

Meeting: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
Date: **26 September 2023**
Time: **6.00 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.

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)**

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

- a) disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI);
- b) other significant interests (OSI);

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

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

c) voluntary announcements of other interests.

3. **Minutes (Pages 7 - 28)**

To consider and approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2023.

4. **Minutes of the Finance and Performance Sub-Committee (Pages 29 - 38)**

To consider and approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 06 July 2023.

5. **Cabinet Member updates**

In accordance with the Constitution Councillors, Rich Holgate the Cabinet Member for Place Plan, Heritage, Tourism and District Economy and Polly Blakemore the Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control will be attending the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide a general update on decisions made within their portfolio.

6. **Housing Repairs & Maintenance options appraisal (Pages 39 - 60)**

The Housing Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) current contract with Mears Ltd is due to expire 1st April 2025. In addition to the responsive repairs service and planned maintenance i.e. the replacement kitchen and bathrooms capital programme, the contract also covers void repairs and some compliance related services.

This is a crucial customer facing service and the full Options Appraisal will evaluate the risks, benefits, and costs of each considered option. Before the Options Appraisal is completed Members are asked to input into the way forward for this important project and feedback on early recommendations from project consultants Faithorn Farrell Timms (FFT) who have been appointed to provide commercial experience, technical knowledge, and project management skills to support the council through the project stages.

The final report to Cabinet in November 2023 will include recommendations to the council to give the best possible VfM and level of service delivery to our council tenants and leaseholders.

7. **Folca LUF update and Civic Centre Relocation. (Pages 61 - 72)**

This presentation provides an update on the redevelopment proposals for Folca 2. The presentation covers progress to date in relation to Phase 1 and Phase 2, architects commission, design development, business case preparation and overall programme. Committee is asked to provide

feedback in order to inform the direction of the project and future reporting to Cabinet.

8. **Otterpool Park: Strategic Direction, Funding and Delivery. (Pages 73 - 120)**

This report, presentation and appendix cover the outcome of a review of key issues that the Council requires to consider in relation to the strategic direction, funding and delivery of Otterpool Park. The presentation includes detail on delivery and financial risks for the Council and emerging recommendations for Cabinet.

9. **Princes Parade Petitions (Pages 121 - 124)**

This report responds to the 2 petitions referred by Council to Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to remove the hoarding at Princes Parade, and to abandon the development and rewild the site.