



Agenda

Meeting: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Extraordinary meeting**
Date: **15 June 2021**
Time: **6.30 pm**
Place: **Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Folkestone**

To: **All members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

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.

Due to current social distancing guidelines, only 6 seats are available for members of the public at meetings in the Council Chamber. These seats will be reserved for those speaking or participating at the meeting, and the remaining available seats will be given on a first come, first served basis.

Members of the public are encouraged to view the meeting online if they are not to address the meeting. Meetings will be streamed live to the internet, and can be viewed at: <https://folkestone-hythe.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>.

Further information on attending council meetings can be found at [Advice for public attendance](#)

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest (Pages 3 - 4)**

Members of the committee should declare any interests which fall under the following categories:

- a) disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI);
- b) other significant interests (OSI);
- c) voluntary announcements of other interests.

3. **Creation of a Task and Finish group to consider issues relating to the council's waste and street cleansing contract (Pages 5 - 10)**

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Contact Jemma West – Tel: 01303 853267
Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or download from our website
www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

The Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste and Building Control, with the support of the Overview and Scrutiny Chairman, has requested that urgent scrutiny work take place following recent issues around the council's waste and street cleansing contract. The report therefore sets out proposals for the formation of a Task and Finish Group, including a suggested scope, and invites nominations for the Membership of the Group.

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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This Report will be made public on 7 June 2021



Report Number **OS/21/03**

To: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 15 June 2021
Status: Non Executive
Responsible Officer: Ewan Green, Director of Place
Cabinet Member: Councillor Stuart Peall, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste and Building Control

SUBJECT: CREATION OF A TASK AND FINISH GROUP TO CONSIDER ISSUES RELATING TO THE COUNCIL'S WASTE AND STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT

SUMMARY: The Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste and Building Control, with the support of the Overview and Scrutiny Chairman, has requested that urgent scrutiny work take place following recent issues around the council's waste and street cleansing contract. The report therefore sets out proposals for the formation of a Task and Finish Group, including a suggested scope, and invites nominations for the Membership of the Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report OS/21/
2. To agree that the suggested topic for Scrutiny meets the requirements set out at paragraph 2.1 (as per point j of the Terms of Reference of the Committee), and that a Task and Finish Group be created.
3. To consider and agree the scope of the review, as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report.
3. To appoint Members to the Task and Finish Group (drawn from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Membership).

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Following a request from the Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste and Building Control and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Committee are asked to consider the formation of a Task and Finish Group, to look at issues arising from the operation of the new Waste and Street Cleansing Contract.
- 1.2 The Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee require the Committee to respond to requests from the Cabinet and/or Council to undertake Overview and Scrutiny reviews as it sees fit. The Terms of Reference also require the Committee to agree the scope of task and finish group Overview and Scrutiny reviews, and appoint Members.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 sets out the background and main issues surrounding the new waste contract.

2. CREATION OF A TASK AND FINISH GROUP

- 2.1 When agreeing an Overview and Scrutiny topic for a task group investigation the Committee is required by its terms of reference to follow the set of criteria below to ensure its suitability for an Overview and Scrutiny review. In order to qualify for consideration, submission for topics to review must conform to at least one of the following:
 - affect a group or community of people (overview and scrutiny will not normally look at service complaints) that either live or work in the district,
 - be an issue of significant public concern,
 - Relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake,
 - not be an issue which scrutiny has considered during the past 24 months,
 - not be an issue dealt with by another Council committee (excluding cabinet).
- 2.2 The Committee Members must therefore agree that the topic of the proposed task and finish group meets the above criteria.

3. PROPOSED SCOPE OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

- 3.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny are asked to consider and agree the proposed scope, set out below:
 1. To review the operation of the new Waste and Street Cleansing Contract with a focus on the route optimisation project (new collection routes started on 10/5/21).
 2. To invite Veolia Senior Management to the task & finish group meeting to be set up during July 2021.
 3. For Veolia to present detailed plans to recover service levels to the contracted standards for –

- a. Refuse/Recycling/Food Collections
- b. Assisted Collections
- c. Communal Bin Collections
- d. Garden Waste Collections
- e. Street Cleansing

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to appoint Members to the Task and Finish Group. The size of the Group is for the Committee to decide.
- 4.2 It is suggested that all members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be invited to attend the meeting of the Task and Finish Group.
- 4.3 The Chairman of the Task and Finish Group will be appointed by the Group during the first meeting.
- 4.4 The group will be supported by the Director of Place.

5. FORMAT OF MEETINGS

- 5.1 Given the important nature of the subject, it is proposed that a preparatory meeting of the Task and Finish Group be called as a matter of urgency once its membership is confirmed, in order to elect a Chairman, agree the terms of reference, and agree the lines of enquiry for the review. It is suggested that the first meeting be held remotely, using Zoom.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 6.1 No perceived risks.

7. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

7.1 Legal Officer's Comments (AK)

No legal implications arise directly from this report.

7.2 Finance Officer's Comments (CI)

There are no direct financial implications of this report

7.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications

No equalities implications.

8. 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, Committee Services Specialist

Telephone: 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.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – information about the new waste contract

Appendix 1 – information about the new waste contract

- 1.1 As part of delivering the new waste contract it was agreed that Veolia would introduce new refuse and recycling rounds in order to provide a more efficient and cost effective service. The new routes would take effect from 10th May 2021.

The previous collection rounds have largely remained unchanged since 2010 but it was recognised that there have been several localised changes that required the review (including for example, new homes, new road layouts, and, in particular, the closure of Hawkinge Waste Transfer Station (which now requires tipping at facilities in Ashford to be used instead).

- 1.2 Changes to collection routes were devised a route optimisation exercise carried out by Veolia. The key principle underpinning the optimisation process was that new routes will be fewer in number and more efficient, resulting in better use of the new vehicle fleet. This in turn would mean that the service will be more cost effective and deliver reductions in vehicle carbon emissions (notably from the more compact routes and by fewer vehicles travelling to Ashford twice per day to tip). Scaled-up over the contract term the new routes will deliver a much greener service, which was a major objective when the new contract was procured.
- 1.3 In operational terms the optimisation resulted in changes for 48% of kerbside collections and 2000 communal properties.

48% of kerbside collections (17,261 properties) and 2000 communal properties would have changes to day, weeks or a combination of both. This table below provides an overview of the changes:

Folkestone	Properties	Percentage
No change	18491	52%
Day change only	6138	17%
Week change only	3273	9%
Day and Week change	7850	22%

- 1.4 Whilst the day/weeks changed the following remained unchanged:
- 52% of current routes.
 - Collections will continue to take place fortnightly for refuse and recycling and weekly for food.
 - No changes to the bins and containers and what can be put in them.
 - Garden Waste collection days/dates will remain the same as they are currently.
- 1.5 Contingency arrangements were put in place to ensure that missed collections were recovered as quickly as possible.

- 1.6 A new street cleansing regime aimed at focusing activity on hot spots and providing an improved response at peak times was introduced from April 2021.