

Meeting: **Council**  
Date: **24 July 2019**  
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 and place shown above. The meeting will be open to the press and public.

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>. 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.



Head of Paid Service

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members of the Council should declare any discloseable pecuniary

**Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?**

Contact Jemma West – Tel: 01303 853369  
Email: [committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) or download from our  
website  
[www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](http://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

interest or any other significant interests in any item/s on this agenda.

3. **Minutes (Pages 9 - 34)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the council held on 26 June 2019 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**

1. **From Mr Rylands to Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and special projects**

How much has P & R Installation Company Ltd overcharged Folkestone & Hythe District Council during the lifetime of the contract?

2. **From Mr Deane to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council**

Do you believe it is right that this council should be wasting it's time and council tax payers money on a loss making council owned property development company, Oportunitas, when the real need is for a far greater number of council homes for people of this district than currently are being built or planned?

7. **Questions from Councillors**

(Questions can be found on [www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](http://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. **Opposition Business**

The Labour Group has raised the following matter:

*“Council notes:*

*That while it is one of the district’s leading employers, it can always look to improve.*

*That paying staff above the minimum requirement improves work ethic, productivity, loyalty and retention.*

*Council believes:*

*That in offering a minimum of £10 an hour to its staff it sends a strong message to other local employers, with the aim of leading to a more economically secure community.*

*That it should be able to offer competitive salaries to senior officers to attract the most capable people to work for our district, although also believe that those on the highest grades should still be measurable to those at the bottom.*

*That in having a fixed limit between top and bottom grades of pay promotes fairness, equality, transparency and sense of working as a team.*

*Council resolves:*

*To recommend to the personnel committee that a minimum of £10 an hour or £19,300 per annum be awarded to all permanent and temporary staff. Also that a fixed pay ratio be incorporated into the next pay policy statement”.*

Debates on opposition business shall be limited to 15 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.

10. **Motions on Notice (Pages 35 - 38)**

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 McConville, Leader of the Labour Party**

This Council moves to, under part 4 section 25.2 amend the constitution in regards to part 4 section 12.6. "Time-limit debates on opposition business shall be limited to 15 minutes". This should be amended to read 30 minutes. As per the constitution it is resolved that this motion stand adjourned, without discussion until the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

**2. From Councillor Treloar, Green Party**

Climate and ecological emergency.

**Full council notes that:**

1. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world; extreme weather, wildfires, droughts and floods are already affecting millions.
2. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global heating of 1.5°C and increase significantly with 2°C. [1]
3. Humans have already caused 1°C heating and global temperatures are currently on track for 3-5°C heating. We have a 1 in 20 chance of reaching 5°C heating – this presents an existential threat to humankind. [2]
4. The IPCC states we have until 2030 to act to keep global heating under 1.5 degrees. This requires a swift and dramatic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors and ambitious action by all levels of government.
5. Direct risks to our district include: sea level rises of up to 2 meters by the end of the century [3], putting the whole of Romney Marsh at severe risk; water shortages within 25 years [4]; coastal erosion and subsequent risk to property and infrastructure [5]; an increased number of heat-related deaths and biodiversity loss.
6. Folkestone and Hythe is the district most at risk of flooding in Kent. In a recent report, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government stated that our district has a significantly higher risk of flooding than any other area in Kent, with a 43.4% risk of flooding. [6]
7. We have a duty to act to protect our residents and future

residents and to do everything we can to curb the risk of runaway climate breakdown.

8. The severity of this crisis has led parliament and more than 100 local government authorities across the country to declare a climate emergency. The Irish parliament has declared a climate emergency, as has the Welsh Assembly. Within our district, Hythe Town Council is to discuss a climate emergency motion that sets a carbon neutrality date of 2025. Medway, Swale, Maidstone and Gravesham have declared a climate emergency.
9. By committing to becoming carbon net zero by 2030, we will not only demonstrate our commitment to national and international targets, but most importantly – to the safety, wellbeing and property of our residents.
10. The broader economic case for acting is compelling: the Bank of England predicts that there will be approximately £15.3tn of stranded assets globally due to climate change [7] and the financial sector is seeing major divestment from fossil fuels; the world's largest sovereign wealth fund (Norway) which manages £786billion has committed to divest [8].
11. The Committee on Climate Change notes: "Action on climate change has many local benefits. As well as contributing to national carbon budgets, carbon reduction programmes can bring a range of benefits such as lower energy bills, economic regeneration and creation of local jobs, and improved health." [9]
12. Inextricably entwined with the climate crisis is the ecological crisis. Wildlife populations are plummeting around the world due to habitat loss and a warming world. The World Wildlife Fund for Nature reported last year that the world has seen a 60% loss of wildlife since the 1970s [10]. A global review of scientific studies recently reported that plummeting insect populations threaten the collapse of nature. [11]
13. Folkestone and Hythe District Council has much to be proud of in its effort to decarbonise its operations and encourage biodiversity. It has electrified much of its grounds equipment, encouraged pollinator-friendly green spaces and switched to LED lighting in its own buildings. The upcoming tree audit will help us better understand our capacity for offsetting carbon.
14. Unfortunately, our current plans and actions do not treat the global climate and ecological crisis with the full urgency it deserves; we have a duty to commit to bolder action.

**Full council moves to:**

1. Declare that we are in a state of climate and ecological emergency.
2. Commit to reduce Folkestone and Hythe District Council's estate and operations to zero net carbon by 2030.
3. Ensure that all strategic decisions, policy, budgets, investments, contracts, approaches to planning decisions and the council's own developments are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.
4. Ensure that all future council reports, where appropriate, include a climate impact statement.
5. To develop a strategy for Folkestone and Hythe District Council to play a leadership role in promoting community, public and business partnerships for this Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment throughout the District.
6. To achieve this, create a Carbon Action Plan based on practical frameworks and advice such as provided by the Carbon Trust.
7. Establish a cross-party working group of full council to draw up, steer and monitor progress of the Carbon Action Plan, reporting back to full council in 6 months, then annually.
8. Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise.
9. Request that Cabinet shows leadership and adopts the matters raised in 1 – 8.

#### REFERENCES

1. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>
2. <https://www.pnas.org/content/114/39/10315>
3. <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2203700-sea-level-rise-could-hit-2-metres-by-2100-much-worse-than-feared/>
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-47620228>
5. <https://www.theccc.org.uk/2018/10/26/current-approach-to-protecting-englands-coastal-communities-from-flooding-and-erosion-not-fit-for-purpose-as-the-climate-changes/>
6. <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/kent/news/area-at-highest-risk-of-flooding-revealed-207373/>
7. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/-/media/boe/files/speech/2019/avoiding-the-storm-climate-change-and-the-financial-system-speech-by-sarah-breeden.pdf?la=en&hash=AC28DFEFED7B14A197E6B0CB48044D06F4E38E84>
8. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ellenwald/2019/03/08/finances-not-climate-drive-norways-decision-to-divest-from-oil-and-gas/#5199c15f4041>
9. [https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/LA-Report\\_final.pdf](https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/LA-Report_final.pdf)
10. <https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/living-planet-report-2018>
11. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/scienc3.e/insect-extinction-nature-climate-change-francisco-sanchez-bayo-sydney-science-a8773326.html>

**3. From Councillor McConville, Leader of the Labour Party**

This Council notes:

- That analysis of the 2018 Local Election results by the Fawcett Society found that only 34% of councillors in England are women, up 1% since 2017. Of the seats that were up for election in 2018, 38% went to women, up just 3 percentage points on 2014 when these seats were last contested;
- That across England, Labour has improved its representation since seats were last up for grabs, with 45% women compared with 40% in 2014, Liberal Democrat representation up from 34% to 36% whilst the Conservative Party saw a fall from 31% to 29% in the share of its councillors who are female;
- As of summer 2017, only 4% of councils in England and Wales have parental leave policies, according to research by the Fawcett Society;
- That the role of a councillor should be open to all, regardless of their background, and that introducing a parental leave policy is a step towards encouraging a wider range of people to become councillors, and is also a step to encourage existing councillors who may want to start a family to remain as councillors;
- That parental leave must apply to parents regardless of their gender, and that it should also cover adoption leave to support those parents who choose to adopt.

**This Council resolves:**

To refer this parental leave policy to the IRP for consideration in their next review.

**11. Members' Allowances - Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP)  
(Pages 39 - 42)**

This report recommends that the Council commences the process of recruiting members to the Independent Remuneration Panel and to establish that panel also as the Parish Remuneration Panel.

\*Explanations as to different levels of interest

(a) A member with a discloseable pecuniary interest (DPI) must declare the nature as well as the existence of any such interest and the agenda item(s) to which it relates must be stated. A member who declares a DPI in relation to any item must leave the meeting for that item (unless a relevant dispensation has been granted).

(b) A member with an other significant interest (OSI) under the local code of conduct relating to items on this agenda must declare the nature as well as the existence of any such interest and the agenda item(s) to which it relates must be stated. A member who declares an OSI in relation to any item will need to remove him/herself to the public gallery before the debate and not vote on that item (unless a relevant dispensation has been granted). However, prior to leaving, the member may address the meeting in the same way that a member of the public may do so.

(c) Members may make voluntary announcements of other interests which are not required to be disclosed under (a) and (b). These are announcements made for transparency reasons alone, such as:

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- membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items, or
- 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.

Voluntary announcements do not prevent the member from participating or voting on the relevant item