



# BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

To the Mayor and Members of the Council,

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to attend a Meeting of the Council to be held at the Council Offices, Farnborough on **Thursday, 10th April, 2025 at 7.00 pm** for the transaction of the business set out on the Agenda given below.

## A G E N D A

1. **MINUTES** – (Pages 1 - 12)

To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 27th February, 2025 (copy attached).

2. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS** –

3. **STANDING ORDER 8 - QUESTIONS** –

To receive any questions by Members submitted in pursuance of Standing Order 8 (3).

#### 4. **NOTICE OF MOTION - PATHWAYS TO WORK –**

To consider the following Notice of Motion, which has been submitted by Cllr Jules Crossley pursuant to Standing Order 9 (1):

“This Council:

Recognises the significant concerns felt by many Rushmoor residents who may be affected by the proposed changes in the Government’s ***Pathways to Work*** Green Paper and the Chancellor’s Spring Statement, and acknowledges the issues raised in the Impact Statement.

Recognises that nationally 3 million people are out of work for health reasons and 1 in 8 young people are not in work, education or training - an economic and human tragedy requiring national and local action.

Notes the Government’s commitment to spend £1 billion a year by 2029/30 to help disabled people, those with long-term health and mental health conditions into employment.

Welcomes the establishment of a Working Group to:

- assess the potential impact of the Green Paper on residents through consultation, information gathering and input from local voluntary, statutory and advice services
- prepare a response to the Government on behalf of the Council by the Portfolio Holder under the scheme of delegation following input by PPAB before submission.

Resolves to publicise how local voluntary, statutory and advice services can support and advise residents with concerns about the potential changes.

Resolves to encourage residents to respond to the Government’s consultation on the Green Paper.”

#### 5. **MAYOR-ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR-ELECT 2025/26 –**

At its meeting on 2nd April 2025, the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee considered and recommended that Cllr Calum Stewart be nominated for the position of Mayor-Elect for 2025/26. It was also noted that steps were being taken to secure a candidate for the role of Deputy Mayor for 2025/26 in time for the Annual Council Meeting.

The Council is RECOMMENDED to approve that Cllr Calum Stewart be selected as Mayor-Elect for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

6. **RECOMMENDATION OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE – (Pages 13 - 16)**

**APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE -**

To receive a report from the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee (copy attached – Annex 1) which recommends an appointment to the position of Interim Managing Director and Head of Paid Service, and arrangements for the designation of the Monitoring Officer role. The Chairman of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee will introduce this item.

7. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET –**

To receive any questions by Members to Cabinet Members submitted in accordance with the Procedure Note.

8. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25 – (Pages 17 - 20)**

To receive and ask questions on the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (copy attached - Annex 2) for the 2024/25 Municipal Year. A procedure note for asking questions has been circulated to Members.

9. **REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES – (Pages 21 - 28)**

To receive and ask questions on the Reports of the following Meetings (copy reports attached):

**Cabinet**

11th March, 2025

20th March, 2025

10. **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – (Pages 29 - 32)**

To note the Reports of the following meetings (copy reports attached):

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4th March, 2025

P. SHACKLEY  
Chief Executive

Council Offices  
Farnborough  
Hampshire GU14 7JU

Wednesday 2 April 2025

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# BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

**MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 27th February, 2025 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr Mara Makunura (Chairman))  
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart (Vice-Chairman))

Cllr A. Adeola  
Cllr C.W. Card  
Cllr Sue Carter  
Cllr Jules Crossley  
Cllr Thomas Day  
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo  
Cllr C.P. Grattan  
Cllr Christine Guinness  
Cllr Halleh Koohestani  
Cllr T.W. Mitchell  
Cllr Sophie Porter  
Cllr Dhan Sarki  
Cllr Sarah Spall  
Cllr Jacqui Vosper  
Cllr Becky Williams

Cllr Abe Allen  
Cllr Leola Card  
Cllr A.H. Crawford  
Cllr P.J. Cullum  
Cllr Keith Dibble  
Cllr A.H. Gani  
Cllr Lisa Greenway  
Cllr Rhian Jones  
Cllr G.B. Lyon  
Cllr Bill O'Donovan  
Cllr M.J. Roberts  
Cllr M.D. Smith  
Cllr P.G. Taylor  
Cllr Ivan Whitmee  
Cllr Gareth Williams

Honorary Alderman Terry Bridgeman  
Honorary Alderman Tony Gardiner  
Honorary Alderman John Marsh

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Gaynor Austin, Cllr Julie Hall, Cllr Steve Harden, Cllr Nadia Martin, Cllr S.J. Masterson, Cllr M.J. Tennant and Cllr S. Trussler.

Before the meeting was opened, the Mayor's Chaplain, Coleen Kusi-Agyapong, led the meeting in prayers.

## 40. **MINUTES**

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Gareth Williams; **SECONDED** by Cllr Sarah Spall and

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Extraordinary Meeting on 5th December, 2024, the Ordinary Meeting on 5th December, 2024, and the Extraordinary Meeting on 5th February, 2025, (copies having been circulated previously), be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.

#### 41. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (1) The Mayor reported that she had attended many events and services during the Christmas period on behalf of the Council. Other events that had been a highlight for the Mayor were:
  - the FAST Volunteers Thank You Event on 17th December,
  - a fundraising dinner to raise vital funds for Cataract surgeries in Nepal on 17th January,
  - the Holocaust Memorial Day Church Service on 26th January,
  - Farnborough Jets Business Network Event on 13th February, and
  - the Parent Action Group Family Festival on 17th February.
- (2) The Mayor extended her thanks to past Mayor Cllr Clive Grattan who had attended the 53rd Anniversary of the bombing at the Headquarters of the 16th Parachute Brigade Officers Mess on 22nd February, and the 43rd anniversary of Magar Diwas Celebrations on 22nd February, on her behalf.
- (3) And finally, the Mayor reported that the annual Mayoral Charity Gala would take place on Friday 7th March commencing at 6.45pm with a drinks reception at the Village Hotel. She thanked all who had purchased tickets. However, it was advised that it was now too late to buy a ticket, but if Members would like to make a donation to her charities or contribute with a donation to the raffle or auction prizes, they should contact the Mayor's Office before Thursday 6th March.

#### 42. **STANDING ORDER 8 - QUESTIONS**

The Mayor reported that no urgent questions had been submitted under Standing Order 8.

#### 43. **NOTICE OF MOTION - EMPLOYER NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS AND LOCAL ECONOMY**

The Council were asked to consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr G.B. Lyon under Standing Order 9 (1) on Employer National Insurance Contributions and the Local Economy, as set out below:

“As a result of the UK Government Budget, Employer National Insurance contributions from April will increase from 13.8% to 15% - a tax increase for employers of almost 9%.

The threshold will also reduce from £9,100 to £5,000.

The OBR notes that ‘firms will pass on 60% of the higher costs to workers and consumers, via lower wages and higher prices’.

That many local services, including nurseries, hospices, care homes and charities will be hit by these huge tax increases in addition to many businesses of all sizes in Rushmoor.

This Council also notes the dire impact on Rushmoor's own finances which will come at the cost of local services and will lead to higher costs when dealing with contractors.

This Council resolves to:

Request Cabinet to establish a working group to work with local businesses to produce plans to support the local economy to combat the impact of these tax increases to report back to Council within 6 months.

To record our disappointment regarding the National Insurance increases and their damaging impact on all who live and work in Rushmoor.

To request the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ask her to reconsider the changes.”

In PROPOSING the Motion, Cllr Lyon referred to the changes as a tax on working people as increased employer costs would be passed on to employees, and described the financial impacts which would affect local businesses and retail, including small businesses which would be pulled into the tax threshold, nurseries, hospitals and the Council itself. He stressed the importance of engaging with, and supporting, struggling local businesses, and requested a letter to the Government highlighting the risks and impacts for the local economy and requesting the tax increases be reconsidered. In SECONDING the Motion, Cllr P.G. Taylor highlighted the impacts for businesses, young people, casual workers and the self-employed.

During discussion, the point was made that funding was needed to support front line public services such as the National Health Service and reduced waiting lists, and that the Council was unable to control the setting of National Insurance Contributions. The Council held well-established connections with the local business community through multiple forums, regular business engagement events and portfolio holder and leader relationships and therefore a further working group would not be necessary to achieve a business support connection.

The Motion was put to the meeting. In a recorded vote there voted FOR: Cllrs A. Adeola, C.W. Card, Leola Card, Sue Carter, P.J. Cullum, A. Gani, Peace Essien-Igodifo, G.B. Lyon, T.W. Mitchell, P.G. Taylor and Jacqui Vosper (11) AGAINST: Cllrs Abe Allen, A.H. Crawford, Jules Crossley, Thomas Day, Keith Dibble, C.P. Grattan, Lisa Greenway, Christine Guinness, Rhian Jones, Halleh Koohestani, Bill O'Donovan, Sophie Porter, M.J Roberts, Dhan Sarki, Sarah Spall, Ivan Whitmee, Becky Williams and Gareth Williams (18) ABSTAIN: The Deputy Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart) and The Mayor (Cllr Mara Makunura) (2) and the Motion was **DECLARED LOST**.

#### 44. **APPOINTMENTS 2024/25**

It was MOVED by Cllr Gareth Williams; SECONDED by Cllr Thomas Day - That Cllr Abe Allen be appointed to the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

There voted FOR: 23; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED: 9 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

45. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

a) **ANNUAL CAPITAL STRATEGY 2025/26**

Cllr Bill O'Donovan introduced the Report of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 29th January, 2025, which recommended the approval of the Capital Strategy 2025/26 to 2027/28, including the Prudential Indicators for capital finance for 2025/26.

It was MOVED by Cllr Bill O'Donovan; SECONDED by Cllr A.H. Crawford – That approval be given to the Capital Strategy 2025/26 to 2027/28 and Prudential Indicators for 2025/26.

There voted FOR: 21; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED:11 and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

b) **ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND NON-TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2025/26**

Cllr Bill O'Donovan introduced the Report of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 29th January, 2025, which recommended the approval of the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Borrowing Strategy 2025/26, the Annual Non-Treasury Investment Strategy 2025/26 and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement.

It was MOVED by Cllr Bill O'Donovan; SECONDED by Cllr A.H. Crawford – That approval be given to the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Borrowing Strategy 2025/26, the Annual Non-Treasury Investment Strategy 2025/26 and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement.

There voted FOR: 21; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED: 11 and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

c) **COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

Cllr A.H. Crawford introduced the Report of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 29th January, 2025, which recommended the approval of the Council Tax Support Scheme, the budget for the Exceptional Hardship relief and minor changes to be made in accordance with annual uprating amounts applied by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).

It was MOVED by Cllr A.H. Crawford; SECONDED by Cllr Bill O'Donovan – That approval be given to the Council Tax Support Scheme, the budget for the Exceptional Hardship relief and minor changes to be made in accordance with annual uprating amounts applied by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).



There voted FOR: 31; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED: 1 and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

d) **GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2025/26 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2025/26 TO 2028/29**

Cllr Gareth Williams introduced the Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 11th February, 2025, which recommended the approval of the General Fund Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) up to 2028/29. The Report was seconded by Cllr A.H. Crawford.

During debate, it was MOVED by Cllr G.B. Lyon and SECONDED by Cllr P.J. Cullum that Recommendation 1 be amended to insert the following words (text in bold):

1. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the strategy set out in the report to resolve the MTFS deficit **“subject to the savings identified in para 2.15 (£179k) be used to cancel the parking charge increases noted at paragraph 3.7 (c£120k) with the balance of £59k allocated to enhance street cleaning.”**

In a recorded vote, there voted FOR: Cllrs Ade Adeola, Sue Carter, P.J. Cullum, A. Gani, Peace Essien Igodifo, G.B. Lyon, M.D. Smith, P.G. Taylor and Jacqui Vosper (9); AGAINST: Cllrs Abe Allen, A.H. Crawford, Jules Crossley, Thomas Day, Keith Dibble, C.P. Grattan, Lisa Greenway, Christine Guinness, Rhian Jones, Halleh Koohestani, Bill O'Donovan, Sophie Porter, M.J. Roberts, Dhan Sarki, Sarah Spall, Ivan Whitmee, Becky Williams and Gareth Williams (18); ABSTAIN: Cllrs C.W. Card, Leola Card, T.W. Mitchell, the Deputy Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart) and the Mayor (Cllr Mara Makunura) (5) and the Amendment was **DECLARED LOST**.

It was MOVED by Cllr Gareth Williams; SECONDED by Cllr A.H. Crawford – That

- (i) approval be given to the following recommendations as detailed in Annex 4
  - (a) the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the strategy set out in the report to resolve the MTFS deficit,
  - (b) the General Fund Budget Estimates Summary 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 1 of the Council Report,
  - (c) the Council Tax requirement of £8,008,514 for this Council,
  - (d) the Council Tax Level for Rushmoor Borough Council's purposes of £239.70 for a Band D property in 2025/26 (an increase of £6.96)
  - (e) the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 6 of the Council Report,
  - (f) the Strategy for the flexible use of Capital Receipts as per paragraph 3.29 in Annex 4 of the Council Report, and
  - (g) the UKSPF funding allocation as set out at Appendix 7 of the Council Report

Following debate, the Recommendations at (i) (a)-(g) above were put to the meeting. In a recorded vote, there voted FOR: Cllrs Abe Allen, A.H. Crawford, Jules Crossley, Thomas Day, K. Dibble, C.P. Grattan, Lisa Greenway, Christine Guinness, Rhian

Jones, Halleh Koohestani, Bill O'Donovan, Sophie Porter, M.J. Roberts, Dhan Sarki, Sarah Spall, Ivan Whitmee, Becky Williams, Gareth Williams (18); AGAINST: (0); and ABSTAINED: Cllrs A. Adeola, C.W. Card, Leola Card, Sue Carter, P.J. Cullum, A. Gani, Peace Essien Igodifo, G.B. Lyon, T.W. Mitchell, M.D. Smith, P.G. Taylor, Jacqui Vosper, the Deputy Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart) and the Mayor (Cllr Mara Makunura) (14); and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

e) **REVISED CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS**

Cllr Bill O'Donovan introduced the Report of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 29th January, 2025, which recommended the approval of revised Contract Standing Orders for the Council.

It was MOVED by Cllr Bill O'Donovan; SECONDED by Cllr A.H. Crawford – That approval be given to the updated Contract Standing Orders as set out in Annex 5, Appendix 1 of the Council Report.

There voted FOR: 32; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED: 0 and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED** unanimously.

f) **PAY POLICY STATEMENT, GENDER PAY GAP AND ETHNICITY PAY GAP**

Cllr Bill O'Donovan introduced the Report of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 29th January, 2025, which recommended the approval of the Pay Policy Statement, the Gender Pay Gap and Ethnicity Pay Gap.

It was MOVED by Cllr Bill O'Donovan; SECONDED by Cllr A.H. Crawford – That

- (i) the Pay Policy Statement for 2025/26 as set out in Annex 6 Appendix A of the Council Report be approved; and
- (ii) the Gender Pay Gap and Ethnicity Pay Gap calculations 2024 be noted.

There voted FOR: 32; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED: 0 and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED** unanimously.

46. **THE COUNCIL TAX 2025/26**

It was MOVED by Cllr Gareth Williams; SECONDED by Cllr A.H. Crawford – That

- (i) it be noted that the overall council tax base be £33,410.57 for the year 2025/26 in accordance with Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 (the 'Act')
- (ii) the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2025/26 be £8,008,153.63

(iii) it be noted that the following amounts had been calculated by the Council for the year 2025-26, in accordance with Sections 31 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Act:

(a) £44,565,907.00 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act;

(b) £36,587,393.37 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;

(c) £8,008,513.63 being the amount by which the aggregate at (iii)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (iii)(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year;

(d) £239.70 being the amount at (iii)(c) above, all divided by the amount in (i) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year;

(e)

<b>Valuation Band</b>	<b>Rushmoor Borough Council</b>
	<b>£</b>
A	159.80
B	186.43
C	213.07
D	239.70
E	292.97
F	346.23
G	399.50
H	479.40

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (iii)(d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which, in that that proportion, is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(iv) it be noted that, for the year 2025-26, Hampshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

<b>Precepting Authority</b>	<b>Precept Amount £</b>
Hampshire County Council (HCC)	53,785,337.90
Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire (PCCH)	9,203,275.61
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority (HIWFRA)	2,934,784.47

<b>Valuation Band</b>	<b>Hampshire County Council</b>	<b>Police &amp; Crime Commissioner for Hampshire</b>	<b>Hampshire &amp; Isle of Wight Fire &amp; Rescue Authority</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
A	1,073.22	183.64	58.56
B	1,252.09	214.25	68.32
C	1,430.96	244.85	78.08
D	1,609.83	275.46	87.84
E	1,967.57	336.67	107.36
F	2,325.31	397.89	126.88
G	2,683.05	459.10	146.40
H	3,219.66	550.92	175.68

- (v) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (iii)(e) and (iv) above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby set the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2025-26 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

(vi)

<b>Valuation Band</b>	<b>Total £</b>
A	1,475.22
B	1,721.09
C	1,966.96
D	2,212.83
E	2,704.57
F	3,196.31
G	3,688.05
H	4,425.66

- (vii) the Council determine that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2025-26 is not excessive, in accordance with principles approved under Section 52(ZB) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

In a recorded vote, there voted FOR: Cllrs Abe Allen, A.H. Crawford, Jules Crossley, Thomas Day, Keith Dibble, C.P. Grattan, Lisa Greenway, Christine Guinness, Rhian Jones, Halleh Koohestani, Bill O'Donovan, Sophie Porter, M.J. Roberts, Dhan Sarki, Sarah Spall, Ivan Whitmee, Becky Williams, Gareth Williams, (18); AGAINST: (0);

ABSTAINED: Cllrs A. Adeola, C.W. Card, Leola Card, Sue Carter, P.J. Cullum, A. Gani, Peace Essien Igodifo, G.B. Lyon, T.W. Mitchell, M.D. Smith, P.G. Taylor, Jacqui Vosper, the Deputy Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart) and the Mayor (Cllr Mara Makunura) (14) and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

#### 47. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET**

- (1) Cllr G.B. Lyon had submitted a question for response by the Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder (Cllr Christine Guinness) about the worsening reputation for crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Aldershot.

In response, Cllr Guinness advised that data from the Hampshire and IOW Constabulary had shown a reduction in crime levels and ASB on the previous year. It was noted that the Community Safety survey was currently underway and comparative data on previous years would be reported on once collated. In addition, it was advised that Place Protection Officers regularly patrolled the town centres and had invested 947hrs in Aldershot town centre since July, 2024. The patrols had engaged with vulnerable individuals through signposting, safeguarding and education and had initiated referrals as necessary.

- (2) Cllr P.J. Cullum had submitted a question for response by the Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder (Cllr Christine Guinness) about the cleanliness of Rushmoor's streets.

In response, Cllr Guinness advised of the commitment to maintain standards of cleanliness through effective litter management. It was also reported that the 'binfluence' volunteers, led by the Pride in Place Champion, Cllr Greenway, had collected 258 bags of rubbish to date and were currently promoting the Big Spring Clean on 22 March.

- (3) Cllr Thomas Day had submitted a question for response by the Healthy Communities and Active Lives Portfolio Holder (Cllr Sophie Porter) about Farnborough Leisure Centre.

In response, Cllr Porter advised that the proposed new plans for the leisure centre were affordable. It was also confirmed that agreement had been received to carry over the levelling up funding for the new affordable plans. Designs would be made available in the summer for consultation.

- (4) Cllr Leola Card had submitted a question for response by the Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder (Cllr Christine Guinness) about domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.

In response, Cllr Guinness advised that the Council were part of the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership. The Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2023-2025 had been built around four key priorities (Prevention, Professional Care, Pursuing those causing harm and Partnership) which were designed to contribute to the overall vision of the

Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership. They have been developed collaboratively through the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and were informed by the National Tackling Domestic Abuse plan, National Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy and National Statement of Expectations for domestic abuse.

Rushmoor was also part of the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) which brought a broad range of agencies together and consisted of specified and relevant authorities to meet statutory obligations under the Serious Violence Duty of the Police, Crime, Sentencing & Courts Act 2022.

Rushmoor also attended the Hampshire County Strategy Group for Community Safety meetings, where Domestic Abuse was a standing agenda item. At a more local level Rushmoor:

- has appointed a Domestic Abuse Support Officer, due in post in mid-March, with a remit to provide crisis intervention, information, advocacy, and proactive support to victims / survivors who accessed the Housing and Homelessness Service and worked with colleagues to increase knowledge and develop responses to victims and survivors of domestic abuse through formal and informal training sessions.
- Domestic Abuse was a priority, documented within the Safer North Hampshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Strategic Assessment. One of the strategic interventions under domestic abuse was a CSP VAWG action plan - currently being refreshed.
- The NE Hants Domestic Abuse Forum was chaired by Community Safety Managers from Rushmoor and Hart Councils. It met quarterly and ensured best practice was shared and raised awareness of signposting opportunities.
- Officers also attended high risk case conferences and worked in partnership to improve the situation for those affected.
- Community in Motion bystander training, aimed to empower all, by providing a toolkit of options when intervening with a situation. This training had a particular focus on reducing VAWG. Two members of Rushmoor staff had been trained to deliver this and continued to promote and deliver training across the borough.

(5) Cllr Lisa Greenway had submitted a question for response by the Policy, Performance and Sustainability Portfolio Holder (Cllr Jules Crossley) on sustainability.

In response, Cllr Crossley advised that a lot had happened, in particular around financial management matters. Moving forward it was proposed to stagger the implementation due to the increased workflow.

As a result of the time limit available for questions, Cllr Crossley was asked to email the rest of her response to Q5 to be included with the remaining questions for circulation following the meeting.

**48. REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Report of the following meeting be received:

Cabinet	26th November 2024
Cabinet	14th January, 2025
Cabinet	11th February, 2025
Development Management	15th January, 2025
Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards	29th January, 2025
Development Management	12th February, 2025

**49. REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** that the Reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 28th November, 2024, 12th December, 2024 and 30th January 2025 be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.36 pm.

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**COUNCIL MEETING – 10TH APRIL 2025****AGENDA ITEM NO. 6****APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

A report from the meeting of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee held on 2nd April 2025

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This report sets out the process undertaken for the recruitment of the Council's Interim Managing Director and Head of Paid Service as approved by Council on the 5th February 2025.

In accordance with the Constitution, the appointment of the Head of Paid Service is made by the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee subject to confirmation by the Council. The designation of Monitoring Officer is also made by the Council.

At its meeting on 2nd April 2025, the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee considered and recommended the appointments as set out in this report.

**Recommendation**

The Council is recommended to approve:

1. the appointment of Ian Harrison as the Council's Interim Managing Director and Head of Paid Service with effect from the 11th April 2025 for an initial period of 6 months. The role to include the statutory responsibilities of Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer.
2. That the post of Corporate Manager – Legal Services be designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer from the 11th April 2025 for an initial period of 6 months

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report sets out the recommendation of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee following the completion of the recruitment process for the Council's Interim Managing Director and Head of Paid Service.

## **2. DETAILS**

- 2.1 The Council's Chief Executive, Paul Shackley is leaving the Council on the 6th May 2025 for reasons of redundancy. A recruitment process in line with the constitution and supported by South East Employers concluded on the 11th March 2025. This approach was agreed by the Council on the 5th February 2025.
- 2.2 The recruitment panel consisted of five Members, comprising The Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Conservative Group, the Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group, the Portfolio Holder of Finance & Resources and the Portfolio Holder of Pride in Place/Neighbourhood Services. The Director of HR & Employee Services from South East Employers was the key advisor to the panel throughout the process.
- 2.3 A revised Job Description and Person Specification for the role of Interim Managing Director was agreed, including the statutory responsibilities of Head of Paid Service, the Borough's Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer.
- 2.4 Members of the Executive Leadership Team were all invited to apply for the role. To assess their suitability, those members who applied were required to deliver a presentation followed by undertaking a formal interview session.
- 2.5 At the conclusion of this selection process, the recruitment panel has recommended that Ian Harrison, Executive Director be appointed to the role with effect from the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 for an initial period of 6 months.
- 2.6 The role of Head of Paid Service cannot carry the designation of Monitoring Officer (MO). The designation of the MO is there to ensure that the Council acts legally at all times. It is proposed that the role best suited for this designation is the Council's Corporate Manager – Legal Services. The current postholder is leaving the role on the 16th May 2025. By designating this role as the Council's MO the current postholder will carry the responsibility until the leaving date and then a new interim postholder will take over from this date. The interim postholder will then be appointed into the designated role in line with the constitution and the proper officer arrangements.
- 2.7 With the appointment of Head of Paid Service being made from the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 the existing Chief Executive will focus on handover and supporting the new role and the Leader ahead of his departure on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

## **3. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Legal Implications**

- 3.1 No additional implications beyond the report to Council 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 with the exception of the redesignation of the MO role to the Corporate Manager – Legal Services post. The Monitoring Officer role is a statutory role under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

### **Financial Implications**

- 3.2 The previous report to Council highlighted a saving of £179,000 pa with no Chief Executive role. This proposal has an additional cost of £8,420 for the next 6 months.

### **Resource Implications**

- 3.3 No additional implications beyond the report to Council 5th February 2025

### **Equalities Impact Implications**

- 3.4 No additional implications beyond the report to Council 5th February 2025

## **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 This report follows the report approved by the Council on the 5th February 2025 and puts in place arrangements for the Head of Paid Service and Monitoring officer functions for the next 6 months.

CHAIRMAN OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE,  
AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
CLLR BILL O'DONOVAN

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**COUNCIL MEETING – 10TH APRIL 2025****AGENDA ITEM NO. 8****OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25****1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's procedures for monitoring the overview and scrutiny process, this report reviews the work that has been undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2024/25. The Committee's focus has been to keep a watching brief on the Council's activities and local facilities, along with service performance and providing comments and ideas. The aim has been to shape the Council's future policy and services. The Report covers the issues discussed, the processes followed, and the outcomes achieved during the year.

**2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND WORK PLAN**

- 2.1 The Committee was established as part of the review of the decision making structure which took effect from May, 2018. The Committee's breadth of activity includes all Council services and services provided by other organisations which impact on the Borough and its inhabitants.
- 2.2 The progress meeting (consisting of Cllrs. Leola Card, P.J. Cullum, Thomas Day, Nadia Martin, Bill O'Donovan, Stuart Trussler and, myself) has been used for discussion and consideration of processes and priorities. It also monitors the work plan and undertakes agenda planning.

**3. COMMITTEE ISSUES**

- 3.1 Over the year, the Committee has endeavoured to ensure that it has kept the Council's activities under review. However, some external scrutiny has been undertaken, in particular, around the SERCO contract, Policing and the voluntary sector.
- 3.2 The main areas of focus in 2024/25 were:

**Registered Providers** – Through the Task and Finish Group (consisting of Cllrs. Cllrs Gaynor Austin, S.J. Masterson, Bill O'Donovan, M.D. Smith and myself) the Committee has continued the review of registered providers during the 2024/25 Municipal Year. The scrutiny of performance and activities has been limited to two registered providers (A2 Dominion and Metropolitan Thames Valley) for 2024/25, as the Group undertook to review and update its Terms of Reference to reflect the Council's new priorities. Other RPs operating in the Borough had Social Housing Regulator and Housing Ombudsman

reports produced and were asked to complete a standard questionnaire used at the review meetings, to keep a watching brief on the wider picture to help identify any emerging issues. The 2024/25 annual report and recommendations to continue with the review programme in 2025/26, will be considered by the Committee at a future meeting.

**Council Tax Support Scheme** – A Task and Finish Group (consisting of Cllrs. P.J. Cullum, C.P. Grattan, Lisa Greenway, M.J. Roberts and Stuart Trussler (Vice-Chair)) has carried out a review of the Council Tax Support Scheme. Following an in-depth review of the scheme undertaken in 2023/24, resulting in a recommendation to allow 100% of a person's council tax liability to be used to calculate their Council Tax Support award. The Group reviewed the new arrangements and the schemes performance during 2024/25. A report was presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 14th January, setting out the Groups recommendation that the scheme remain unchanged for 2025/26 and was considered and approved by the Council at its meeting on 27th February, 2025.

**Farnborough Airport Task and Finish Group** – A Group (consisting of 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.) has not met during 2024/25 due to the complexities that have arisen from the pending airport planning application for major revisions to their planning permissions submitted in 2023/24. The future of this Group would be considered prior to any appointments being made in 2025/26.

**Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy** – At the meeting in June 2024, the Committee reviewed the Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy following its implementation in October 2023. The Committee reviewed the aims of the strategy and felt that a review was needed of the Strategy to bring it in line with the Council's priorities. A further meeting would be arranged to review any changes during 2025/26.

**SERCO** – In August 2024, the Committee reviewed the 2023/24 Annual Report from SERCO on their activities during the year. The report covered SERCOs purpose, vision, mission and values, alongside details of performance in the key areas of refuse and recycling and management of street cleansing and grounds maintenance. In reviewing the report the Committee had agreed that environmental factors were important when making decisions on the budget and this had been fed back to the Cabinet for consideration.

**Financial Matters (CIPFA, FRP & WG)** – At the meetings in September 2024 and January 2025, the Committee considered matters relating to the Council's finances. The Committee had an in-depth discussion with Simon Allsop from CIPFA, in September, who reported on and addressed Members concerns on their independent review into the Council's finances, and in January we met with the Leader of the Council and the Section 151 Officer who addressed matters relating to the Council's Financial Recovery Plan and the working arrangements of the Financial Recovery Work Group.

**Police and Community Safety** – Also in September 2024, the Committee met with the Police Chief Inspector, Gillian Cox, and representatives of the Council’s Community Safety team, to hear about current issues, challenges and positive news stories within the sector. The Committee discussed the matter at length and requested further data on fly tipping, land ownership and CCTV. The Committee was again represented on the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Community Safety (JOSC) with elected Members from both Hart and Basingstoke, the JOSC worked well and had set priorities for the year which had been noted by the Committee.

**Voluntary Organisations (RVS & CAR)** – In October and December 2024, the Committee met with representatives from both Rushmoor Voluntary Services (RVS) and Citizens Advice Rushmoor (CAR) who were reporting for the first time on their newly implemented Service Level Agreements. Recommendations were made following both these meetings to the Cabinet asking for consideration to be given to multi year funding from 2025/26 for both organisations. The recommendations had resulted in the Cabinet agreeing to consider financial support as part of the budget setting process.

**Leaders Priorities** – In November 2024, the Committee met with the Leader of the Council to be apprised of proposals for a Council Delivery Plan and a programme of work to develop a new Council Vision and Plan. The Council’s Delivery Plan Priorities and the two step approach to the process had been set out. Members had taken the opportunity to discuss the priorities in-depth with the Leader and the Committee would keep a watching brief on the progress of the Plan.

**Risk Management Policy and Risk Register** – Also in November 2024, the Committee had reviewed the approach to the Risk Management Policy and Risk Register, and endorsed the work undertaken. A watching brief would be maintained on Risk going forward.

**Asset Disposal (Union Yard)** – In March 2025, the Committee undertook some pre decision scrutiny on the disposal of assets at Union Yard Aldershot. The Leader of the Council attended the meeting and engaged with the discussions and noted comments, which assisted with the decision-making process by the Cabinet.

Other items considered during the year included a call-in on a Cabinet decision taken relating to the next steps with the development of a revised plan to provide a new Farnborough Leisure Centre. The Committee has also received written reports from the two Cabinet Champions, which set out their work and activities during the year. The Committee noted the achievements and activities of each Champion and endorsed the recommendations and next steps for priorities in 2025/26. In addition, work was underway to strengthen communication with Hampshire County Council on matters affecting our residents.

- 3.3 When appropriate, Cabinet Members have been in attendance at meetings to support items and answer the Committee’s questions. Cabinet Members who

have attended include, Cllr Gareth Williams (Leader) Cllr Sophie Porter (Deputy Leader and Healthy Communities and Active Lives Portfolio Holder), Cllr Christine Guinness (Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder) and Cllr Becky Williams (Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder (previous)).

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The Committee has worked well during the year and carried out a range of activities, which have a significant impact on the Borough and the Council. The work of the Committee will be reviewed at the start of the 2025/26 Municipal Year to ensure that the Work Plan is realistic, and the focus is on issues where it can make a difference.
- 4.2 Finally, and importantly, I feel that the Committee has worked effectively during the year, in the depth and breadth of scrutiny achieved. All Members have contributed at meetings, and I would like to express my thanks for their support and especially Cllr Nadia Martin, the Vice-Chairman. In addition, I am also grateful for the support given by the officers to the Committee and myself as Chairman.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 The Council is asked to note and endorse the Committee's work.

CLLR. HALLEH KOOHESTANI  
CHAIRMAN - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



# CABINET

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 11th March, 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 Christine Guinness, Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder  
Cllr Julie Hall, Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder

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 **24th March, 2024**.

## 67. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

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

## 68. **MINUTES –**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11th February, 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## 69. **BUDGET MANAGEMENT - MONTH 10 –**

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

The Cabinet considered Report No. FIN2508, which set out an update on the Council's forecasted financial position for 2024/25, as at the end of January, 2025.

Members were reminded that the Council had a statutory obligation to set and maintain a balanced budget. It was reported that, in February 2025, the Council had identified a significant challenge to its future financial sustainability. Members were informed that the forecast outturn for 2024/25 was on track, with the full £740,000 savings requirement achieved for 2024/25. The level of external borrowing had reduced through careful cashflow management, which had delayed and reduced the need to borrow externally. It was confirmed that the overall reduction in the level of borrowing required in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy could only be achieved through capital receipts.

The Cabinet was pleased with the progress that had been made in addressing the Council's challenging financial position and expressed gratitude to the finance team for its work in this respect.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED** that

- (i) the revenue budget forecast, as set out in Section 3.1 of Report No. FIN2508, be noted; and
- (ii) the virements, as set out in Section 3.12 of the Report, be approved.

70. **DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICIES - 2025/26 –**  
(Cllr A.H. Crawford, Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. FIN2507, which set out two changes to discretionary rate relief policies that had been announced by the Government.

Members were informed that retail, hospitality and leisure businesses would continue to receive relief, which had originally been introduced in 2014, but that the level of relief from 2025/26 would be reduced on previous years. The other change related to private schools, that would no longer be receiving mandatory relief. The purpose of the report was to amend the Council's existing Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policies to reflect the changes.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED** that

- (i) the amendment to the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Policy, as set out in Appendix A of Report No. FIN2507, be approved; and
- (ii) the amendment to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy for charities, not for profit organisations and other specified organisations under the Localism Act 2011 to exclude private schools receiving Discretionary Rate Relief, as set out in Appendix B of Report No. FIN2507, be approved.

71. **COUNCIL TAX SECOND HOME PREMIUM –**  
(Cllr A.H. Crawford, Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. FIN2509, which set out the proposed introduction of a Council Tax premium to be paid on second homes.

Members were informed that it was hoped that the introduction of a premium would encourage owners of furnished but unoccupied properties to bring them back into use. It was confirmed that the Council already levied a premium in respect of long term vacant properties that were unfurnished. It was reported that owners would receive at least one year's notice of the introduction of the premium and that this period would provide sufficient time to make any appropriate changes. The premium would be applicable in respect of 98 properties in the Rushmoor area. It was confirmed that the premium would be introduced on 1st April, 2026 and not 1st April, 2016 as stated in the report.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED** that

- (i) the increase of Council Tax by 100% for second home properties from 1st April, 2026, as set out in regulations and in Report No. FIN2509, be approved; and

- (ii) the amendment to the long-term empty homes policy, to include changing an additional 100% to second homes, as set out in Report No. FIN2509, be approved.

**72. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN 2025-28 –**  
(Cllr Jules Crossley, Policy, Performance & Sustainability Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. ACE2505, which set out an update to the Council’s Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Members were reminded that the Council had declared a climate emergency in June 2019 and that the Cabinet had approved a Climate Change Action Plan shortly after this. Since that time, the Council had been delivering a number of projects and programmes that had sought to mitigate the impact of climate change. The Cabinet was informed that the report provided details of revisions to the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan to cover the period 2025-28. The Action Plan now identified ten priority actions and these were set out in the report. It was confirmed that, in a change to earlier versions of the report, the use of UKSPF Funding to deliver climate change actions would be considered as an option.

In discussing this, Members stressed the importance of the Rushmoor Climate Community Group in progressing the Council’s climate change response. The Cabinet expressed strong support for the updates to the Council’s approach in addressing climate change.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED** that

- (i) the Climate Change Strategy 2025-2028, as set out in Annex 1 to Report No. ACE2505, be approved; and
- (ii) the Climate Change Action Plan 2025-2028, as set out in section 3.3 of the Report, be approved.

**73. 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:

<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Schedule 12A Para. No.</b>	<b>Category</b>
74	3	Information relating to financial or business affairs

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

74. **LAND DISPOSAL - FARNBOROUGH TOWN CENTRE –**  
(Cllr Julie Hall, Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report No. REG2502, which sought approval to dispose of the freehold interest in a property that was currently owned by the Council in Farnborough town centre, subject to the finalisation of terms.

Members were informed that this disposal would contribute towards the Council's capital receipts target that had been agreed at the Council meeting in February, 2025. The Exempt Report set out details of the disposal and how this would contribute to the delivery of the Council's Financial Recovery Plan.

The Cabinet expressed support for the proposed approach as an important strand towards delivering stability to the Council's financial position. Members requested that the Portfolio Holder should be satisfied with the preferred purchaser's approach to the provision of affordable housing and that the finalisation of terms should only be progressed with the agreement of the Portfolio Holder in this regard.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED** that

- (i) in principle and subject to due diligence, the disposal of the freehold interest of the property to the preferred purchaser at the conditional value set out in paragraph 3.5 of Exempt Report No. REG2502, be approved; and
- (ii) the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder and the Executive Head of Finance, be authorised to confirm the final terms and enable the disposal, subject to the Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder confirming satisfaction with the preferred purchaser's approach to the provision of affordable housing.

The Meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

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# CABINET

Report of the meeting held on Thursday, 20th March, 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 Jules Crossley, Policy, Performance & Sustainability Portfolio Holder  
Cllr Keith Dibble, Housing & Planning Portfolio Holder

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs A.H. Crawford, Christine Guinness and Julie Hall.

The Cabinet considered the following matters at the above-mentioned meeting. As set out below, both of these executive decisions were designated by the Cabinet to be of an urgent nature and, therefore, took immediate effect.

### **75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

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

### **76. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION - INTERIM PLAN – (Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council)**

The Cabinet considered Report No. ACE2506, which set out an interim plan in respect of the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation process.

Members were reminded that the Government had selected all authorities within the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight area to be part of its Devolution Priority Programme (DPP). A requirement of the DPP was that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) should be taken forward, with district councils joining together with other councils to create larger, unitary councils. The Secretary of State had formally requested that an interim LGR plan should be submitted by the deadline of 21st March, 2025, with a final business case to be submitted later in the year. It was explained that, in light of this deadline, this Cabinet decision would be considered to be urgent and, therefore, would be exempt from the call-in process.

The Cabinet was informed that the proposed interim plan had been drawn up collaboratively by all authorities in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight area and that there had been good joint working between the councils at this stage. The same interim plan was being considered by the relevant decision-making body within each of the councils involved. It was confirmed that there would be two changes to the document before submission in relation to the removal of signatures and the correction of data in terms of Hampshire County Council's financial deficit.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED** that the interim plan, as set out in Appendix 2 of Report No. ACE2506, be approved for submission to the Government, subject to the changes detailed above.

**77. 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:

<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Schedule 12A Para. No.</b>	<b>Category</b>
78	3	Information relating to financial or business affairs

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

**78. FRIMLEY 4 BUSINESS PARK – DISPOSAL OF PLOTS 4.2 AND 4.3 - REVISION OF HEADS OF TERMS –**  
(Cllr Julie Hall, Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report No. PG2509, which sought approval to revise the Heads of Terms for the disposal of the freehold interests in plots 4.2 and 4.3 at Frimley Business Park.

Members were informed that this disposal would contribute to the delivery of the Financial Recovery Plan and was, therefore, a key priority. The Exempt Report set out all of the terms of the disposal, including where changes had been made. It was explained that, in light of financial disadvantages should the deal not be secured by 31st March, 2025, this Cabinet decision would be considered to be urgent and would be, therefore, exempt from the call-in process.

The Cabinet expressed strong support for the proposed approach as an important step towards improving the Council's financial position.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED** that

- (i) the amendment of the Heads of Terms, to proceed with the disposal of the freehold interests in plots 4.2 and 4.3 at Frimley 4 Business Park, for the consideration and on the amended terms set out in Exempt Report No. PG2509, be approved; and
- (ii) this decision be treated as an urgent decision due to any delay caused by the call-in process being likely to seriously prejudice the Council's financial interest. The Mayor and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in consultation with the Executive Head of Property and Growth, had agreed that the decision proposed was reasonable in all of the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency.

The Meeting closed at 7.32 pm.

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# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the 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 Inerve 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:**

<b>What</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Date</b>
Provide the information shared with the MHCLG when discussing keeping the Levelling Up Funding for the new proposed facility.	Nick Irvine, Head of Regeneration and Development	March 2025

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

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