Cllr Tom Coles</p>
Portsmouth Royal Dockyard Historical Trust	Cllr Tom Coles
Project Integra Strategic Board	<p>Cllr Dave Ashmore Cllr Kimberly Barrett (deputy)</p>
SIGOMA (Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities admin by the LGA)	Cllr Steve Pitt
Solent Freeport Consortium Ltd	Cllr Steve Pitt
Solent Forum	Cllr Hugh Mason
Solent Sea Rescue Organisation	Cllr Richard Adair
Solent Transport Joint Committee (formerly known as Transport for South Hants Joint Committee)	Cllr Peter Candlish
South East Employers	<p>Cllr Darren Sanders Cllr Asghar Shah</p>
Southern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (formerly Southern Sea Fisheries Committee)	Cllr Matthew Winnington
Southern Regional Flood & Coastal Committee	<p>Cllr Hugh Mason Cllr Judith Smyth (deputy)</p>
Stacey Community Centre Management Committee	Cllr Darren Sanders
Stamshaw & Tipner Community Centre Association (GMC)	Cllr Lee Hunt
Southern Coastal Group & Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline (SCOPAC)	<p>Cllr Hugh Mason Cllr Judith Smyth (deputy)</p>
The Guildhall Trust (formerly Portsmouth Cultural Trust)	Peter Gunn
Tourism South East (Registered Company)	Jane Singh
Trading Standards South East Limited (known as TSSE)	Cllr Lee Hunt
Transport Liaison Group	<p>Cllr Peter Candlish Cllr Graham Heaney</p>

Member Champions

LGBTQ+ & Young People - Cllr Suzy Horton with Cllr Mary Vallely as deputy

Armed Forces Liaison - Cllr Steve Pitt with Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson and Cllr Tom Coles as deputies

Women, Children & Domestic Violence - Cllr Charlotte Gerada

The Cabinet noted the following Company appointments for information:

Ravelin Group Limited - Julian Pike, Thomas Southall

Ravelin Housing Limited - Jon Boast, Thomas Southall, Andrew Tice

Ravelin Property Limited - Julian Pike, Thomas Southall

Springvale Management Company Limited - Peter Bingel, Thomas Southall

North Harbour Estate Management - Thomas Southall

DECISIONS

The Cabinet

- 1. Agreed appointments to represent the Council on those outside organisations set out in Appendix 1 for the 2024/25 municipal year; and**
- 2. Agreed Member Champion positions and appointments for the 2024/25 municipal year.**

48. Adult Social Care Self-assessment for inspection: Improvement Plan (AI 5)

Andy Biddle, Director of Adult Social Care (ASC), introduced the report.

Councillor Winnington, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, Health & Care, thanked officers for the report. Self-assessment was a thorough process and though not a formal requirement was best practice and very helpful. When ASC was notified of inspection it would be in a good place to move forward. However, he was not very keen that inspection had been re-introduced as it would cost the Council; the funding given to local authorities was not enough and the process was time consuming. The self-assessment involved service users which was the only way to self-reflect. He hoped central government would use self-reflection before thinking of wild schemes that they did not do themselves.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet endorsed the Improvement Plan.

49. Continuing to support residents with the cost of living (AI 6)

Mark Sage, Tackling Poverty Co-ordinator, introduced the report.

Although the report was for noting, members agreed to ask the Leader to write to the new government requesting that they extend the Household Support Fund (HSF) at least until the end of the financial year to avoid a cliff edge on 30 September (when it was due to end), and that they consult with local government on giving flexibility to use funding over a longer period of time to enable councils to avoid a future cliff edge. The demand for the HSF

was not easing and though the Council was doing what it could to provide ongoing support, it did have the finance to plug the enormous gap left if there was no HSF going forward.

Councillor Horton noted the frustrations of not being able to plan and she hoped the new government would realise the HSF's importance. However, she was proud of what the Council had done and how it had used the funding to support where the need was greatest. On behalf of the Cabinet she thanked Mr Sage over the years for his hard work.

The Cabinet noted the report.

50. Response to Review into the LA and landlords in the city to issue of damp and mould in social housing and private rented housing (AI 7)

James Hill, Director of Housing, Neighbourhood & Building Services, introduced the report. The coroner's finding published in November 2022 that the death of Awaab Ishak in 2020 was found to be due to prolonged exposure to mould and the response of the landlord was heavily questioned. The scrutiny review was an opportunity to review landlords' practice in the city.

The local authority Housing Service had initiated a review of its practice when dealing with damp and mould in council owned properties. It did not arise from any specific concerns, but officers felt it the right thing to do and a working group was established to coordinate the response to the government's review and to check its own practices. Housing also asked the internal audit team to audit practice. That work culminated in bringing forward an updated Damp and Mould Policy, which was agreed by the Housing Cabinet on 22 February 2024. The Damp and Mould Working Group was able to absorb recommendations from the scrutiny panel into the work underway and the panel's work influenced the Council's housing policy.

In many cases the recommendations could be taken forward by the Council's Housing Service and the Private Sector Housing Team. Regarding the recommendations specifically for housing associations, whilst the panel and Cabinet could not mandate change for them, the Council had good working relationships with them and would use a landlord forum to promote the panel's findings.

In response to questions, officers explained the Damp and Mould Working Group comprised the Building Services, Housing Management and Private Sector Housing Teams. It helped review the policy and recommendations from internal audit and could draw on expertise if necessary. It was well placed to inform the Council's own practice and policy and to discuss any changes with housing associations. All the group's work fed into the revised Damp and Mould Policy and it continued to take forward the panel's recommendations and as well as those from internal audit.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet

- 1. Thanked the Panel for its work in undertaking the review and the resulting report; and**

2. **Noted the panel's report and recommendations as set out in Appendix A to this report, together with the officer responses to the recommendations as set out in 4.4 of the report.**

51. Response to Review into Education, Employment and Training opportunities for our cared experienced young adults aged 18 to 25 (AI 8)

Sam Bushby, Deputy Director of Children & Families, introduced the report. The topic was chosen to enable far more care-experienced young people to access opportunities. The panel heard from young people, personal assistants and educational providers about barriers and why it was difficult to access opportunities. Looking through the trauma-informed lens gave a different eye on the topic. The Council needed to ask what it could do to provide opportunities in all Directorates and with its contractors. The review showed the work of the personal assistants was valued.

Members thanked officers and said the review highlighted the real depth of understanding of what it meant to be a corporate parent. They appreciated the provision of help with transport when starting employment or training, which officers confirmed was included in the Care Leaver offer. Foster carers had given good feedback on the report.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet

1. **Thanked the Panel for its work in undertaking the review.**
2. **Noted the recommendations of the review, which are set out in the report.**

52. Response to Review into Economic Development & Regeneration Strategy focusing on High Street Direction (AI 9)

Claire Watkins, Business Manager, introduced the report.

Councillor Winnington pointed out the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Panel had carried out a review on "Revitalising high streets and secondary shopping areas" in 2015 but the recent review had not referred to it. Then the Scrutiny Management Panel (SMP) had looked at previous reviews to see what had been done before so there was no need to retread. It needed to be more systematically cognisant of previous reviews. However, Councillor Winnington thanked Councillor Simpson, who had chaired the panel, as the review had some very good elements and had taken evidence, which was not always the case in the recent past.

Councillor Simpson said much had changed in the retail sector since then with the Local Plan in 2019 and the Covid pandemic. Councillor Winnington said the 2015 review had looked at local shopping areas like Tangier Road and Highland Road and set up retail groups where they had not existed before, for example, North End, which then and now has struggled with losing retailers. He acknowledged some aspects of the reviews were different and his comments were more criticism of the SMP than the EDCL Panel. Councillor Candlish said he had talked to other members and officers about scrutiny. Good work could be done to prepare members for panels, for example,

direction to previous reports, to lead to better results. The discussion was a "takeaway" for the SMP's processes. Councillor Horton said some good points on processes, preparation and support had been made.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet

- 1. Thanked the Panel for its work in undertaking the review.**
- 2. Noted and considered the recommendations together with the officer responses to the recommendations, which are set out in Appendix 1 to the report.**

53. Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking annual statement (AI 10)

Caroline Hopper, Corporate Projects Manager, introduced the report, noting that since the report had been written the number of staff attending training had increased since to 737.

Councillor Mason made three points. Firstly, Anti-Slavery International thought there could be 130,000 people in slavery in the UK, the highest estimate ever. As a port city it was important to be aware of slavery and of what could be done. Secondly, he was pleased to see partnership working with, for example, the police as a very good network was needed to combat it. Thirdly, the link with the City of Sanctuary was to be welcomed.

Members thanked officers for their outstanding work with vulnerable migrants and hidden communities. They placed on record that they were looking forward to working with the City of Sanctuary as they worked towards being a Council of Sanctuary. They congratulated the Aspex Gallery on being the first visual arts organisation in Hampshire to be a Gallery of Sanctuary. Combatting modern slavery was everyone's business and the more information that was presented, the more awareness there was.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet

- 1. Approved the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the signature of the Leader and publication on the council's website (see appendix 1) and**
- 2. Approved the programme of work set out in item 11 of the report.**
- 3. Approved that Full Council be asked to note the decision of the cabinet to approve and publish the statement.**

54. Productivity Plan (AI 11)

Paddy May, Corporate Strategy Manager, introduced the report, which had to be returned to the government by 19 July, despite the election.

Members were thankful to officers for their work but not the government for the requirement. Local government was more efficient than central government. With the cuts over the last few years it had no choice but to be productive in order to provide residents with services. During Covid the Council had to report to two different departments who did not talk to each other. It was unclear what the government would do with the report but it gave a good breakdown of how productive the Council was as a local authority.

The Cabinet

- 1. Noted the requirement for Portsmouth City Council to produce and submit a productivity plan**
- 2. Approved the proposed plan, subject to any requested amendments**
- 3. Delegated authority for finalising and submitting the plan to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader.**

The meeting concluded at 3.11 pm.

Councillor Steve Pitt
Leader of the Council