



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, 16th October, 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 10th July 2025 and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 25th September 2025 (copies attached).

2. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

3. **QUESTIONS –**

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

Public Questions

- (2) To answer any questions from the public submitted under Standing Order 9 in accordance with the Procedure Note.

4. NOTICE OF MOTION - TOWN CENTRE PARKING –

To consider the following Notice of Motion, which has been submitted by Cllr Sue Carter pursuant to Standing Order 10 (1):

“This Council recognises the huge challenges facing local businesses, particularly those in our town centres.

This Council also recognises that with alternative shopping options available in other town centres nearby and out of town that parking charges discourage many people from visiting Farnborough and Aldershot.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Task a cross-party group to explore the feasibility of free or discounted town centre parking at certain times to report back in time for the Budget.
- Consult town centre businesses, existing users, other residents and potential town centre investors about their likely response to free parking.”

5. RECOMMENDATION OF THE CABINET – (Pages 13 - 32)

To consider the recommendation of the Cabinet in relation to the following item:

Variation to the Capital Programme - Aldershot Crematorium Refurbishment

To receive a report from the Cabinet (copy attached – Annex 1) which seeks approval to amend the Capital Programme for 2025/26 to enable the Council to complete the refurbishment of Aldershot Crematorium. Cllr Christine Guinness, Portfolio Holder for Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services, will introduce this item.

6. QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET –

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

7. REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES – (Pages 33 - 68)

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

Cabinet

8th July, 2025
5th August, 2025
16th September, 2025

Committees

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards | 2nd July, 2025 |
| Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards | 23rd July, 2025 |
| Development Management Committee | 30th July, 2025 |
| Development Management Committee | 12th August, 2025 |
| Development Management Committee | 10th September, 2025 |
| Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards | 24th September, 2025 |

8. REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD – (Pages 69 - 92)

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

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Policy and Project Advisory Board | 22nd July, 2025 |
| Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 31st July, 2025 |
| Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 4th September, 2025 |
| Policy and Project Advisory Board | 17th September, 2025 |
| Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 18th September, 2025 |

IAN HARRISON
Managing Director

Council Offices
Farnborough
Hampshire GU14 7JU

Wednesday 8 October 2025

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BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 10th July, 2025 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart (Chairman))
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr P.J. Cullum (Vice-Chairman))

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Leola Card
Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr Keith Dibble
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Julie Hall
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr M.D. Smith
Cllr P.G. Taylor
Cllr S. Trussler
Cllr Gareth Williams

Cllr Abe Allen
Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr T.W. Mitchell
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr M.J. Tennant
Cllr Becky Williams

Honorary Alderman Diane Bedford
Honorary Alderman Tony Gardiner
Honorary Alderman John Marsh

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Jules Crossley, Cllr Nadia Martin, Cllr Jacqui Vosper and Cllr Ivan Whitmee.

Before the meeting was opened, the Mayor had invited Reverend Abdy Latifa, Senior Chaplain from the Military Headquarters South East, to lead the meeting in prayers.

7. MINUTES

It was MOVED by Cllr Gareth Williams; SECONDED by Cllr Sophie Porter and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting on 20th May, 2025, (copies having been circulated previously), be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.

8. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reflected on the events he had attended since the Annual Council Meeting. He extended his thanks to Padre Andy Latifa and the Garrison personnel for a successful Armed Forces Day event on 23rd June. He also paid tribute to the

Farnborough and Rushmoor Rotary Clubs for their organisation of the Donkey Derby, Children's Fun Day (formally Kids Out) and Music in the Park events.

The Mayor updated Members on the launch of the Mayor's Award. He advised that a staff panel had been established and would be convened shortly to review the nominations already received. Awards would be presented at future meetings of the Council. Discussions were also ongoing regarding the arrangements for the "Step Beyond" Programme with Alderwood School.

The Mayor advised that the Council's thoughts were with Cllr Clive Grattan following his recent loss and congratulations and best wishes were conveyed to Cllr Rhian Jones for her forthcoming nuptials.

9. STANDING ORDER 8 - QUESTIONS

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

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

(1) The Council were asked to consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gareth Williams under Standing Order 9 (1) on Debate Not Hate, as set out below:

"This Council:

- Affirms its commitment to free speech and robust debate, and its rejection of abuse and intimidation as part of legitimate political discourse.
- Notes, with concern, increasing levels of toxicity in public discourse, affecting politicians of all parties.
- Recognises the impact that this has upon council officers and election staff.
- Believes that respect is a two-way street and that all councillors have a role in treating members of the public with civility and respect.
- Commits to upholding the highest standards in public and political debate.

Consequently, this Council resolves to:

- Sign up to the LGA's Debate Not Hate Campaign.
- Regularly review the support available to councillors and officers in relation to abuse and intimidation.
- Write to the Government to ask them to work with the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of politicians, and to extend to election staff and council officers the same legal protection from harassment afforded to campaigners, elected representatives and candidates under s30 of the Elections Act (2022).

- Ensure the Council has a clear reporting mechanism which councillors and officers can use for incidents of abuse and intimidation.”

In PROPOSING the Motion, Cllr O'Donovan advised that the campaign, backed by the Local Government Association (LGA) and supported by 67 councils, promoted free speech and robust debate and rejected abuse, intimidation and threat. It was noted that it was not just a councillor issue but affected everyone, including council staff, who should be able to work in a place that felt safe and comfortable. In SECONDING the Motion Cllr Makunura, stressed the need for respect for debate and the protection of those that served the community.

During discussion on the Motion which had cross party support, it was noted that free speech was a fundamental right and must be protected to ensure democracy is undertaken in a civil, polite manner.

The Motion was put to the meeting. There voted FOR: 35 AGAINST: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED** unanimously.

(2) The Council were asked to consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gareth Lyon under Standing Order 9 (1) on Democratic Representation, as set out below:

“This council notes the growing concerns amongst residents at the democratic deficit being created by the Government's rushed and ill-thought-out local government reorganisation which could see all decisions about local services being made in Basingstoke by councillors with no links to our area.

This council further notes that local residents rightly take pride in the strong and historic identities of Farnborough, Aldershot and North Camp and the importance of securing a voice for these communities.

This council will therefore:

- Propose to residents the creation of local Town Councils for Farnborough and Aldershot and a separate parish council for North Camp as an option, if a first round of consultation shows that residents would support this tier of governance.
- Undertake preparatory work to enable the transfer of community assets, green spaces and facilities to these councils to safeguard their futures.
- Subject to residents' response to Community Governance Review consultation and January Council agreeing the order, proceed at pace with planning for elections for any new town and/or parish councils to take place at the earliest possible opportunity.”

In PROPOSING the Motion, Cllr Lyon referred to the strong history of the Borough and that those who are elected to represent the area should be able to relate to the place and with experience and understanding of the local services provided. He emphasised that Rushmoor's residents should be allowed to have their say on the

governance arrangements. Aldershot, Farnborough and North Camp all had their own identities, and it was important to ensure these were not lost. In **SECONDING** the Motion, Cllr S.J. Masterson stated that the motion moved things forward to avoid a democratic deficit.

During debate, it was noted that work was already underway to consult with residents on their views about Local Government Reorganisation and further consultation would be carried out through the Community Governance Review.

Following debate, the Motion was put to the meeting. In a recorded vote, there voted **FOR**: Cllrs A. Adeola, C.W. Card, Leola Card, Sue Carter, A. Gani, Steve Harden, Peace Essien Igodifo, G.B. Lyon, Mara Makunura, S.J. Masterson, T.W. Mitchell, M.D. Smith, P.G. Taylor, M.J. Tennant, S. Trussler (15); **AGAINST**: Cllrs Abe Allen, Gaynor Austin, A.H. Crawford, Thomas Day, K. Dibble, C.P. Grattan, Lisa Greenway, Christine Guinness, Julie Hall, Rhian Jones, Halleh Koohestani, Bill O'Donovan, Sophie Porter, Dhan Sarki, Sarah Spall, Becky Williams, Gareth Williams (17); and **ABSTAINED**: the Deputy Mayor (Cllr P.J. Cullum) and the Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart) (2); and the Recommendations were **DECLARED LOST**.

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

a) **Council Delivery Plan 2025/26**

Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council introduced the Report of the Cabinet on 22nd April, 2025, which set out the Council Delivery Plan for 2025-26.

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Gareth Williams and **SECONDED** by Cllr Sophie Porter that the Council Delivery Plan for 2025-26 be approved.

There voted **FOR**: 17 **ABSTAINED**: 13 **AGAINST**: 0 and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

b) **Gambling Licensing Statement of Principles**

Cllr Christine Guinness, Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder introduced the Report, which set out the recommended changes to the Council's Gambling Licensing Statement of Principles.

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Christine Guinness and **SECONDED** by Cllr Gaynor Austin that the Gambling Licensing Statement of Principles be approved.

There voted **FOR**: 19 **ABSTAINED**: 10 **AGAINST**: 0 and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

c) **Local Government Reorganisation**

Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council introduced the Report, which set out the recommendation to note the update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Gareth Williams and **SECONDED** by Cllr Thomas Day that:

- 1) the update on the LGR programme, to date, and the continued collaboration with 11 other councils on options that would replace the current 15 councils with four new unitary councils on the mainland, keeping the Isle of Wight as its own unitary council be noted;
- 2) a unitary council based on the areas of Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke and Deane continued to be the preferred option for Rushmoor as, in line with the assessment criteria, it represented the best balance of a Council large enough to deliver high quality services and value for money, but small enough to be connected to the place and the needs of the people the Council served, be confirmed; and
- 3) the programme of engagement being undertaken to ensure that all residents, businesses and partners had an opportunity to feed into the process, be noted.

There voted FOR: 33 ABSTAINED: 2 AGAINST: 0 and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

d) **Proposal to Start a Community Governance Review**

Cllr Bill O'Donovan, Chairman of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee introduced the Report of the Committee on 2nd July, 2025, which set out a proposal to start a Community Governance Review in response to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

It was MOVED by Cllr Bill O'Donovan and SECONDED by Cllr A.H. Crawford that the Terms of Reference for a Community Governance Review be approved.

There voted FOR: 31 ABSTAINED: 3 AGAINST: 1 and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

e) **Constitution and Committee Review Update**

Cllr Bill O'Donovan, Chairman of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee introduced the Report of the Committee on 2nd July, 2025, which set out the recommendations for changes to the Council's Constitution, and changes to the Council's decision-making arrangements for committees arising from the Committee Review findings.

It was MOVED by Cllr Bill O'Donovan and SECONDED by Cllr S.J. Masterson that a revised and updated Constitution with the revisions as describe in the schedule of proposed updates be approved.

There voted FOR: 27 ABSTAINED: 2 AGAINST: 0 and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

12. QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET

- (1) Cllr Sarah Spall had submitted a question for response by the Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder (Cllr A.H. Crawford) on the progress of the Financial Recovery Working Group to achieve a sustainable financial position.

Cllr Crawford advised that he was very pleased with the improvements made to the Council's financial position and the resulting outturn report. It was noted that £4million less had been drawn down from reserves than anticipated, through the stabilisation on borrowing costs, savings targets being met and additional work underway to improve the position further. Cllr Crawford extended his thanks to the Finance Team and wider staff for all their hard work.

- (2) Cllr Halleh Koohestani had submitted a question for response by the Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder (Cllr Christine Guinness) on National Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week.

Cllr Guinness advised that the events had been really well received and showed strong engagement with the community. 110 people had engaged across the two towns and personal attack alarms, purse and key bells and bottle top covers had been handed out during the event. The Police, PCSO's and anti-social behaviour team had all been involved in the event and played a key role in engaging with the community.

The event had gone so well that another event would be held before the next national event in 2026.

- (3) Cllr Thomas Day had submitted a question for response by the Policy, Performance and Sustainability Portfolio Holder (Cllr Jules Crossley) on the Pathways to Work Green Paper.

In the absence of Cllr Crossley, the response to this question would be made in writing.

- (4) Cllr Lisa Greenway had submitted a question for response by the Housing and Planning Portfolio Holder (Cllr Keith Dibble) on the Housing Register.

Cllr Dibble advised that 232 homes had been made available during 2025. This number included the units at Union Yard, Aldershot, identified specifically for NHS workers. It was noted that rental costs had been set at £800 for a one bed, £1,000 for a two bed, £1,295 for a three bed and £1,699 for a four bed property. There were currently 1,958 families looking for a home in Rushmoor. It was recognised that the number was not good, but the team were working hard to address it.

- (5) Cllr Steve Harden had submitted a question for response by the Healthy Communities and Active Lives Portfolio Holder (Cllr Sophie Porter) on the Farnborough Leisure Centre.

The Portfolio Holder advised that the Council's pre-planning consultation related to the new Farnborough leisure centre, which included two pools, a 110-station gym facility, fitness studio, spin studio, soft play and café. The survey provided a range of questions relating to the building and its design, with opportunities for free text responses. Since the launch of the consultation, there had been over 220 responses and around 100 attendees at the drop in events. In accordance with good consultation practice, as with all of the Council's surveys, the Council had used a range of standard demographic questions that helped the Council to understand survey respondents better. It was also reported that a number of separate on-line and face to face consultation sessions with key user groups (e.g.: RAAG/skate park users) had taken place, all of which had been very well received. The survey would close on 25 July and the Council were still very keen to hear from all residents and future users of the new facility.

Cllr Porter advised that a track was being kept of social media commentary and had noted that some residents were disappointed. However, it was noted that the Council could not afford to replace all the facilities in the old leisure centre but were committed to providing a new facility within the limits of the funding available and through listening to residents' views. The survey feedback would be important in shaping any changes to the Leisure Centre planning application and she would encourage anyone who wanted to influence this to respond to the survey.

Cllr Harden asked a supplementary question regarding extending the closing date of the survey and was the new facility going to be like the one in Camberley?

Cllr Porter advised that the plans were for a fully costed facility, and the Council were unable to fund everything that the public wanted.

- (6) Cllr Gareth Lyon had submitted a question for response by the Housing and Planning Portfolio Holder (Cllr Keith Dibble) on the delivery of housing units.

Cllr Dibble advised that the unverified number of housing units delivered in Rushmoor in 2025 was 412 units. The Council's aim was to deliver communities with decent housing for all, ensuring homes were designed to last a lifetime.

- (7) Cllr Mike Smith had submitted a question for response by the Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder (Cllr Christine Guinness) on progress towards a police shop unit in Farnborough Town Centre.

In the absence of Cllr Smith, the response to this question would be made in writing.

- (8) Cllr Paul Taylor had submitted a question for response by the Healthy Communities and Active Lives Portfolio Holder (Cllr Sophie Porter) on the cost of security.

In the absence of Cllr Taylor, the response to this question would be made in writing.

- (9) Cllr Lisa Greenway had submitted a question for response by the Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder (Cllr Christine Guinness) on fly tipping fines.

Cllr Guinness confirmed that, fines had been issued for fly tipping in the last quarter.

In addition, it was noted that there had been a steady increase in enforcement since 2023/24, when 27 fines were issued and only three had been paid. In 2024/25, 45 fines were issued, of which 32 were paid. The Place Protection Team continued to pursue those responsible and followed up with enforcement. Performance was also monitored closely.

13. **REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

RESOLVED: That the Reports of the following meetings be received:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Cabinet | 8th April 2025 |
| Cabinet | 22nd April 2025 |
| Cabinet | 3rd June 2025 |
| Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards | 2nd April 2025 |
| Development Management | 9th April 2025 |
| Development Management | 21st May 2025 |
| Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards | 22nd May 2025 |
| Development Management | 25th June 2025 |

14. **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD**

RESOLVED: that the Reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 27th March and 12th June, 2025 and the Policy and Project Advisory Board meeting held on 25th March and 10th June, 2025 be noted.

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 25th September, 2025 at 7.00 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart (Chairman))
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr P.J. Cullum (Vice-Chairman))

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr Jules Crossley
Cllr Keith Dibble
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Julie Hall
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr M.D. Smith
Cllr M.J. Tennant
Cllr Jacqui Vosper
Cllr Becky Williams

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Leola Card
Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr Nadia Martin
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr S. Trussler
Cllr Ivan Whitmee
Cllr Gareth Williams

Honorary Alderman Diane Bedford
Honorary Alderman Tony Gardiner
Honorary Alderman John Marsh

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Abe Allen, Cllr T.W. Mitchell and Cllr P.G. Taylor.

15. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

Cllr Gareth Williams introduced the Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 16th September, 2025, which recommended the approval of the proposal 'Close Enough to be Local, Big Enough to Stay Strong' for submission to government, and confirmation of the Council's preferred option.

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Gareth Williams; **SECONDED** by Cllr Gaynor Austin – That approval be given to the proposal 'Close Enough to be Local, Big Enough to Stay Strong' for submission to government by the 26th September 2025 deadline as detailed below:

- (1) a five-unitary Council structure, with four new mainland unitary councils plus the Isle of Wight would best meet the Government's criteria and provide the

most effective solution for local government reorganisation in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight;

- (2) a unitary council based on the areas of Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke & Deane is the recommended option for Rushmoor as, in line with the assessment criteria, it represents the best balance of a council large enough to deliver high quality services and value for money, but small enough to be connected the place and the needs of the people the council serves; and
- (3) the Council's preferred option in the proposal that brings together entire existing Council areas is Option 1. The Council would though request the Secretary of State to make a modification to that option involving a range of boundary changes as shown in Option 1A in the proposal, using the modification powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as this represents a stronger case for change.

In PROPOSING the recommendations, Cllr Williams spoke to the opportunity Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) would give to Rushmoor through having local representatives with a strong voice to get matters resolved in the local area. It was noted that a one tier authority allowing residents to have one point of contact for all matters and services could be shaped to address the needs of residents. Cllr Lyon stressed the importance of understanding the financial implications and what this would mean for residents. He also addressed the importance of engagement with the community and that if the process was slowed down it would give residents more opportunity to have their say. It was advised that further opportunity for engagement would be available as the process progressed. It was also felt that the principles behind the decision to go ahead with LGR were correct, but the way things had been delivered to date and the uncertainties around efficiencies were in question. In SECONDING the proposals, Cllr Austin advised that nothing was yet set in stone and the recommendation supported a clear and compelling vision for Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke residents.

Following debate, the Motion was put to the meeting. In a recorded vote, there voted FOR: Cllrs Gaynor Austin, C.W. Card, Leola Card, Jules Crossley, Thomas Day, K. Dibble, C.P. Grattan, Lisa Greenway, Christine Guinness, Julie Hall, Rhian Jones, Halleh Koohestani, Nadia Martin, Bill O'Donovan, Sophie Porter, M.J. Roberts, Dhan Sarki, Sarah Spall, Ivan Whitmee and Gareth Williams (20); AGAINST: Cllrs A. Adeola, Sue Carter, A. Gani, Steve Harden, Peace Essien Igodifo, G.B. Lyon, Mara Makunura, S.J. Masterson, M.D. Smith, M.J. Tennant, S. Trussler and Jacqui Vosper (12); and ABSTAINED: Cllrs A.H. Crawford, Becky Williams, the Deputy Mayor (Cllr P.J. Cullum) and the Mayor (Cllr Calum Stewart) (4); and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

16. **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS**

Cllr Bill O'Donovan introduced the Report as Chair of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee, which set out the results of the first round consultation in respect of the Community Governance Review approved by Council on 10th July 2025.

It was MOVED by Cllr Bill O'Donovan; SECONDED by Cllr Lisa Greenway – That the Council be recommended to:

- (1) proceed to a second-round Community Governance Review consultation; and
- (2) ask the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee* to consider the second-stage consultation results report and provide recommendations for consideration by Council.

*It was proposed that this would be carried out by the Licensing and Corporate Business Committee if proposals for the committee structure were approved.

In PROPOSING the recommendations on the next steps of the Community Governance Review (CGR), Cllr O'Donovan advised that the second round of consultation would provide residents with the opportunity to comment on three options; parish councils, local area committees or do nothing. It was advised that both Hart and Basingstoke and Deane already had parishes and therefore already had that local level of representation in place. By agreeing to parish councils, this would allow local assets to be transferred from Rushmoor to the appropriate parish. In SECONDING the recommendations, Cllr Greenway stated that it was important to understand that CGR was not a requirement. Parish councils came at a cost to residents, whereas local area committees incurred no additional precept. It was essential that the second round of consultation provided a clear outline of the costs of each option to allow residents to make an informed decision. During discussions, it was noted that it was important to be in-line with our neighbours should Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) go ahead to ensure local representation for the residents of Rushmoor.

There voted FOR: 35; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED: 0 and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

17. **CONSTITUTION UPDATE - STANDING ORDERS FOR THE REGULATION OF BUSINESS**

At its meeting on 10th July 2025, the Council considered and approved updates to the Constitution. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 29 (1) the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders for the Regulation of Business stood adjourned, without discussion, until this meeting.

It was MOVED by Cllr Bill O'Donovan; SECONDED by Cllr S.J. Masterson – That the Council be recommended to adopt the revised Standing Orders for the Regulation of Business for inclusion in Part 4 of the Constitution.

There voted FOR: 35; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED: 0 and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

18. **APPOINTMENTS 2025/26**

Further to changes to the political balance on the Council, a review of the seats on committees had been carried out and shared with Group Leaders. A report setting

out the revised allocation of seats to political groups and the updated memberships of the committees and bodies had been circulated (Annex 3). It was noted that each committee in the next cycle of meetings would either reconfirm its current Chair and Vice-Chair or appoint a new Chair or Vice-Chair.

It was MOVED by Cllr Gareth Williams; SECONDED by Cllr G.B. Lyon – That the Council be recommended to:

- (1) note that a review of the political balance on committees had been carried out and confirm the revised allocation of seats to political groups as set out in paragraph 1 of the report;
- (2) confirm the updated memberships of the committees and bodies as set out in paragraphs 2 and 3; and
- (3) note that each committee in the next cycle of meetings will either reconfirm its current Chair and Vice-Chair or appoint a new Chair or Vice-Chair.

There voted FOR: 35; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED: 0 and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

19. **EXTENSION TO DESIGNATIONS OF HEAD OF PAID SERVICE AND MONITORING OFFICER**

At its meeting on 10th April 2025, the Council approved the appointment of Ian Harrison as the Council's Interim Managing Director and Head of Paid Service for an initial period of six months with effect from 11 April 2025. At the same meeting, the post of Corporate Manager – Legal Services be designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer for the same period.

It was MOVED by Cllr Bill O'Donovan; SECONDED by Cllr S.J. Masterson – That subject to consideration by the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee, the Council be recommended to approve that:

- (1) Ian Harrison, Interim Managing Director continued to be designated as the Council's Head of Paid Service until the Annual Council in May 2026, or until alternative arrangements were agreed by the Council if that was sooner. The role would include the statutory responsibilities of Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer; and
- (2) The post of Corporate Manager – Legal Services continued to be designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer until otherwise designated by the Council.

There voted FOR: 35; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED: 0 and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

The meeting closed at 9.04 pm.

ANNEX 1

COUNCIL MEETING – 16TH OCTOBER 2025

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

**VARIATION TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME –
ALDERSHOT CREMATORIUM REFURBISHMENT**

A report from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5th August 2025

SUMMARY

At its meeting on 5th August, the Cabinet considered an exempt report (copy attached as an exempt Appendix) setting out the financial position for the major refurbishment of Aldershot Crematorium and requesting approval to increase capital funding allocation to enable the scheme to be completed and for services to resume at the facility.

In September 2023, the Cabinet had agreed the full business case and funding for the refurbishment of Aldershot Crematorium, [Report No. OS2312](#), with a report on capital funding to the Council in [October 2023](#). At that time, the Cabinet noted that further details of refurbishment costs would become available once a main contractor had been appointed.

At its meeting on 5th August 2025 the Cabinet noted that, as anticipated, several technical matters which had not been possible to accurately assess until the project was underway had been identified – which had adversely impacted the overall forecasted project cost. The report set out details of where costs had increased and the reasons for this. A number of these increases were disputed, and the Council had appointed specialist consultants to assist in this regard. It was noted that the Council had also faced additional costs arising from capitalised interest and unrecoverable VAT that had not been included in the original estimates.

The Cabinet (1) approved the additional funding requirement as set out in Exempt Report No. OS2513 and (2) requested that the scope of the planned audit of the project identify the factors that had led to the overspend and include a 'lessons to be learnt report' to be taken into consideration for future capital projects.

RECOMMENDATION

The Council is recommended to approve an additional capital allocation totalling the sum set out in Exempt Report No. OS2513 for the crematorium refurbishment project, over and above the £5,519,430 already agreed as part of the existing Capital Programme funded by borrowing to be factored into the 2025/26 estimates, with the 2025/26 Treasury Management and Capital Strategies being adjusted accordingly.

CLLR CHRISTINE GUINNESS
PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PRIDE IN PLACE/
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

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

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CABINET

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 8th July, 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 Keith Dibble, Housing & Planning Portfolio Holder
Cllr Christine Guinness, Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Jules Crossley and Councillor Julie Hall.

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 **21st July, 2025**.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

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

10. MINUTES –

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 3rd June, 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

11. BUDGET MANAGEMENT - OUTTURN 2024/25 –

(Cllr Alex Crawford, Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. FIN2512, which set out an update on the Council's budget outturn position for 2024/25.

Members were reminded that the Council had approved the 2024/25 budget with a deficit of £5.379 million, partly mitigated by a savings target of £740,000 to be achieved in year, resulting in a £4.639 million drawdown from the £12.075 million of available reserves. It was reported that, by year end on 31st March, 2025, the Council had made an overall saving of £5.155 million, resulting in only £224,000 being required from reserves. A savings target of £1.784 million had been set for 2025/26 and this had already been achieved, with £2.1 million of savings identified.

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. It was noted that prudent financial management would continue to be required for the foreseeable future.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) the unaudited budget outturn position for 2024/25, currently drawing £224,000 from reserves but subject to further due diligence and audit, as set out in Report No. FIN2512, be noted;
- (ii) the revenue budget carry forward schedule and capital slippage, as set out in paragraph 2.9 of the Report, be noted;
- (iii) the future presentation of an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy at the Cabinet meeting in September, 2025 be noted;
- (iv) the supplementary estimates for Property, Legal and the Crematorium project, as set out in the Report, be approved;
- (v) the additional Capital projects, to be funded by S106 funding, as set out in paragraph 3.4 of the Report, be approved; and
- (vi) the Savings Review proposals, as set out in paragraph 3.8 of the Report, be approved.

12. FILM STUDIO RATE RELIEF POLICY –
(Cllr Alex Crawford, Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. FIN2511, which set out a new scheme of relief that had been announced by the Government in relation to business rates payable by film studios.

Members were informed that the scheme would provide up to 40% relief on net rates payable. It was intended that the scheme would be in place for a limited period only, so instead of introducing legislation in this respect, the Government was asking authorities to award relief using discretionary powers. It was confirmed that the Government would reimburse any film studio relief awarded.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that the Film Studio Relief Policy, as set out in Appendix A of Report No. FIN2511, be approved.

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION - UPDATE –
(Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council)

The Cabinet considered Report No. ED2504, which provided an update on work carried in respect of the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) process.

Members were reminded that the interim LGR plan had been submitted by the deadline of 21st March, 2025, with the final business case to be submitted to the Government by 26th September, 2025. The interim plan had been drawn up collaboratively by all authorities in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight area and had expressed the Council's preference, taking into account sense of place and the economic geography of the area, for the formation of a unitary council formed from Rushmoor Borough Council, Hart District Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. KPMG had been appointed to support Councils across Hampshire

and the Isle of Wight to prepare the necessary evidence base and support the development of a business case to enable final proposals to be agreed and submitted to the Government. The Report also set out the arrangements for engagement with residents, businesses, partners and voluntary organisations. This engagement would include seeking residents' views on the establishment of parish councils and/or Neighbourhood Area Committees, as part of a Community Governance Review.

In discussing the Report, the Cabinet expressed strong support for the LGR process and felt that this would enable better, joined-up services to be delivered to local residents. Members also considered it was important to allow residents to express views on subjects such as the formation of parish/town councils before the Council's view was formed.

The Cabinet RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL that

- (i) the update on the LGR programme to date and the continuing collaboration with eleven other councils on options that would replace the current fifteen councils with four new unitary councils on the mainland, keeping the Isle of Wight as its own unitary Council, as set out in Report No. ED2504, be noted;
- (ii) confirmation that the formation of a unitary council based on the areas of Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke and Deane continued to be the preferred option for Rushmoor, be approved, based on the assessment criteria and representing the best balance of a Council large enough to deliver high quality services and value for money but small enough to be connected to the place and the needs of the people the council would serve;
- (iii) the programme of engagement being undertaken to ensure that all residents, businesses and partners had an opportunity to feed into the process, as set out in the Report, be noted; and
- (iv) the endorsement of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee's recommendation to the Council to approve the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review, as set in Report No. LEG2510, be approved.

14. RUSHMOOR TOGETHER –

(Cllr Sophie Porter, Deputy Leader and Healthy Communities & Active Lives Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. ED2503, which set out the priorities and plan for Rushmoor Together, the new partnership plan for 2025/26 for supporting communities and tackling inequality in the Borough.

Members were advised that Rushmoor Together was a follow up to the existing Supporting Communities Plan 2021-24 and built on the foundations and successes that that plan had delivered. It was a collaborative approach to addressing the challenges facing local communities and was focussed around three priority areas:

1. Physical and mental health
2. Economic wellbeing
3. Community belonging

During discussion, Members stressed the importance of demonstrating best practice in the local area during the future transition to a new, unitary authority. It was felt that a unitary authority would be better placed resolve some of the challenges identified in Rushmoor Together. The Cabinet was supportive of the proposed approach and expressed appreciation for the outcomes that had been achieved as a result of the previous Supporting Communities Plan.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that Rushmoor Together, a partnership plan for supporting communities for 2025/26, as set out in Report No. ED2503, be endorsed.

15. COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND –

(Cllr Sophie Porter, Deputy Leader and Healthy Communities & Active Lives Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. ED2502, which set out the Council's spending in relation to the Community Recovery Fund.

Members were reminded that, following the public disorder that took place in July and August 2024, the Council had received the sum of £600,000 from the Community Recovery Fund (CRF), made available by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The report outlined the Council's spending so far, which had included strategic communication and media training for Members and officers and the employment of security staff at Council meetings. Also set out were the items planned to utilise the remaining budget, including the development of a Community Mediation Service and a grant to Rushmoor Together.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- i) the spend so far and how this supported wider community cohesion and resilience, as set out in Report No. ED2502, be noted;
- ii) the remaining allocation of funding, as set out in the Report, be endorsed; and
- iii) the alignment of the spending to the Council's Delivery Plan, along with the priorities of Rushmoor Together, a partnership plan for tackling inequalities and supporting the local community, be noted.

16. RENEWAL OF THE ALDERSHOT PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER –

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

The Cabinet considered Report No. OS2508, which proposed the renewal of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Aldershot town centre, following a period of public consultation. Members were informed that the purpose of the Order was to assist in managing ongoing antisocial behaviour related to the consumption of alcohol in a public space and other associated behaviours, including public urination and defecation. The existing PSPO had been in place since July 2022 and data,

along with the consultation responses, had demonstrated the ongoing need for the order.

The Cabinet expressed support for the the renewal of the order, which had enabled swift action to be taken to deal with the identified antisocial behaviour in Aldershot town centre, for the benefit of local residents and businesses and visitors to the town.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that the renewal of the Aldershot Public Spaces Protection Order, as set out in Report No. OS2508, be approved.

17. **FARNBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE - UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS –**
(Cllr Sophie Porter, Deputy Leader and Healthy Communities & Active Lives Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. REG2503, which set out an update and the next steps in relation to the provision of a new leisure centre in Farnborough.

The Cabinet was reminded that, in February 2025, the Cabinet had agreed to progress with the revised approach for the delivery of a leisure centre in Farnborough, utilising the remaining Levelling Up funding. Approval had been given to progress design works to the end of RIBA Stage 3, to submit a planning application and to commence the procurement of the leisure operator. Members were now receiving an update on progress with the project and with the leisure operator procurements. The report also set out the next steps in relation to delivering the project within the parameters of the Levelling Up Fund timescales. It was confirmed that a planning application was expected to be submitted in September, 2025.

The Cabinet was supportive of the progress to date and felt that this would deliver an important, affordable facility for the Borough.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) the progress with the design of the leisure centre and the changes made as a result of the preliminary market engagement sessions with operators, as set out in Report No. REG2503, be noted;
- (ii) the conclusion of RIBA Stage 2 on schedule, the commencement of RIBA Stage 3 and the timetable for the project to the conclusion of RIBA Stage 4, as set out in the Report, be noted;
- (iii) the extension of the current Access Agreement for RIBA Stage 4, on the conclusion of RIBA Stage 3, subject to the forecasted operator income being in line with expectations, be approved, with costs for RIBA Stage 4 of up to £660,000 to be drawn from the Levelling Up Fund;
- (iv) the arrangements for the pre planning consultation, as set out in the Report, be noted;

- (v) the revised operator procurement consultation, as set out in the Report, be noted; and
- (vi) the setting up of special meetings of the Cabinet and the Council, as required, to enable the concurrent entering into of both the build and operator contracts, be approved.

The Meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

CABINET

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 5th August, 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 Keith Dibble, Housing & Planning Portfolio Holder
Cllr Julie Hall, Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Jules Crossley and 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 **18th August, 2025**.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

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

19. MINUTES –

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8th July, 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

20. BUDGET MANAGEMENT - MONTH 3 –

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

The Cabinet considered Report No. FIN2513, which set out an update on the Council's forecasted financial position for 2025/26, as at the end of June, 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 2025/26 was on track, with the full £1.8 million savings requirement achieved. 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 work would continue to identify long term sustainable savings to achieve financial sustainability and resolve the £2.784 million savings requirement for 2026/27 and £3.781 million for 2027/28, as set out in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

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 the revenue budget forecast, as set out in Section 3.1 of Report No. FIN2513, be noted.

21. **COUNCIL PLAN, PERFORMANCE AND RISK REGISTER QUARTERLY UPDATE Q1 APRIL TO JUNE 2025/26 –**
(Cllr Jules Crossley, Policy, Performance and Sustainability Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet received Report No. ED2506, which set out the performance monitoring information for the Council Delivery Plan and key service measures for the first quarter of 2025/26. 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 services were included in the Report. The Cabinet heard that the Council's Corporate Risk Register tried to identify factors that could impact on the future delivery of the Council's key priorities. A summary of those risks was provided in the report for discussion.

In discussing the Report, Members were satisfied with the progress made by the Council so far towards this year's Council Delivery Plan.

The Cabinet NOTED the progress made towards delivering the Council Delivery Plan, the latest performance information and the changes highlighted in the Council's Corporate Risk Register, as set out in Report No. ED2506.

22. **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 |
|------------|------------------------|---|
| 23 | 3 | Information relating to financial or business affairs |

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

23. **ALDERSHOT CREMATORIUM - PROPOSAL TO INCREASE BUDGET FOR REFURBISHMENT –**
(Cllr Christine Guinness, Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report No. OS2513, which set out the financial position for the major refurbishment of the Aldershot Crematorium and requested the approval of an increase in the capital funding allocation to enable the scheme to be completed and for services to resume at the facility.

Members were informed that the Cabinet had agreed the full business case and the requested capital funding at its meeting in September, 2023. At that time, it was noted that an accurate assessment of refurbishment costs would become available once a main contractor had been appointed. It was reported that, as anticipated, several technical matters that had not been possible to accurately assess until the project had been underway had been identified. This had adversely impacted the overall forecasted project cost. The report set out details of where costs had increased and the reasons for this. Members were informed that a number of these increases were disputed and that the Council had appointed specialist consultants to assist in this regard. It was noted that the Council had also faced additional costs arising from capitalised interest and unrecoverable VAT that had not been included in the original estimates.

In discussing this, the Cabinet considered that the reasons for the increases in the costs of this project should be thoroughly investigated and that lessons should be learnt to inform future projects of this nature. This resulted in the agreement of an additional resolution, as set out at (i)(b) below.

The Cabinet

(i) **RESOLVED:**

- (a) that the additional funding requirement, as set out in Exempt Report No. OS2513, be approved; and
- (b) to ensure that the scope of the planned audit of the project would identify the factors that had led to the overspend and would include a lessons learned report to be taken into consideration for future capital projects; and

- (ii) **RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL** that approval be given to an additional capital allocation totalling the sum set out in Exempt Report No. OS2513 for the crematorium refurbishment project, over and above the £5,519,430 already agreed as part of the existing Capital Programme funded by borrowing to be factored into the 2025/26 estimates, with the 2025/26 Treasury Management and Capital Strategies being adjusted accordingly.

The Meeting closed at 8.09 pm.

CABINET

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 16th September, 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 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 **29th September, 2025**.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Having regard to the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors, the following declaration of interest was made:

| Item No. | Member | Interest | Reason |
|----------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 28 | Cllr A.H. Crawford | Personal and non-pecuniary | Member of Hampshire County Council |

25. MINUTES –

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5th August, 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

26. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – (Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council)

The Cabinet considered Report No. ED2507, which provided an update on work carried in respect of the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) process and sought a recommendation to the Council to approve the submission of the proposal and to confirm the Cabinet's preference of the three options for the southern area of Hampshire.

Members were reminded that the proposal would set out how a single tier of local government could be established across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. At its meeting in July, 2025, the Cabinet had recommended to the Council that a unitary council based on the areas of Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke and Deane councils should continue to be the preferred option for Rushmoor as, in line with the assessment criteria, it represented the best balance of a Council large enough to

deliver high quality services and value for money but small enough to be connected to the place and needs of the people the council served. At its meeting on 10th July, the Council had agreed that recommendation and had noted the programme of engagement being undertaken to ensure that all residents, businesses and partners had had an opportunity to feed into the process. KPMG had continued to support twelve Councils across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to prepare the necessary evidence base and support the development of a business case to enable final proposals to be agreed and submitted to the Government. The Report also set out the arrangements for engagement with residents, businesses, partners and voluntary organisations. This engagement had included seeking residents' views on the establishment of parish councils and/or Neighbourhood Area Committees, as part of a Community Governance Review.

The Report set out the three options that were contained within the draft proposal as Options 1, 2 and 3. In each of these, the preference for the north of the county was a unitary council based on the areas of Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke and Deane councils. Legal advice had been received that recommended that any proposal requiring a modification or boundary change should be seen as being derived from an option created from a combination of complete authority areas. Because Option 3 had been derived from Option 1, the twelve authorities involved had agreed to rename Option 3 as Option 1A, with recommendations revised accordingly. An addendum to Report No. ED2507 had been created and had been published on the Council's website.

The Cabinet was informed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the proposal at its meeting on 4th September, 2025 and requested that its concerns should be brought to the attention of the Cabinet. These were set out in the Report and included concerns over the amount of detail provided in the financial information. The Committee also suggested that the Council should be seeking assurances from the Government in relation to full funding costs for the LGR process being guaranteed. The Cabinet thanked the Committee for its input but decided that this would not affect its recommendation to the Council. Furthermore, it was agreed that the Cabinet would not write to the Government as requested by the Committee.

The Cabinet discussed the Report at length. In particular, Members considered the financial implications of the LGR process. A view was expressed that the proposal was not financially sustainable and that it was wrong to recommend an option that impacted the south of Hampshire without having a detailed knowledge of the circumstances and residents' wishes in those areas. This view was not supported by the other members of the Cabinet. In response, it was clarified that all Hampshire Councils were obliged by the Government to state preferred options for the whole of the county when submitting proposals. The majority of the Cabinet was supportive of the LGR process and felt that this would enable better, joined-up services to be delivered to local residents.

The Cabinet RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL that approval be given for the proposal 'Close Enough to be Local, Big Enough to Stay Strong' to be submitted to the Government by the 26th September deadline confirming that

- (i) a five-unitary Council structure, with four new mainland unitary councils plus the Isle of Wight, would best meet the Government's criteria and provide the

most effective solution for local government reorganisation in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight;

- (ii) a unitary council based on the areas of Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke & Deane is the recommended option for Rushmoor as, in line with the assessment criteria, it represents the best balance of a council large enough to deliver high quality services and value for money but small enough to be connected to the place and the needs of the people the council serves; and
- (iii) the Council's preferred option in the proposal that brings together entire existing Council areas is Option 1. The Council would though request the Secretary of State to make a modification to that option involving a range of boundary changes as shown in Option 1A in the proposal, using the modification powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as this represents a stronger case for change.

27. **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 |
|------------|------------------------|---|
| 28 | 3 | Information relating to financial or business affairs |

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC

28. **NOS. 16-18 THE MEADS, FARNBOROUGH - COMMERCIAL LETTING –** (Cllr Julie Hall, Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report No. REG2504, which set out a proposal to consider letting a Council-owned property at Nos. 16-18 The Meads, Farnborough.

Members were informed that, whilst this was a positive opportunity to bring an anchor tenant to the town and to the Council's shopping centre asset, the agreement for the new lease as proposed would require significant investment in capital works and a fit-out contribution by the Council. The Exempt Report set out the financial details involved with the proposal and it was noted that it needed to be considered in light of the Council's ongoing financial challenge and recovery plan. It was felt, however, that this would provide an important step forward in the Council's economic and social regeneration plans for Farnborough town centre. It was also envisaged that securing this particular tenant was likely to have a positive impact on the future prospects for the Meads and would increase its commercial viability.

In discussing this option and acknowledging the significant investment required, the majority of the Cabinet was in agreement that this proposal offered an exciting

opportunity with regards to the Council's ongoing priority to regenerate Farnborough town centre and to promote a nighttime economy in that area.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- i) the letting of Nos. 16-18 The Meads, on the Heads of Terms set out in paragraphs 2.4 – 2.5 of Exempt Report No. REG2504, be approved;
- ii) the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer and Corporate Manager – Legal Services, be authorised to negotiate the lease;
- iii) the allocation of the capital budget, in the sum set out in the Exempt Report, to enable the works and contribution for fit out costs to be funded from capital receipts allocated to commercial lettings in the 2025-26 capital programme, be approved; and
- iv) the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder and the Executive Head of Finance, be authorised to exceed the capital estimate by the sum set out in the Exempt Report, with any additional expenditure beyond that amount being subject to further Cabinet approval.

The Meeting closed at 8.43 pm.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Bill O'Donovan (Chairman)
Cllr Rhian Jones (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Gaynor Austin, Cllr C.W. Card, Cllr Sue Carter and Cllr P.G. Taylor.

Cllr Thomas Day and Cllr S.J. Masterson attended the meeting as Standing Deputies.

Non-Voting Member

Mr. Tom Davies – Independent Member (Audit)

10. PROPOSAL TO START A COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Committee considered the Monitoring Officer's Report No. LEG2510, which set out a proposal to start a Community Governance Review in response to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The review aimed to ensure that community governance arrangements would continue to be effective, convenient, and work in the interests of local residents in the event of the establishment of a unitary council for North Hampshire.

The report and the attached proposed terms of reference described the process and schedule for a Community Governance Review to be completed by January 2026, to ensure there was sufficient time to set precepts and transfer any assets and/or services to any new Parish Councils that the Council may choose to establish.

During discussion, Members raised questions regarding potential costs of setting up Town or Parish Councils, the services provided by Town and Parish Councils and the differences between the two.

The Committee noted that residents would need to have clarity about the consultation in order to seek their views, as there were several consultations ongoing with regards to LGR.

It was noted by the Committee, that the Council would consider a final report and draft Community Governance Reorganisation Order by January 2026 in advance of potential Parish Council elections in May 2026. An alternative option for the Council, was the decision to not make any changes to community governance, having given regard to the consultation results.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL** that the terms of reference for a Community Governance Review, as set out in the Monitoring Officer's Report No. LEG2510, be approved.

11. **CONSTITUTION AND COMMITTEE REVIEW UPDATE REPORT (2)**

The Committee considered the Corporate Manager – Democracy Report No. DEM2506, which set out proposed updates to the Constitution in respect of:

- (1) All proposed new amendments to the Constitution as described in the schedule in Appendix 1;
- (2) Updates to the Standing Orders for the Regulation of Business and Scheme for Public Questions as set out in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3;
- (3) Updates to the Terms of Reference for Committees; 'Role and Responsibilities of Council Decision-Making Committees', 'Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Terms of Reference' and 'Policy & Project Advisory Board – Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 4 to come into effect from October 2025;
- (4) An update to the Code of Conduct for Councillors as set out in Para 2.1 of the Report; and
- (5) All previously agreed amendments and updates to the Constitution since the last review in February 2023 as set out in the schedule in Appendix 5.

During discussion, Members raised questions regarding the necessity of splitting the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee (CGAS), considering the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The Committee noted that due to the CGAS Committee's numerous functions and responsibilities, reports from external bodies had strongly advised that focus was given to financial management and ensuring that Members felt they had the capacity to have the required specialism and in-depth knowledge. There was also the need for a strong pool of trained Members for licensing, with daytime availability, that had to be drawn from the CGAS Committee. Members could serve on both new Committees, if required.

Members also raised questions concerning the time allocated for questions at Council meetings. The Committee noted that the Mayor would have the ability to extend the time for public questions, if they considered it necessary.

- (i) The Committee **RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL** that the proposed updates to the Council's Constitution, following consideration by the Constitution Working Group, as set out in the Corporate Manager -

Democracy Report No. DEM2506, be approved subject to the inclusion of the following additional amendments:

- that the terms of reference for the Licensing and Corporate Business Committee include reference to the Committee having responsibility for matters regarding the remuneration of the Head of Paid Service; and
- that the 'Scheme for Public Questions at Full Council' be updated at para 1.8 to state that the Managing Director, *in consultation with the Mayor*, may reject a question for Council for inclusion on the agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd July, 2025 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Bill O'Donovan (Chairman)
Cllr Rhian Jones (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr P.G. Taylor

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Jacqui Vosper.

Non-Voting Member

Mr. Tom Davies – Independent Member (Audit)

12. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 May, 2025 were agreed and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

13. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Chairman welcomed Neil Pitman, Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership (SIAP), the Council's internal auditors, who joined the meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams.

The Committee received SIAP's Report No. SIAP25/03 which set out the Internal Audit Progress Report, for the June 2025 accounts, which provided the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee with an overview of internal audit activity against assurance work completed in accordance with the approved audit plan. The Report also provided an overview of key updates pertinent to the discharge of the Committee's role, in relation to internal audit.

It was noted by the Committee, that there was an error in the agenda pack. On Page 10, Para 1.4, Members were asked to disregard the first two sentences.

During discussions, questions were raised regarding IT contingency plans and Disabled Facilities Grants. Members noted that James Duggin, Executive Head of Operations, had not been available to attend the meeting to answer questions

relating to how the funds were spent in relation to the Disabled Facilities Grants. Members agreed to request an action plan from Mr Duggin, with dates and those responsible for actions, to be completed in time for the Committee meeting in November.

ACTION:

| What | By Whom | When |
|--|--|---------------|
| Action plan with dates completed and officer responsibility in relation to the Disabled Facilities Grants. | James Duggin, Executive Head of Operations | November 2025 |

RESOLVED: That SIAP's Report No. SIAP25/03, be noted.

14. ANNUAL CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The Committee received the Executive Director's Report No. ED2505, which provided an update on the ongoing development and maintenance of the Council's corporate health and safety arrangements in 2024/25 and the plans in place for 2025/26.

It was noted that, following the response to Covid and the significant changes made to working practices across the majority of the Council's services during that period, the health and safety risk profile of the Council's business activities had stabilised, with more employees routinely working from home and other remote locations. The overall health and safety risk profile of the Council remained low, with the majority of high-risk work activity contracted out, and only a few specific roles with an enhanced level of risk. Examples of these were technical staff working at Princes Hall and members of the Place Protection team.

It was noted that, the Corporate Health and Safety Advisor maintained a reporting regime on corporate health and safety matters that was taken quarterly to the Corporate Management Team (CMT). This related predominately to operational matters. The numbers of accidents/incidents and violence at work incidents, including trends and a summary of those reports, were also routinely reported to CMT and Cabinet via the quarterly performance management report. The number of accidents and incidents seen at the Council was low and had remained relatively stable for a number of years.

During discussions, Members raised questions regarding near misses, details of incidents and whether unions and officers were involved in discussions involving health and safety. Members noted that a Corporate Health, Safety and Welfare Group, which consisted of officers from all services and levels of management, along with a union representative, met regularly to discuss matters involving health and safety at work. It was also noted that, as verbal abuse and threats had lessened, the data could be used to re-evaluate the use of security considering the costs involved.

ACTION:

| What | By Whom | When |
|--|--|----------------|
| Incorporate into the Committee's Work Plan quarterly reporting on the Risk Management Process. | Roger Sanders, Service Manager – Risk, Performance and Procurement | September 2025 |

RESOLVED: That the Executive Director's Report No. ED2505, be noted.

15. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT 2025

The Committee received the Data Protection Officer's Report No. LEG2502 which set out information about Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received by the Council, and performance on responses to FOIs. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000) provided public access to information held by public authorities. Freedom of Information requests encouraged openness and scrutiny of the Council's decisions. Rushmoor Borough Council had a statutory duty to fulfil its obligations under FOIA 2000.

The Committee noted that the Council's performance on FOIs continued to steadily improve and was responding within the target response rate. There was further work planned, including training, and publishing more information online to continue improvements already made. A new Microsoft Lists system had been launched part way into Q2 to improve resilience, and increase oversight by senior management.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the Council had not received any fines so far from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for not complying with the FOIA 2000. During discussions, the Committee noted that the Council rarely received subject access requests (SARs). They were managed within the time frame and were slightly different to FOI requests, in that the Council were able to self-apply for an extension.

RESOLVED: That officers:

- (i) continued their work on reducing the number of overdue FOIs within the system in 2025 and continued to ensure that 90% of requests were responded to within the statutory 20 working days, as per the ICO target;
- (ii) continued to raise FOI awareness and knowledge across employees, through regular training and guidance; and
- (iii) published as much information proactively to reduce the number of FOI requests.

16. ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS REPORT

The Committee received the Executive Head of Finance's Report No. FIN2514, which provided an update to the Committee including the unaudited statement of accounts for 2024/25, which were published on 27th June 2025, in-line with statutory deadlines.

The Committee noted that the preparation of the Statement of Accounts and the audit scrutiny provided reassurance that the accounts gave a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council. The process of clearing down the backlog of the Annual Statements meant full audit sign off had not been achieved for the three years 2020-2023, therefore risks of the Council's financial accounts not showing a true and fair financial position, were increased.

During discussions, the Committee noted an error in the report on Page 41, Para 7.2, which stated 'Waverley' instead of 'Rushmoor'. Members raised questions regarding the Local Government Pension Scheme's (LGPS) longevity forecasting and the impact on the Council's budget from increases in employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs).

ACTION:

| What | By Whom | When |
|--|---|----------------|
| Query with the Actuary the discrepancy between the LGPS's longevity forecasting and the forecasting of the Office for National Statistics (ONS). | Peter Vickers, Executive Head of Finance. | September 2025 |

RESOLVED: That the Executive Head of Finance's Report No. FIN2514, be noted.

17. 2024/25 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN AND 2025/26 Q1 TREASURY PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS REPORT

The Committee received the Executive Head of Finance Report No. FIN2515 which set out the activities of the Treasury Management and non-Treasury Investment Operations for quarter one in the financial year 2025/26 and reported on compliance with Prudential Indicators along with 2024/25 outturn figures. The report was a statutory requirement under the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

The Committee noted that all treasury activity had been conducted within the approved Treasury Management Practices.

The Committee noted that the majority of the Council's borrowing was short-term Local Authority (LA), although the report showed that there had been a change, in-line with the Strategy, to have more longer term borrowing with the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) locking in rates at equivalent to, or lower than, the borrowing rate set within the MTFS (4.78%), which diversified the borrowing the Council held.

During discussions, Members raised questions regarding the frequency of treasury management reviews, the effect of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) on the Council's debt and the accuracy of Arlingclose, the independent treasury advisor company used by the Council. The Committee noted that data from Royal London, Bank of England and Arlingclose was used by the Council.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED TO THE CABINET** that the contents of the Executive Head of Finance's Report No. FIN2515 report, in relation to the treasury management and non-treasury investment operations carried out, be approved.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Wednesday, 30th July, 2025 at the Concorde Room, Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr C.P. Grattan (Vice-Chairman) (In the Chair)

Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr Calum Stewart
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Gaynor Austin, Cllr Lisa Greenway and Cllr Ivan Whitmee.

Cllr Nadia Martin attended the meeting as a Standing Deputy.

Non-Voting Member

Cllr Keith Dibble (Housing & Planning Portfolio Holder) (ex officio)

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

14. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th June, 2025 were approved and signed as a correct record of proceedings.

15. REPRESENTATION BY THE PUBLIC

In accordance with the guidelines for public participation at meetings, the following representations were made to the Committee and were duly considered before a decision was reached:

| Application No. | Address | Representation | In support of or against the application |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---|
| 24/00748/FUL & | Land at Orchard | Mr Tom Rumble, | In support |

| | | |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 24/00746/LBCPP | Rise No.127 & La Fosse House No.129 Ship Lane & Farnborough Hill School, No. 312 Farnborough Road, Farnborough | Director, Woolf Bond Planning Ltd |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------------|

16. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: That

- (i) permission be given to the following application, as set out in Appendix “A” (as required), subject to the conditions, restrictions and prohibitions (if any) mentioned therein:

| | | |
|---|----------------|---|
| * | 24/00746/LBCPP | Land at Orchard Rise No.127 & La Fosse House No.129 Ship Lane & Farnborough Hill School, No. 312 Farnborough Road, Farnborough. |
|---|----------------|---|

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 25/00318/FULPP | No. 54 Fellows Road, Farnborough |
|----------------|----------------------------------|

- (ii) the following application be determined by the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Chairman, subject to the prior completion of a S106 legal agreement and the conditions as detailed in the report:

| | | |
|---|--------------|--|
| * | 24/00748/FUL | Land at Orchard Rise No.127 & La Fosse House No.129 Ship Lane & Farnborough Hill School, No. 312 Farnborough Road, Farnborough. |
|---|--------------|--|

- (iii) the following application be deferred to the next Committee meeting, due to an administrative error:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 25/00209/FULPP | The Royal Staff, No. 37A Mount Pleasant Road, Aldershot. |
|----------------|---|

- (ii) the applications dealt with by the Executive Head of Property and Growth, where necessary in consultation with the Chairman, in accordance with the Council’s Scheme of Delegation, more particularly specified in Section “D” of the Executive Head of Property and Growth’s Report No. PG2525, be noted

- (iii) the current position with regard to the following applications be noted pending consideration at a future meeting:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 21/00271/FULPP | Block 3, Queensmead, Farnborough |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 23/00713/FUL | Manor Park Cottage, St. Georges Road East, Aldershot |
| 23/00794/REVPP | Farnborough Airport, Farnborough |
| 24/00237/FUL | Nos. 235-237 High Street, Aldershot |
| 25/00287/REMPP | Zone G Pennefathers, Aldershot Urban Extension, Alison's Road, Aldershot |

* The Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2525 in respect of these applications was amended at the meeting.

17. LAND AT ORCHARD RISE NO.127 & LA FOSSE HOUSE NO.129 SHIP LANE & FARNBOROUGH HILL SCHOOL, NO. 312 FARNBOROUGH ROAD, FARNBOROUGH - APPLICATION NO. 24/00748/FUL

The Committee considered the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2525 (as amended at the meeting) regarding the demolition of the existing care home and dwelling, repairs and works to the kitchen garden wall and the erection of 20 residential dwellings, associated access works, drainage works, tree works, car parking, hard and soft landscaping.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) an additional condition, relating to an Employment and Skills Plan, be explored with the applicant prior to final determination of the application; and
- (ii) the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to GRANT planning permission, subject to a Section 106 Agreement.

18. THE ROYAL STAFF, NO.37A MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, ALDERSHOT - APPLICATION NO. 25/00209/FULPP

The Committee were due to consider the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2525 regarding the change of use of public house (sui generis) to a day nursery (use class E(f)) and demolition of rear outbuilding at No.37A Mount Pleasant Road, Aldershot.

RESOLVED: That

due to an administrative error, the planning application was scheduled without the correct notification period for all interested parties. Therefore the item was **DEFERRED** to a later meeting.

19. **LAND AT FORMER LAFARGE SITE, HOLLYBUSH LANE, ALDERSHOT - APPLICATION NO. 24/00140/REVPP**

The Committee received the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2527, regarding Planning Application No. 24/00140/REVPP – Land at Former Lafarge Site, Hollybush Lane, Aldershot. The application sought a Minor Material Amendment comprising "Variation of Condition of planning permission 20/00400/FULPP dated 24 March 2023 as amended by non-material amendment 23/00800/NMAPP dated 5 December 2023 to increase number of floating holiday lodges from 9 to 21 units".

RESOLVED: That

subject to the prior completion of a satisfactory s106 Legal Agreement to:

- (i) secure the SAMMs SPA financial contribution in respect of the 12 additional floating holiday lodges, together with associated s106 Administration & Monitoring Fee; and
- (ii) replicate the requirements of the original s106 dated 24 March 2023 in respect of SPA contributions for the original 9 floating holiday lodges and the restoration/reinstatement and retention thereafter of the original line of the Blackwater Valley Path.
- (iii) the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Chairman be authorised to GRANT planning permission subject to the following conditions and informatives:-

4.2 Conditions and Informatives as agreed previously.

20. **PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT) SUMMARY**

The Committee received the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2526, which provided an update on the position with respect to achieving performance indicators for the Development Management Section of the Planning Service and the overall workload of the Section for the quarter from 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025.

The Committee noted that, in relation to major applications, current performance was below the government target of 60%. However, only two applications had been determined so far, meaning an improvement to more than 60% was likely in the future.

Members also noted that, regarding income, there were corrections to the report and the amendment sheet, which were due to an error in the budget forecasting and which had reported only a partial figure for the month of June.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2526 be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.11 pm.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12th August, 2025 at the Concorde Room,
Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Gaynor Austin (Chairman)
Cllr C.P. Grattan (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr Calum Stewart
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs A.H. Gani, Thomas Day,
Peace Essien Igodifo and Ivan Whitmee.

Cllr P.J. Cullum attended the meeting as a Standing Deputy.

Non-Voting Member

Cllr Keith Dibble (Housing & Planning Portfolio Holder) (ex officio)

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

22. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th July, 2025 were approved and signed as a
correct record of proceedings.

23. REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

In accordance with the guidelines for public participation at meetings, the following
representations were made to the Committee and were duly considered before a
decision was reached:

| Application No. | Address | Representation | In support of or against the application |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 25/00209/FULPP | The Royal Staff, Ms Magdalena | | In support |

No. 37A Mount Szymanska-Queiroz
Pleasant Road, (applicant)
Aldershot

24. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: That

- (i) the following application be determined by the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Chair, subject to the conditions as amended at the meeting:

* 25/00209/FULPP The Royal Staff, No. 37A Mount Pleasant Road, Aldershot.

* The Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2528 in respect of these applications was amended at the meeting.

25. THE ROYAL STAFF, NO.37A MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, ALDERSHOT - APPLICATION NO. 25/00209/FULPP

The Committee considered the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2528 regarding the change of use of public house (sui generis) to a day nursery (use class E(f)) and demolition of rear outbuilding at No. 37A Mount Pleasant Road, Aldershot.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) Condition 5 of the recommendation be amended to include reference to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (or any Order revoking and re-enacting that order); and
- (ii) the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Chair, be authorised to GRANT planning permission, subject to the Executive Head of Property and Growth and the Chair being satisfied that the marketing materials provided demonstrate that the asking price for the Public House was reasonable.

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Wednesday, 10th September, 2025 at the Concorde Room, Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Gaynor Austin (Chairman)
Cllr C.P. Grattan (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Lisa Greenway, Calum Stewart and Ivan Whitmee.

Non-Voting Member

Cllr Keith Dibble (Housing & Planning Portfolio Holder) (ex officio)

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

27. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th August, 2025 were approved and signed as a correct record of proceedings.

28. REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

In accordance with the guidelines for public participation at meetings, the following representations were made to the Committee and were duly considered before a decision was reached:

| Application No. | Address | Representation | In support of or against the application |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| 24/00644/FULPP | Land to the Rear of No. 105 Park Road, Farnborough | Mr Dan Hughes (resident) | Against |

| | | | |
|----------------|--|---|------------|
| 24/00644/FULPP | Land to the Rear of No. 105 Park Road, Farnborough | Mrs Charlotte Hughes (resident) | Against |
| 24/00644/FULPP | Land to the Rear of No. 105 Park Road, Farnborough | Mr James Deverill, MCA Architects (agent) | In support |

29. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: That

- (i) permission be given to the following application, as set out in Appendix “A” (as required), subject to the conditions, restrictions and prohibitions (if any) mentioned therein:

* 24/00644/FULPP Land to the Rear of No. 105 Park Road, Farnborough.

- (ii) the applications dealt with by the Executive Head of Property and Growth, where necessary in consultation with the Chairman, in accordance with the Council’s Scheme of Delegation, more particularly specified in Section “D” of the Executive Head of Property and Growth’s Report No. PG2529, be noted
- (iii) the current position with regard to the following applications be noted pending consideration at a future meeting:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 21/00271/FULPP | Block 3, Queensmead, Farnborough |
| 23/00713/FUL | Manor Park Cottage, St. Georges Road East, Aldershot |
| 23/00794/REVPP | Farnborough Airport, Farnborough |
| 24/00237/FUL | Nos. 235-237 High Street, Aldershot |
| 25/00287/REMP | Zone G Pennefathers, Aldershot Urban Extension, Alison’s Road, Aldershot |

- * The Executive Head of Property and Growth’s Report No. PG2529 in respect of these applications was amended at the meeting.

30. **LAND TO THE REAR OF NO. 105 PARK ROAD, FARNBOROUGH - APPLICATION NO. 24/00644/FULPP**

The Committee considered the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2529 regarding the erection of a one bedroom flat with parking below following demolition of garages at Land to the Rear of No. 105 Park Road, Farnborough.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) Condition 3 of the recommendation be amended to include reference to glazed screening being used;
- (ii) Condition 5 of the recommendation be amended to include that parking spaces could not be used for storage ***including*** caravans, boats or trailers; and
- (iii) the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Chair, be authorised to GRANT planning permission.

The meeting closed at 8.04 pm.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Wednesday, 24th September, 2025 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Bill O'Donovan (Chairman)
Cllr Rhian Jones (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr P.G. Taylor
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Non-Voting Member

Mr. Tom Davies – Independent Member (Audit)

18. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2025 and 23rd July 2025 were agreed and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

19. INTERNAL AUDIT - AUDIT UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Neil Pitman, Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership (SIAP), the Council's internal auditors.

The Committee received SIAP's Report No. SIAP25/04, which set out the Internal Audit Progress Report, for the August 2025 accounts. The Report provided an overview of internal audit activity against assurance work completed in accordance with the approved audit plan and key updates pertinent to the discharge of the Committee's role, in relation to internal audit.

During discussion, questions were raised by Members regarding audit review sponsors, cyber security and outstanding audit actions. It was noted that there needed to be wider awareness around outstanding audit actions and there should be performance reporting to Cabinet by Service Managers. The Committee noted that the Chair wished to meet with the Leader of the Council to discuss outstanding audit actions.

ACTION:

| What | By Whom | When |
|---|---|--|
| Provide a key for the sponsors in the audit review, for clarity. | Neil Pitman, Head of Partnership at SIAP | November 2025 |
| The Chair of the Committee to meet with the Leader of the Council to discuss outstanding audit actions. | Cllr Bill O'Donovan, Chair of the Committee | Before the next meeting on 26th November |

The Committee received SIAP's Report No. SIAP25/05, which outlined the proposed approach for the Southern Internal Audit Partnership's external quality assessment. The external quality assessment needed to be performed at least every five years by a qualified, independent assessor or assessment team.

The Committee received SIAP's Report No. SIAP25/06, which presented the Internal Audit Strategy 2025-28. The Committee noted that it was a plan of action designed to achieve objectives over the medium term. The strategy included a vision, strategic objectives, and supporting initiatives for the internal audit function to support the fulfilment of the internal audit mandate.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) outstanding audit actions form part of Service Mangers' performance reporting to Cabinet;
- (ii) the Internal Audit Progress Report be noted;
- (iii) the arrangements for the pending external assessment of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership against the Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK Public Sector, be noted; and
- (iv) the Internal Audit Strategy 2025-2028, be noted.

20. **CORPORATE POLICY AND GUIDANCE ON SURVEILLANCE AND THE USE OF THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000**

The Committee considered the Corporate Manager – Legal Report No. LEG2503 which set out a review of the Council's corporate policy on the use of covert investigatory techniques, including surveillance, within and outside the scope of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

The Committee was advised that much of the surveillance carried out by officers was overt, where officers would go about Council business openly. It was noted that all RIPA authorisations needed to be approved by the Magistrates Court before any surveillance could take place. The Committee was advised that no covert surveillance had been undertaken by the Council during 2024/25. The Council's Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) policy and procedure was up-to-date and complied with current guidance. In June 2023, the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office confirmed that it was content with the Council's policies and RIPA activities.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Surveillance and RIPA Policy Report No. LEG2503, be noted.

21. ANNUAL OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINT REVIEW LETTER 2025

The Committee considered the Monitoring Officer's Report No. CS251908, which summarised the outcomes and findings of the Annual Review Letter 2024/25 from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO).

It was noted that the LGSCO had received two complaints in respect of Rushmoor Borough Council. Both complaints were closed on the Ombudsman's initial enquiry.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the Committee note the Annual Review Letter; and
- (2) the Council commends officers on the continued improvement in services demonstrated by the lack of LGSCO involvement.

22. UPDATE ON APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

The Committee considered the Leader of the Council's Report No. DEM2507 which provided an update on the appointment of the Interim Managing Director and Head of Paid Service.

The Committee noted that, at its meeting on 10th April 2025, the Council approved the appointment of Ian Harrison as the Council's Interim Managing Director and Head of Paid Service for an initial period of six months with effect from 11th April 2025. At the same meeting, it was also agreed that the post of Corporate Manager – Legal Services be designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer for an initial period of six months from 11th April. The Committee were advised that as the initial period was ending, it was timely to review the position and agree the next steps.

Since April, there had been a significant demand on the Interim Managing Director to carry out work linked to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), particularly following the departure of the Assistant Chief Executive. In view of this, it had not yet been possible to complete the work to review the organisation's management structure, which was required as part of the initial period of the interim appointment, to ensure organisational alignment to deliver objectives in the Delivery Plan and the future requirements of LGR. The Report proposed that the Interim Managing Director would conclude their work to review the management structure over the next few months, which would also provide the basis for Group Leaders to collectively consider the permanent arrangements for the appointment of a Head of Paid Service for the Council. It was recommended that an extension be made to the appointment of the Interim Managing Director post to conclude the work on the management structure and ensure cover for the elections in 2026.

During discussion, questions were raised regarding the £11,094 additional cost. The Committee noted that the additional cost was related to the role of Interim Managing Director and Head of Paid Service but not the Corporate Manager – Legal Services role.

- (i) **RESOLVED** that the Committee approve an extension to Ian Harrison's appointment as Interim Managing Director and Head of Paid Service until the Annual Council Meeting in May 2026, or until alternative arrangements are agreed by the Council arising from the conclusion of work on the management restructure, if that is sooner;
- (ii) **RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL** that Ian Harrison, Interim Managing Director, continue to be designated as the Council's Head of Paid Service until the Annual Council Meeting in May 2026, or until alternative arrangements are agreed by the Council if that is sooner. The role to include the statutory responsibilities of Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer; and
- (iii) **RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL** that the post of Corporate Manager – Legal Services continue to be designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer until otherwise designated by the Council.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

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POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd July, 2025 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Abe Allen (Chairman)
Cllr Lisa Greenway (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr M.J. Roberts

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Rhian Jones, Cllr Halleh Koohestani, Cllr T.W. Mitchell, Cllr M.D. Smith and Cllr Ivan Whitmee.

Cllr Becky Williams attended the meeting as a Standing Deputy.

8. CHANGE OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Board **NOTED** the appointment of Cllr S.J. Masterson as a member of the Board in place of Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

9. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th June, 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION - CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS FOR UNITARY COUNCILLOR RATIOS AND WARDING PATTERNS AND ENGAGEMENT UPDATE (ITEM DURATION - 60 MINUTES)

The Board welcomed the Leader of the Council (Cllr Gareth Williams), Mrs Karen Edwards, Executive Director and Jill Shuttleworth, Corporate Manager – Democracy, who provided an update on recent work that had been undertaken in relation to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). In particular, this item was to consider options for Unitary Councillor ratios and warding patterns and their implications for Members. Also, an update on the LGR engagement process would be delivered, ahead of the submission to the Government in September, 2025.

The Board was advised that the devolution process had been progressing well, with the strategic authority due to be established in Spring 2026 and the inaugural Mayoral election taking place in May 2026. In relation to LGR, it was confirmed that the establishment of a Unitary Council covering the areas currently served by Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor Councils was the preferred option in

each of those areas. A number of governance groups across the three Councils had been meeting now for some time. These included a Leader Group, a Chief Executive Group and a S151 Group.

Regarding engagement, it was acknowledged that this was a confusing picture for residents, with a number of options within the preferred approach. A countywide public survey had been externally commissioned by the twelve (of fifteen) Councils that had continued working together with KPMG. There had also been engagement sessions with countywide partners such as the Police and the Integrated Care Boards. In North Hampshire, a more detailed and focussed public survey had been commissioned. There had also been partner workshops held in relation to sectors including businesses, town and parish councils, the voluntary and community sectors, public sector partners and faith groups. In Rushmoor, several engagement exercises were underway, including roadshows and static displays.

In terms of the timetable of key upcoming decision points, following submissions to the Government in September 2025, the decision of the Government was currently expected by March 2026. This was likely to lead to elections to shadow unitary authorities around May 2027 with new unitaries replacing existing councils in April 2028.

Members were informed of the need to consider the optimum ratio of Councillors to population for the proposed new unitary comprising the Basingstoke, Hart and Rushmoor areas. It was reported that there was a considerable range of ratios currently at Councils that had a similar total population to the proposed new authority. Within Hampshire, Rushmoor had the lowest number of residents per Councillor at 2,737, with Hart at 3,226 per Councillor and Basingstoke at 3,597. Overall, district councils in Hampshire averaged a ratio of 1:3,391, whilst the Hampshire unitaries averaged 1:4,731.

Another consideration would be the warding arrangements of the new authority. It was confirmed that the Boundary Commission would be unlikely to undertake a review before 2028. It was necessary to consider the optimum number of Councillors for the new council. It was confirmed that the total number of Councillors across the three North Hampshire authorities was currently 126. Given levels of representation in other Unitary councils and advice from the Boundary Commission it was considered that this number would have to reduce in the new unitary authority.

The Board was requested to consider the following in its discussions:

- What was the most appropriate Councillor ratio for the unitary configuration area (North Hampshire Authority), based on the population figures and therefore, also, the number of Councillors?
- Given the Government steer, what approach to area committees would best suit the proposed North Hampshire Unitary configuration?
- What were the implications of these arrangements on Members and how could future Councillors manage the enhanced role given to the likely increase in population served and extra demands?

- What did PPAB feel needed to be taken into account in terms of Member support, workload etc?

In discussing the content of the presentation, the Board raised the following points:

- A view was expressed that around 75-90 Councillors would be appropriate, around two thirds of the current number. This would result in increased workloads for Councillors.
- In coping with increased workloads, would new authority consider more daytime meetings? Or Councillors being considered full time positions?
- Point made that Councillor ratios and wards would be different under shadow authority and would be amended as a result of the Boundary Commission review.
- Broad consensus that around 85 the right number, possibly in two-Member wards.
- In answer to a question, it was confirmed that the three existing authorities would need to come to a consensus view on these matters in relation to the proposed new authority. It was reported that it was thought there was broad consensus between the three at this point.
- Must be careful to avoid 'democratic deficit' as a result in the reduction of the number of elected representatives and take steps to ensure that representation was both diverse and representative of local communities.
- Suggested we should only change member numbers in Rushmoor when instructed to by Boundary Commission.
- Confirmed that Basingstoke currently had 54 Councillors across 18 wards.
- Southampton Unitary allowance = £14K – not considered high enough to be considered a full time role.
- Felt that lower than two Members per ward would lead Members feeling unsupported.
- How can Councillors be supported with casework? Could there be a formal 'caseworking system'?
- Could the introduction of 'hybrid' decision-making meetings increase capacity for Councillors?
- Confirmed that ward changes would be likely to take some time – first elections would be using existing wards.

- In relation to Local Area Committees, the view was expressed that there could be just one that cover the whole of the Rushmoor area to avoid the establishment of 'silos'. An alternative view of at least two Area Committees to cover the Rushmoor area was expressed, possibly around Aldershot and Farnborough.

In summarising the Board's feedback on these matters, the Chairman made the following points:

- The Board agreed that given the guidance from the Boundary Commission the suggested figure of 85 for the number of Councillors on the new authority was about right, subject to concerns over the level of representation in areas with a high level of deprivation, as set out below;
 - Concern was expressed that the Member to resident ratio should take account of whether the area/ward has high levels of deprivation. This should be taken into account when considering ward changes.
 - Appropriate steps should be taken to ensure that future Councillors were properly supported including case management systems, training and development and working arrangements that would ensure that future representation was both diverse and representative of local communities.
- The Board's view on Area Committees, should they be established by the new authority, was that there should be two or more covering the current council area.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Williams, Mrs Edwards and Ms Shuttleworth for their input.

11. **IMPLICATIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENT ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE EQUALITY ACT (ITEM DURATION - 30 MINUTES)**

In introducing this item, the Chair explained that he had been advised by the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer that the publication of statutory guidance had been delayed. This delay, along with the need to give full attention to the Local Government Reorganisation agenda item, had led to the Interim Monitoring Officer recommending that this item should be deferred to a later date.

The Board **RESOLVED** that the agenda item on the implications of the Supreme Court judgement on the interpretation of the Equality Act be deferred.

12. **WORK PLAN**

The Board noted the current Work Plan.

It was agreed that future items would be based around the Council's Delivery Plan and would be discussed in detail at the next Progress Group meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Thursday, 31st July, 2025 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Halleh Koohestani (Chairman)
Cllr Nadia Martin (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Leola Card
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr S. Trussler
Cllr Becky Williams

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr M.J. Tennant.

6. APPOINTMENTS

The Committee NOTED changes to the Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year, as set out below:

- Cllr C.P. Grattan to be appointed to the Committee in place of Cllr Abe Allen
- Cllr Dhan Sarki to be appointed as Standing Deputy for the Committee in place of Cllr C.P. Grattan

7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

8. HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION STRATEGY 2023-27

The Committee welcomed Mrs Zoe Paine, Strategy and Enabling Manager, and Mr Jermiane Pinto, Housing Options Manager, who were in attendance to provide an update on the Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2023-27 as set out in Report No. PG2524. Cllr Keith Dibble, Housing and Planning Portfolio Holder, was also in attendance to answer Members' questions.

It was noted that the Strategy, adopted by the Council in 2023, was an overarching way to deal with all housing matters. The Strategy supported the Council's Homes for All priority and set out the approach to, housing delivery, homelessness prevention, and housing standards. The Committee were advised of the statutory duty to have a homelessness strategy and the good practice of having a published

strategic approach to housing matters, to help underpin the operational work of the service.

The Strategy covered three themes, these included:

- Theme 1 – increasing the supply of good quality homes for residents and prospective residents for every stage of life
- Theme 2 – support residents to access affordable, well managed and maintained housing in the private and social sectors
- Theme 3- work proactively to improve the condition and energy efficiency of housing in the Borough

A progress report was provided on each theme, which included:

- Theme 1-
 - housing demand – 1,964 families were currently on the Homefinder list looking for a variety of different types of accommodation at affordable rents
 - officers were now sourcing private rented housing market data from local agents to help better assess local demand
 - £2billion was to be made available through planning reform and Government capital funding via the Social and Affordable Homes Programme (SAHP) aimed at helping deliver more homes – 60% of which would be social housing
 - introduction of new rent regimes for Registered Providers (RPs) and low interest loans
 - 94 homes had been delivered in the last financial year with a further 236 to be delivered by April 2026
 - work was ongoing towards securing developments that would deliver affordable homes via S106 sites and with RPs to secure funding for non S106 sites – for example £7.5million had been secured for use on the Wellesley development for social and affordable rent properties
 - work was underway towards securing pathways for supported accommodation for street homeless individuals and safe temporary accommodation for homeless households to reduce the need to utilise bed and breakfast accommodation
- Theme 2 –
 - the Council had achieved above the national average for homelessness prevention at 77.9% against 51.9% nationally
 - specialist staff had been recruited, including a domestic abuse worker and private rent and accommodation officer
 - the Communications team had a programme of work to engage with specific groups at risk of homelessness, this included addressing severe weather controls
 - work was underway with charities and faith groups to share expertise and enhance services to achieve positive outcomes
 - training was being provided to Members to inform how systems worked to assist with casework

- work was underway with the Registered Providers Group (RPG) and Hampshire County Council (HCC) on Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)
 - upgrades to the Abritas system had been made to allow direct messaging for quicker access, secure document downloading, self-serve options to reduce barriers and a mobile friendly design
- Theme 3-
 - regulatory and enforcement work continued to ensure good standards of housing, this was done through the RPG, Housing Regulator and Housing Ombudsman. In addition, the Council were a member of the Warmer Homes Consortium and promoted the Home Upgrade Grant
 - measures were being taken to ensure staff resource focussed on housing standards
 - development of effective communication to residents and landlords regarding the support and advice available

It was also reported that further changes were imminent, these included tenancy reforms to the Renters Right Act, new statutory duties for the Council in relation to the Supported Housing Act and reforms to the Decent Homes Standards (DHS) and Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for social and affordable homes. It was also expected that Local Government Reorganisation would have an impact on the housing service.

In response to a query regarding DHS and MEES, and how noncompliance could affect residents, it was advised that the proposed reforms were currently in the consultation stages and work would have to be undertaken with the ombudsman and regulators to deal with any implications following any implementation of the proposed standards.

In response to a question regarding how the demand for social housing would be met, the Portfolio Holder advised that meetings were being arranged with the top five-ten Registered Providers, operating in the Borough, to enhance partnership working. Pockets of land potentially available for social housing development in the future included the Civic Quarter, Farnborough, a number of brownfield sites and some military land. The Committee discussed the Local Plan and how that had the opportunity to influence and meet the needs of local residents. The need for more bungalows was noted and it was advised that the Council were working with Rushmoor Accessibility Action Group (RAAG) and others, to best address this issue, taking account of land values, single storey properties were not a priority for developers. The Committee commented that the “pepper pot” approach, where social housing was scattered amongst private properties on developments, and how this helped sustain people’s feelings of being part of the community. In response to a query around demand for houses by age group, it was reported that the average age group was those in their mid-40s. Further data would be sought and shared via the Committee’s Action Tracker.

During a discussion regarding temporary accommodation, the Portfolio Holder advised that work was underway with a partner who purchased larger homes and converted them into Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO). There was also potential

for them to purchase existing HMO's and upgrade them to rent out. In response to a question, it was noted that there were currently only two-three individuals housed in hotels outside the Borough, two-three homeless people across the Borough and a high number of street attached. During April – June 2025, 78% of 91 cases of those at risk of homelessness had been prevented.

The Committee discussed shared ownership and were advised that there was good demand for this type of property, in particular two bed properties. Specific data was requested on the interest/take up of shared ownership, and this would be provide through the Committee's Action Tracker. It was noted that people looking for shared ownership properties could apply anywhere in the country and not just within Rushmoor. It response to a query regarding veterans and military personnel it was noted that these individuals took priority on shared ownership properties, if the individual had a local connection.

With regards to adaptations to properties, it was advised that this was the responsibility of HCC. Enquiries were referred to Occupational Therapy (OT) via HCC and it was thought that currently waiting lists were long. It was noted that individuals were able to use private OTs to expedite the process.

During a discussion on how the building of new homes could be quicker, it was advised that the Council had limited influence over private developers, however, it was reported that the requirements around Homes England funded developments was much stricter, and monies could be lost if developers failed to meet set timescales. SANG allocations could also be withdrawn if developers failed to develop to certain timescales.

The Committee discussed the 82 units at Union Yard, Aldershot, that had been allocated for key workers. It was noted that arrangements were in place with the provider and Frimley NHS Trust to ensure key workers and critical members of staff had access to the accommodation. It was also advised that there would be onsite management for the units and strong working links would be established with Frimley NHS Trust Human Resources teams to ensure standards were maintained.

| What | By Whom | When |
|---|--|-------------|
| Data to be share on interest/take up of shared ownership | Zoe Paine, Strategy and Enabling Officer | August 2025 |
| Data on demand for housing by age group | Jermaine Pinto, Housing Options Manager | August 2025 |
| Data to be provided on take up of the Warmer Homes scheme | Jermaine Pinto, Housing Options Manager | August 2025 |

The Chair thanked the Portfolio Holder, Mrs Paine and Mr Pinto for their contribution to the meeting.

9. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee noted the current Work Plan.

It was noted that a Special Meeting of the Committee had been scheduled for 4th September to carry out pre decision scrutiny on the Council's response to Local Government Reorganisation prior to Cabinet on 16th September and the Full Council Meeting on 25th September, 2025. The Progress Group would follow up on this at their meeting on 13th August, 2025.

It was advised that the Police and Community Safety Team would be in attendance at the Meeting on 18th September, 2025. The Progress Group would scope the item at its meeting on 13th August, 2025.

The potential future items would also be considered at the Progress Group meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.52 pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Thursday, 4th September, 2025 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Halleh Koohestani (Chairman)
Cllr M.J. Tennant (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr S. Trussler

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Leola Card, Cllr Nadia Martin and Cllr Becky Williams

10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31st July 2025 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of some additional wording (***in bold italic***) relating to Union Yard, Aldershot, as agreed with Cllr Trussler and the Portfolio Holder and set out below:

“The Committee discussed the 82 units at Union Yard, Aldershot, that had been allocated for key workers ***for which contract negotiations were still ongoing***. It was noted that arrangements were in place with the provider and Frimley NHS Trust to ensure key workers and critical members of staff had access to the accommodation. ***In addition, it was advised that, a condition of the award of contract had been that all staff housed at Union Yard would work primarily at Frimley Park Hospital.***”

It was also advised that ***a condition of the award of contract*** had been that there would be ***an Estate Officer, employed by the registered provider, permanently located at the site to manage the 82 units, this individual would have strong links with Human Resources (HR) at Frimley Park Hospital (FPH) to manage any matters arising. The Portfolio Holder advised that he was confident that that all the checks and balances were in place to deal with the Committees’ concerns and it was confirmed that once the deal had been completed the Committee would be provided with the detail of the contract documentation.***”

11. APPOINTMENTS

The Committee **NOTED** changes to the Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year, as set out below:

- Cllr Rhian Jones to be appointed to the Committee in place of Cllr Thomas Day
- Cllr M.J. Roberts to be appointed as Standing Deputy for the Committee in place of Cllr Sarah Spall

The Committee **DEFERRED** the appointment to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Progress Group pending changes to the membership of the Committee to secure political balance.

12. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

The Committee welcomed Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council and Mrs Karen Edwards, Executive Director, who were in attendance to provide an update on the development of the Council's proposal for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) as set out in Report No. ED2505.

Members were reminded that the proposal would set out how a single tier of local government could be established across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. At its meeting in July, 2025, the Cabinet had recommended to the Council that a unitary council based on the areas of Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke and Deane councils should continue to be the preferred option for Rushmoor as, in line with the assessment criteria, it represented the best balance of a Council large enough to deliver high quality services and value for money but small enough to be connected to the place and needs of the people the council served. At its meeting on 10th July, the Council had agreed that recommendation and had noted the programme of engagement being undertaken to ensure that all residents, businesses and partners had had an opportunity to feed into the process. KPMG had continued to support twelve Councils across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to prepare the necessary evidence base and support the development of a business case to enable final proposals to be agreed and submitted to the Government. The Report also set out the arrangements for engagement with residents, businesses, partners and voluntary organisations. This engagement had included seeking residents' views on the establishment of parish councils and/or Neighbourhood Area Committees, as part of a Community Governance Review.

The Report set out the three options that were contained within the draft proposal as Options 1, 2 and 3. In each of these, the preference for the north of the county was a unitary council based on the areas of Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke and Deane councils.

In discussing the content of the presentation, the Committee raised the following points:

- Clarification of some of the language used in the six criteria would be helpful, eg 'stronger' in Criteria 6 and 'financial shocks' in Criteria 2

- It was clarified that this Report was only dealing with the three options drawn up by the twelve authorities with KPMG, not Hampshire County Council's preferred options
- Projections showed that the costs of the LGR process would be recovered within the first 2-3 years of operation but this was felt to be optimistic
- Concern expressed over the robustness of the sign off of the KPMG work
- Several Members expressed the feeling that not enough financial detail had been included in relation to the thirteen councils being merged into four, including which had considerable deficits etc.
- Do we sufficiently understand what the County Council currently does and how this will be provided in the new model?
- View expressed that work by KPMG was almost all based on assumptions – viability of Council Tax Base, how social care would be handled and spending on key services before and after reorganisation were all missing
- Suggestion that the Council should write to the Government to seek a guarantee that it would cover any shortfall in funding for the LGR process
- Members were keen to see details of where savings were envisaged to be delivered under the new model
- In setting the number of Councillors in the new authority at around 85, this would mean that local residents might be less well represented than at present

In summarising the Committee's feedback on these matters, the Chair proposed the following representations should be made to the Cabinet:

- The Committee did not feel that the proposal fully met all of the criteria, in particular;
 - Concerns that the financial information was not sufficiently detailed. Specifically, that the financial information was not broken down by the current authority areas or the proposed new unitary areas and that too much of the financial case relied on assumptions
 - In relation to the proposed changes in Councillor representation, whilst acknowledging that the proposal fitted within the parameters set by the Government and the Boundary Commission, the Committee was concerned that there would be a loss of local connection and empowerment and that future arrangements should ensure that a diverse range of councillors would be possible

- Given the known situation relating to local government funding, regardless of local government structures, funding needed to be reviewed before any LGR took place to address this and that a letter should be sent to the Government highlighting this.

The Committee **AGREED** the above as being an accurate summary of the consensus view of Members on the Committee.

The Chair thanked Cllr Williams and Mrs Edwards for their input.

13. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee noted the current Work Plan.

With the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee due to be held on 18th September, 2025, it was agreed that potential future items would be considered at the following Progress Group meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.09 pm.

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Report of the meeting held on Wednesday, 17th September, 2025 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Abe Allen (Chairman)
Cllr Lisa Greenway (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr T.W. Mitchell
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr Dhan Sarki

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Ivan Whitmee.

13. CHANGE OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Board **NOTED**

- i) the appointment of Cllr Thomas Day as a member of the Board in place of Cllr M.D. Smith for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year;
- ii) the appointment of Cllr Dhan Sarki as a member of the Board in place of Cllr Rhian Jones for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year; and
- iii) the appointments of Cllrs Gaynor Austin and G.B. Lyon as Standing Deputies to the Board for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

14. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July, 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

15. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The Board welcomed Mrs Karen Edwards, Executive Director and Mr Alex Shiell, Service Manager – Policy, Strategy and Transformation, who provided an update on the recent consultation exercise that had been carried out in respect of the Community Governance Review (CGR).

The Board was advised that 412 local residents had provided an individual response to the survey. There was broad support for the view that parish councils or

neighbourhood area committees in the Rushmoor area would help to make sure that local communities would have their views heard and be able to influence what happened in the local area. This view was particularly strongly held by Aldershot residents and less so by residents in Farnborough. Respondents expressed a preference for parish councils over neighbourhood area committees but concern was expressed over additional costs/precepts. The most common response in terms of what area a parish should cover was around the Boroughs two towns, Aldershot and Farnborough. Other areas were mentioned also, including North Camp/South Farnborough, Cove, Hawley and Southwood. The majority of residents only wanted this additional layer of local government if there was no increase to council tax bills. The Board was asked to express a view as to whether the Council should proceed to a second round Corporate Governance Review consultation.

In discussing the content of the presentation, the Board raised the following points:

- A view was expressed that, if progressing to a second round, residents should be asked what range of activities any parish council should undertake.
- It was confirmed that it would be for the new parish council to develop its own objectives – these could not be imposed on them.
- Need to make an effort to ensure residents understand how Neighbourhood Area Committees would work so that a reasonable comparison can be made between these and parish councils.
- We should give resident indicative figures as to what a parish council might cost.
- We need to protect and safeguard the assets we currently have.
- We should use plain english, such as 'additional cost to your council tax' as opposed to 'precept'.
- Can social media be used to get message across?
- How do we deal with 'hard to reach' groups such as young people, ethnic minorities and digitally excluded?
- Significant cost associated with door knock survey – considered elected members would have a role to play in this area.
- Could churches and Garrison Radio be good outlets for getting message out?
- Considered that a parish council covering the entire Aldershot and Farnborough area would be unusual.

In summarising the Board's feedback on these matters, the Chairman made the following points:

- Support the recommendation to proceed to a second-round Corporate Governance Review consultation
- Reiterate that clear, concise and easy to understand information should be provided to residents alongside the consultation to enable them to make an informed decision, such as:
 - a comparison of the differences between parish councils and neighbourhood area committees
 - a demonstration of the cost-benefit of different combinations of precepts, assets and services
- Suggest that action is taken to improve the response rate, particularly amongst under-represented groups (younger people and the Nepali community, such as:
 - an enhanced communications campaign across digital channels and in person events
 - engagement of local partner and community groups.
- Encourage all councillors to promote the consultation to their communities.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Edwards and Mr Shiell for their input.

16. **PERMITTING SCHEME FOR AUTOMATED PASSENGER SERVICE CONSULTATION**

The Board welcomed Ms Rachael Howes, Licensing Officer, who provided a presentation on the Government's consultation on driverless passenger vehicles.

The Board was advised that the Government had passed the Automated Vehicles Act 2024, which had set the framework for self-driving vehicles to be used commercially by the late 2020s. The law would allow for licensed operators (companies not individuals) to run automated taxis and private hire services. The Department for Transport was carrying out a consultation that sought views on the proposed automated services to support the deployment of commercial self-driving pilots and the Portfolio Holder had asked the Board to give its views to be incorporated in the Council's response. It was proposed that these pilots would start around spring 2026 with wider deployment from 2027. Local licensing authorities would be responsible for granting consent for taxi/private hire vehicle-like services before the Government, via the DVSA, would issue a permit for an Automated Passenger Service (APS). When deciding whether to give consent, an authority would consider local policy issues, such as local taxi licensing standards and policies, local transport integration and passenger safety and safeguarding expectations.

In discussing the content of the presentation, the Board raised the following points:

- Need to be aware of the danger of APS operators working over a wide area – how should the Council support its local businesses?
- With pilots not starting until later this year, there was no data at present on accident rates etc.
- How would passengers needing physical support be dealt with in this situation?
- How would passengers be safeguarded from being followed by unwanted parties?
- What would the procedure be if the vehicle was involved in an accident?
- Need to make sure fare information is transparent.
- With cameras in vehicles, where would the images and data be stored and who would have access to this – a safeguarding/GDPR concern?
- In administering APS in future, the Council should seek to do this on a cost-recovery basis.
- The view was expressed that being amongst the first to adopt APS in the Borough could bring benefits to the local economy.

In summarising the Board's feedback on these matters, the Chairman set out the Board's recommendations to the Portfolio Holder to facilitate the completion of the APS consultation document as follows:

In your view, what information are taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) licensing authorities likely to consider most relevant when determining whether to grant approval or authorisation?

The licensing authority already has stringent policies in place for Taxi/PHV licensing, these should be applied for any operators, drivers / anyone who will be present in the vehicle and vehicles with adaptations where necessary to account for the automation. This will ensure consistency, and fairness of operation with the conventional taxi companies already operating in our Borough. In addition, the Board would want to see:

- Information about how the controlling mechanisms are applied to the vehicle (to understand the likelihood of their being any issues)
- Information about what level of testing has taken place for the vehicles
- What will the operator put in place for disabled passengers who need support
- Details of how the operator will ensure the cleanliness of the vehicle between passengers

- Emergency procedures for system failure, accidents, incidents or a passenger feeling unsafe
- Information on how fares will be calculated
- What level of automation the vehicles will have
- Proposed locations, times of operation, restrictions to operating e.g. in inclement weather
- Information about the safety mechanisms in place in the vehicle e.g. CCTV
- GDPR Policy and information about what data will be captured about passengers
- Levels of insurance, indemnity, liabilities

The Board would like to see operators applying for permits demonstrate that their business operation (not just their vehicles) will be situated in our Borough, therefore providing jobs and boosting our local economy – this could be a condition of any consent, or consideration being given to a jobs guarantee.

Consideration should also be given to what we can learn from other areas where automated vehicles are used e.g. Europe, USA, and UK for driverless cars not used as taxis, and whether there are any specific issues that should be addressed.

Whether we have the infrastructure in place for the proposed operation.

What information would you expect to see published by permit holders on the safeguarding of passengers?

- Information that is required by the licensing authorities policy for operators of PHVs/Taxis
- Information for passengers as to how they can get support if needed, request alternative vehicle, make complaints (contact details)
- What passengers should do in the event of a system failure, emergency or where they are concerned for their safety
- Information on how fares are calculated
- Information about safety features e.g. CCTV
- GDPR Policy
- Levels of insurance, indemnity, liabilities

General Comments

Generally, the Board was supportive of allowing automated passenger services, provided that it would be well regulated and the relevant safety measures are in place to protect passengers, other road users and residents. They eliminate human error but there needs to be appropriate safeguards in place in the event that the technology fails. There needs to be an even playing field for these operators and the current taxi companies, to enable fair competition and consistency in safeguarding passengers.

Any pilot should have a scope and limits and take place at a time where there is likely to be a lesser impact if there are issues e.g. not during the Farnborough Airshow, however the Board recognises that once pilots are over, an automated passenger service when embedded and working would be good for the local economy and would support the airport and large events that take place in the Borough.

Statutory guidance must be clear and fit for purpose.

The Chairman thanked Ms Howes for her input.

17. WORK PLAN

The Board noted the current Work Plan.

It was agreed that items to be included in the Plan would be discussed at the next Progress Group meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.39 pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Thursday, 18th September, 2025 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Halleh Koohestani (Chairman)
Cllr Nadia Martin (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr M.J. Tennant (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Leola Card
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr S. Trussler
Cllr Becky Williams

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr G.B. Lyon.

Cllr Mara Makunura attending the meeting as Standing Deputy.

14. POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Committee welcomed Chief Inspector Gillian Cox, Hampshire Police and the Council's Community Safety Manager, David Lipscombe who were in attendance to report on current issues, challenges and positive news stories within the policing and community safety sector. Also in attendance was the Portfolio Holder for Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Christine Guinness.

The Chief Inspector (CI) gave her presentation which provided an overview of the past 12 months. It was noted that CI Cox's would be moving on to a new role the following week and the new Chief Inspector would be Alex Reading. Alex was an experienced officer in district policing and had chosen to get back to operational policing in Rushmoor and Hart.

The past year had been very busy, with a reduction in crimes recorded against the previous year. There had, however, been an increase in shop lifting over the year and initiatives had been introduced to help reduce the number of incidents. In addition, a decrease in drug offenses had been recorded and it was advised that robust measures were in place to deal with weapon and knife crime.

CI Cox reported on anti-social behaviour (ASB) data. It was noted that there had been a decrease in incidents of ASB in the past twelve months with 451 incidents reported against 470 in the previous year. The data was monitored monthly and considerable work had been undertaken, particularly in Farnborough town centre where there had been a resurgence of incidents, to address ASB. The Committee

discussed the different types of ASB activity and noted that these could vary widely. The Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) were a good tool for tackling ASB and continued to be used as required. It was noted that there were currently 13 individuals with a CBO and seven individuals were in prison as a result of a breach of their CBO.

The Committee noted that Operation Sentinel, a Home Office led initiative tackling serious violence hotspots, operated in both town centres. Officers were required to patrol specific areas at set periods and had achieved 96% compliance with these requirements only missing 10 planned patrols. However, it was reported that an additional 1,422 unplanned patrols had been undertaken across the two town centres over the past twelve months.

In relation to Formal Action Taken (FAT) outcomes on criminal activity, it was noted that the number had dropped on the previous year. Resources and demand were contributing factors to the drop and although it was felt that there were enough officers to meet daily demand, more officers would always be welcome – it was difficult to follow up on incidents when officers were continually being deployed to other reported incidents. It was however reported that average handling and response times had improved on both 999 and 101 calls.

The Committee discussed engagement, in particular the role of the Local Bobbys. It was noted that the Local Bobby, of which there were four across the whole Borough, was to be involved in the community by providing a police presence, attendance at community events and through work with local partners. It was noted that the Local Bobbys were not able to be deployed to incidents to ensure that they remained available to their communities at all times. Cops and Coffee event dates would be shared with the Community Safety Team to be shared with elected Members. Other forms of engagement included Hants Alert, Let's Talk, Facebook and the Independent Advisory Group (IAG). The IAG was a group made up from the community to review and act as a critical friends on all kinds of matters relating to the police. There was currently a recruitment drive for the IAG and Members were asked to help seek members of the community who may wish to get involved.

The Committee discussed different types of crimes and where they sat in the reporting lines, it was noted that it depended on the form of the crime where it sat, for example, malicious communications could come under the categories of harassment/cyber crime etc. It was advised that a tool was available, publicly, to search crime types by area.

In response to a query regarding cuckooing, it was noted that cuckooing, where vulnerable individuals were targeted by drug dealers to store and sell drugs, was categorised as a priority crime and was handled by a specific team with wider involvement from partners such as social services.

In relation to a question regarding staffing and deployment from other areas across the county, it was advised that staff worked a shift pattern of six days on, four days off, 365 days per year. Staff levels were maintained at a certain level and each area supported each other when levels dropped or extra emergency cover was required. Recruitment was challenging due to the geography of Rushmoor and Hart and

its close borders to Surrey and proximity to London. However, it was noted that a successful recruitment drive had been held at the Princes Hall, Aldershot, and it was hoped that another would be held in due course.

Mr. Lipscombe then provided his presentation on community safety matters which included the staffing structure and the working arrangements of the team. It was noted that the Team had a statutory duty to respond to crime, disorder and ASB under the Crime and Disorder Act. Early intervention methods were used to try and tackle these issues in the first instance, these methods included warning letters, home visits, education, and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. Management of the CCTV service also fell within the Teams' remit. Other areas covered included, the co-ordination of cases with partner agencies including, meeting coordination, case conferences etc., use of formal tools and powers for more serious cases e.g. Community Protection Notices / Warnings (CPN/W), Injunctions, Closures and Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO), and Antisocial Behaviour Case Reviews.

Other key areas included:

- Safeguarding lead for the Council – ensuring training and updates were provided to all staff and ensuring staff completed referrals when required
- Members of Hampshire PREVENT partnership, promoting awareness of PREVENT and sitting on the Channel Panel
- Part of Hampshire wide Violence Reduction Unit - to consider local picture and actions
- Coordination of NE Hants Domestic Abuse Forum with Hart District Council and responsible for considering applications for Domestic Homicide Reviews

The Committee were made aware of some of the facts and figures around daily work carried out by the Team, these included, 901 police 101 reports sent direct to the team to triage and follow up, 161 direct enquiries, 899 incidents recorded by the CCTV Control Room with 41 associated arrests, nine new referrals received from partners for the People meeting to consider, nine CPN/W issued, four Acceptable Behaviour Contracts with a further one pending sign-up, one Domestic Homicide review application considered and awaiting Home Office approval, and one Antisocial Behaviour Case Review carried out.

In addition to the day-to-day work, the Team had also undertaken a Think Safe project for year 6 pupils, at which 840 young people had been engaged with. A 60 camera CCTV replacement scheme had also been completed, which included three town centre CCTV cameras installed in Queensmead. Promotion of the DISC retailer system, continued detached youth work, a joint partnership cycling and e-scooter awareness campaign in Farnborough Town Centre, and promotion of ASB Awareness Week in July.

The Committee discussed the presentation and raised a point regarding the welfare of officers and the support in place to access help if required, it was noted that all staff had access to support and wellbeing services should they be needed.

In response to a query regarding closure orders, it was noted that closures could take place on any tenure of property, mortgaged or rented. Properties could be

closed for 3-6 months and issues which could cause a closure included cannabis use and noise nuisance.

In response to a discussion on the CCTV service, it was noted that there was no public access to CCTV camera footage, those with access easily obtained were the police, the Council and insurance companies. It was also noted that facial recognition and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) facilities were not available on the Council's cameras. The Committee noted that Aldershot had great coverage and the underserved areas in Farnborough were being addressed. The use of mobile cameras was costly and took time, especially if to be place on land not owned by the Council.

Other matters raised included, Farnborough town centre Sainsbury's, which was considered a hotspot, it was advised that CCTV coverage was good in the area and action was being taken to address the issues in this area. On the matter of street preachers, it was advised that complaints came from both the public and shop owners and mainly related to the volume and nature of the preaching – it was important to take account of the right of freedom of speech but also the impacts on those being subjected to it. Work was underway with faith leaders to discuss how the matter could be addressed, and a code of conduct was currently being developed for people to sign up to.

The Committee were made aware of the current concerns for the team, these included increasing numbers of cases relating to mental health and social care matters and the lack of partner resources to deal with them, ongoing community cohesion matters, ASB in Aldershot town centre – the problem had reduced since the children returned to school, but a number of young people were being worked with by the team and youth catapult issues.

The Chairman thank Chief Inspector Cox, Mr Lipscombe and Cllr Guinness for their presentation and contributions to the meeting.

15. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee noted the current Work Plan.

It was noted that the item on Community Engagement would be fully scoped at the next meeting of the Progress Group and that currently Serco were scheduled to attend the December meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.29 pm.
