

Meeting: **Audit and Governance Committee**
Date: **13 September 2023**
Time: **6.00 pm**
Place: **Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone**

To: **All members of the Audit and Governance 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/webcasts>.

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.

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);
- c) voluntary announcements of other interests.

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Contact Sue Lewis – Tel: 01303 853265/3267
Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or download from our website
www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

3. **Minutes (Pages 7 - 14)**

To consider and approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023.

4. **Polling District and Polling Station review**

A short presentation to inform and to note the upcoming, compulsory polling district and station review for parliamentary elections.

5. **Corporate Risk Register Update (Pages 15 - 16)**

This report summarises changes to the Corporate Risk Register since it was last reported to A&G in March 2023.

The latest version of the Risk Register will be shared prior to the meeting.

6. **Response to the Local Government Ombudsman (Pages 17 - 20)**

Mr and Mrs J raised a complaint through the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) as they believed the Council had incorrectly processed their Housing Waiting List Application. Whilst the LGO confirmed the Council has correctly processed the housing application, it has also stated that it is unhappy with the way the Council's officers initially responded to their enquiries. This report sets out the action taken by the Council to address the concerns raised by the LGO.

7. **Application for Dispensations under the Code of Conduct for Directors of Oportunitas (Pages 21 - 24)**

This report considers the application for dispensations under the Code of Conduct for Councillors to speak and vote by Councillors who are also directors of Oportunitas. The recommendation is that the dispensations be granted.

8. **Extension of Term of Independent Persons (Pages 25 - 28)**

Under S 28(7) Localism Act 2011 and the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 the council must appoint an Independent Person to fulfil the functions set out in the Act and regulation. This report recommends that the term of present independent

persons (Chris Harman, David Carter and Ken London) be extended for a further four year period to 18 December 2027.

9. **Quarterly Internal Audit report from the Head of East Kent Audit Partnership (Pages 29 - 50)**

This report includes the summary of the work of the East Kent Audit Partnership (EKAP) since the last Audit and Governance Committee meeting together with details of the performance of the EKAP to the 30th June 2023.

10. **Change of Governance Arrangements (Pages 51 - 64)**

This report introduces the steps necessary to implement the decision of Council of 21st June 2023 to change its governance arrangements from a Leader and Cabinet executive form of governance to a committee system as of the Annual Meeting of Council to be held May 2024.

Please note, a glossary of regularly used acronyms can be found in the [mod.gov library](#).