

Meeting: **Finance and Performance Scrutiny Sub-Committee**
Date: **5 December 2023**
Time: **6.00 pm**
Place: **Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone**

To: Councillors James Butcher, Laura Davison, David Godfrey,
Connor McConville and John Wing

The committee will consider the matters, listed below, at the date, time and place shown above. The meeting will be open to the press and public.

Members of the committee, who wish to have information on any matter arising on the agenda, which is not fully covered in these papers, are 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>. Although unlikely, no guarantee can be made that Members of the public in attendance will not appear in the webcast footage. It is therefore recommended that anyone with an objection to being filmed does not enter the council chamber.

Please note there are 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)**
3. **Q2 Performance Report 2023/24**

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Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or download from our
website
www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

This report provides an update on the Council's performance for the second quarter of the year covering 1st July-30th September 2023. The report enables the Council to assess progress against the approved key performance indicators arising from the Council's Corporate Action Plan.

4. **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28**

The Medium Term Financial Strategy ('MTFS') is the Council's key financial planning document. It puts the financial perspective on the Council's Corporate Plan priorities, expressing the aims and objectives of the various plans and strategies in financial terms over the four year period ending 31st March 2028. It covers both revenue and revenue implications for capital spend for the General Fund. Also included are the Council's reserves policies. The MTFS is a key element of sound corporate governance and financial management.

5. **Budget Strategy 2024/25**

This Budget Strategy sets out the guidelines for preparing the 2024/25 Budget. It supports the Corporate Plan and aligns with the direction and objectives of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

In terms of financial planning, the Budget Strategy takes account of current and future financial and economic conditions and the Government's Autumn Statement delivered on for 22 November 2023.

The Budget Strategy also sets out the underlying assumptions and initial budget-setting proposals and provides a timetable for delivering a balanced budget for approval and final Council Tax setting by Full Council on 28 February 2024.

6. **Options Report on whether to continue to maintain Kent County Council (KCC) owned grass in the District, which is subsidised by Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC)**

This report outlines the current arrangement with Kent County Council (KCC) to maintain rural and urban verges and the financial implications of this for Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC). Various options are outlined in the report for consideration to reduce budgets in line with the Star Chamber exercise.

7. **Waste & Street Cleansing Saving Proposals**

Member will receive a presentation on the proposed savings to the waste and street cleansing contract.

8. **Overview of Community Grants**

This report presents an overview of grants made by the Council to external community based organisations.

