

Meeting: **Council**  
Date: **24 February 2021**  
Time: **7.00 pm**  
Place: **Zoom - remote meeting**

To: **All Members of the Council**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to attend a remote meeting of the Council on the date and at the time shown above. The meeting will be open to the press and public, who can watch the meeting live at: [bit.ly/YouTubeMeetings](https://bit.ly/YouTubeMeetings)

Anyone who wishes to have information on any matter arising on the Agenda which is not fully covered in these papers is requested to give notice prior to the meeting to the Chairman or appropriate officer.



Dr Susan Priest  
Chief Executive

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest (Pages 5 - 6)**

Members of the Council should declare any discloseable pecuniary interest or any other significant interests in any item/s on this agenda.

3. **Chairman's Communications**
4. **Announcements of the Leader of the Council**

**Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?**

Contact Jemma West – Tel: 01303 853369  
Email: [committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) or download from our  
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To receive a report from the Leader of the Council on the business of the cabinet and on matters that the leader considers should be drawn to the council's attention. The leader shall have 10 minutes to make his announcements.

The opposition group will have an opportunity to reply to the leader's remarks. The opposition group leader shall have 5 minutes to respond after which the Leader of the Council will have a right of reply. Any right of reply will be for a maximum duration of 5 minutes.

## 5. **Opposition Business**

The Labour Group has raised the following matter:

### **Council Notes**

- That Napier Barracks was commissioned by the home office for the purpose of accommodating those awaiting the processing of their asylum claims.
- That over 400 people were living in the barracks recently.
- That ClearSprings Ready Homes was commissioned by the home office to run the barracks.

### **Council Believes**

- That the residents of the barracks have received limited provisions of food, water, medical supplies and treatment.
- That Covid has severely exacerbated the problems in the barracks and many of the residents have contracted the virus.
- That the additional restrictions in place due to the presence of Covid has turned the barracks into a prison, not its original function.
- That many questions still remain unanswered with regards to the establishment of the barracks, the role of the organisation contracted to operate them and causes of a number of events that have occurred on the site.

### **Council Resolves**

- To ask the leader of the council to write to the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, asking for the immediate closure of Napier Barracks as it is not fit for purpose. A sentiment also shared by the local MP, Damian Collins.
- To publish any correspondence sent and received as a result of the letter.
- To refer to the Overview and Scrutiny committee a request to establish an enquiry session where representatives of the home office, ClearSprings Ready Homes, local charities, local residents and residents of the barracks can provide evidence in response to questions from both members and the general public.

Debates on opposition business shall be limited to 30 minutes. If the time limit is reached or the debate concludes earlier, the leader of the group

raising the item shall have a right of reply.

The Council shall:

- a) Note the issue raised and take no further action;
- b) Refer the issue to the cabinet or relevant overview and scrutiny committee, as the case may be for their observations before deciding whether to make a decision on the issue;
- c) Agree to examine the matter as part of a future scrutiny programme;
- d) Adopt the issue raised by opposition business provided that the decision so made is within the policy framework and budget.

6. **Motions on Notice**

There are no motions on notice.

7. **Corporate Plan - Creating Tomorrow Together 2021-2030 (Pages 7 - 48)**

This report sets out the proposed Corporate Plan which provides strategic direction to the Council's activities for the period 2021 – 2030.

8. **General Fund Budget and Council Tax 2021/22 (Pages 49 - 74)**

This report concludes the budget setting process for 2021/22. It sets out recommendations for setting the council tax after taking into account the district's council tax requirement (including town and parish council requirements and special expenses in respect of the Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Grounds Charity), the precepts of Kent County Council, the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner and the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Service.

9. **Housing Revenue Account Revenue and capital original budget 2021/22 (Pages 75 - 88)**

This report sets out the Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Budget for 2021/22 and proposes an increase in weekly rents and an increase in service charges for 2021/22.

10. **Update to the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme and budget monitoring 2020/21 (Pages 89 - 108)**

This report updates the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme for the five year period ending 31 March 2026. The report provides an updated projected outturn for the General Fund capital programme in 2020/21, based on expenditure to 30 November 2020. The General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme is required to be submitted to full Council for consideration and approval as part of the budget process. The Finance and Performance Scrutiny Sub-Committee considered this report on 12 January 2021 ahead of Cabinet approving it for submission to full Council on 20 January 2021.

11. **Capital Strategy 21/22 and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2021/2022 (Pages 109 - 126)**

This report sets out the Council's proposed strategy in relation to capital expenditure, financing and treasury management in 2021/22 to be approved by full Council. The report also sets out the Prudential Indicators for capital expenditure and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2021/22 to be approved by full Council. The report is due to be considered and approved by Cabinet for submission to full Council earlier today.

12. **Investment Strategy 21/22 (Pages 127 - 144)**

This report sets out the Council's proposed strategy for its service and commercial investments in 2021/22 to be approved by full Council. The report is due to be considered and approved by Cabinet for submission to full Council earlier today.