



Agenda

Meeting: **Council**
Date: **26 July 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 7 - 8)**

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 9 - 14)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the council held on 21 June 2023 and to authorise the Chairman of the Council to sign them as a correct record.

4. **Chairman's Communications**

5. **Petitions**

There are no petitions to be presented.

6. **Questions from the Public**

There are no questions from the public.

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.

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

9. **Portfolio Holder reports to Council (Pages 15 - 22)**

10. **Opposition Business**

The Labour Group has raised the following matter:

Council Notes:

- That due to failures in compliance, amongst a number of other issues, FHDC made the decision to bring housing provision under direct control after the dissolution of East Kent Housing.
- In order to maintain high levels of compliance with regards to health

- and safety, the council still relies on outside contracts in Mears.
- A recent stock condition survey was undertaken of the vast majority of council owned housing.
 - That ensuring safe and habitable housing is paramount to the council's vision.

Council Believes

- Delivery of maintenance and ensuring compliance will require additional resources, training, and oversight to ensure any decent homes standard regulations are met.
- A housing maintenance and compliance team, delivered directly by council could, in the future, deliver services to council owned housing outside of the HRA.

Council Resolves

- To consider as an option, the delivery of maintenance and compliance for council owned housing, as a council owned service. As opposed to the awarding of an outsourced contract.
- That any such paper which looks to tender for a new contract includes this option in both its planning and decision making.

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 motion has been placed on the agenda. Up to 60 minutes shall be allowed for debates on motions on notice:

1. Councillor McConville, Labour Group

The Council notes:

The Elections Act received Royal Assent on the 28th of April 2022.

The Act is a major piece of national legislation with local implications for the residents of [insert Local Authority], including the use of mandatory photographic voter ID at the polling station,

changes to overseas voting and voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens.

The 2021 census showed that [1 in 6 usual residents of England and Wales were born outside the UK](#). They live, work, study, make use of public services, and call the UK their home. Many foreign-born residents from EU and Commonwealth countries can vote in our local elections. However, over [1 million residents](#) across England and Northern Ireland do not have a right to vote.

Scotland and Wales implemented residence-based voting rights where all residents with lawful immigration status have the right to vote in local and devolved national elections.

A poll conducted by Number Cruncher showed that [63% of people agree that all residents should have the right to vote in local elections in England and Northern Ireland](#).

The Council welcomes:

That all our residents, no matter their nationality, call [Local Authority] their home and bring significant value to our area.

That the voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens with pre-settled and settled status who entered the UK before 2021 will be maintained.

That [the London Assembly passed a motion in support of residence-based voting rights on the 11th of November 2021](#) and that various organisations in the democracy and immigration sector [support](#) the Our Home Our Vote campaign for residence-based voting rights.

The Council expresses concern that:

EU citizens who enter the UK from the 1st of January 2021 and are not covered by bilateral voting rights treaties (currently only active with Poland, Luxembourg, Portugal, and Spain) will not have voting and candidacy rights in local elections when the Elections Act is fully implemented. This will create an unequal situation where some EU citizens will have the right to vote where others will not.

The complexity in voting eligibility causes confusion reduces voter turnout in local elections amongst migrant voters, a group already showing disproportionately lower voter registration rates compared to British voters.

Local Authorities will be under-resourced to manage the removal of a significant number of EU citizens from the electoral register, possibly resulting in some being wrongfully removed from the electoral register.

The Council Resolves:

- That the Leader of the Council write to the Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities requesting that the franchise for local elections in England and Northern Ireland be extended to all qualifying foreign nationals in line with eligibility criteria in Scotland and Wales. This would ensure a UK-wide and fair approach so that all our residents, who are also our council taxpayers, are enfranchised.
- Work collaboratively with other local authorities and voluntary sector organisations to develop a strategy of communications about voter eligibility following the Elections Act.
- Ensure council officers in Democratic Services have a strategy in place to ensure that the implementation of the Elections Act, including the removal of some EU citizens from the register, does not wrongfully remove eligible voters from the register.

12. **Committee Membership Changes (Pages 23 - 24)**

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 Conservative Group.

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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.

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FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone on Wednesday, 21 June 2023

Present: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Mike Blakemore, Polly Blakemore, James Butcher, Bridget Chapman, Tony Cooper, Laura Davison, Gary Fuller, Clive Goddard, David Godfrey, Liz Grant, Rich Holgate, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Anita Jones, Nicola Keen, Adrian Lockwood, Alan Martin, Elaine Martin, Jim Martin, Connor McConville, Liz McShane, Jackie Meade, Tim Prater, Rebecca Shoob, Jeremy Speakman, Paul Thomas, Belinda Walker and John Wing

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Stephen Scoffham and David Wimble

14. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

15. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2023 were submitted, approved and signed by the Chairman

16. **Chair's Communications**

The Chair gave the following communications:

“In the period since becoming chair, I have attended a number of engagements throughout the district and beyond including my first ever event as chair which was the unveiling of the portrait of the King at the Nepalese community centre. I have also been the guest of the mayors of both Lydd and Dartford and have attended two flag raising events to commemorate our armed forces. I am looking forward to the Armed Forces Day celebrations this weekend and the opening of an art project to observe refugee week.

I stayed true to my word and met with town and parish councillors across the district and have promised to attend their events but also to provide a link between them and the district council ensuring that all parts of this district are represented”.

17. **Petitions**

There were no petitions for consideration.

18. **Questions from the Public**

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

19. **Questions from Councillors**

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

20. **Announcements of the Leader of the Council**

The Leader of the Council made the following announcements:

“Good evening and welcome.

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 met with Damian Collins MP, I have had several meetings with Otterpool Park LLP.

I have also had meetings with residents, partners, schools 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 422 people employed by FHDC and be asked to present the Recognition Awards for Customer Service.

I have attended the Kent Leaders Forum, the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership meeting and a meeting of the East Kent Leaders Forum.

I joined Luke Douglas-Home, known as ‘The Coastal Runner,’ from Folkestone to Hythe on World Ocean Day – as Luke continues his run around the UK’s coastline, collecting litter.

I was delighted to open the Marsh Inspires Careers Fair at the Marsh Academy.

I will be meeting Stagecoach on Friday to discuss the impact of their cuts to bus services in the District.

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

The Leader of the Labour Group responded to the announcements with the following:

“Congratulations on your appointment, and I look forward to working with you where possible and challenging you where needed. There is not much to say at this point. I’m sure it will get more meaty as the year goes on. In your meeting with stagecoach, just to stress how important those small and seemingly insignificant those routes are some of our vulnerable residents. It would be useful to know exactly what Stagecoach would need to keep these services running in some form. I look forward to some feedback on that in due course”.

The Leader of the Conservative Group also responded to the announcements and made points including the following:

“Congratulations on being elected as Leader and thank you for your report. I was pleased to hear you are having meetings with partners and stakeholders. This is very important, and is how we achieve good results. I am particularly pleased to hear about the Marsh Inspire event. I have a great affection for the Marsh, as I spent 20 years teaching at the Marsh Academy. I look forward to hearing further reports and decisions at your next Leaders announcements”.

The Leader of the Council then responded to the points raised by both Opposition groups, and stated:

“Indeed the last time I attended the Marsh Inspire event I was invited by you. It has grown and was a terrific event today. I also take on board all of Councillor McConville’s points. He shared some good ideas with me earlier, and I will certainly be communicating them in a calm way. We will see what the response is from them”.

Proposed by Councillor J Martin,
Seconded by Councillor Prater; and

RESOLVED:

That the announcements of the Leader be noted.

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

21. **Portfolio Holder reports**

The Portfolio Holder reports had been circulated within the agenda packs and noted by Members.

22. **Opposition Business**

Councillor McConville, on behalf of the Labour Group, outlined his opposition business which asked for consideration be given to establishing a district council grant Committee/Working Group to dispense community funds from 2024/25.

Proposed by Councillor McConville,
Seconded by Councillor Keen; and

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 agreed for the business below:

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

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

23. **Motions on Notice**

Councillor Prater, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance outlined his motion which proposed a change to the council's governance structure, to adopt a committee system of governance.

Proposed by Councillor Prater,
Seconded by Councillor McConville; and

RESOLVED:

1. That the Committee System model of governance be adopted by Folkestone and Hythe District Council with effect from the Annual Council meeting in May 2024.
2. That a Constitution Working Group be 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 be 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.
5. That it be noted that the 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.

In accordance with the council procedure rule 17.5, five members present demanded a recorded vote.

FOR: Councillors Akuffo-Kelly, M Blakemore, P Blakemore, Butcher, Chapman, Cooper, Davison, Fuller, Godfrey, Grant, Holgate, Jones, Keen, Lockwood, A Martin, E Martin, J Martin, McConville, McShane, Meade, Prater, Shoob, Speakman, Thomas, Walker and Wing (26).

AGAINST: Councillors Goddard and Mrs Hollingsbee (2).

ABSTENTIONS: None (0).

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

24. Amendment of delegation arrangements by the Leader of the Council

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. The report sets out the amendments made by the Leader.

Proposed by Councillor J Martin,
Seconded by Councillor Shoob; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/23/09 be received and noted.

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

25. Committee Membership Changes

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. The report set out the appointments made, under these powers, on the instruction of the Leader of the Green Group.

Proposed by Councillor Jim Martin,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee;

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/23/10 be received and noted.

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

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

RESOLVED:

2. That Councillor Wimble be appointed to the vacant seat on the Audit and Governance Committee.

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

Proposed by Councillor J Martin,
Seconded by Councillor Keen; and

RESOLVED:

3. That Councillor Butcher be elected Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

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

Council 26 July 2023

Agenda item 9 (Portfolio Holder reports)

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

I have been very busy since my last update. I have had many meetings with representatives of Government, Kent County Council, Parish Councils and local stakeholders groups. I have held many meetings with Otterpool Park LLP.

I was delighted to open the new toilet block in the Coastal Park, with water saving appliances, a green roof and photovoltaic panels (there are also toilets)!

I joined many other runners in the regular, weekly Park Run on the fantastic Folkestone Lees, which must rate as the Park Run with the most far reaching views in the Country.

I attended the Marsh Inspires event at the Marsh Academy in New Romney, which showcased local employers and businesses.

I attended the flag raising ceremony at the Civic Centre on Monday the 19th June. On Saturday the 24th June, I was proud and honoured to be invited by the Mayor of Hythe to join her in the celebration of the incredible men and women of our Armed Services during Armed Forces Day. I was equally please to attend the Armed Forces Day celebration on Sunday the 25th June, with the Mayor of Folkestone on Sunday.

I attended the Council meeting where it was agreed to move the Council towards a more democratic and inclusive administrative system. The Committee system will empower local democracy.

Following their announcement of cuts to local bus services I convened a meeting with Stagecoach to discuss. I can report a positive response and the Stagecoach Managing Director will be considering my views and reporting back to me.

I attended the Local Government Association Conference to learn what other local Councils are doing to overcome very similar problems to those we have in Folkestone and Hythe.

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

Alongside Susan, Jim and Connor I attended the LGA (Local Government Association) conference in Bournemouth at the start of July.

I attended (as an observer) the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Sub-Committee, wanting to see what they thought about the Finance Out-turn papers, Annual Review of 22-23, and revised KPIs prior to those papers going to Cabinet the following week. I listened, appreciated their scrutiny and advice, and accepted their recommendations at Cabinet the following week. A big thank you to all the

officers within the Finance that have done the huge amount of work on getting the provisional out-turns together prior to the external auditors reviewing it when they are now scheduled to visit in October.

I'm really keen to make sure that our financial processes are transparent and the finance team have made big improvements in process. The data on the Council website at <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/council-payments-procurements> has been brought up to date with missing months data added, and will be updated on a regular cycle from now on.

Finally on Wednesday 12th we had the first meeting of the Constitution Working Group (comprising Group Leaders and one Independent representative) tasked to deliver a committee system by May 2024.

Philip from Bevan Brittan (our legal support in making the change) worked us through the process, the decisions we need to make, and the speed needed to deliver it. It's clear that to deliver the change we want in the time we need to minimise the number of committees (we said streamlined: it will have to be), give the different committees their own responsibilities (delegations) and be pragmatic on getting the system in place for May. But it remains perfectly deliverable as agreed, and on timetable to do so.

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

I have enjoyed getting to know my Community & Collaboration portfolio over the last month, including many of the partners FHDC works with, as well as the council officers who bring so much knowledge and expertise and experience to delivering this important work.

I attended meetings of the Community Safety Unit and the wider Community Safety Partnership, took part in a workshop helping to develop and deliver an integrated care strategy and visited the county council for my first Police & Crime Panel. I was delighted to visit the Romney Marsh and Hythe community hubs and look forward to visiting their Folkestone counterpart soon. I also attended the flag raising ceremony outside the civic centre for Armed Forces Day.

I followed up a complaint from a resident about anti-social behaviour and, thanks to very prompt action by officers, was able to satisfy her that the situation had been improved and would continue to be monitored.

I also enjoyed getting to know FHDC's communications team a little better and began discussing with them how we can build on what they already do to ensure the council's various communication channels have as much impact as possible, are inclusive and provide opportunities to deepen engagement with residents. I also met with community groups interested in working more closely with the council.

I attended briefings on (and at) Dungeness, Otterpool Park and Folkestone harbour and seafront, as well as attending public consultation events for the first

phase of FHDC's scheme to transform Folkestone town centre and Kent County Council's revised Cheriton Cycle Scheme. Briefings and induction sessions continued, covering areas such as housing and homelessness, licensing and film classification.

Last but definitely not least, I took part in meetings of Cabinet and the Planning Committee.

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

It's been another busy month of continuing to meet key people across my portfolio, ongoing council training and getting stuck into the workings of the relevant areas of Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

The highlight for me this month has been the Electric Vehicle Charge Point (EVCP) Launch Event on Tuesday 27th June. This was an occasion hosted by Kent County Council here at the Civic Centre which included participants from district councils across Kent who are part of the initial rollout of EVCPs in council car parks. Due to the hard work and foresight demonstrated by this council, I was able to make a short presentation putting FHDC firmly at the vanguard of this enterprise. It was also inspiring to see Connected Kerb, the supplier and installer of the charge points, present their ambitious plans to meet demand in this crucial and evolving area. I was honoured with the job of 'cutting the ribbon' and declaring 'open' the charge points here in the council's own car park for the photocall. The next step in this exciting project is an on-street installation trial we will shortly be embarking on alongside Kent County Council to enable learning on the end-to-end process from site selection to installation.

As part of my Transport remit I have made decisions on the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders and been in communication with residents regarding parking issues in the district. I have facilitated a meeting between officers and Cycle Shepway in order to ensure we are plugged into that group's expertise in the context of major infrastructure plans such as the Levelling Up Fund Town Centre regeneration and Otterpool.

On Friday 23rd June I joined the Environmental Enforcement Team down at Sunny Sands where they were launching their Paws for Thought campaign with a pop up event engaging with the public regarding the council's anti dog fouling work. This was the first event of more to come and forms part of the "Dog's Guide to the District" campaign focusing on dog restrictions as well as dog safety. There was depressing news from Stagecoach this month who, as well as announcing the imminent closure of their Cheriton depot, also warned of several potential service cuts to come. I have worked hard with the Leader of the Council and Kent County Councillor, Jenni Hawkins, to raise awareness, engage with residents regarding their concerns and feedback on these anxieties and frustrations directly to Stagecoach.

I have attended public consultations on the Levelling Up Town Centre project and on the proposed Cycle Scheme for Cheriton. It is so good to see residents engaging in their numbers with these all-important consultation exercises. In between all of the above, I have continued to meet with officers who have been instrumental in helping me familiarise myself with my portfolio. I've had the warmest of welcomes – thank you!

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

It has been another busy month as the council moves towards achieving its stated aims. As part of this, I have regular meeting set up with the managers relevant to my portfolio. My first job has been to explore options for improving how councillors make use of IT to serve the public. This is ongoing but I hope that councillors will soon be able to more readily complete their roles.

I recently reported to Cabinet on the excellent efforts by our information governance team to ensure that data breaches and subject access requests are dealt with in a timely fashion. Sadly, there is a wider recruitment crisis in this very stressful area of work and staff turnover has been an issue, so we are very lucky to have such a great team. I look forward to the outcome of the initiatives they have put in place.

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

A fantastic month meeting many residents, groups and stakeholders across the portfolio. A personal highlight was joining the Folkestone Music Town monthly meeting and seeing the amazing success enjoyed at the Music in May festival.

Elsewhere in Tourism we welcomed several groups to the Civic centre this week to workshop improvements around the Visit Folkestone Hythe website and look forward to seeing the outcomes from that session.

Our biggest effort has been around generating awareness for the latest public engagement of the Folkestone Place Plan. Amongst an online campaign, updating the website and network invites the incredible Area Officers also supported in the delivery of 4,000 leaflets to the surrounding neighbourhoods. Huge credit to the officers in the volume of work involved, and I look forward to meeting many residents at the event to discuss their thoughts and feedback.

Plenty of work to do as we look ahead, including meeting several Heritage groups to discuss current opportunities and challenges and unpicking challenges in our Levelling Up Fund work.

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

Electric Charging Points

Along with Cllr Polly Blakemore I attended the launch of District Wide Electric Charging Points on 27th June. Folkestone is working in partnership with a company called Connecting Kerbs and is taking a lead in this area. There are now 103 charging points in 26 different car parks which have already supplied 12,000 charging hours.

Community Projects

I participated in a vibrant meeting of the Elham Community Shed group on 22nd June. The group has a range of exciting plans for the future, many of which involve sustainability and carbon reduction.

Councillor Training

As well as the new councillors' induction training run by South East Employers, I have participated in training sessions on Communications and Social Media, Housing and Homelessness and Chaining Skills. I also attended a full day 'awayday' on roles and responsibilities of cabinet members on 13th June.

Liaison with outside bodies

I have had individual meetings with a number of key groups and organisations relevant to my portfolio. These include:

- Director and Officers for Council for Protection of Rural England (Kent Branch)
- Director and Planning Officer for the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (North Downs)
- Manager for Kent and Essex, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,

District Wide Carbon Reduction Strategy

I presented the District Wide Carbon Reduction Strategy to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27th June following detailed discussions with officers. The strategy will now be presented to Cabinet on 12th July to seek approval for public consultation.

Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy

I have been engaging with officers regarding this strategy which will be used as part of the evidence base for Local Plans and to identify priorities for joint working and future action. It was being submitted to cabinet to approve and note on 12th July.

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

I've been pleased to meet more of the housing team officers and continue to be impressed by their dedication and professionalism. The team has been a huge support working with me to progress the housing casework coming in from across the district.

I was invited by the Rainbow Centre to hear about their plans and concerns for the coming year and know that our officers are well aware of the challenges ahead and the work to be done.

It was a pleasure to meet Elaine, chair of the Strategic Tenants Advisory Panel (STAP) ahead of meeting the other panel members at one of their regular meetings. The panel members put in a huge amount of work to ensure that tenants' experience and knowledge shapes how the housing service is delivered.

I've had briefings from officers on the procurement process about to get underway to replace the current telecare infrastructure ahead of the analogue phone system being finally phased out.

It was very informative to join neighbourhood inspections outside my own ward, both to get an overview of the different types of housing across the district and the types of repair and maintenance issues the teams deal with.

I also tagged along with some of the STAP members who were judging the annual Garden Competition. I was delighted to have a look at the Tyson Hills Community Garden which many of us will have whizzed past on the main road (it's behind the multi-coloured railings in Folkestone!). A real inspiration for what neighbours can achieve together.

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

This month I have been involved in the following activities;

- Meeting with Councillors and Officers from KCC and Hythe Town Council regarding concerns over weeding control policy in the area
- Opening of new toilet block at Lower Leas Coastal Park with the Leader, Councillor Jim Martin
- Visit to Hythe Pool and meeting staff with the Leader Councillor Jim Martin
- Meeting with Cycle Shepway, Councillors and Officers for feedback on Council plans to improve cycling opportunities for residents
- Visit to Dungeness B for presentation by EDF
- Attendance at photoshoot event at Royal Military Canal with officers, the Leader Councillor Jim Martin and Grounds Staff to mark the well deserved retention of Green Flag status for the Royal Military Canal,
- Visit to Otterpool Park for launch of community engagement for Phase 1b
- Ongoing liaison with officers relating to general portfolio issues and developments, correspondence with residents regarding waste management, mowing and canal path maintenance
- Attendance at various training and briefing sessions on licensing, audit and governance and partnership arrangements.

Veolia Contract

There have been ongoing concerns expressed by Councillors and the public with Veolia's contract performance particularly regarding clearance of street waste bins at weekends along the Hythe/Folkestone seafront. Together with officers, we have taken robust measures in line with contractual compliance terms and conditions, and there has since been a marked improvement in Veolia's

performance. Issues remain in some areas of the district with their obligations towards weed control and this is being currently addressed.

Many Councillors will recall that in 2021 there was serious disruption to Veolia's services following rerouting of their collections. The claim against Veolia for costs related to the route optimisation project in 2021 has been settled. Settlement was agreed at £198K and covers the additional unbudgeted costs to the General Fund (additional working costs and garden waste rebate). This offsets any previous overspends for Waste Collections (ref General Fund Outturn Report 22-23 Finance and Scrutiny Sub Committee Appendix 1 variations).

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This report will be made
public on 18 July 2023

Report Number **A/23/11**

To: Council
Date: 26 July 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 Conservative Group.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. To receive and note report A/23/11.

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.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES/SUB-COMMITTEES

- 2.1 The following changes to membership of committees/sub-committees have been made with effect from 18 July 2023:

Committee/ Sub-Committee	Previous Committee Member	New Committee Member
Audit and Governance	Alan Martin	Liz Grant
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Liz Grant	Alan Martin

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
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Phone: 01303 853369

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