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RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

*To be held at the Council Offices, Farnborough on
Tuesday, 25th March, 2025 at 6.30 pm*

To:

Cllr M.J. Roberts (Chairman)

Cllr Abe Allen
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr T.W. Mitchell
Cllr Ivan Whitmee

Standing Deputies:

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr Leola Card
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr G.B. Lyon

Enquiries regarding this agenda should be referred to the Administrator, Chris Todd,
Democracy Team, Tel. (01252) 398825, Email. chris.todd@rushmoor.gov.uk.

A G E N D A

1. **CHANGE OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP –**

To note the appointment of Cllr Abe Allen as a Member of the Policy and Project Advisory Board in place of Cllr Julie Hall for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year. The appointment has been made by the Leader of the Council in accordance with Standing Orders and arrangements to secure political balance.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN –**

To appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Board for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

3. **MINUTES –** (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th November, 2024 (copy attached).

4. **GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON DEVOLUTION –** (Pages 5 - 10)

On the 17 February, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government launched a consultation to seek views on the effect of establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) to cover the areas of Hampshire, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, and Southampton (Hampshire and Solent). This would be the Hampshire and Solent Combined County Authority. A briefing note (copy attached) has been prepared and this was circulated to Members on 4th March. There will be a discussion on the evening on the emerging draft and further comments and input will be sought from Members.

Alex Shiell, Service Manager – Policy, Strategy and Transformation will be in attendance at the meeting to guide the discussion.

5. **WORK PLAN –** (Pages 11 - 18)

To discuss the Policy and Project Advisory Board Work Plan (copy attached).

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 Panel 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 Panel Administrator fifteen working days prior to the meeting.

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting held remotely on Tuesday, 19th November, 2024 at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr M.J. Roberts (Chairman)
Cllr Julie Hall (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr T.W. Mitchell
Cllr Ivan Whitmee

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr S.J. Masterson.

14. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th September, 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15. CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

The Chairman welcomed Ms Sophie Rogers and Ms Emma Lamb from the Council's Community and Partnerships team, who presented the Council's Climate Change Action Plan. Also present was Cllr Jules Crossley, Policy, Climate & Sustainability Portfolio Holder, who had been invited to attend for this item.

The Board was reminded that the Council had declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and had set a target of the Council's operational emissions being carbon neutral by 2030. To monitor progress towards this target, the latest version of the Climate Change Action Plan covered the period 2023 – 2026. The current action plan had twelve actions of focus, namely:

Action 1: Transition electricity across the Council's sites to 100% renewable tariffs.

Action 2: Switch the Council's car fleet to electric alternatives and investigate options for other Council vehicles.

Action 3: Achieve a 5% annual reduction in overall travel from employee-owned vehicles for business purposes and refresh the Council's Workplace Travel Plan.

Action 4: Consider opportunities arising from a relocation of the Council's offices to reduce gas consumption and/or increase renewable energy generation on site.

Action 5: To continue to engage young people on climate change through the schools' programme which is now running in four junior schools within Rushmoor.

Action 6: To use the Council's communications channels (including through Member engagement) to promote opportunities for residents and local businesses to reduce their own carbon footprint, including promoting schemes to improve energy efficiency of their home or business.

Action 7: To hold an eco-fair in September 2023 at Southwood Country Park and Field Centre to allow residents to find out more about climate change and opportunities to reduce their own carbon footprint and to hold an event for local businesses on low carbon opportunities.

Action 8: To work with Hampshire County Council to improve access to EV charging facilities across Rushmoor.

Action 9: To refresh the Council's procurement strategy to ensure that the goods and services that the Council buys support the aim of the Council being carbon neutral by 2030.

Action 10: To review processes for the Council's capital programme so that environmental impacts are incorporated into business case development and whole life cycle carbon assessments are undertaken.

Action 11: To develop the Council's offsetting approach with a view to ensuring that any offsetting undertaken by the Council has a local impact.

Action 12: To review, update and publish the Council's carbon footprint on an annual basis, publish an annual report detailing all that the Council has achieved in relation to its climate action plan and associated strategies (e.g. Green Infrastructure Plan).

The update paper that had been circulated with the agenda proposed a number of changes to the existing actions and the addition of three new actions around the development and use of Climate Change Impact Assessments, the reduction of the use of single-use plastics across Council sites and measures around Active Travel.

In considering the presentation and the proposal in the update paper, Members made the following comments and observations:

- Action 4 in respect of the relocation of the Council Offices should be removed/merged due to the uncertainty over the timescales/logistics of this move
- Insurance costs in respect of electric vehicles can be prohibitive
- Consider scheme to use people's drives to charge electric vehicles
- Encourage establishment of more 'school buses'
- Instead of reducing the use of single-use plastic – can we remove the use of it completely?

- Action 12 – can the report be more often than annually? Confirmed some measures can be reported quarterly but other measures, such as charting emissions, too resource intensive to be reported that frequently
- Can we publicise community grants better re; green initiatives?
- Action 5 – can this be extended to more schools? School travel plans – can we help more local schools?
- Twelve actions seem too many – not clear which are likely to have the most impact
- Within actions, do we need to categorise ‘must do’, ‘could do’ and ‘should do’?
- Good we are branching out to secondary schools as well as primary schools
- Action 7 – events come and go – can we do something more permanent for businesses, such as a business network?
- Good to involve infant-aged children in the process as well as older children
- Action 7 – Eco Fair is a good initiative – could we hold more? Confirmed that a Eco and Sustainability Fair being planned for Princes Hall, Aldershot in July, 2025
- Active Travel – to be included in action plan

The Chairman encouraged Members to provide any further comments or questions by email and thanked Ms Rogers and Ms Lamb for their contributions to the meeting.

It was agreed that the Board would receive a further, written update on the redraft of the action plan.

16. **WORK PLAN**

The Board noted the current Work Plan.

It was agreed that the agenda for the January Board meeting would be discussed at the next Progress Group meeting on 3rd December, 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.14pm.

CLLR M.J. ROBERTS (CHAIRMAN)

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Establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight and Southampton

Briefing

On the 17 February, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government launched a consultation to seek views on the effect of establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) to cover the areas of Hampshire, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, and Southampton (Hampshire and Solent). This would be the Hampshire and Solent Combined County Authority.

The consultation responses will help Ministers decide whether establishing a MCCA is:

- Likely to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of some or all of the people who live or work in the area.
- Appropriate, having regard to the need to secure effective and convenient local government; and reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

The full consultation document is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Governance

- Five constituent, voting members from:
 - A directly elected Mayor
 - Hampshire County Council (x2)
 - Isle of Wight Council
 - Portsmouth City Council
 - Southampton City Council
- A maximum of five non-constituent and associate (non-voting) members, this could include district councils.

Funding

- Devolved funding from central government for housing and regeneration, local growth, adult skills, and local transport.
- 30-year Investment Fund to drive economic growth
- Capacity funding for set up costs.
- Ability to raise a mayoral precept.

Powers

- Local Transport Authority with duties and powers for buses, rail, road, and active travel. This could improve connectivity between the cities and major towns in the county. The MCCA could choose to introduce different bus transport operating models.
- Devolved adults' skills and supported employment funding and functions. This could mean that the MCCA intervenes to address local skills shortages to meet demand in key sectors like aerospace and defence.
- Housing and strategic planning, including regeneration and spatial development strategy. This could mean the MCCA intervenes to address issues around housing affordability.

- Economic development and regeneration, including business support, local Growth Hubs, research and innovation, and culture, heritage, sport, and tourism. This could mean the MCCA intervenes to support growing sectors in, for example, advanced manufacturing.
- Environment and climate change, including local heat networks, net zero plans, and local nature recovery strategy
- Health, wellbeing, and public service reform, including improving local health outcomes and chairing integrated chair partnerships. This could mean the MCCA intervenes to join up action to address issues around ill health and inequalities across the area.
- May take on Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) responsibilities. The Mayor would take a seat on the Prime Minister's Council of Nations and Regions as well as the Deputy Prime Minister's Mayoral Council.

Consultation Response

Question 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority over the proposed geography will deliver benefits to the area?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Explain your answer

Question 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed governance arrangements for the Mayoral Combined County Authority?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Explain your answer

Question 3: To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through the Mayoral Combined County Authority will support the economy of the area?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Explain your answer

Question 4: To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through the Mayoral Combined County Authority will improve social outcomes in the area?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Explain your answer

Question 5: To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through a Mayoral Combined County Authority will improve local government services in the area?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Explain your answer

Question 6: To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through a Mayoral Combined County Authority will improve the local natural environment and overall national environment?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Explain your answer

Question 7: To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through the Mayoral Combined County Authority will support the interests and needs of local communities and reflect local identities?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Explain your answer

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD WORK PLAN

The purpose of the work plan is to plan, manage and co-ordinate the ongoing activity and progress of the Council's Policy and Project Advisory Board, incorporating policy development work carried out through working groups.

(A) CURRENT WORKING GROUPS APPOINTED BY THE POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

GROUP	MEMBERSHIP 2024/25	CURRENT POSITION	CONTACT
Elections Group	PPAB Vice-Chairman (Cllr Julie Hall), the Portfolio Holder responsible for Elections Matters (Cllr Sophie Porter), Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee Vice-Chairman (Cllr Bill O'Donovan and Cllrs Gaynor Austin, C.W. Card, Steve Harden and Calum Stewart.	The first meeting of the Group took place remotely on Wednesday 13th November, 2024.	Jill Shuttleworth Corporate Manager - Democracy jill.shuttleworth@rushmoor.gov.uk Elections Team 01252 398824 elections@rushmoor.gov.uk

(B) OTHER ISSUES/MATTERS FOR THE WORK PROGRAMME

ISSUE	DETAILS	CONTACT DETAILS
	PLACE	
	PEOPLE	

POLICY AND PROJECTS ADVISORY BOARD

AGENDA PLANNING – 2024/25

12th June 2024	Arts Council Place Partnership Project – Funding Bid
23rd July 2024	Procurement Strategy - (existing till 2024) Youth Engagement (Part 1)
24th September 2024	Youth Engagement (Part 2)
19th November 2024	Climate Change Action Plan (Part 1)
21st January 2025	CANCELLED
25th March 2025	Government consultation on devolution All-Member workshop on Place Narratives for Farnborough and Aldershot

AGENDA PLANNING – 2025/2026

10th June 2025	NHS ten-year plan update / health inequalities / Marmot (KE)
22nd July 2025	Devolution – effects on communities Supporting Communities Strategy (EL)
23rd September 2025	Housing equalities
?? November 2025	
?? January 2026	
?? March 2026	
<i>Potential items to be considered for 2025/26 and beyond</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications Strategy

PROGRESS GROUP MEETINGS 2024/25

Membership: Cllrs Mike Roberts, Sue Carter, Lisa Greenway, Steve Masterson, Thomas Mitchell and Ivan Whitmee

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Date	Item	Notes
25th June 2024	<p>Arts Council Place Partnership Project – Bid Feedback</p> <p>Youth Engagement – meeting on 23 July</p> <p>Procurement Strategy – Meeting on 23 July</p>	<p>As timing won't allow for this item to come back to the Board, Lee McQuade had offered to speak with individual Members should they wish to in advance of the deadline.</p> <p>Presentation providing an overview of what we do followed by a workshop (to be held in private). Ensure we identify what we want to achieve and identify areas of focus.</p> <p>Existing one runs until end 2024. Introduction of Procurement Act 2023 – requirement to review and update existing Strategy.</p>
3rd September 2024	<p>Procurement Strategy</p> <p>Youth Engagement</p>	<p>Timelines for this piece of work had changed slight and the Strategy would now go to the November 2024 Cabinet Meeting. If Members wished to comment following the previous Board meeting, they still had time to do so through Roger Sanders.</p> <p>The Group were advised that work was currently underway, with partners, to gather information, share data and identify gaps in work relating to young people. A review of the proposed approach was also noted and would be expanded on at the meeting on 24 September, where the proposed Action Plan and Draft Strategy would be considered.</p>

<p>3rd December, 2024</p>	<p>Details not available</p>	
<p>26th February, 2025</p>	<p>Place Narratives for Farnborough and Aldershot (Karen Edwards and Lee McQuade in attendance)</p> <p>Future items</p>	<p>PPAB to host a workshop to support work being done under UKSPF on 25th March. Thinking Places doing project for both towns – invite all Members. Work needs to be done quite quickly. KE/LM to prepare invite to be sent out. Workshop to be split across the two towns and will be held in private (no members of the public).</p> <p>Frimley Park - options for relocation and transport issues – some time after May. KE – time to discuss future of the NHS in this area. How is NHS 10-year plan? (May/June)</p> <p>Marmot Health Strategy – wider issue than above NHS item. KE – thought tied up with 10-year plan but can seek clarification on health inequalities.</p> <p>Housing inequalities – how to respond to growing problems. Could pick up around Autumn.</p> <p>Devolution – item over the Summer. What is the effect on communities is role for PPAB.</p> <p>Supporting Communities Strategy – JD to check with EL about July item.</p> <p>Communications Strategy – not likely to be anything at the current time – JD to check with GC.</p>

Future dates for PPAB Progress Group meetings: 13th May 2025 (provisional), 24th June 2025 (provisional), 27th August 2025 (provisional).