

## **Trust Statement – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

### **The Shrimpers Trust welcomes the discussion concerning Southend United Football Club at the full meeting of Southend-on-Sea City Council on Thursday 7th September 2023.**

We note the decision of Council to agree a motion resolving to:

- \* Reaffirm its support for Southend United FC
- \* To recognise the importance of Southend United FC and its fanbase as a key part of the community of the city
- \* To reach out to other local authorities which have had experience of co-operative working to learn from their experiences
- \* To provide whatever reasonable support possible to assist with the purchase of the Club by new owners, and to ensure an ongoing future for Southend United FC in our city

Further, we note the amendment to the motion, also agreed, stating:

- \* To call a special Council if Council investment would make the difference in saving the Club, to consider an offer

Representatives from the Shrimpers Trust have met with Councillors during the past week to discuss the motion and continue to explore all possible avenues to safeguard the future of our Club.

We were enthused by the passion that was exhibited from Councillors from across the political spectrum about the significance of the Club to the city, and this provided a snapshot of the cultural importance and heritage of Southend United within the wider community.

We are in total agreement with the assertion that time is of the essence for meaningful action to save and secure the existence of the Club. We ask that representatives from the Shrimpers Trust are provided with the opportunity to meet with delegates of Southend-on-Sea City Council as soon as possible to discuss working together on practical next steps and what might be required.

**The Shrimpers Trust Board.**