



Agenda

Meeting: **Council**
Date: **21 June 2023**
Time: **7.00 pm**
Place: **Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone**

To: **All Members of the Council**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of the Council on the date and at the time shown above.

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.

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.

Dr Susan Priest
Chief Executive

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

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Contact Jemma West – Tel: 01303 853369
Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or download from our
website
www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

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

3. **Minutes (Pages 7 - 12)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the council held on 29 March 2023 and to authorise the Chairman of the Council to sign them as a correct record.

4. **Chair's Communications**

5. **Petitions**

There are no petitions to be presented.

6. **Questions from the Public**

1. **From Ms M Lawes to Councillor J Martin, Leader of the Council**

Will the Leader of this council meet with harbour residents' association, local residents & businesses of the Stade, to discuss with all partners in how to resolve all matters of concern and how we can improve the gridlock, safety, look, ambiance and enjoyment for locals, businesses and visitors?

7. **Questions from Councillors**

(Questions can be found on www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk from noon 2 days before the meeting, on Modern.gov, under the agenda for this meeting).

Up to 45 minutes is allowed for questions from councillors.

8. **Announcements of the Leader of the Council**

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.

Both opposition groups will have an opportunity to reply to the leader's remarks. The opposition group leaders shall each 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.

9. **Portfolio Holder reports (Pages 13 - 20)**

10. **Opposition Business**

The Labour Group has raised the following matter:

Council Notes

That the council has previously given funds to community organisations and events through various budgets.

These funds are dispensed, often through the leader's decision.

Council Believes

That council funding should be open and accountable and that it should be dispensed through a cross party committee or working group.

Council Resolves

To refer to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To establish a District Council Grant Committee/working group to dispense community funds from 2024/25, ideally sourced from existing budgets.

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.

11. **Motions on Notice**

The following motions have been placed on the agenda in the order received; up to 60 minutes shall be allowed for debates on motions on notice:

1. **From Councillor Tim Prater, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance**

Committee Governance for Folkestone & Hythe District Council

This Council resolves:

1. That the Committee System model of governance is adopted by Folkestone and Hythe District Council with effect from the Annual Council meeting in May 2024.

2. That a Constitution Working Group is convened, comprising of the Leader of each constituted Group (or their nominee) plus one Independent. The Working Group is instructed to consider and make recommendations to Full Council on the composition and terms of reference of committees by January 2024.
3. That the Independent Remuneration Panel is instructed to review the Scheme of Members' Allowances in light of the revised model of governance and make recommendations to Full Council by January 2024.
4. That the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Constitution Working Group, redrafts the Council's constitution to fit a committee system of governance and presents the revised constitution to Full Council for adoption by March 2024.

This Council acknowledges that there will be a cost implication to this proposed change in Governance. A budget is to be made available of up to a maximum of £100k taken from general reserves in agreement with the S151 Officer and the Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder.

12. **Amendment of delegation arrangements by the Leader of the Council (Pages 21 - 22)**

Under the Council's constitution the Leader of the Council decides on the delegation of cabinet functions. The Leader may amend the delegations at any time by giving written notice to the Head of the Paid Service. Where such a notice is received the Head of the Paid Service must submit a report on the amendments to the next ordinary meeting of the Council. This report sets out the amendments made by the Leader.

13. **Committee Membership Changes (Pages 23 - 26)**

Under the Folkestone and Hythe District Council Constitution, Part 8.1 'Delegation to Officers', paragraph 3.18, the Head of Paid Service is authorised to make appointments to committees or sub-committees at the request of the relevant political group leader. This report sets out the appointments made, under these powers, on the instruction of the Green Group Leader.

Declarations of Interest

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a Member has a new or registered DPI in a matter under consideration they must disclose that they have an interest and, unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed in advance that the DPI is a 'Sensitive Interest', explain the nature of that interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a DPI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation permitting them to do so. If during the consideration of any item a Member becomes aware that they have a DPI in the matter they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

Other Significant Interest (OSI)

Where a Member is declaring an OSI they must also disclose the interest and explain the nature of the interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a OSI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so or the meeting is one at which members of the public are permitted to speak for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. In the latter case, the Member may only participate on the same basis as a member of the public and cannot participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter and must withdraw from the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

Voluntary Announcement of Other Interests (VAOI)

Where a Member does not have either a DPI or OSI but is of the opinion that for transparency reasons alone s/he should make an announcement in respect of a matter under consideration, they can make a VAOI. A Member declaring a VAOI may still remain at the meeting and vote on the matter under consideration.

Note to the Code:

Situations in which a Member may wish to make a VAOI include membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items; where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person; or where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position. It should be emphasised that an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI.

This page is intentionally left blank

FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone on Wednesday, 29 March 2023

Present: Councillors Mrs Ann Berry, Miss Susan Carey, John Collier, Laura Davison, Ray Field, Gary Fuller, Peter Gane, David Godfrey, Anthony Hills (Vice-Chair), Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Nicola Keen, Michelle Keutenius, Jim Martin, Philip Martin (Chairman), Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Ian Meyers, David Monk, Terence Mullard, Stuart Peall, Tim Prater, Patricia Rolfe, Rebecca Shoob, Georgina Treloar, Douglas Wade, Lesley Whybrow, David Wimble and John Wing.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Clive Goddard.

69. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

70. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2023 were submitted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

71. **Chairman's Communications**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

“Since the last meeting of the Council I have attended a number of charitable events on behalf of the Council, including events hosted by Folkestone Town Council, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, the Mayor of Faversham and the Mayor of Ashford. Today I attended an event at Knole House that raised funds for the Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust Charity.

I also attended the New Romney Commonwealth Flag Raising Ceremony.”

72. **Petitions**

A petition asking for the development at Princes Parade to be abandoned and the site re-wilded has been received. It has a total of 361 signatures. In accordance with the petitions scheme, set out in part four of the constitution, petitions which receive more than 250 signatures can be presented to a meeting of Full Council.

Proposed by Councillor Whybrow
Seconded by Councillor Wade

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That report A/22/35 be received and noted.
2. To examine the issues raised by the petition as part of a future scrutiny programme.

(Voting figures: 26 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions).

73. Questions from the Public

The questions asked, including the supplementary question, and the answers given are set out in Schedule 1, appended to these minutes.

74. Questions from Councillors

The questions asked, including supplementary questions, and the answers given are set out in Schedule 2, appended to these minutes.

75. Announcements of the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council made the following announcements:

“Good evening to you all.

As this is probably the last full council meeting of this administrative term, I would like to say thank you to you all as, apart from one contentious project, we have all worked well together for the good of our residents implementing many forward looking policies and projects, despite the vagaries introduced by the covid lockdowns.

One that, for me, particularly stands out is the commissioning of the Folkestone Town Plan, which had been talked about for more than thirty years. It gave us the evidence for a Levelling Up Bid which was successful to the tune of £19,200,000. Our bid was supported by a short promotional film, that am sure convinced the government that we were on song with their levelling up agenda, and was a major consideration in getting our allocation. If you have not done so, I exhort you to watch it and take pride in its message.

I would like to thank all of the members of my cabinet for their whole hearted support, and as I understand they are not standing again, specifically thank Councillor Whybrow and Councillor Field for their input. I wish them well for the future.

This afternoon I was able to attend a staff briefing where I made a presentation to Karen Everett for her 45 years of service, and I praised the staff for all of their work over the last four tumultuous years, the effectiveness of which is recognised by the award of 16 compliance plusses for Customer Service Excellence.

For those of you not standing again I wish you well, you will in various degrees be missed, and for those standing again, in various degrees, good luck.

I move that the council accepts my report.”

The Leader of the opposition responded to the announcements with the following:

“I largely echo that sentiment. It's been a very interesting four years for myself; not where I thought I'd find myself when I was working in kitchens a few years ago, but I've thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I thank everyone in this room for the debate and support, and I think we have done quite good things.

I'd like to thank the members of my group as well, I'd like to think that we've brought some items of business to the chamber for debate that's hopefully improved the council.

To members who are not standing again, thank you very much. I would very much like to be here after the elections in May, there's many more things to do, but I'll leave that to the will of the people.

Congratulations to Karen, as we noted in the last full Council meeting. I would also like to make special mention of one other officer, who I have a high level of respect for, and who is leaving us on Friday, that's Lee Walker. I'd just like to offer a personal note of gratitude from this Chamber for all the hard work that he has done over the years for this council, thank you.”

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

That the announcements of the Leader be noted.

(The recommendation was agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

76. Opposition Business

The Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor McConville, outlined the opposition business which related to the establishment of a Youth District Council.

Proposed by Councillor McConville
Seconded by Councillor Keutenius

RESOLVED:

That Option B (Refer the issue to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their observations before deciding whether to make a decision on the issue) be applied for the business set out below

- To refer to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee a report on the benefit of establishing a district-based Folkestone and Hythe Youth District Council.
- To invite the current representatives from the district on the KYCC, to offer their views on the establishment of a FHYDC.

- To produce a short survey aimed at young people in the district's secondary schools, in order to determine the appetite of the districts young people to have a formal structure to discuss and influence local decision-making policy.

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

77. Motions on Notice

There were no motions on notice.

78. Local Authority Housing Fund

The Government has provisionally offered the council £1,200,000 of Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) grant, to facilitate the purchase of ten properties to temporarily accommodate Ukrainian and Afghan refugees in the district. The timeframe for the council to confirm it wishes to accept the grant funding is very short. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Special Projects took an individual member decision and agreed that the council should submit a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding to the government by their deadline of 15 March 2023. This decision was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 22 March 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Godfrey
Seconded by Councillor McConville

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That the match funding requirements of the scheme be met from council resources, as set out in section 1.4 of this report.
3. That that the funding required for the project of £2.9M, made up of LAHF grant and the council's match funding should be added to the 2023/24 HRA Capital Programme.

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting)

79. Pay Policy Statement

The report considered the recommendation from the Personnel Committee and presented the pay policy statement for 2023/24 for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Monk
Seconded by Councillor Hollingsbee

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/22/33 be received and noted.
2. That the updated Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22 (appended to the report) be approved under S38(1) Localism Act 2011.

(Voting figures: 27 for, 0 against, 1 abstentions).

80. **Appointment of an interim Chief Financial Officer (S151 Officer)**

The report set out recommendations on the appointment of an Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer).

Proposed by Councillor Monk
Seconded by Councillor Hollingsbee

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/22/23 be received and noted.

(The recommendation was agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

81. **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): adoption of the Council's Modified CIL Charging Schedule**

The council adopted the Core Strategy Review (CSR) in March 2022, and so it has been necessary for the council to amend the adopted CIL Charging Schedule to bring it 'in step' with the adopted CSR, as well as amendments to the CIL Regulations. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations (2010) as amended, outlines the process for establishing a CIL scheme in an area. At its meeting of 20th July 2022, the Cabinet approved publication of the Draft Charging Schedule and associated documents for consultation (and public consultation took place between 22 August and 3 October 2022), and authorised the Council to submit the DCS and associated documents to the appointed external Examiner for independent examination in accordance with the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended). The DCS was submitted for external Examination in November 2022, and the Examiner's report was received in February 2023. Cabinet subsequently considered the outcome of the Examination at its meeting of 22nd March 2023, and as per the requirements of the Government's CIL Regulations, agreed a recommendation to submit the Modified CIL Charging Schedule for adoption by Council at its meeting of 29th March 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Monk
Seconded by Councillor Hollingsbee

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/22/38 be received and noted.
2. That the findings of the Examiner's report on the council's CIL Draft Modified Charging Schedule be noted.
3. That the council's Modified CIL Charging Schedule be adopted with a commencement date for the continued collection of CIL under the new regime applicable from the 1st April 2023.

(Voting figures: 20 for, 6 against, 2 abstentions).

82. **Call in and urgency report**

The constitution provides that, when an urgent decision is made by the Cabinet or Cabinet Member, for which any delay in implementation, likely to be caused

by the call-in process, would seriously prejudice the council's or public interest, then the 'Call-in Rules of Procedure', Part 6.3, rules 1-6 do not apply. Decisions, taken as a matter of urgency, must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.

Proposed by Councillor Monk
Seconded by Councillor Hollingsbee

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/22/34 be received and noted.

(The recommendation was agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

83. **Urgent item of business - Member Allowances**

A procedural matter has arisen that requires reporting to Council, following a decision made on 14th December 2022 by Cabinet not to increase Member allowances by the September CPI rate (10.1%) and subsequent approval of the General Fund budget by Council at its meeting on 22 February 2023. As Member allowance increases are applied automatically under the council's Constitution, this matter ought to have been - but was not - specifically highlighted in the Council papers seeking approval of the General Fund budget on 22 February 2023. This paper is therefore brought forward to specifically highlight the decision taken by Cabinet on 14 December 2022 and for Council to be able to formally ratify the suspension of the relevant constitutional rule ahead of the 2023/24 budget year.

Proposed by Councillor Monk
Seconded by Councillor McConville

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/22/39 be received and noted.
2. That Cabinet's decision to suspend paragraph 11 of Part 9.8 of the council's constitution and not apply a September 2022 CPI increase (10.1%) to Members allowances for the 2023/24 budget be ratified.

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

Agenda item 9 (Portfolio Holder reports)

1. Report of the Leader and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy

I was immensely proud and honoured to be voted in as Leader of the Folkestone and Hythe District Council. Since becoming the Leader, I have been extremely busy meeting all of the senior officers and Directors. I have also held meetings with Roger Gough the leader of KCC and Roger De Haan regarding the Seafront development in Folkestone. I have had several meetings with Otterpool Park LLP.

I have also had meetings with residents, partners and other stakeholders.

The subject of these meetings can be generally grouped as follows: Finance, Governance, Prince's Parade, Otterpool, Folca, the levelling up fund, Folkestone Seafront, Romney Marsh and Folkestone Town Centre.

I have been delighted to meet many of the people employed by FHDC and be asked to present the Recognition Awards for Customer Service. I will be joining Luke Douglas-Home, known as 'The Coastal Runner,' and we will be running from Folkestone to Hythe on World Ocean Day – Thursday 8th June, as Luke continues his run around the UK's coastline.

My diary is currently full with more meetings, visits and discussions with residents, partners and stakeholders in FHDC.

2. Report of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance

I've been asked to write a 3 paragraph report. Sorry.

Although its only been 2 weeks since the AGM, as with all Councillors I've attended a wide range of briefings, training sessions and meetings.

As have all Councillors, I've been set online homework with a variety of E-training modules. I've now completed (and passed) Anti-Fraud and Corruption, Whistleblowing, GDPR and Environmental Awareness modules. 5 more to do...

Jim, Connor and I are meeting informally weekly to discuss forthcoming issues and the strategic direction of the council.

Wednesday 31st May was the first Cabinet get together and a briefing / training session: much to learn and listen. To reflect importance of the Labour Group as part of our leadership, if not administration, Connor was invited and attended this "executive" session, and will be invited to all subsequent ones too.

I raised a website accessibility issue with table content on mobile devices on our website (on <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/financial-information-charges/council-tax-financial-information-2023-2024>) and that was subsequently fixed for those pages and now being checked across the whole site: thanks to Steve Weakley and the team.

Coming soon: more finance briefings. There is a big job to deal with the last administration's built-in £18m Medium Term Expected Deficit - the elephant in the room that no-one really discussed. We need to build a secure budget for next year that allows us to deliver the services we want, at a Council Tax we can afford. Work is starting, and the Chair of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Sub-Committee will be involved in the briefings and discussions from the start, to ensure both the proposals made, and their scrutiny, are well informed and robust.

I researched and wrote the motion to Full Council to commence the process of moving F&HDC to a committee system by May 2024 which appears on tonight's agenda. Thank you Rochford DC for source material!

If passed tonight, our motion will commit this Council to a Committee system. It will be a tight timetable to deliver on, but we plan to do so. I've agreed with the Monitoring officer that the working group the motion agrees will meet in public and publish agendas and minutes.

I've discussed with the Monitoring Officer the Governance part of my cabinet role, looking at both improved controls and checks currently being put in place to deal with significant weaknesses identified in the last administration.

We also discussed a hopefully helpful procedural change: removing the need to stand to speak at full council meetings (it's already not required at Cabinet and Committees and Working Groups). As an alternative to a constitutional amendment, we agreed that we could action it simply through an announcement from the Chair to the effect the standing to speak is optional at future full council meetings. That will suit the microphones on desks, webcasting, and councillors that find standing hard all at the same time.

It is also an important part of Governance that all Councillors, both District and the Towns and Parishes in our area, have fulfilled their legal requirement to provide a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) form as they are legally required to do so within 28 days of their election.

I asked the Monitoring Officer and Committees team to check, and as of 8th June was reassured that all 30 District councillors have returned a form / confirmed no changes to a previous form: many thanks to all. At Town and Parish level there are still some gaps, and in each case where there are missing DPIs the Clerk has been emailed with a reminder. The list provided by the Committees team is as below (all forms are published at <https://folkestone-hythe.moderngov.co.uk/mgParishCouncilDetails.aspx?bcr=1> however some may have been submitted prior to the election and no confirmation received as yet if they are still valid, which is required). Thanks to Brookland, Burmarsh, Sandgate (and New Romney when the post arrives!) for a full set.

Town/Parish	No. of Councillors	No of DPI's received to date/No change email
Brenzett	4	1
Brookland	4	4
Burmarsh	5	5
Dymchurch	8	5
Elham	6	3
Elmsted	7	6
Folkestone	18	16
Hawkinge	12	8
Hythe	16	15
Ivychurch	3	1
Lydd	16	14
Lyminge	5	0
Lympne	5	0
		8
New Romney	13	(The parish have confirmed all have been sent via post)
		1
Newchurch	5	(Some members have recently been co-opted)
		0
Newington	5	(Only recently taken office)
Postling	6	0
Saltwood	3	1
Sandgate	11	11
Sellindge	7	0
St Marys in the Marsh	7	6
Stanford	5	1
Stelling Minnis	6	3
Swingfield	6	3

3. Report of Councillor Mike Blakemore, the Cabinet Member for Community and Collaboration

Since being appointed to Cabinet I have attended full council and several induction and training sessions, including on the constitution, finance, planning and safeguarding. The last of these was particularly relevant as safeguarding is part of my portfolio. As the cabinet member for Community & Collaboration as well as a Cheriton councillor, I was also pleased to attend the unveiling of a portrait of the King at the Nepalese Community Centre. This provided a great opportunity to meet not just members of the Nepalese community but also other guests I want to have good relationships with in the future.

I have also begun the process of meeting all those responsible for the areas of work covered by my broad portfolio, beginning with communications, Lifeline, events and community safety and touching on others too. I will be continuing these initial meetings and then having regular catchups.

4. Report of Councillor Polly Blakemore, the Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services & Building Control

I was thrilled to be appointed to cabinet on 31st May and since then I have been busy meeting with officers to get up to speed with this wide-ranging portfolio.

No time was lost for parking to be pushed straight to the top of my agenda with a briefing by Fred Miller on Transportation & Parking across the district. I am in touch with KCC members regarding two proposed amendments to existing Controlled Parking Zones and have also been contacted by residents about the CPZ on The Stade. I am in discussion with Fred & Paul Thompson regarding these complaints. The Joint Transportation Board is next on my agenda as I seek to understand and address some issues inherited from the previous administration.

As regards the Regulatory and Building Control aspect of my portfolio, I have met with Ewan Green and Andrew Rush who both did a great job briefing me on the council's responsibilities and making me aware of the most pressing issues.

I will be meeting officers monthly for briefings with regular contact in between these fixed points.

5. Report of Councillor Gary Fuller, the Cabinet Member for Resident Engagement and Accountability

To date I have met with the heads of most of the service areas relevant to my new portfolio. I will be meeting with the Monitoring Officer during the week beginning 12th June and will be having regular portfolio meetings going forwards. It has been great, as I settle into my new role, to put faces to names and acquaint myself with officers I had previously met as an opposition Councillor.

There will be various challenges and opportunities over the next few months. On the IT side of the organisation, there are ongoing cyber threats, potential movement of infrastructure, and the incredible work to continuously improve our digital services. On the Resident Services front, we will be reviewing our Customer Access Strategy, Customer Access Points, and ensuring that we maintain excellent levels of service despite significant budgetary constraints.

My first decision as a cabinet member involved the movement of a vast quantity of data that we need to retain for the next few years from within a legacy system that is no longer fit for purpose to a new system. After a barrage of questions from me, and Herculean levels of patience from officers, the decision should now have been published and the work can proceed (subject to call in, of course).

6. Report of Councillor Rich Holgate, the Cabinet Member for Place Plan, Heritage, Tourism and District Economy

Early days across the portfolio getting set up and being on leave.

However, we have already begun to connect with our Heritage partners across the district and look forward to creating meaningful relationships there.

Plenty of work ahead for Place Plan, economy and tourism as we turn our head towards the next four years. Of course, they biggest achievement coming for our ward (and district) residents with the stopping of the unwanted Princes Parade development'.

7. Report of Councillor Stephen Scoffham, the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity

This is an extensive portfolio which spans many different areas of operation. One of the initial tasks is to identify options and priorities for both the immediate and medium term. Building on and developing work that is already underway and drawing on existing reports and policies is a key part of this process. Taking these into account and building relationships with the various officers concerned is an ongoing process which is liable to take several months or more.

As a Councillor who is new to this portfolio, I have established a number of contacts and arranged meetings so I can be more fully briefed with developments within and beyond the District. These include:

- Finding out more about cycling in Folkestone and the needs of local cyclists

- A briefing meeting with the Estates Manager from Kent Wildlife Trust regarding their plans to purchase Covert Wood, an area of ancient woodland and high ecological significance on the northern perimeter of the Folkestone and Hythe District.
- A briefing meeting with the Regional Manager for the RSPB who, among other things, manages the reserve at Dungeness and other key sites around East Kent.
- Investigating the plans for a UNESCO Cross Channel Geo Park focused on the chalk downland habitat that spans areas of SE and Northern France and is of international significance.

There will be many other opportunities to support initiatives which enhance biodiversity and help mitigate climate change in the coming months.

8. Report of Councillor Rebecca Shoob, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

As portfolio holder for Housing and Homelessness, I've had introductory meetings with the Director and Chief Officer for Housing who have given me a great overview of the housing team and its daily operations, as well as an outline of some of key challenges and opportunities ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their invaluable guidance and introduction to the brief.

I have already had a wide range of casework and queries from residents and fellow councillors and I'm grateful to officers for their assistance with this. I'm very grateful too to my predecessor, Cllr Godfrey, for his good wishes and handover support.

I'm very much looking forward to attending the Strategic Tenant Advisory Panel and to working with the Chair and tenant representatives.

Finally, a reminder that officers will be leading a briefing on Housing and Homelessness for all Members on 26th June and I hope that as many councillors as possible will be able to join.

9. Report of Councillor Jeremy Speakman, the Cabinet Member for Assets and Operations

Since taking the Portfolio for Assets and Operations last month, I have been involved in the following;

- Correspondence with local resident, Council members and officers regarding ground maintenance, community safety and rough sleepers initiative in relation to the Vinery area of the Leas. Ground maintenance attended to by officers, and community safety/homelessness issues reported to relevant directorate.
- Correspondence with a resident and joint visit to inspect deterioration of a section of Royal Military Canal path, reporting to officers and related enquiries - ongoing
- Correspondence with residents in relation to the current maintenance and future development plans relating to Hythe Pool. Ongoing discussions with Council members and officers – ongoing.
- Correspondence with residents identifying issues of overflowing bins and graffiti in the Seabrook area. Reported and subsequently attended to by officers
- Visited Pergola construction site at Kingsnorth Gardens and reported back to resident who had expressed concerns
- Attended and spoke at the Paddle Out event at Sunny Sands organised by Surfers Against Sewage
- Attended an event with the Leader, Mayor of Hythe, fellow Councillors and several children from Seabrook Primary School in support of Luke Douglas-Home Coastal Run highlighting environmental protection issues.
- Extensive discussions with lead officers reviewing contingency plans in the event of a strike by Veolia staff
- Beginning discussions with lead officers around short, medium, and long term objectives as part of an overall strategy to take forward Green Party manifesto commitments relating to reuse and recycling.
- Beginning discussions with lead officers on short, medium, and long term objectives as part of overall strategy to take forward Green Party manifesto commitments on promoting biodiversity in green spaces.
- Attending all training, Council, Cabinet and Council meetings as required
- Had first of regular monthly meetings separately with Andy Blaszkowicz and Ewan Green.

I would like to add that I have been greatly impressed by the courtesy and willingness of officers to assist with a range of issues I have raised with them. Without exception these have been dealt with promptly and very efficiently.

This page is intentionally left blank

This Report will be made public on 13 June 2023



Report Number **A/23/09**

To: Council
Date: 21 June 2023
Status: Non - executive decision
Responsible Officer: Susan Priest, Chief Executive

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT OF DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

SUMMARY: Under the Council's constitution the Leader of the Council decides on the delegation of cabinet functions. The Leader may amend the delegations at any time by giving written notice to the Head of the Paid Service. Where such a notice is received the Head of the Paid Service must submit a report on the amendments to the next ordinary meeting of the Council. This report sets out the amendments made by the Leader.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report A/23/09.

1. AMENDMENTS OF DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

- 1.1 Under the Council's constitution, the Leader of the Council decides on the delegation of cabinet functions. The Leader may amend the delegations at any time by giving written notice to the Head of the Paid Service, as per part 6, paragraph 1.4.1 of the constitution. Where such a notice is received the Head of the Paid Service must submit a report on the amendments to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.
- 1.2 The Leader has amended the scheme of delegations, set out in Annex B to part 6.1 of the constitution. The amendment includes the change in membership (Councillor Butcher has been replaced with Councillor P Blakemore), and changes to the portfolios held by Councillors Scoffham and P Blakemore.
- 1.3 Notification was received by the Head of Paid Service on 31 May 2023 and the changes were implemented from 1 June 2023.

2. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

2.1 Legal Officer's Comments (AK)

Any legal issues are covered in the main body of the report.

2.2 Finance Officer's Comments (LW)

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report

2.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications (GE)

There are no equality or diversity issues arising as a result of the report.

3. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting

Jemma West, Democratic Services Senior Specialist
Phone: 01303 853 369
Email: Jemma.west@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

None.

This report will be made
public on 13 June 2023

Report Number **A/23/10**

To: Council
Date: 21 June 2023
Status: Non- Executive Decision
Chief Executive: Susan Priest

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

SUMMARY: Under the Folkestone and Hythe District Council Constitution, Part 8.1 'Delegation to Officers', paragraph 3.18, the Head of Paid Service is authorised to make appointments to committees or sub-committees at the request of the relevant political group leader. This report sets out the appointments made, under these powers, on the instruction of the Leader of the Green Group.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. To receive and note report A/23/10.
2. To approve the appointment of Councillor Wimble to the vacant seat on the Audit and Governance Committee.
3. To appoint a Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Folkestone and Hythe District Council Constitution, Part 8.1 'Delegation to Officers', paragraph 3.18, the Head of Paid Service is authorised to make appointments to committees or sub-committees, at the request of the relevant political group leader, subject to the conditions that (a) the appointed member shall be a replacement for a committee or sub-committee member from the same political group, or the appointee is to fill a vacant seat on the committee/sub-committee allocated to the political group of which he/she is a member and (b) the changes shall be reported to the next available meeting of the Council. This delegation is only exercisable in respect of councillors who are members of a political group.
- 1.2 This report sets out the appointments made, with effect from 1 June 2023. It also seeks approval for the appointment of Cllr Wimble to the Audit and Governance Committee, which could not be made using the Head of Paid Services delegated authority, due to the Member not being part of a political group.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES/SUB-COMMITTEES

- 2.1 The following changes to membership of committees/sub-committees have been made:

Committee/ Sub-Committee	Previous Committee Member	New Committee Member
Audit and Governance	Cllr P Blakemore	Cllr J Butcher
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cllr P Blakemore	Cllr J Butcher
Planning and Licensing Committee	Cllr Butcher	Cllr Speakman
Planning and Licensing Committee	Cllr Wing	Cllr M Blakemore

- 2.2 In addition, Councillor Wimble has indicated that he would like to take up the vacant seat on the Audit and Governance Committee, which was available to him as an independent member. This appointment could not be made using the Head of Paid Services delegated authority, as Councillor Wimble is not a member of a political group. It will therefore take effect, provided the Council approves the appointment, at the meeting of Council on 21 June 2023.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- 3.1 At the annual meeting of the Council held on 24 May 2023, Councillor P Blakemore was appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee. As Cllr P Blakemore is no longer a member of the Audit and Governance Committee, a new Vice-Chair will need to be appointed.

3 LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

3.1 Legal Officer's comments (AK)

There are no legal issues arising from this report.

3.2 Finance Officer's comments (CS)

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

3.3 Diversity and Equalities Implications (AK)

There are no diversity and equality implications arising from this report.

4 CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting:

Jemma West
Democratic Services Senior Specialist
Email: jemma.west@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk
Phone: 01303 853369

The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report: None

This page is intentionally left blank