

Meeting: **Cabinet**
Date: **18 October 2023**
Time: **5.00 pm**
Place: **Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone**

To: **All members of the Cabinet**

All Councillors for information

The cabinet will consider the matters listed below on the date and at the time and place shown above.

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.

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest (Pages 5 - 6)**

Members of the Council 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. **Minutes (Pages 7 - 14)**

To consider and approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting

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

held on 20 September 2023.

4. **Homeowners policy (Pages 15 - 42)**

This report outlines changes made to the Council's Homeownership Management Policy, following a review of payment options for leaseholders.

5. **Government consultation on local plan reforms and new duties for local planning authorities (Pages 43 - 74)**

This report outlines reforms to the local plan-making system that will be brought into force when the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill receives Royal Assent; these will be the most far-reaching reforms to the local plan-making system for 20 years. The Bill is expected to gain Royal Assent within the next few weeks. The current consultation, 'Consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms', sets out how the reforms will be put into practice. The consultation is being conducted by the Department for Levelling-up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and will close on 18 October 2023.

6. **Authority-wide Design Code - Preliminary Steps (Pages 75 - 86)**

When the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill becomes law within the next few weeks, it will be a legal requirement for local planning authorities to produce a design code covering their entire area. The Secretary of State will have powers to intervene where local authorities are not making progress. Local authorities will need to prepare and adopt design codes as part of their local plan or as a supplementary plan, giving the design requirements set within them the weight of the development plan in decision-making. Design codes are part of wider government reforms, which will be the most far-reaching changes to the local planning system for twenty years.

7. **Learoyd Road Potential Disposal (Pages 87 - 98)**

The council owns units 1 to 6 Learoyd Road, New Romney. Units 1, 2, 3/4 and 5 are in one block and are vacant pending refurbishment by the council. Unit 6 is standalone and leased to a tenant on a long-term basis. The tenant of Unit 6 has made an offer for the freehold of U1-6. The freehold of U1-6 is currently being advertised on the open market to ascertain best value for disposal. There are two main options available to the council; retain the freehold of units 1 to 6 (U1-6) and continue with the refurbishment and reletting of units 1 – 5 (U1-5); or dispose of the freehold of U1-6. If a disposal is agreed, a new application should be made to reallocate the Section106 funds currently assigned to the refurbishment of units 1 to 5 Learoyd Road to the refurbishment of units 1 and 2 Mountfield Road.

8. **Otterpool Park: Strategic Direction and Delivery Priorities 2023-25 (Pages 99 - 154)**

This report presents an update on the Otterpool Park (following on from the report to Cabinet in April 2023). The report details the outcome of a management review which has assessed options for the future strategic direction, funding and delivery of the project.

9. **Q2 HRA Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Pages 155 - 164)**

This monitoring report provides a projection of the end of year financial position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue expenditure and HRA capital programme based on net expenditure to 31 August 2023.

10. **Q2 General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Pages 165 - 172)**

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for the Council as at 1 September 2023, i.e., Q2 of 2023/24. The report provides Members with an overview of budget performance, including an overview of reserves and balances, to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets. At the end of Quarter 2, there is a favourable **end of the financial year projected position of £512k** on the Council's revised net revenue budget, of £28.3m. This position is based on activity as at 1 September 2023, projected trends in income and expenditure and changes to Council funding.

11. **Q2 General Fund Capital Prog Monitoring 2023/24 (Pages 173 - 182)**

This monitoring report provides an initial projection of the current financial position for the General Fund capital programme profiled for 2023/24, based on expenditure to 31 August 2023, and identifies variances compared to the latest approved budget.

12. **Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Pages 183 - 198)**

This report provides an update on the Council's treasury management activities that have taken place during 2023/24 against the agreed strategy for the year. The report also provides an update on the treasury management indicators approved by Cabinet earlier this year.

13. **Q1 Performance report 2023/24 (Pages 199 - 228)**

This report provides an update on the Council's performance for the first quarter of the year covering 1st April – 30th June 2023. The report enables the Council to assess progress against the approved key performance indicators arising from the Council's new Corporate Action Plan.

Key performance indicators will be monitored during 2023-24 and reported to Members quarterly.

14. **Oportunitas Progress Report - 2022/23 (to 31 March 2023) (Pages 229 - 244)**

This report provides an update from the Board of Oportunitas Ltd (“the company”) on its provisional financial outturn and activities undertaken for the financial year ending 31 March 2023 and is in-line with the requirement contained in the Shareholder’s Agreement between the company and the Council.

15. **Oportunitas Quarterly Report - 2023/24 (Pages 245 - 256)**

This report provides an update from the Board of Oportunitas Ltd (“the company”) on activities undertaken so far during the 2023/24 financial year, including a projected outturn for the profit and loss account for the period to 31 March 2024 compared to the original forecast. This report is in-line with the requirement contained in the Shareholder’s Agreement between the company and the Council.