

## **5. FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCILS' JOINT COMMITTEE**

### **5.1 Purpose**

- a) To discuss and explore ways of the District and town/parish councils working together for the common good of the citizens;
- b) To be one of the ways that the District Council consults town/parish councils on proposals;
- c) To enable town/parish councils to inform the District Council about their proposals and obtain comments;
- d) To be a forum for the exchange of good practice;
- e) To enable questions to be raised about the District Councils policies, in relation to towns/parishes and community issues;
- f) The town/parish councils and the District Council may ask questions about the effect and/or outcome of the decisions taken by the other party but they may not be used by one party to scrutinise or examine the reasons for the other party's decision;
- g) Not to be used for attacks on individuals or organisations.

### **5.2 Agendas**

The Monitoring Officer may reject an agenda item if it:

- a) Is not about a matter which is within the purposes of the joint committee;
- b) Is defamatory, frivolous or offensive; or
- c) Is substantially the same as an item which has been put at a meeting of the joint committee in the past six months and there has been no change in circumstances.

### **5.3 Composition**

#### **5.3.1 Membership:**

**5.3.1(a)** Three members of the District Council (at least one of whom shall be a member of the Cabinet) and eight members of parish/town councils, in the area, nominated by the Kent Association of Local Councils.

**5.3.1(b)** District Council members are appointed by the Leader of the Council.

### **5.4 Chairman**

The chairman shall be elected at each meeting for that meeting alone. The chairmanship shall alternate between the representatives of the District and parish councils.

### **5.5 Open meetings**

**5.5.1** The agenda of the meetings of the joint committee shall be made publically available, unless the Head of Paid Service considers that they disclose confidential or exempt information.

**5.5.2** The meetings of the committee shall be open to the public, unless confidential or exempt information will be considered.