



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, 4th December, 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 - 10)

To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 16th October 2025 (copy 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. **NOTICES OF MOTION –**

(1) Champion Roles

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

“This council notes that Cabinet Champion roles exist to support and promote key areas of importance to the Borough, and that these roles should operate in a way that best serves residents across the community.

This council further notes that the current arrangements for appointing Cabinet Champions are set out in the Constitution, and that these arrangements place the responsibility for appointments with the Leader of the Council. Council recognises that there is a desire among members for these roles to operate on a non-party-political basis, with transparent and cross-party appointment processes.

This council will therefore:

- (1) Commit to the principle that Cabinet Champion roles should be non-executive, non-political positions, open to all councillors, with appointments made by Full Council or the appropriate committee rather than by the Leader, and that the Constitution should be amended to reflect this.
- (2) Request that the Licensing and Corporate Business Committee urgently prepare the necessary constitutional amendments, including role descriptions and accountability arrangements, and bring these proposals to the next available meeting of Full Council.
- (3) Enable Full Council to vote on the revised arrangements for Cabinet Champion roles at the earliest opportunity.”

(2) Flags

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

“Within Rushmoor the national flag is currently being used for a political purpose, not for national pride.

This borough is the home of the British Army, and many who have risked their lives to defend the very values the flag represents are being let down by this misuse. Some have even made the ultimate sacrifice.

Many residents are distressed that the flags are being used in a manner that betrays what the flag stand for.

Therefore, this Council will recommend to Hampshire County Council to take action to remove the flags from the public highways as soon as possible. This would be a sign of respect for those who defend our country.”

(3) **Unattached Land**

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

“This Council resolves to write to the local Member of Parliament and to the Chancellor to raise concerns regarding the management and maintenance of unattached land, and to request appropriate support and guidance.

This Council also resolves that the Policy and Project Advisory Board be requested to consider, and report to Cabinet on:

- the feasibility and associated costs of undertaking an urgent review of all parcels of unattached or unregistered land within the Borough, in order to confirm the appropriate owners and clarify responsibility for their maintenance
- the extent of emergency works needed to address neglected areas, and the funding requirements for this
- the projected costs, resource implications, and legal considerations of the Council assuming ongoing responsibility for maintaining such areas on a permanent basis
- proposals for the establishment of a formal working partnership with Crown land authorities, Hampshire County Council, and other relevant bodies including, where appropriate, Rushmoor agencies to coordinate land management and ensure clarity of ownership and responsibility.”

5. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET –**

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

6. **REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES – (Pages 11 - 26)**

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

Cabinet	14th October 2025
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Committees

Development Management	8th October 2025
Licensing and Corporate Business	21st October 2025
Development Management	19th November 2025

7. **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD – (Pages 27 - 36)**

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

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	23rd October 2025
Policy and Project Advisory Board	18th November 2025

Council Offices
Farnborough
Hampshire GU14 7JU

IAN HARRISON
Managing Director

Wednesday 26 November 2025

BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 16th October, 2025 at 7.00 pm.

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

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Leola Card
Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Julie Hall
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr Nadia Martin
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr Sarah Spall
Cllr M.J. Tennant
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Cllr Abe Allen
Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr Jules Crossley
Cllr Keith Dibble
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Christine Guinness
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr T.W. Mitchell
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr M.D. Smith
Cllr P.G. Taylor
Cllr S. Trussler
Cllr Gareth Williams

Honorary Alderman Diane Bedford
Honorary Alderman Terry Bridgeman

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr A.H. Gani, Cllr Steve Harden, Cllr Dhan Sarki, Cllr Ivan Whitmee and Cllr Becky Williams.

20. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 10th July 2025 and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 25th September 2025 (copies having been circulated previously), be taken as read, approved and signed as a correct record.

21. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor's Award for Service to the Community – Valerie Jenner

The Mayor advised that this was the first award of the newly reintroduced Mayor's Award for Service to the Community. The aim of the Award was to recognise people who went above and beyond for others and who had made a difference within the Rushmoor community over a period of time. It gave him great pleasure to announce

that the recipient of the first Award was Mrs Valerie Jenner. The Mayor welcomed Valerie Jenner to the Council Chamber, along with Roz Chadd, who had submitted the nomination.

Ms Chadd spoke to applaud Valerie for the significant contribution that she had made to Farnborough Girl Guiding over the past 37 years as a Brown Owl. Valerie had not only attended weekly meetings but had also given her time to help at many other guiding events over the years. Girl guiding cultivated values including friendship, care, kindness and consideration for others, and Valerie had helped to foster these values and empower young girls to challenge themselves. She had touched hundreds of lives over the past 37 years and was a well deserving recipient of the Award.

The Mayor agreed that Valerie had helped many young people to grow in confidence and self-belief, shaping a generation through her years of service to girl guiding.

Valerie responded with words of thanks and reflected on the past 37 years with girl guiding. She spoke of the positive impact it had had, not only for the young people, but also for herself. She was pleased for the opportunities it had opened. She took great pride in caring for the “most precious possessions” of families in the community.

Following the presentation of the Award, the Mayor congratulated Valerie and thanked her on behalf of the Council for everything she had done, and continued to do, within the community.

Mayor’s Announcements

The Mayor placed on record the Council’s condolences following the announcement, made by Buckingham Palace on 5th September, of the death of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent.

The Mayor advised that Honorary Alderman John Marsh had recently taken ill and was currently recovering in hospital. He was improving slowly, and the Council’s thoughts and best wishes were with John and his family.

The Mayor expressed his sadness that John Kavanagh, one of the Borough’s last D-Day veterans, had passed away earlier in the month. John had joined the Council’s Beacon Lighting events held to mark the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day this year, and the Council’s thoughts were with John’s family at this sad time.

The Mayor reported upcoming dates for the diary, including Remembrance Sunday on 9th November. Should any Members wish to lay a wreath at one of the Remembrance Day events they were asked to contact the Mayor’s Office. A quiz night would be held on 6th February, 2026, to help raise funds to support initiatives for Alderwood School.

22. QUESTIONS

(1) Standing Order 8 – Questions

The Mayor reported that no urgent questions had been submitted under Standing Order 8 (3).

(2) Public Questions

Further to the new scheme for public questions at full Council meetings, the questions that had been accepted had been circulated to Members in advance. Each question was received as set out below, and the Mayor invited a response to each in turn:

- (1) W. Doody – Cove and Southwood Ward - **Rushmoor Pension Fund ESG Investment** - I've looked through the Hampshire Pension Fund's 2023/24 Annual Report and its Responsible Investment policy but can't find any clear breakdown showing how much of Rushmoor's pension contributions are invested under ESG or 'responsible investment' criteria. Given that ESG investment appetite is possibly now wavering, can you please disclose, for the record, how much of Rushmoor's share is currently invested in ESG linked companies or funds, which organisations those investments are with, how long those commitments last, and under whose oversight this was approved?

Cllr Gaynor Austin, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources advised that the information was technical by its nature, and the question had been referred to the Hampshire Pensions Fund for consideration. The response would be published as soon as it had been received.

- (2) G. Bailey – Cherrywood Ward – **Event Spend** - Could the council please advise the public on how much was spent by the council on the following in 2024/25?

- 1) The Pride Parade
- 2) The Rushmoor Eco Festival
- 3) The Rushmoor cultural day

Cllr Sophie Porter, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities and Active Lives, advised that £1,147 had been spent on the Pride Parade, £1,500 on the Rushmoor Eco Festival and £0 on the Rushmoor Cultural Day.

- (3) M. Goodacre – Manor Park Ward - **Flags** - Flags are now being put up in front of people's houses and windows. Where will it end? Please confirm what steps the Council is taking to limit the number of flags per road.

Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council, advised that he noted, with concern, reported incidents where residents have been harassed and filmed when asking not to have flags outside their own property, and even council staff placing Remembrance poppies had been questioned. It was clear that, for some, the installation of the flags went beyond simple patriotism and had become an opportunity to intimidate and bully those whose opinions differ from their own, thus removing their voice.

The flags were almost all attached to lamp columns and street furniture owned by Hampshire County Council, and Rushmoor had no power to remove them, even if they have been attached without seeking permission from the owner.

The Council was in discussion with Hampshire to ascertain their position on the matter, but residents could write directly to their County Councillor or contact Hampshire County Council directly, via their website, to request the removal of any objects they believe to be dangerous or threatening. Incidents of threats or intimidation should be reported to the police.

- (4) J. Peckham – Cherrywood Ward – **Unpaid Council Tax** – What is the current sum outstanding in unpaid Council Tax, and what are the council doing to recover the debt and at what further cost to the local taxpayer?

Cllr Gaynor Austin, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, advised that for the full Council Tax year of 2024/25 the Council issued bills totalling £70.4m. During that year just short of £69m had been paid, leaving £1.5m outstanding at 31st March 2025. This represented a payment rate of 98%. This was a similar rate of payment to previous years. The Council had continued to work with those residents who still owed money, taking Court action where appropriate. Council Tax that remained outstanding from earlier years currently amounted to £5.3m. The cost to collect the Council Tax each year was around £308k at the current year's value.

- (5) V. Graham-Green – Cove and Southwood Ward – **Walk this Waste** - Could the Leader of the Council please state what evaluation has taken place of the 'Walk this Waste Skips' pilot and what were the results on the success or failure of the pilot. Further could he make public the full cost including officer time of the pilot compared with the original costings including officer time and whether fly tipping has been reduced as a result of it."

Cllr Christine Guinness, Portfolio holder for Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services, advised that the Walk this Waste trials had been a fantastic success. While the main aim had been to see if the initiative could reduce fly-tipping, the real achievement had been the incredible amount of bulky waste collected and the excellent response from residents. Across the nine events, 8 tonnes of bulky household items had been collected from 178 residents — a huge amount of waste that might otherwise have been left around properties or fly-tipped.

The trials cost around £5,700 to run, and every pound was well spent on helping residents dispose of their unwanted items responsibly, keeping our neighbourhoods cleaner and tidier.

She stated that the feedback had been amazing. Residents told us how much they appreciated the service, how easy it was to use, and how friendly and helpful the staff were. Social media posts reached thousands of people, with some of the highest engagement we've ever had and so many positive comments about how much residents loved the trial.

Even though the data didn't show a direct reduction in fly-tipping, the trials clearly made a positive difference in our communities — helping people take pride in their local areas, promoting responsible disposal, and showing that there's real enthusiasm for this kind of community-focused service.

- (6) K. Lynch – Resident of North Town – **Community Cohesion Fund** – Can I ask the council what became of the £50k allocated purely to facilitate the voices of those in the Rushmoor community that felt they were (are) unheard? Where was this money spent? Who spent it, who received it and what for? Is there any left, how much and where is that destined?

Cllr Sophie Porter, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities and Active Lives, advised that in August 2024, councillors had agreed to work together to address residents' concerns arising from increased community tensions. A budget of £50,000 was approved to support this work, with expenditure overseen and agreed by a cross-party working group.

The Group unanimously agreed to commission the Belong Network to deliver a programme of activities and support. Over the past year, the Council has worked in partnership with Belong to deliver a range of initiatives, including the facilitation of community events and meetings known as Rushmoor Voices, the delivery of workshops and training sessions for community groups and leaders, and support and expertise to consider the development of a Council cohesion plan.

To date, £32,300 of the £50,000 allocation has been spent. The remaining £17,700 would be utilised over the next year to build on Rushmoor Voices and facilitate and deliver local community place meetings for residents, aimed at continuing to build cohesion and strengthen communities.

- (7) G. Olivier – Wellington Ward – **Homeless People** – Why does the Council fail to remove homeless people that are sleeping in military estates, in areas where small children regularly play. I reported an incident earlier this year and all the Council did was leave a note and water in the tent. Why not remove the belongings and then leave a note saying if you want your stuff back come and get it? By not taking decisive action, you are prioritising an adult drug users rights above the safety of our children.

Cllr Keith Dibble, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning, advised that the Council had a statutory duty to support individuals who are homeless. The Council's outreach team worked proactively to engage with people sleeping rough, offering support and encouraging them to come off the streets. If someone was not present during a visit, we leave a calling card with contact details, so they know how to reach us. In hot weather, we may also leave bottled water to help safeguard their wellbeing. Where tents or personal belongings are placed on military land or private property, it is the responsibility of the landowner to decide whether and how to address their removal.

Anti-social behaviour, including drug use, was a matter for the police. However, we work closely with the police and other partner agencies to respond to street homelessness and any associated issues in a coordinated and compassionate way.

- (8) P. Crerar – Manor Park Ward – **Local Government Reorganisation** – Please can the Council confirm why Rushmoor residents were never consulted on whether they did or did not want Rushmoor Borough Council abolished? We have been given absolutely no say in this issue when so many residents are strongly against losing our local council.

Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council, responded that the reasoning was the same that the Conservative Government under Margaret Thatcher applied when abolishing the Greater London Council without consulting London residents, i.e. the structures of local government are delegated from Parliament and cannot be decided by a minority of subjects who wish to assert their independence.

Cllr Williams stated that the Council had been asked to submit a proposal for new unitary councils, not whether it agreed with the policy, adding that the alternative to engaging with the process would have been to accept the Conservative-led County Council proposal to merge Rushmoor with a group of 5 councils and create an authority stretching almost to the South Coast. Residents have had the opportunity to have their say on the Council's proposals by responding to our surveys, and the government would consult further on this later in the year.

- (9) D. Fowdar – Knellwood Ward – **Asylum Hotel** – What about that Migration Hotel in Farnborough, are they still going to be used, or closed down gradually? Where will the migrants move to?

Cllr Gareth Williams Leader of the Council, advised that Rushmoor currently had one contingency hotel within the Borough, operated by the Home Office. While the Government had committed to reducing its reliance on hotels for accommodating asylum seekers, the Council had not yet received confirmation regarding the future closure or timeline for this facility.

- (10) S. Kavanagh – Manor Park Ward – **Housing** – As a military town, can you tell us how many homeless veterans have been housed and for comparison can you tell us the number of asylum seekers that have been housed in social housing

Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council, advised that the Council records information on veterans applying for housing; however, the data was not considered robust. This was because it relied on applicants voluntarily stating their veteran status on the housing application form, and the field was not mandatory. In many cases, individuals applied for housing years after leaving the armed forces and may not disclose their service background. As a result, the data may underrepresent the actual number of veterans seeking housing support.

The Council did not record the number of asylum seekers rehoused into social housing. However, data was collected on applicants rehoused by ethnicity.

Approaches for rehousing from contingency hotels were low, as most individuals were single and, once granted the legal right to remain, often relocated to join family or established communities in other areas, typically London or other major cities.

When asylum seekers approach the Council for housing advice and assistance, they are assessed in the same way as any other applicant. If eligible for housing due to specific circumstances, they are typically placed into temporary hostel accommodation while being supported to secure alternative long-term housing. No preferential treatment was given.

- (11) N. Ashwood – Empress Ward – **Illegal Activities** - Over the last 2yrs I've reported many illegal activities being carried out by illegal immigrants, and nothing has been done by the police, not even when suspected terrorist activity is going on. What is the Council doing about this issue?

Cllr Christine Guinness, Portfolio Holder for Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services, advised that whilst the Council met regularly with constabulary colleagues to discuss issues, complaints about policing decisions, deployment or delivery should be directed to our policing colleagues by calling 101, visiting a police station, online or by letter. The Council did not act as a point of contact for complaints in relation to policing. The IOPC (Independent Office for Police Conduct) were also able to take complaints; they would then forward any complaint to the relevant police force or Police and Crime Commissioner on the complainant's behalf.

23. **NOTICE OF MOTION - TOWN CENTRE PARKING**

With the consent of the Council, under Standing Order 14(9), the Council considered an altered Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Sue Carter on Town Centre Parking, as set out below:

"This Council:

- Recognises the huge challenges facing local businesses, particularly those in our town centres.
- Acknowledges that with alternative shopping options available in other town centres, as well as the growth of online shopping, parking charges may discourage people from visiting Farnborough and Aldershot.
- Observes that forthcoming option of setting up town councils could lead to changes which allow for more support to be provided to town centres and local economies, making consideration of the matter timely.
- Believes that any discussions or consultations on this issue need to be informed by detailed evidence.
- Recognises the heavy workload placed upon Council Officers and the desirability to avoid duplication of effort.

Therefore, this Council:

- Requests officers, under guidance from PPAB, to develop a suitable method of consulting residents, local businesses and potential investors about the likely impact of free or discounted parking and how it could work best.
- Requests the Portfolio Holder to present the findings of feasibility investigations to PPAB to allow it to make recommendations to the Cabinet in time for next year's budget."

In PROPOSING the altered Motion, Cllr Carter highlighted the pressures small businesses were under and the financial struggles residents were facing. By offering free or discounted parking, it was hoped that this would encourage more shoppers to visit and businesses to consider locating in our town centres. Through the Policy and Project Advisory Board, the impacts could be investigated and reported in time for the 2026/27 budget. In SECONDING the altered Motion, Cllr Taylor felt that shoppers needed to be encouraged daily to visit our towns and funding pots, and the UKSPF fund could help with this.

During discussion, it was noted that action was already being taken to encourage shoppers into the town centres through events and activities, and data had shown that these actions had already had a positive impact on footfall. Free parking was also being offered on 7th, 14th and 21st December to encourage shoppers in the run up to Christmas. It was also felt that by offering free or discounted parking, the Council would be sending a strong message of support to local businesses by finding and supporting a practical solution to benefit everyone.

In addition, it was suggested that consideration could be given to the option of 20-30 minutes free parking for those visiting the town centres to make a quick collection or drop off, or set all day parking fees. Also, to consider what support could be given to those that don't drive and use public transport to visit the town centres, and to blue badge holders.

However, it was noted that it was important to understand the financial implications and the effect it would have on the budget. The point was raised as whether the funds could be spent elsewhere to support small businesses and attract shoppers to the town centres.

The altered Motion was put to the meeting. There voted FOR: 34; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAIN: 0 and the altered Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED** unanimously.

24. **RECOMMENDATION OF THE CABINET**

Variation to the Capital Programme - Aldershot Crematorium Refurbishment

Cllr Christine Guinness, Portfolio Holder for Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services introduced the Report, which set out a recommendation to approve an additional capital allocation for the crematorium refurbishment project.

It was MOVED by Cllr Christine Guinness; SECONDED by Cllr Gareth Williams - that the Council be recommended to approve an additional 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.

In PROPOSING the recommendation, Cllr Guinness advised that the variation was needed due to an unforeseen technical issue, and all efforts had been taken to reduce cost drivers. All necessary and proportionate action would be taken in the

future to ensure continued improvements from lessons learnt during this project. In SECONDING the recommendation, Cllr Williams advised that this would be the final variation requested for the project and a full audit report would be considered by the Audit and Governance Committee in due course. The Cabinet were also monitoring the project closely.

There voted FOR: 32; AGAINST: 0; ABSTAINED 2 and the Recommendation was **DECLARED CARRIED**.

25. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET**

- (1) Cllr G.B. Lyon had submitted a question for response by the Pride in Place and Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder, (Cllr Christine Guinness) on the number of fines that had been issued for littering and dog fouling in the last twelve months, with a breakdown by ward.

Cllr Guinness advised that no fines had been issued for littering and dog fouling in the past twelve months. It was noted that the focus had been on the four E's, Engagement, Education, Encouragement and Enforcement. Although enforcement was an option available, priority had been given to engagement and education through "Poo Patrols", "Scope that Poop" and "Bag it and Bin it" initiatives. It was advised however that, lots of fines had been issued for incidents of fly-tipping.

Cllr Lyon asked a supplementary question regarding the ruling out of external support on enforcement.

Cllr Guinness advised that the initiative previously in place with East Hants District Council around enforcement support would not be reinstated and the four E's approach would be utilised going forward.

- (2) Cllr Thomas Day had submitted a question for response by the Housing and Planning Portfolio Holder (Cllr Keith Dibble) on the current status with Clayton Court.

Cllr Dibble advised that progress had been made at Clayton Court following a number of concerns raised by residents. It was noted that the Housing Association involvement had ended in the summer, and the Society of St James were now running the facility and working with the Council to make necessary improvements. A programme of refurbishments had been completed, and the site would continue to be maintained. In addition, the Housing Team had made visits to the facility and listened to residents to help support their needs.

- (3) Cllr Lisa Greenway had submitted a question for response by the Housing and Planning Portfolio Holder (Cllr Keith Dibble) on the current occupation status of the 82 affordable homes for key sector workers at Union Yard.

Cllr Dibble advised that it had been a policy decision to allocate the 82 units for key sector workers and the delay in finalising the agreement had caused some frustration. Work was underway to address outstanding matters to ensure completion happened as soon as possible. It was noted that 66 units would be allocated for

Integrated Care Workers and the remaining 16 units would be used for key sector workers already identified on the Rushmoor Housing Register.

- (4) Cllr G.B. Lyon had submitted a question for response by the Healthy Communities and Active Lives Portfolio Holder (Cllr Sophie Porter) on progress with the continued engagement with local Christian and Church Leaders.

Cllr Porter advised that she was keen to work with Members on this matter to help engage as many faith leaders as possible. A meeting, which took place in September, had considered street preaching and showcased grants available to support work to address issues/concerns and a further meeting was to be held in November with Cllr Guinness, the Executive Head of Operations, Faith Leaders and the Community Safety Team.

Aldershot Churches Together worked well, and work was underway to replicate this format in Farnborough. The Team continued to encourage conversations and engage as many faith leaders as possible to ensure there were no gaps. Members were encouraged to reach out to the Community Team should they have other contacts who may wish to get involved.

26. **REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

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

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

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

RESOLVED: that the Reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 31st July, 4th September and 18th September 2025, and the Policy and Project Advisory Board meetings held on 22nd July and 17th September 2025 be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

CABINET

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 14th October, 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 Gaynor Austin, Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder
Cllr Keith Dibble, Housing & Planning Portfolio Holder
Cllr Christine Guinness, Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr 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 **27th September, 2025**.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

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

30. MINUTES –

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16th September, 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

31. BUDGET MANAGEMENT - MONTH 5 –

(Cllr Gaynor Austin, Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. FIN2516, which set out an update on the Council's forecasted financial position for 2025/26, as at the end of August, 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 savings requirements for 2026/27 and 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

- (i) the revenue budget forecast, as set out in Section 3 of Report No. FIN2516, be noted; and
- (ii) the capital budget forecast, as set out in Section 4 of the Report, be noted.

32. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2025-26 TO 2028-29 - MID YEAR REVIEW –

(Cllr Gaynor Austin, Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. FIN2517, which set out a review of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as at the end of September, 2025. The Chairman welcomed the Cllr S. Trussler who had requested to address the Cabinet on this issue.

Members were informed that the report provided an assessment of existing and newly identified budget pressures and progress to date on delivering the required budget savings to achieve financial sustainability with the MTFS period (2025-26 to 2028-29), which was the Council's top corporate objective. It was explained that the MTFS was being adversely impacted by increased cost pressures identified in the February 2025 budget setting report and delays in identifying and delivering savings, which had been compounded by the Local Government Reorganisation's significant impact on the capacity of the Council's strategic leadership team, along with changes within the senior management team as a result of the departure of the Chief Executive. Members were informed that it was essential that the Council identified long-term underlaying savings to address the Council's financial challenges over the medium term.

The Cabinet heard from Cllr Trussler, who was a member of the Financial Recovery Working Group and had been a member of the Budget Strategy Working Group before this. From his involvement with the Working Groups, Cllr Trussler expressed concern that potential savings from efficiencies were now running out and that it was unclear where these would be delivered going forward. He also felt that, with the Union Yard disposal being delayed, it was time to revisit some decisions that had been taken in that regard. Cllr Trussler went on to state that, as Shadow Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder, he felt unsighted on the details and timetable for proposed changes to the Council's commercial property portfolio and that he had been promised two-weekly updates had not materialised. Finally, Cllr Trussler expressed concern over the possibility of a delay to the timetable for Local Government Reorganisation. It was his contention that, should this happen, the Council's financial position would become increasingly precarious over time and he proposed that the Council should consider taking action now to mitigate this eventuality.

During discussions the Cabinet thanked Cllr Trussler for his contribution to the meeting and also considered the importance of monitoring risks and uncertainties. It was acknowledged that the coming period would continue to be challenging for the Council but it was felt that extra resources had been put in place where required and

that financial plans had been drawn up to place the Council in the best possible position to deal with this.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that the Medium Term Financial Strategy, as set out in Report No. FIN2517, be noted and that the following actions be recommended to the Council's Senior Management Team:

- to continue with existing plans for the rigorous review of the Council's services and the finding of efficiency savings within those, including staff structures;
- to ensure sufficient resources continue to be put into asset disposals, along with regular structured monitoring of the process;
- to ensure realistic and deliverable timetabling in respect of asset disposals; and
- to ensure that the Council's budget process is published as soon as practicable.

33. AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT UPDATE 2025 –

(Cllr Keith Dibble, Housing & Planning Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. PG2531, which set out an updated Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for consultation and subsequent adoption.

Members were reminded that the Affordable Housing SPD was a subsidiary document to the Local Plan and provided additional information to developers on the implementation of the Local Plan policies related to the delivery of new affordable homes. The current SPD had been adopted in 2019 and there had, since then, been changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, Building Regulations, Government Housing Priorities and increases in rents and benefits and this had meant that an update was required. The report set out the details of the changes proposed.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that a consultation exercise on the revised Affordable Housing SPD, as set out in Report No. PG2531, be approved, with the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Housing & Planning Portfolio Holder, being authorised to make any subsequent final, non-substantive amendments to the document prior to adoption.

34. ADOPTION OF A NEW PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY –

(Cllr Keith Dibble, Housing & Planning Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. PG2530, which set out a proposed update to the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy for Rushmoor.

Members were informed that the previous Playing Pitch Strategy had been adopted in 2014 and was now in need of updating. The Strategy would be used to guide the preparation of policy, determine planning applications impacting on existing or the

need for new sports pitches and to guide investment in pitches from a range of bodies. It also set out details of the current provision of pitches and the current and expected future demand for pitches, along with how this could be met, although there was no obligation on the Council to do so.

The Cabinet expressed support for the Strategy and felt it was important that residents were made fully aware of the range of facilities that were available in the Borough.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that the adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy for Rushmoor, as set out in Report No. RG2530, be approved.

35. **HAMPSHIRE LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY –**
(Cllr Keith Dibble, Housing & Planning Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. PG2532, which set out the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Members were informed that Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) had been introduced as a result of the Environment Act 2021 and were a new system of plans for nature recovery covering the whole of England. It was explained that Hampshire County Council was the responsible body for preparing the LNRS for Hampshire and had formally provided the Council with the final LNRS under the Regulations. This had triggered a 28-day period for the Council to either confirm that it was content for the final LNRS to be published or to issue a publication advisory notice if it did not consider that this was the case.

In expressing its strong support for the Strategy, the Cabinet thanked the Council's Planning Team for its hard work in the development of this document.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that the publication of the final Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, as set out in Report No. PG2532, be approved.

36. **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 items to avoid the disclosure of exempt information within the paragraph of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 indicated against the items:

Minute Nos.	Schedule 12A Para. No.	Category
37 and 38	3	Information relating to financial or business affairs

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE CONSIDERED
IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC**

37. DISPOSAL OF NO. 101 HAWLEY LANE, FARNBOROUGH –
(Cllr Julie Hall, Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report No. REG2536, which sought approval to dispose of the freehold interest in No. 101 Hawley Lane, Farnborough and the adjoining St. John Ambulance site, subject to the finalisation of terms.

Members were informed that this disposal would contribute to the delivery of the Council's Financial Recovery Plan and was, therefore, a key priority. The Exempt Report set out the process that had been carried out so far and Members were informed that a preferred purchaser had been selected.

The Cabinet expressed strong support for the proposed approach as making a significant contribution towards improving the Council's financial position.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) the agreement, in principle and subject to final legal due diligence, to the disposal of the freehold interest in No. 101 Hawley Lane, Farnborough, as set out in Exempt Report No. REG2536, be approved;
- (ii) the agreement, in principle and subject to final legal due diligence, to the disposal of the St. John Ambulance freehold, linked to the disposal of No. 101 Hawley Lane, Farnborough, as set out in the Exempt Report, be approved; and
- (iii) the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Executive Head of Finance, the Interim Monitoring Officer and Corporate Manager – Legal Services and the Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder, be authorised to confirm the final terms of the disposal.

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

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report No. LEG2505, 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 July 2025, the Cabinet had agreed to continue to progress with 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 4, following the conclusion of RIBA Stage 3, subject to the forecast operator income being in line with expectations. Members were now receiving an update on the legal constraints of the sites for development, along with the options to overcome these.

The Cabinet considered that the recommended approach would best deal with the legal constraints set out in the Exempt Report.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) the legal constraints of the sites and the requirement to either appropriate the land and use Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to enable the development or to obtain title indemnity insurance, as set out in Exempt Report No. LEG2505, be noted;
- (ii) the Executive Director, in consultation with the Interim Monitoring Officer and Corporate Manager – Legal Services, be authorised to choose the best option to deal with any legal constraints to development;
- (iii) the carrying out of a consultation exercise, should Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 be considered to be the best option, be approved; and
- (iv) it be noted that compensation may be payable following consultation and that, if insurance was obtained, a premium would be payable.

The Meeting closed at 8.21 pm.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Wednesday, 8th October, 2025 at the Concorde Room, Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Jacqui Vosper
Cllr Ivan Whitmee

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Abe Allen, Peace Essien Igodifo, Dhan Sarki and Calum Stewart.

Cllrs A.H. Crawford, P.J. Cullum and Nadia Martin (virtual) attended the meeting as Standing Deputies.

Non-Voting Member

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

31. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Cllr. Thomas Day be appointed as Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

32. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Cllr. S.J. Masterson be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

34. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th September, 2025 were approved and signed as a correct record of proceedings.

35. 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:

* 25/00287/REMP Zone G Pennefathers, Aldershot Urban Extension,
Alison's Road, Aldershot

25/00396/FULPP Aldershot Lido, Guildford 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. PG2533, 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

- * The Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2533 in respect of these applications was amended at the meeting.

36. ZONE G PENNEFATHERS, ALDERSHOT URBAN EXTENSION, ALISON'S ROAD, ALDERSHOT - APPLICATION NO. 25/00287/REMP

The Committee considered the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2533 (as amended at the meeting) regarding the approval of reserved matters for the construction of 90 residential dwellings (including the conversion of Bradgate House to provide 6 flats) together with associated landscape, access and parking in Development Zone G (Pennefathers) pursuant to Condition 4 (1 to 22), attached to Hybrid Outline Planning Permission 12/00958/OUT, dated 10th March 2014. During discussion, it was requested that concerns about safety on Pennefathers Road be investigated by Hampshire County Council Highway Authority and Grainger (Aldershot) Limited. It was understood that Pennefathers Road was located outside of the development zone for the current application.

ACTION

What	By whom	When
For concerns about safety on Pennefathers Road to be raised with Hampshire County Council Highway Authority and Grainger (Aldershot) Limited.	Planning Department	Before the next Development Management Committee Meeting.

37. **FLAT NO. 2 PHOENIX COURT, ELMS ROAD, ALDERSHOT - APPLICATION NO. RSH/04631/1**

The Committee received the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2534 regarding application No. RSH/04631/1 - a request to relax a clause in a legal agreement under Section 52 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, restricting the age of occupiers of Flat No. 2 Phoenix Court.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Manager Legal Services be authorised to advise the person making the request that the Council is minded not to enforce the terms of the Section 52 Agreement, or to take enforcement action in respect of the breach of Condition No.11 of planning permission No. RSH/04631/1, relating to Flat No. 2 only within Phoenix Court.

38. **APPEALS PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee received the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2535 concerning the following appeal decisions:

Application / Enforcement Case No.	Description	Decision
24/00712/REVPP and 24/00460/FULP	An appeal against the refusal of s73 planning permission to increase outdoor building-materials storage heights to 5.5m at Unit 1, No. 106 Hawley Lane, Farnborough.	Appeal allowed

RESOLVED: That the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2535 be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.23 pm.

LICENSING AND CORPORATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 21st October, 2025 at the Concorde Room, Council Offices, Farnborough at 6.30 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Jacqui Vosper (Chair)
Cllr Sarah Spall (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Abe Allen*
Cllr Sue Carter
Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr C.P. Grattan*

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr C.W. Card, Cllr Jules Crossley, Cllr Lisa Greenway, Cllr Rhian Jones, Cllr Bill O'Donovan and Cllr P.G. Taylor.

*Cllr Abe Allen and Cllr C.P. Grattan attended the meeting as Standing Deputies.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Cllr. Jacqui Vosper be appointed as Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Cllr. Sarah Spall be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

3. APPOINTMENTS

(1) Licensing Sub-Committee

RESOLVED: That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Licensing Sub-Committee for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year, on the basis of five Members (2 Labour: 1 Conservative: 1 Rushmoor Independent Group: 1 Liberal Democrat):

Labour Group: Cllrs Rhian Jones and Sarah Spall

Conservative Group: Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Rushmoor Independent Group: Cllr Jules Crossley

Liberal Democrat: Cllr C.W. Card

(2) Licensing Sub-Committee (Alcohol and Entertainments)

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Manager - Democracy be authorised to make appointments from the membership of the Licensing and Corporate Business Committee in accordance with the procedure detailed in the Licensing Sub-Committee (Alcohol and Entertainments) Hearings Protocol and Procedure.

(3) Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis)

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Manager – Democracy be authorised to make appointments from the membership of the Licensing and Corporate Business Committee in accordance with the procedure detailed in the Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis) Hearings Protocol and Procedure.

(4) Appointments and Appeals Panels –

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Manager - Democracy be authorised to make appointments to Appointments and Appeals Panels set up on behalf of the Licensing and Corporate Business Committee, in accordance with the membership criteria set out in the Officer Employment Procedure Rules in the Constitution.

(5) Constitution Working Group-

RESOLVED: That the membership of the Constitution Working Group included the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Corporate Business Committee, and a representative of the Rushmoor Independent Group in addition to the current membership in 2025/26 (Cllrs Porter, O'Donovan, Austin, Lyon, Harden and C. Card).

4. POLLING PLACE REVIEW - POLLING DISTRICT FB

The Committee considered the Corporate Manager – Democracy's Report No. DEM2508, which recommended that the polling place for Fernhill FB be moved to the Ferns Primary School Academy in Fernhill Ward, Farnborough.

The Committee noted that following the Parliamentary election in July 2024, feedback showed that the polling place at The Fox Inn, Chapel Lane in Fernhill, was not a suitable venue for use as a polling place for parliamentary elections as the premises did not have sufficient space for two polling stations, and there were some accessibility issues. The Electoral Commission guidance stated that it was essential that polling stations provided sufficient space for voting to take place. The Elections Group recommended a review of the polling place for Fernhill FB polling district at its meeting on 29th April 2025 and agreed to consult on changing the polling station to the Ferns Primary Academy, Field Road in Fernhill Ward, Farnborough. The Elections Group considered the findings of the public consultation at its meeting on 23rd September 2025 and recommended that the polling place be moved to the Ferns Primary Academy. Concerns raised by residents in the public consultation included potential school closures and difficulty finding the venue from the main

road. The Committee noted that the school would not have to close on polling days, as the polling station would be segregated from the rest of the school. Maps would be included with poll cards and additional signage would be placed on the main road.

During discussion, Members agreed that the Ferns Academy had more suitable accessibility arrangements for people with disabilities, including parking, which was a strong reason for supporting the change in polling place.

RESOLVED That:

- (1) the polling place for Fernhill FB be moved to The Ferns Primary Academy;
- (2) a map showing the location of The Ferns Academy be included with the poll card for the next election; and
- (3) additional signage from the main road to The Ferns Academy be provided on polling day.

The meeting closed at 7.01 pm.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Wednesday, 19th November, 2025 at the Concorde Room, Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Thomas Day (Chair)
Cllr S.J. Masterson (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Abe Allen
Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr Calum Stewart
Cllr Jacqui Vosper
Cllr Ivan Whitmee

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo.

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

Non-Voting Member

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

39. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

40. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th October, 2025 were approved and signed as a correct record of proceedings.

41. **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:

* 25/00534/FUL Nos. 16 - 18 Kingsmead, 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. PG2538, 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
25/00537/OUTPP	Land at Cody Technology Park and Ball Hill, Farnborough
25/00583/FULPP	Proposed New Farnborough Leisure Centre, Farnborough
25/00589/FULPP	Buildings 4.1. and 4.3 Frimley Business Park, Frimley Camberley

* The Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2538 in respect of these applications was amended at the meeting.

42. **NOS. 16-18 KINGSMEAD, FARNBOROUGH - APPLICATION NO. 25/00534/FUL**

The Committee considered the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2538 (as amended at the meeting) regarding conversion and extension of Units 16-18 with partial internal works to Unit 20, The Meads Shopping Centre to facilitate formation of a cafe/bar and restaurant with associated external walls, signage, entrances and bin store.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) delegated authority be granted to the Service Manager (Development Management) and Executive Head of Property and Growth, to add any additional conditions as may be considered necessary; and
- (ii) planning permission be granted.

43. **APPEALS PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee received the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2539 concerning the following appeal decisions:

Application / Enforcement Case No.	Description	Decision
Units 1, 2 and 3, 14 Camp Road, Farnborough 24/00660/FULPP	An appeal against the refusal of planning permission for change of use of Unit 1 from mixed use storage and distribution/retail to Class 4 MoT testing centre; continued use of Unit 2 as a vehicle service and repair premises; continued use of Unit 3 as an MoT testing centre; retention of canopies outside Units 1 and 2, retention of vehicle access gate on north boundary and new gate on south boundary and retention of boundary fencing and additional fencing.	Dismissed
Nos. 4-8 Farnborough Road, Farnborough 25/00253/ADVPP	An appeal against the refusal of planning permission for installation of a free standing illuminated 48-sheet digital advertisement display.	Dismissed

RESOLVED: That the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2539 be noted.

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

The Committee received the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2537 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 July to 30th September 2025.

The Committee noted that the planning summary reports would include 12-month figures in future, in addition to the quarterly figures.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2537 be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Voting Members

Cllr Halleh Koohestani (Chair)
Cllr Thomas Day (Vice-Chair)

Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr S. Trussler

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

Cllr Leola Card joined the meeting online and was therefore unable to vote.

Cllrs Mara Makunura and Becky Williams attended the meeting as Standing Deputies.

16. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Cllr Halleh Koohestani be appointed as Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

17. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Thomas Day and M.J. Tennant be appointed as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on 4th and 18th September, 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

19. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Committee welcomed Service Manager – Policy, Strategy and Transformation, Alex Shiell and Policy Officer, Sharon Sullivan who attended the meeting to report on community engagement and how the Council consulted with and understood the views of residents. The Leader of the Council, Cllr Gareth Williams, was also in attendance as the Cabinet Member responsible for this area.

It was noted that the majority of Rushmoor's consultations and surveys were carried out in house using the SurveyMonkey platform, this allowed for consultation on a wide range of issues from service delivery, structural changes and understanding residents' views and priorities at a considerably reduced cost. However, online platforms, such as SurveyMonkey, were often self-selecting, allowing anyone to fill in a survey. This raised concerns around whether responses were representative of our residents.

The Committee were advised that the cost of using external companies to undertake surveys on the Council's behalf, varied depending on the type, survey and sample size, method and analysis required. For example, a face-to-face residents' survey of 500 people could cost in the region of £15,000 - £25,000. However, by using a company to carry out a face-to-face survey, measures could be taken to ensure results were more representative of the community. For example, a population of 106,000 would require a response rate of 383 with a 5% margin for error and 1,067 with a 3% margin for error.

It was advised that at the end of each survey a series of questions were asked to help understand if the responses were representative of the community. This was done through cross referencing the information with the most recent Census data. This exercise helped identify groups that were underrepresented, such as the Nepali community, those under 34 years of age, residents of Aldershot and the male population (dependent of the topic). It was advised that options were being considered to increase the total numbers responding to surveys in general and those underrepresented groups. Options included, a prize draw, attendance at events/colleges, translation of surveys into Nepalese and working with partners to widen the reach.

The Committee were apprised of the budget available to carry out surveys and consultations. It was noted that some consultations had their own budget, such as the Leisure Centre, however, others had to be funded from the £600 annual budget, which included the cost for the license to use SurveyMonkey. It was noted that this budget had been increased for 2025/26 to £4,200 to account for the additional need around Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the Community Governance Review (CGR) but was expected to reduce back to £600 in 2026/27.

In summary, it was noted that twelve consultations and surveys had been carried out in the past twelve months, aimed at informing decisions made on Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Area Committees (CGR), LGR, Farnborough Leisure Centre, polling places, planning policies, community safety and the Council's Delivery Plan.

The Leader of the Council acknowledged that the topic of community engagement was much wider than surveys and consultations but appreciated that that was the steer officers had been given for this meeting. Other areas included social media and the Council's Arena Magazine, engagement with forums and partnership working with the Belong Network who had been tasked to work with hard-to-reach groups across the community to ensure all voices were heard.

The Committee discussed the presentation and raised the following matters:

- Use of AI – it was noted that it was early days with co-pilot and officers were cautiously investigating the platform. AI offered free text options and could be used as a tool to explore/categorise responses.
- Lack of access in some areas across the Borough, in particular in areas of deprivation, to digital services, making access to online consultations/surveys restrictive and unrepresentative.
- Consultation fatigue – it was noted that a face-to-face survey had been commissioned, for the forthcoming residents survey, of 500 people, this would run alongside the self-selecting survey via SurveyMonkey and provided a different way of responding for residents.
- Consideration to be given to other platforms as an alternative to SurveyMonkey – it was advised that better and cheaper options were available.
- Foster creativity through partnerships with the local colleges to explore options for better engagement.
- Length of surveys too long, consider shorter more frequent surveys – a conscious effort was being made to shorten the length of the Council's surveys especially those in paper format for use at events.
- Important to analyse respondent data to check representation of the demographic and highlight the results to decision makers. All demographic data to be collected at the end of a consultation/survey, as important to hear residents' thoughts first.
- Nepali Community – it was noted that in the past the team had engaged with Nepali Leaders and advertised in Nepali language local press; to encourage responses from the Nepali community, this approach had not resulted in many additional responses. It was noted that any Nepali translation would need to be checked carefully due to the idioms within the language to ensure the translation was reflective of the English version. In addition, it was suggested that the Nepali student cohorts at the colleges could be utilised to access parents/extended family.
- Under representation - It was important to appreciate that outreach to underrepresented groups could result in a change in representation in the opposite direction – it was important to ensure a good balance.
- Be more visual – work with partners to share the survey links through their networks allowing for a wider variety of access points.
- Incentives – the Committee showed a general consensus for support in offering incentives when completing surveys/consultations, suggestions included Pantomime ticket prize draws and vouchers.
- Staff training – it was noted that there were resourcing implications around training, but it was important to ask questions in the right way.
- Consideration be given to how the Council show residents that they are listening to and taking account of responses to consultations/surveys – if residents were shown that the Council were listening, they could be more inclined to respond to future consultations/surveys. It was noted that the results of surveys were reported on the Council's website and work was underway to develop this further. Promoting both consultations/surveys and the results through the Communications Team would be considered further.

- Respondents' data by ward – it was noted that this was not always possible and was dependent of the response rate. Members could request this data from the team in specific cases.
- Quick polls on social media – could be a good way of gathering specific information but would probably not change the representation.
- Quick wins – a suggestion was made on ways of gathering a quick general view from the public. For example, the Council could pose a question with two responses and residents could vote by placing a token in a receptacle in the town centres for their preferred option.
- Capturing personal data for focus groups – it was noted that a list was held of those who had signed up as part of a consultation group to allow the sharing of information and direct consultation, incentives could be used to engage more to join.
- Detecting suspicious activity – AI could be used to help detect suspiciously similar content, however the response rates achieved were of a level where anything suspicious would most likely be picked up when responses were analysed.

The Committee were asked to share any good practice examples of surveys/consultations that they came across with the team for reference.

The Chair thanks Mr Shiell and Ms Sullivan for their presentation and Cllr Williams for attending the meeting.

20. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee noted the current Work Plan and the changes to the arrangements going forward with the introduction of the Programme Management Group, which would consider the work plans of the Audit and Governance, Licensing and Corporate Business, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Policy and Project Advisory Board.

For future meetings, it was advised that SERCO would be attending the December meeting to provide a report on their Annual Report 2024/25, and a report would be made on the Walk this Waste pilot that had taken place earlier in the year. It was also noted that the date of the January 2026 meeting had been moved to 5 February, 2026, and the meeting would be dedicated to pre decision scrutiny on the Farnborough Leisure Centre.

In response to a query on the progress of the Council Tax Support Group, it was noted that a meeting was scheduled between the Managing Director, Executive Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer and the Revenue and Benefits Service Manager to discuss the proposals. Members were advised that, as things stood, it was thought that no changes would be made to the current scheme.

The meeting closed at 8.39 pm.

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

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

Voting Members

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

Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr Dhan Sarki
Cllr Ivan Whitmee

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs A. Adeola and T.W. Mitchell.

Cllr Leola Card attended the meeting as a Standing Deputy.

18. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th September, 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

19. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Cllr S.J. Masterson be appointed as Chair for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

20. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRS

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Abe Allen and Lisa Greenway be appointed as Vice-Chairs for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

21. RUSHMOOR CULTURAL STRATEGY - REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS

The Board welcomed Mr Lee McQuade, Economy and Growth Service Manager, who provided an update on work towards reviewing the Council's Rushmoor Cultural Strategy.

The Board was advised that the Rushmoor Cultural Strategy had been adopted in 2022/23 and had set out six shared priorities:

- Communities – Support Rushmoor’s varied communities (especially the least culturally engaged) to express and develop their cultural identity and celebrate these together
- Town centres – Ensure that culture plays an important role in the regeneration of Aldershot and Farnborough town centres
- Heritage – Build on the rich military and aviation heritage of Aldershot and Farnborough to increase both community pride and the visitor economy
- Creative industries – Work with artists and the Createch sector to establish Rushmoor as a centre for innovation and excellence in creative media
- Young people – Give more young people in Rushmoor the opportunity of developing a sustainable career in the Creative Industries
- Build capacity – Establish new arts team, the Cultural Compact and key partnerships

Mr McQuade ran through a number of initiatives that had contributed towards these priorities including:

- Rushmoor Heritage Festival
- Aldershot and Farnborough Heritage trails
- Town centre banners and graphics
- Makers’ Yard in Union Yard in Aldershot town centre
- The Landing in Farnborough town centre
- Temporary artworks and installations, including murals at Aldershot Station and North Camp toilets
- Delivery of free Council events
- Supporting arts projects and initiatives, such as Bula Festival
- Surrey+ Creative Constellation, alongside key partners such as University of Creative Arts, Farnham
- Farnborough Film Studios
- Employment, skills and training promoting pathways in film, media and digital arts
- Strengthened partnerships with Hampshire Cultural Trust, Arts Council England and other partners

- New Cultural Programming Group
- Cultural Places project

It was explained that the Cultural Strategy would not be rewritten but that a document would be produced that would set out a direction of travel for the Council and its partners. Members were asked to suggest what activities should be included in any future plans and what the future focus should be on.

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

- Important to engage with Nepali community but also to remember that there are many other ethnic groups in the Borough that are hard to reach
- Must ensure that people know that they are welcome to host their own event(s)
- Could the Council run training/workshops to assist people in organising their own event(s)?
- Councillors to assist with this training?
- Can further assistance be sought from Hampshire Cultural Trust?
- Important to engage with young people to establish their wants
- West End Centre (WEC) has had a pioneering approach – important facility
- Could more flag raising be done – e.g. all four Saints' days?
- Could we buy staging etc. and then market an 'events package' to individuals considering hosting an event at The Landing?
- It is not felt that current events are marketed sufficiently – Arena magazine, website and Facebook not enough – need to consider younger persons' technology such as Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat
- Council should consider joining up platforms to provide an online Rushmoor events calendar
- How can more funding for events be obtained from partners?
- Could the Council consider allowing free parking for volunteers assisting at events? Otherwise this can be a barrier
- The 'Aldershot Mixtape' event and events at the WEC bring in many people from outside the Borough, including as far away as London

The Chairman thanked Mr McQuade for his input.

22. REVIEW OF EVENTS PROGRAMME

The Board welcomed Mr Lee McQuade, Economy and Growth Service Manager and Mr Alex Stone, Business Analyst, who provided details of the Council's events programme, which was being reviewed as a result of the withdrawal of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the Community Response Fund (CRF).

The Board was advised that the current plans for the 2026/27 Council events programme included 24 events with a forecasted cost of £135,300. To aid the relative assessment of events, the report analysis assigned a 'value rating' to each event based on a relative assessment of:

- The event's contribution to the Council's Delivery Plan priorities
- The event's contribution to adopted Strategies and Strategic Plans
- The event's value to partners seeking outcomes that aligned with those of the Council
- The public expectation around the event

The scope of the 'events programme' did not include:

- Events that were considered part of service delivery or statutory activity, such as committee meetings
- Economic Development Service's markets, craft fayres and car boot sales, as these were focussed on economic opportunities for traders and small businesses rather than an event offered directly to the public
- Events that were not organised by the Council but that the Council participated in, promoted or otherwise supported

The event cost vs value rating plotted each of the 24 events in a table and suggested whether the event was considered to be high cost and high value, low cost but high value, low cost and low value or high cost but low value. The Board was invited to consider the assessment of the relative value of the events and, given the current financial situation, whether there were any recommendations they wished to make to the Cabinet as to how events might be prioritised. In response to these specific considerations, the Board requested the report's analysis of events should incorporate the ratio of event cost to attendance and an Officer based assessment of the value-for-money achieved in the delivery of the event. No specific recommendation on prioritisation was made by the Board.

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

- Friends of the Earth are a key partner in terms of the Eco Festival

- Should 'Men's Health Day' be redesigned as 'Family Health Day'?
- Cost of Annual Council Meeting seems high – can the cost of this be reduced in terms of buffet etc? - would be good to know the cost of a normal Council meeting for comparison purposes
- Should consider doing more flag-raising – low cost and high impact
- Civic Banquet and Ball – need to understand where the cost is over and above the cost of the ticket to the event – not clear how much this event raised the profile of the Mayor's chosen charities
- Could 'Carols at The Landing' be a new event for Farnborough?
- Need to consider these events in the context of the Council not existing in this form from 2028 – part of our heritage?
- There needs to be very good reason to hold an event that the table shows as being high cost but low value – otherwise should be stopped or changed
- 'Cost per head' column should be included in the analysis
- Some of the events, such as the Easter and Halloween events, feel 'tired' now – should they be replaced with something new?
- Could Eco Explorers Clubs be held less often to save money?
- Could Council buy own staging equipment for use at The Landing with a view of using for Council events and hiring out to people organising other events at venue?

The Chairman thanked Mr McQuade and Mr Stone for their input.

23. **WORK PLAN**

The Board noted the current Work Plan.

It was agreed that the work plan would be updated following the inaugural meeting of the Programme Management Working Group on 1st December, 2025.

The meeting closed at 8.19 pm.

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