Public Document Pack



RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

at the Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 27th March, 2025 at 7.00 pm

To:

Cllr Halleh Koohestani (Chairman) Cllr Nadia Martin (Vice-Chairman) Cllr S. Trussler (Vice-Chairman)

> Cllr Leola Card Cllr P.J. Cullum Cllr Thomas Day Cllr C.P. Grattan Cllr G.B. Lyon Cllr Bill O'Donovan Cllr M.J. Tennant Cllr Becky Williams

Standing Deputies

Cllr C.W. Card Cllr S.J. Masterson Cllr T.W. Mitchell Cllr Sarah Spall Cllr Jacqui Vosper Cllr Ivan Whitmee

Enquiries regarding this agenda should be referred to the Administrator, Adele Taylor, Democratic Services, Tel. (01252) 398831, Email. adele.taylor@rushmoor.gov.uk.

AGENDA

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –** (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th March, 2025 (copy attached).

2. **WORK PLAN –** (Pages 5 - 16)

To consider the Work Plan for the 2024/25 Municipal Year (copy attached).

3. UNION YARD, ALDERSHOT - APPROACH TO DISPOSAL OF RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS (SEACOLE PLACE AND BURTON HOUSE) - (Pages 17 - 196)

To receive Report No. EDPLACE2501 (copy attached) and additional EXEMPT draft Cabinet report and appendices (copies attached), to allow for pre decision scrutiny on the approach to the disposal of residential apartments at Union Yard, Aldershot.

The nature of the item relates to information relating to financial or business affairs of the Council and, when appropriate, will be considered in private.

MEETING REPRESENTATION

Members of the public may ask to speak at the meeting on any of the items on the agenda by writing to the Committee Administrator at the Council Offices, Farnborough by 5.00 pm two working days prior to the meeting.

Applications for items to be considered for the next meeting must be received in writing to the Committee Administrator fifteen working days prior to the meeting.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Tuesday, 4th March, 2025 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Halleh Koohestani (Chairman) Cllr Nadia Martin (Vice-Chairman) Cllr S. Trussler (Vice-Chairman)

> Cllr Leola Card Cllr P.J. Cullum Cllr C.P. Grattan Cllr G.B. Lyon Cllr Bill O'Donovan Cllr M.J. Tennant

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Thomas Day and Cllr Becky Williams

Cllrs Sarah Spall and Ivan Whitmee attended the meeting as Standing Deputies.

29. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on 30th January, 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

30. APPOINTMENTS

NOTED: The appointment of Cllr Becky Williams as a Member of the Committee for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year in place of Cllr A. H. Crawford.

31. CALL-IN - FARNBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE

The Committee was advised of the submission of a request to call-in the resolution made by the Cabinet on 11th February, 2025 in relation to the Farnborough Leisure Centre – Next Steps. The request for call-in had been submitted by Cllrs Sue Carter, G.B. Lyon, P.G. Taylor, M.J. Tennant and S. Trussler.

The Committee was advised that should the call-in request be rejected, the decision made by the Cabinet on 11th February, 2025 would take effect as of 5th March, 2025. If the call-in request was accepted, a report would be made to Cabinet at its next meeting on 11th March, 2025.

Cllr Martin Tennant presented the call-in request and the reasons behind it. The Committee noted the reasons, which included, that:

- the decision had been made with insufficient information, and
- there were significant concerns regarding the lack of public consultation on the revised proposals which had changed considerably since the previous consultation, and the current leisure mix of facilities did not align with the needs and expectations outlined by residents at the time.

Cllr Tennant recognised and welcomed the development and understood the current financial pressures on the Council. However, the concerns of the opposition were that the specific needs of the community had not been sought since 2019 and those needs may have changed during that time. It was felt essential to provide a facility that was flexible, would be sustainable in the longer term and provided a mix of facilities that were wanted by the community.

Cllr Sophie Porter, Healthy Communities and Active Lives Portfolio Holder, addressed the Committee on behalf of the Cabinet, with support from Cllr Christine Guinness, Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder. Cllr Porter advised that the consultation work already undertaken had been picked up as part of the revised planning and the two key requirements (swimming and fitness) of residents would be provided. It was noted that Soft Market Testing (SMT) would be carried out to assess the viability of the facilities mix being proposed and adjustments could be made to the mix once completed. The Council were limited by the funds available and needed to be aware of potential risks in delaying the development further in relation to working with delivery associates and operators.

During discussions, it was noted that there were now considerably different financial restraints to be taken account of compared to the previous iteration and the new facility needed to generate an income, as there was no additional money to provide subsidy. The facilities mix proposed would be consulted on with operators, prior to RIBA Stage 3, to establish the best options to maximise income and space available. Commercially, it was advised that a gym and the provision of swimming lessons, would greatly support income generation. The Committee noted that the new plan had the same facilities as the previous iteration, with the exception of, a sports hall and premium health suite. By removing the sports hall, more space would be made available for other facilities within the space. However, it was also important to recognise that the proposed plans were still subject to a full business case.

In discussing the facilities mix, it was advised that the Innerve Suite, a power assisted wellness hub, was for use by all individuals who suffered with chronic conditions and not just the elderly. However, once SMT had been undertaken, the findings could show that a suite of this nature may not be sustainable, and a more viable option may well need to be considered. Some Members also had concerns over the number of gyms in the locality and if those that had been dispersed, when the original facility had been demolished, would then come back to an "inferior" facility. This raised the need for a relevant and viable leisure centre facility for the community.

In response to a query regarding funding, it was advised that the Levelling Up funding had been secured for the new proposed facility followings considerable engagement with the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government (MHCLG). The funding however, needed to be spent in a set time frame, and should

the funds not be spent they would have to be returned. A request was made for the information shared with the MHCLG to be shared with the Committee, for information.

A discussion was held around the previous considerations around creating a Passivhaus facility, it was suggested that the option of passing the cost of Passivhaus to the operator should be considered at the tender stage.

Cllr Tennant stressed the importance of "bringing the residents along for the journey" so as not to be doing the community a disservice. Reference was also made to Report No. REG2501, paragraph 2.2, which set out the proposed facilities mix. Alliance Leisure had been engaged to establish a facilities mix that was fit for purpose and geared towards commercial viability. In reading the report, the opposition had felt that the mix was already set in stone and showed little room for flexibility. Reassurance was provided stating that following SMT, the mix could be amended, if necessary, before RIBA Stage 3, to ensure commerciality and viability into the future.

During a discussion on the different RIBA stages, it was advised that no public consultation was undertaken at RIBA Stage 2, however, discussions had been carried out with sports clubs and key stakeholders at this stage. A request was made for a list of those that had engaged in discussions.

Cllr Porter personally committed to keeping Members updated and would ensure that, following SMT the findings would be reported on. It was also noted that the concerns had been heard relating to wider consultation, but no commitment could be made at this time to undertake any further public consultation. However, it was noted that work was underway to get local people signed up to an email address to be kept informed on the development of the proposed leisure facility.

In summing up, clarification was being sought on whether further public consultation would be undertaken prior to RIBA Stage 3 on the facilities mix and if there had been any room for movement on the facility mix, as set out in Report No. REG2501.

The Chairman then asked the Committee to vote for or against the decision being referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

There voted FOR: 4; AGAINST: 5; ABSTAIN: 1; and the call-in request to refer the decision back to the Cabinet was declared lost. Therefore, it was advised that the decision made by the Cabinet at its meeting on 11th February, 2025 would become effective from 5th March, 2025.

ACTION:

What	By Whom	Date
Provide the information shared with the MHCLG when discussing keeping the Levelling Up Funding for the new proposed facility.	of Regeneration	2025

Provide a list of sports clubs and key	Nick Irvine, Head	March
stakeholders who had been engaged with on	of Regeneration	2025
the proposed facilities mix.	and Development	

32. WORK PLAN

The Committee noted the current Work Plan.

An update was provided on the current position with the disposals of units at Union Yard, Aldershot. It was noted that a final offer on the site was still outstanding and papers wouldn't be ready for the proposed additional meeting of the Committee on 13th March. It was therefore proposed that the meeting on 27th March would be used for the discussion on the Union Yard Disposals and the 13th would be used for an all Member Briefing on the background to the disposals. The details for both meetings would be finalised at the Progress Group on 6th March.

The meeting closed at 9.39 pm.

CLLR HALLEH KOOHESTANI (CHAIRMAN)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The purpose of the work plan is to plan, manage and co-ordinate the ongoing activity and progress of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It will be updated regularly and presented to each meeting of the Committee. It will include issues that are currently being actioned as well as those that will be subject to future work.

The Committees Terms of Reference are as follows:

- to perform all overview and scrutiny functions on behalf of the Council;
- to appoint such formal sub-committees and informal task and finish groups as it considers necessary to assist it in discharging its functions;
- to prepare and approve the overview and scrutiny work programme so as to ensure that the Committee's time is effectively and efficiently utilised;
- to undertake investigations into such matters relating to the Council's functions and powers as:
 - (1) may be referred by the Council, Committees, the Cabinet, or the Leader; or
 - (2) the Committee may consider appropriate; or
 - have been referred to the Committee pursuant to the "call-in" procedure set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution. (These can be decisions taken by the Cabinet, a Cabinet Member, key decisions taken by an officer or under joint arrangements).
- to monitor and review the performance of the Council and services against relevant performance indicators and adopted plans;

- to review and/or scrutinise decisions proposed to be made (pre-decision scrutiny) or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- to review existing policy and strategy with a view to securing continuous improvement in the way in which the Council's functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness;
- to make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council and/or the Cabinet in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- to review and/or scrutinise any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants;
- to discuss initiatives put forward for consideration by individual members of the Committee and any relevant 'call-for-action' in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution; and
- to consider petitions referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with provisions set out in the Petition Scheme set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

rage /

(A) ISSUES CURRENTLY BEING PROGRESSED BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

ISSUE (PURPOSE OF REVIEW)	TASK AND FINISH GROUP (MEMBERSHIP 2024/25)	CURRENT WORK
To monitor the performance and activities of Registered Providers working in the Borough.	Cllrs Gaynor Austin, Halleh Koohestani (Chair), S.J. Masterson, Bill O'Donovan and M.D. Smith.	At the meeting on 18 December, the Group updated the terms or reference to reflect the new Council priorities. Vivid and Metropolitan Thames Valley would be invited to review meetings between Jan-May 2025. Other RPs operating in the borough would have Social Housing Regulator and Housing Ombudsman reports collated and be asked to complete the standard questionnaire used at the review meetings. The next meeting of the Group was scheduled for 26 February, 2025, with VIVID, however VIVID were now unable to attend on this date and a new date would be advised in due course. Meetings had been scheduled with Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing (26th March) and A2 Dominion (date TBC).
To review the Council Tax Support Scheme	Cllrs P.J. Cullum, C.P. Grattan, Lisa Greenway, M.J. Roberts and Stuart Trussler (Vice-Chair)	At its meeting on 16 October, members noted the information presented by officers on the performance of the current CTS scheme as well as the Council Tax and Business Rates collection data. Members asked to be taken through some examples of Exceptional Hardship payments and Discretionary Housing Payments at the next meeting. They also expected to be able to make a recommendation to Cabinet about the scheme for 25/26.

ISSUE (PURPOSE OF REVIEW)	TASK AND FINISH GROUP (MEMBERSHIP 2024/25)	CURRENT WORK
		On 4 December, following careful analysis of the CTS scheme, by the Group, they proposed that Cabinet should make recommendations to the Council, that the scheme remain unchanged for 25/26.
		A report was presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 14 January, setting out the Group's recommendations. The Cabinet then further recommended that the Council approve that the current scheme continued with annual uplifts, as set out in the Report, the Exceptional Hardship relief fund remained the same and any minor changes, in accordance with annual uprating as applied by the DWP, were made. The Council agreed the recommendations at its meeting on 27 February, 2025.
To consider further the economical and environmental impacts of Farnborough Airport on the Borough.	Cllrs Craig Card, A.H. Crawford, P.J. Cullum, Halleh Koohestani (Chair), G.B. Lyon and Bill O'Donovan with Cllr Jules Crossley (Policy, Climate & Sustainability Portfolio Holder) as an invitee as required.	Reached out to officers and will provide an update when available.

(B) OTHER ISSUES CURRENTLY BEING PROGRESSED BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ISSUE	CURRENT WORK
Arts and Culture	At its November 2023 meeting the Committee were apprised of the work being undertaken in conjunction with the Hampshire Cultural Trust and Arts Council England on arts and cultural activity on the Borough. A further meeting would be held on this item in 6-12 months.
	Following a review of the work at the Progress Group, it was felt that the work of the cultural compacts would sit better with the Policy and Project Advisory Board. Officers would arrange for this to be picked up by the Board.
Asset Management	At its meeting in January 2024, the Committee received a presentation detailing progress on the Asset Management Strategy and future delivery, and a review of the portfolio and principles of disposal in light of the budget.
	A watching briefing would be maintained on progress during the 2024/25 Municipal Year.
	The meeting on 4th March, 2025, would address asset disposal specifically related to the Union Yard development
Cabinet Champions	The two Cabinet Champions attended the meeting in March 2024, to provide a report on their work and activities during 2023/24. The work of both Champions was noted and the recommended priorities for 2024/25 endorsed.
	Written Reports on activities during 2024/25 would be provided to the meeting on 27 March for the consideration by the Committee.
Rushmoor Voluntary Services and Citizens Advice Rushmoor - Service Level Agreements	Recommendations were made to the Cabinet following the meetings in October and December, 2024. The recommendations, in particular, asked the Cabinet to consider multi year funding agreements and rent relief levels for both organisations. The outcomes from the Cabinet meetings resolved that the recommendations would be considered as part of the budget setting process.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORKFLOW – June 2024- March 2025

DATE	ITEMS
13th June 2024	Registered Providers T&F Annual Report Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy
1st August 2024	SERCO
12th September 2024	Financial Matters/CIPFA Report
19th September 2024	Police and Community Safety
24th October 2024	Rushmoor Voluntary Services - Annual SLA Report – Donna Bone
18th November 2024	All Member Seminar to provide an update on Union Yard
20th November 2024	Risk Management Briefing for CGAS Committee (open to all)
28 November 2024	Leader Priorities – GW Risk Register Review – GW/RS
12th December 2024	Citizens' Advice - Annual SLA Report – Calum Stewart
8th January 2025 (Informal meeting)	Online meeting to discuss items to be included in a letter to Hampshire County Council
30th January 2025	Financial Recovery Plan – Review – Invited GW & PV
4th March 2025 (Additional Meeting)	Appointment – replacement for Alex Crawford Call-In – Farnborough Leisure Centre – Next Steps
13th March 2025	Union Yard Background Update – All Member Seminar
27th March 2025	Union Yard Disposals – Pre-Decision Scrutiny
?? April 2025	Champions Annual Report (x2) - (Written reports for approval)
Potential Future Items for the Committee in 2024/25	 Highways issues (condition of roads, speeding and road safety issues) – HCC – letter being prepared Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy (Session 2) – Briefing paper being prepared on current position Climate Change Action Plan – New Strategy being agreed in March 2025 – consider again in 2025/26 Community and Youth Engagement – Incorporated into the Young People's Plan approved in Jan 2025. Need to wait a while before reviewing at Scrutiny – 2025/26 Stagecoach

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Progress Meetings 2024/25

Membership: Cllr Leola Card, P.J. Cullum, Thomas Day, Halleh Koohestani (Chair), Nadia Martin (Vice Chair), Bill O'Donovan and Stuart Trussler (Vice Chair)

Click here to view the latest Action Tracker

(Please refresh the page when opening to ensure the latest version is available)

DATE	ITEM	NOTES
02.07.2024	SERCO – scoping of item for 1 August	Annual report will be finalised – a summary of the report will be presented at the meeting Areas of concern include, - grass cutting changes and impacts (rewilding) - Waste Management – what are the %'s and how can we improve? Consider national changes due in 2027 - Focus on key services provided - how can we improve? / cost / effectiveness / performance against KPI's - Renewal of contract - Benchmarking against other councils
	Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy – request to Cabinet to review the strategy (June 13 meeting)	Important to review the data requested at the meeting prior to making a decision on a review of the strategy by the Cabinet. Data will provide context to those carrying out a review to determine if the strategy is achievable/objectives realistic. Cabinet Member minded to review anyway, is it better to wait until any changes have been made? Could offer engagement services from the Committee as part of the review.

	Police and Community Safety - September 19 meeting	ACTION – follow up on request for data – AT/ZP ACTION – data request – how long are people in temp accommodation? How do we move people from temp to permanent accommodation? Produce list of asks for the Chief Inspector and Community Safety Team at next PG meeting.
	Future items for consideration	A list has been added to the Potential items above.
02.09.2024	Financial Matters / CIPFA Report (12 September)	Simon Allsop of CIPFA will be attending online to talk through the recent CIPFA Report. Request for a clear understanding of the recommendations within the report. Establish what OSC can do to provide effective scrutiny, best practice/key lines of enquiry etc. What lessons have we learnt? Update on current position of the Council in response to the report.
	Police and Community Safety (19 September)	Areas to cover at the meeting included: - General overview of Community Safety - Report back from the Joint Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee - What's gone well - Top 5 thing for GC/DL - CPO teams - Challenges - What can be done better - Cops and Coffee - 101/online SLAs - Boundary areas
	Work Plan	Members prioritised the work plan as set out above.

03.10.2024	Financial Matters/CIPFA Report	Made some recommendations that would be included in the report to Cabinet on 15 October. The Financial Recovery Action Plan would be reviewed in the New Year, pencilled in for 30 January, Leader and PV invited.
	Police and Community Safety	ACTION – add request for Gillian Cox to attend the Community Engagement T&F to the Action Tracker
	RVS and CA Annual SLA Reports	Ensure copies of the SLA agreements are shared with Members in advance and ask attendees to provide an executive summary with their reports. Pencilled in for the Dec meeting – TBC.
	24 October Meeting	Risk Register – general feel, how mitigating, how managed. Look at critical ones (red) and any emerging risks. Establish where the "real" risks are… Leaders Priorities – invite the Leader to share his priorities for the future.
	HCC – Engagement Process	Set up a remote meeting with all Members of the Committee to consider items for inclusion in a letter to HCC to start the process of engagement with them. Write to all Members in advance of the meeting to ensure all HCC related issues are captured for consideration in the discussion.
	Stagecoach	ACTION - Share minutes of the last meeting at which Stagecoach were present.
18.11.2024	RVS	Report to Cabinet with recommendations – 26 November ACTION - share report and dairy appointment with the Chair
	Risk Register	Date of training rescheduled to 25 November – ACTION - share slides in advance with Members
	Leader's Priorities	Suggested to request questions in advance of the meeting for the Leader to prepare responses
	Union Yard	Keep a watching brief on the current situation and consider whether a separate item is required on Union Yard following the briefing.

08.01.2025	Leaders Priorities	Noted
	Risk Register Review	Noted
	Citizens Advice Rushmoor – SLA Report	Noted that the report with the recommendations would be considered at the meeting on 14 January.
	Financial Recovery Plan	Following a discussion on the appropriateness of this item, it was felt important to consider the effectiveness of the Plan and governance arrangements in a public setting.
	Cultural Compacts	Following consideration of the scope of this item it was felt that it would be best place with PPAB to help develop engagement and participation with the wider community.
	March 2025 meeting	Requirement for a pre scrutiny item on Union Yard disposals. It was advised that Cabinet had an item scheduled on this matter in February (11 th) and a meeting may need to be scheduled prior to this to allow the Committee the chance to look at it in advance of that meeting. Consideration would be given to some suitable dates following a conversation with KE/TM.
	Additional Items	Union Yard Project Review – to be held when the project had been completed Re-organisation/Devolution business case
06.03.2025	Meeting on 4th March	Call-in – Farnborough Leisure Centre – Next Steps – no further action needed.
	Meeting on 13th March	Union Yard Disposals – still awaiting a final offer on the units. Proposed to use this date as an All Member Seminar to give a briefing on the background to the Union Yard development prior to the Committee carrying out pre decision scrutiny at its meeting on 27 March.
	Meeting on 27th March	Exempt item on Union Yard Disposals

U
а
Q
ወ
_
O

	Annual Champion's Reports – written reports for approval – may go to an April Meeting
Letter to HCC	The draft letter still needed to be considered by the Leader and Chair of OSC. Steps needed to be taken to ensure there was no negative impact on LGR and Devolution at this time
Potential April Meeting	ACTION - Check viability of an update on the Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy with officers. Would having the Champions updates in April be more appropriate? Consider an item on water quality for an April meeting
Devolution	Add date to future items for Autumn 2025.

This page is intentionally left blank

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

27th March 2025

Key Decision: No Report No. EDPLACE2501

Union Yard, Aldershot – Approach to Disposal of Residential Apartments (Seacole Place and Burton House)

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this item is to provide the Committee with the opportunity to carry out pre-decision scrutiny on the approach and options for the disposal of 82 residential units contained within the Union Yard scheme in Aldershot.

1. BACKGROUND TO THE ITEM

- 1.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee have requested that they undertake prescrutiny on the approach and options in relation to the disposal of the 82 residential apartments, Blocks C & D, of the Union Yard development in Aldershot, now known as Seacole Place and Burton House.
- 1.2 Five options will be considered as follows:
 - 1) Disposal to the Council's Housing Company, Rushmoor Homes Limited
 - 2) Disposal of individual units to the open market via a local estate agency
 - 3) Disposal to a Registered Provider- part social / part private rent or shared ownership
 - 4) Disposal for submarket rent for key workers
 - 5) Disposal to private investor for private rent

2. DOCUMENTATION AND PROPOSED PROCESS

- 2.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) will receive the following "EXEMPT" documentation (copies attached):
 - Exempt draft Cabinet report Report REG2502
 - Exempt Cabinet report Appendix A Valuation reports Carter Jonas June 2023 and February 2024
 - Exempt Cabinet report Appendix B Market review of the Union Yard development - Lambert Smith Hampton Investment Management (LSHIM) December 2023

- Exempt Cabinet report Appendix C Review of the Rushmoor Homes Limited (RHL) Business Plan Financial Model Knight Frank December 2024
- Exempt Cabinet report Appendix D Paper from Lambert Smith Hampton (LSH) March 2025
- Exempt Cabinet report Appendix E Options analysis and net revenue impact
- 2.2 At the request of the OSC Progress Group, the item will commence with a short presentation pulling out the key matters for consideration.
- 2.3 Following this, the Leader and officers will be available to provide information to the Committee to aid the scrutiny process.

Karen Edwards
Executive Director

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

