

Meeting: **Council**
Date: **28 February 2024**
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 Chair 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 - 14)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the council held on 24 January 2024 and to authorise the Chair 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 Bryan Rylands to Councillor Shoob, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness**

Landlords who neglect to carry out an EICR (along with any suggested work) prior to the start of a new tenancy may face a fine of up to £30,000. The enforcement of these regulations falls under the jurisdiction of local authorities, as outlined in the Housing Act 2004. How Many Landlords has the Council used the 2004 Housing ACT against for failure to carry out an EICR prior to rental or after rental?

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

9. **Portfolio Holder reports to Council (Pages 15 - 24)**

10. **Opposition Business**

The Labour Group has raised the following matter:

Council Notes:

This council continuously engages with local cultural organisations to provide opportunity and promote the local district.

The Council continuously supports local projects of a cultural nature through a wide variety of channels.

Council Believes:

The council produced a Heritage Strategy in 2019, however it was largely to support the local planning process and not to outline a comprehensive plan to support Heritage assets within the local area.

A co-ordinated strategy that brings together all aspects of the district's Cultural, Heritage and Tourism based assets will only benefit the district.

Council Resolves:

As part of the Corporate Plan refresh being undertaken, to begin work to produce a Culture, Heritage and Tourism Strategy.

To seek members' input, through either formal Committee or working group as to the preferred method to produce the Culture, Heritage and Tourism Strategy.

Should a Culture, Heritage and Tourism Strategy be drafted, it be adopted by full council as the overarching authorising body of this council.

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**

There are no motions on notice.

12. **Draft Housing Revenue Account Revenue and capital Original Budget 2024/25 (Pages 25 - 76)**

This report sets out the Housing Revenue Account ('HRA') Revenue and Capital Budget for 2024/25 for approval and proposes an increase in weekly rents and an increase in service charges for 2024/25 both for approval.

13. **Revenue Budget, Capital Strategy, Capital Programme, Reserves and Balances, Treasury and Investment Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy and Council Tax for 2024/25 (Pages 77 - 254)**

Following consideration by Cabinet at their meeting of the 28th February this report concludes the budget setting process for 2024/25 and is submitted to Council with the proposed 2024/25 Revenue Budget, Capital Strategy, Capital Programme, Reserves and Balances, Treasury and Investment Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

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