

Meeting: **Cabinet**  
Date: **20 September 2023**  
Time: **5.00 pm**  
Place: **Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone**

To: **All members of the Cabinet**

All Councillors for information

The cabinet will consider the matters listed below on the date and at the time and place shown above.

This meeting will be webcast live to the council's website at <https://folkestone-hythe.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>.

Please note there will be 37 seats available for members of the public, which will be reserved for those speaking or participating at the meeting. The remaining available seats will be given on a first come, first served basis.

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

Members of the Council should declare any interests which fall under the following categories:

- a) disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI);
- b) other significant interests (OSI);
- c) voluntary announcements of other interests.

3. **Minutes (Pages 7 - 20)**

To consider and approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meetings

### **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  
website  
[www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](http://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

held on 12 and 27 July 2023.

**4. Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 - Policy (Pages 21 - 62)**

This report sets out the Council's policy on the use of directed surveillance and covert human intelligence sources under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

**5. Welfare Report and Overview 2022/23 (Pages 63 - 74)**

This report gives an overview of the work of the Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC) Welfare and Compliance & Development Teams for the year 2022/23, covering additional support offered to residents on top of standard Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction support.

**6. Investigations and Fraud Overview 2022/23 (Pages 75 - 82)**

This report gives an overview of the work of the Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC) Investigations unit for the year 2022/23, covering Housing Benefit, Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates and Housing.

**7. Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23 (Pages 83 - 100)**

This report reviews the Council's treasury management activities for 2022/23, including the actual treasury management indicators. The report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Council is required to comply with both Codes through Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

**8. General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring - 1st Quarter 2023/24 (Pages 101 - 108)**

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for the Council as at 30 June 2023, i.e., Q1 of 2023/24. The report provides Members with an overview of budget performance, including an overview of reserves and balances, to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets. At the end of Quarter 1, there is a favourable projected position of £278k on the Council's revised net revenue budget, of £28.1m. This position is based on activity as at 30 June 2023, projected trends in income and expenditure and changes to Council funding.

**9. General Fund Capital Programme Budget Monitoring - 1st Quarter (Q1) 2023/24 (Pages 109 - 114)**

This monitoring report provides an initial projection of the current financial position for the General Fund capital programme profiled for 2023/24, based on expenditure to 30 June 2023, and identifies variances compared to the latest approved budget.

10. **Consultation from Kent County Council on Local Transport Plan 5 'Turning the Curve towards Net Zero' - proposed District Council response (Pages 115 - 138)**

Kent County Council has published a consultation draft of its fifth Local Transport Plan (LTP5), titled 'Turning the Curve Towards Net Zero'. LTP5 sets out the county council's plans for delivering infrastructure to electrify vehicles, increase public transport use and make walking and cycling attractive. The plan aims to maintain the highways network and deliver the county council's Vision Zero road safety strategy. The report sets out comments which, if agreed by Cabinet, will be submitted to the county council as the district council's response to the consultation.

11. **Net Zero Toolkit (Pages 139 - 266)**

The Net Zero Carbon Toolkit is a practical, easy to follow guide to help plan a net zero development project. It has been developed with joint funding from Homes England and through a collaborative approach involving Council teams across housing, strategy, development management and also Kent County Council. The report explains the four parts to the draft toolkit developed with the support of the same multi-disciplinary consultancy team responsible for the LGA funded toolkit. The report seeks Cabinet approval for publication as a best practice guide aimed at householders looking to retrofit or extend their existing property, small or medium-sized house builders, architects, self-builders and consultants. It is also recommended to form an evidence base document for a future review of the Local Plan and endorsement by Cabinet.

12. **Leas Lift Project (Pages 267 - 286)**

In 2021, Folkestone & Hythe District Council ('FHDC' / 'the Council') made a commitment to support the reintroduction of the Leas Lift, a closed funicular railway in Folkestone which is owned by The Radnor Estate. The Council's Place Plan highlights a specific action for reinstatement of the Leas Lift. The Leas Lift Community Interest Organisation (LLCIO) has been established to deliver the project to reinstate the lift. Part of the project involves 'Additional Land' located adjacent to the lift in which the Council has a long leasehold interest. The LLCIO has approached the Council with a request to transfer part of its leasehold land to facilitate the project. To do this, there are two options available to the Council: vary its lease of The Leas to remove the area of land in question, to be surrendered to the landlord; or grant a sublease of the land to the LLCIO. The former option is being recommended to Cabinet.

13. **Transformation 2023-25 (Pages 287 - 292)**

The report sets out an approach to transformation spanning a two-year period. The transformation seeks to reduce management duplication, improve efficiency, ensure that organisation capacity is focused on the Council's priorities, and deliver financial savings by making the best use of IT, Premises, Asset & Contract Management and reducing the overall

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number of staff across the Council.