

CABINET

Meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd June, 2025 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council
Cllr Sophie Porter, Deputy Leader and Healthy Communities & Active Lives Portfolio Holder

Cllr A.H. Crawford, Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder
Cllr Jules Crossley, Policy, Performance & Sustainability Portfolio Holder
Cllr Keith Dibble, Housing & Planning Portfolio Holder
Cllr Julie Hall, Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Christine Guinness.

The Cabinet considered the following matters at the above-mentioned meeting. All executive decisions of the Cabinet shall become effective, subject to the call-in procedure, from **16th June, 2025**.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Having regard to the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors, no declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTES –

The Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 8th April, 2025 and 22nd April, 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. COUNCIL PLAN, PERFORMANCE AND RISK REGISTER QUARTERLY UPDATE AND YEAR END 2024/25 –

(Cllr Jules Crossley, Policy, Performance and Sustainability Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet received Report No. ED2501, which set out the performance monitoring information for the Council Plan and key service measures for the fourth quarter and end of year of 2024/25. Members were informed that key projects and activities from the Council Plan and key service indicators and measures used by the Council to monitor how the Council runs were included in the Report. The Cabinet heard that the Council's Corporate Risk Register identified factors that could impact on the Council's wider operations and the future delivery of the Council's key priorities. A summary of those risks that had become issues, new risks and those risks that had seen a significant change in the risk gap was provided in the report for discussion.

In discussing the Report, Members were satisfied that the amended format of the document had continued to help Portfolio Holders to better track performance within their areas of responsibility and provided a more balanced and transparent view of the Council's activities.

The Cabinet NOTED

- (i) the progress made towards delivering the Council Plan and the latest performance information in relation to Council services, as set out in Report No. ED2501; and
- (ii) the changes highlighted in the Corporate Risk Register, as set out in paragraphs 4.4 – 4.7 of the Report.

4. NEW NEONATAL CARE POLICY –

(Cllr Alex Crawford, Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. PEO2505, which set out a new Neonatal Care Policy within the Council's Special Leave Policies.

Members were informed that the new policy reflected a recent legislative change brought about by the Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Act 2023, that had come into effect on 6th April, 2025. The new law had introduced the right for parents to have additional time off to be with a baby who was receiving neonatal care.

In discussing this, Members expressed their strong support for the introduction of this new policy and the exercising of discretionary powers to support staff in this situation as extensively as possible.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that the adoption of the Neonatal Care Policy, as set out in Appendix A of Report No. PEO2505, be approved.

5. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S GAMBLING LICENSING STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES –

(Cllr Christine Guinness, Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services)

The Cabinet considered Report No. OS2509, which set out changes to the Council's Gambling Licensing Statement of Principles.

It was advised that a review of the Statement of Principles had been carried out in light of changes to legislation and guidance and that a public consultation exercise had been carried out, as required by the legislation. Comments received as a result of the exercise had been considered and, where appropriate, amendments had been made to the proposed Statement of Principles.

In discussing the proposed changes, a query was raised as to whether comments made by the Police should be considered in respect of any of the licensing objectives and not just one licensing objective, as was indicated in the proposed change of wording at paragraph 2.12. It was agreed that this would be investigated and that any minor changes of this nature would be delegated to the Executive Head of Operations, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

The Cabinet RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL that the proposed Gambling Licensing Statement of Principles, as set out in Appendix C of Report No. OS2509, be approved, subject to any minor amendments being agreed by the Executive Head

of Operations, in consultation with the Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder.

6. **APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET WORKING GROUPS 2025/26 –**

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) the following Cabinet Working Groups be appointed for the 2025/26 Municipal Year based on the memberships as set out below:

(1) **Strategic Housing and Local Plan Working Group**

Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Local Plan
(Cllr Keith Dibble)

Chairman of Development Management Committee
(Cllr Gaynor Austin)

Chairman or Vice-Chairman of Policy and Project Advisory Board
(Cllr Abe Allen)

One Labour Member
(Cllr Jules Crossley)

Two Conservative Members
(Cllrs Sue Carter and S.J. Masterson)

One Liberal Democrat Member
(Cllr C.W. Card)

One vacancy

(2) **Union Yard Project Board**

Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder
(Cllr A.H. Crawford)

Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder
(Cllr Julie Hall)

Two Conservative Members
(Cllrs P.G. Taylor and M.J. Tennant)

(3) **Member Development Group**

Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Member development
(Cllr Sophie Porter)

Three Labour Members
(Cllrs Thomas Day, Bill O'Donovan and Sarah Spall)

Two Conservative Members
(Cllrs Sue Carter and Peace Essien Igodifo)

One Liberal Democrat Member
(Cllr C.W. Card)

(4) Financial Recovery Working Group

Chairman of Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards
Committee
(Cllr Bill O'Donovan)

Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder
(Cllr A.H. Crawford)

Two Labour Members
(Cllr Thomas Day + one vacancy)

Two Conservative Members
(Cllrs A.H. Gani and S.Trussler)

One Liberal Democrat Member
(Cllr C.W. Card)

(5) SERCO Waste Contract Extension Group

Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder
(Cllr Christine Guinness)

Cabinet Champion for Pride in Place
(Cllr Lisa Greenway)

One Labour Member
(Cllr C.P. Grattan)

One Conservative Member
(Cllr M.J. Tennant)

One Liberal Democrat Member
(Cllr Leola Card)

(6) Pathways to Work Working Group

Policy, Performance & Sustainability Portfolio Holder
(Cllr Jules Crossley)

Two Labour Members
(Cllrs Thomas Day and Ivan Whitmee)

One Conservative Member
(Cllr S.J. Masterson)

One Liberal Democrat Member
(Cllr T.W. Mitchell)

- (ii) the Corporate Manager - Democracy, in consultation with Group Leaders, be authorised to finalise the appointments to the Groups as required.

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC –

RESOLVED: That, taking into account the public interest test, the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the under mentioned item to avoid the disclosure of exempt information within the paragraph of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 indicated against the item:

Minute No.	Schedule 12A Para. No.	Category
8	3	Information relating to financial or business affairs

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS CONSIDERED
IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC**

- 8. ALDERSHOT SKI CENTRE - PROPOSED NEW OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS –**
(Cllr Sophie Porter, Healthy Communities & Active Lives Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet received Exempt Report No. OS2510, which set out urgent action that had been taken to allow the Aldershot Ski Centre to reopen following the failure of the previous operator.

Members were informed that the Centre had been closed since 2nd April, 2025. Since that time, the Council had been assessing its options for the facility, including bringing the operation in-house, contracting a new operator or closing the Centre. Following engagement with the Council's incumbent leisure operator, Places Leisure, a temporary arrangement had been proposed to enable the centre to reopen, also providing a period to consider more permanent arrangements. It was explained that the decisions set out in the Exempt Report had been urgent in nature due to the imperative to reopen the facility as soon as possible, to retain the staff and to maintain access to necessary booking systems and had been taken in consultation with the Leader of the Council, in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules within the Constitution and would be considered, for the reasons of urgency, to be exempt from the call-in process.

In discussing the Report, Members expressed satisfaction that the facility had been well used since reopening.

The Cabinet ENDORSED the urgent decisions to

- (i) terminate the contract with Active Nation for the operation of the Alpine Snowsports Centre due to a material breach of contract by the contractors, as set out in Exempt Report No. OS2510;
- (ii) reopen the facility through a temporary contract to enable a full options appraisal to be brought forward;
- (iii) enter into an interim contract for up to twelve months and financial arrangements with Places Leisure for the operation of the Alpine Snowsports Centre on the basis set out in the Exempt Report, in order that the facility reopened as soon as possible;
- (iv) accept the financial implications outlined in Section 4 of the Exempt Report and resultant impacts on budget;
- (v) accept the risks in Section 4 of the Exempt Report on the basis of the Council not holding all of the relevant information from Active Nation relating to financial, health and safety and employee matters; and
- (vi) approve the budget provision set out in the Exempt Report, funded from the Stability and Resilience Reserve, to support the decision to reopen the facility.

The Meeting closed at 7.52 pm.

CLLR GARETH WILLIAMS, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
