

# JOINT ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT

## Between Independent, Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups on the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

### 1. Pre-ambule

- 1.1 Following the Local Elections held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014 no party or group achieved an overall majority on the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (“the Council”).
- 1.2 The challenges facing Southend-on-Sea and the Council needs strong leadership and a stable political environment to ensure that we:
- Provide the best possible services;
  - Promote fairness for all residents and reduce inequalities;
  - Provide opportunities for economic growth;
  - Make the necessary financial savings which Government has imposed upon local authorities; and
  - Create a better Southend
- 1.3 This Agreement sets out broad agreements reached between the Independent, Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups that will form the basis of this Joint Administration and will enable us to work together as a strong and stable local Administration.

### 2. Terms of Agreement

We, the Independent, Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups on the Council (and the individual members of the Groups) agree as follows:

- 2.1 To form a Joint Administration with a Cabinet of 7 members:
- Positions on the Cabinet are to be filled in the ratio of 3 (Independent) : 3 (Labour) : 1 (Liberal Democrat)
  - The Leader will be Councillor Ron Woodley.
  - The Leader intends to appoint Councillors Longley and Gilbert as Deputy Leaders and will give notice as to which of the two is performing the statutory duties required of a deputy leader at all times. This arrangement will not result in any increase in special responsibility allowances.

- The Constitution will be amended at Council on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014 to require the Chairman and Vice Chairman of all 3 Scrutiny Committees to come from opposition Groups.
- 2.2 To work together on the basis of democratic principles of trust, equity, openness and fairness.
  - 2.3 To promote strong working relationships with Council Officers based on mutual trust and respect.
  - 2.4 To act in the best interests of Southend-on-Sea and its residents reflecting their views and with the aim of creating a better Southend.
  - 2.5 To prepare a Corporate Plan setting out our joint objectives for the Council and to progress schemes and initiatives in accordance with such Plan.
  - 2.6 To continue to work with the agreed Budget for 2014 / 2015 and to work jointly on preparation for the 2015 / 2016 Budget and Budgets for future years.
  - 2.7 To deliver on the following specific commitments:
    - (a) Shoeburyness Flood Defences

To undertake a review to identify the best and most effective scheme to provide protection for residents and property, to safeguard the local environment and to provide value for money
    - (b) Delaware & Priory Care Homes

To review the decisions taken by the previous Administration.
    - (c) Libraries

To review the decisions taken by the previous Administration.
    - (d) Kent Elms - Pedestrian Crossing arrangements

To investigate improved facilities for pedestrians to cross at Kent Elms.
    - (e) Victoria Avenue Regeneration

To urgently pursue the regeneration of redundant office accommodation in Victoria Avenue.
    - (f) Community facilities in Central Southend

To pursue the planning and provision of new community facilities in Central Southend.

(g) Affordable & Social Housing

To pursue the building and other provision of new affordable and social housing as a key priority.

(h) Constitutional Matters

- To consolidate the existing Working Parties (and amend their roles as necessary) at the meeting of Council on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014.
- To bring a report to Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 for it to consider any further Constitutional change, including consideration of the Cabinet and Committee systems.

2.8 That we will support all nominations submitted by our Joint Administration for appointments to Council bodies and outside bodies at Council on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

2.9 That we will support the Joint Administration in respect of its Budget proposals and on any confidence motion.

2.10 That this Agreement constitutes the whole agreement between the parties and will inform and be informed by the Council's strategic plans and objectives.

2.11 That this Agreement be reviewed on an annual basis.

This Agreement has been signed by all members of the Independent, Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups to confirm their agreement, this 5th day of June 2014.

**Signed on behalf of the Independent Group by:**

Stephen Aylen  
Brian Ayling  
Mike Assenheim  
Anne Chalk  
Caroline Endersby  
Derek Kenyon  
Ric Morgan  
Mike Stafford  
Martin Terry  
Paul Van Looy  
Marimuthu Velmurugan  
Nick Ward  
Ron Woodley

**Signed on behalf of the Labour Group by:**

Margaret Borton  
Ian Gilbert  
Ann Jones  
Judith McMahon  
Cheryl Nevin  
David Norman  
Kevin Robinson  
Michael Royston  
Julian Ware-Lane

**Signed on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group by:**

Mary Betson  
Alan Crystall  
Graham Longley  
Carole Mulroney  
Peter Wexham