

Meeting: **Cabinet**
Date: **31 January 2024**
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 - 20)**

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 13 December 2023.

4. **Housing Compliance (Gas and Fire Safety) Policies (Pages 21 - 112)**

This report presents two policies in relation to health and safety compliance for the Council's housing landlord service. These are, specifically:

1. Housing Compliance (Gas Safety) Policy
2. Housing Compliance (Fire Safety) Policy

5. **Service charges 'de-pooling' for council housing - Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (Pages 113 - 126)**

This report outlines the recommendation to 'de-pool' the service charges for council tenants, as well as properties sold under the RTB and other property sales, and implement an accurate, fair, and transparent charging regime across all service charge elements. Making the charges equitable and transparent in the charging structure is in line with good practice according to the government's policy - Statement on Rents for Social Housing 2018, Social Housing Regulation Act 2023, and RICS service charge management code (3rd edition).

6. **Disposal - Hay House, Hythe - Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Grade 2 Listed Asset (Pages 127 - 140)**

This report informs cabinet of the current position regarding HRA Asset - grade 2 listed property, Hay House, Sir John Moore Avenue, Hythe, Kent, CT21 5DF - including a recommended option to dispose of the property.

7. **Draft Housing Revenue Account Revenue and capital original budget 24/25 (Pages 141 - 192)**

This report sets out the Housing Revenue Account ('HRA') Revenue and Capital Budget for 2024/25 for approval and proposes an increase in weekly rents and an increase in service charges for 2024/25 both for approval.

8. **Draft General Fund budget 2024/25 (Pages 193 - 274)**

This report sets out the Council's Draft General Fund budget for 2024/25 and the updated MTFS.

9. **Investment Strategy 2024/25 (Pages 275 - 294)**

This report sets out the Council's proposed strategy for its service and commercial investments in 2024/25 to be approved by full Council.

10. **Treasury Management Strategy (Pages 295 - 324)**

This Treasury Management Strategy Statement sets out the Council's

proposed strategy for its treasury management activities for 2024/25, including Treasury Management Prudential Indicators.

11. **Capital Strategy 2024/25 and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2024/25 (Pages 325 - 346)**

This report sets out the Council's proposed strategy in relation to capital expenditure, financing, and treasury management in 2024/25 to be approved by full Council. The report also sets out the Prudential Indicators for capital expenditure and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2024/25 to be approved by full Council.

12. **Update to the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme (MTCP) (Pages 347 - 358)**

This report updates the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme for the five-year period ending 31 March 2029. The General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme is required to be submitted to full Council for consideration and approval as part of the budget process.

13. **Q3 Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring (Pages 359 - 368)**

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 1 December 2023.

14. **Q3 General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring (Pages 369 - 380)**

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for the Council as at 1 December 2023, i.e., Q3 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 3, there is a favourable **end of the financial year projected position of £458k** on the Council's revised net revenue expenditure budget, of £22.2m. This position is based on budget activities as at 1 December 2023, projected trends in income and expenditure and changes to Council funding.

15. **Q3 General Fund Capital Programme Budget Monitoring (Pages 381 - 390)**

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 1 December 2023, and identifies variances compared to the latest approved budget.