

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Thursday, 9th February, 2023 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr M.D. Smith (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr K. Dibble (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr L. Jeffers
Cllr Marina Munro
Cllr Sophie Porter

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr A. Adeola, Cllr Prabesh KC, Cllr Mara Makunura and Cllr S. Trussler.

Cllr Jib Belbase attended the meeting as Standing Deputy.

23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December, 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

The Chairman advised the Committee that Cllr Prabesh KC had been absent from three consecutive meetings of the Committee held on 20th October, 1st December 2022 and 9th February 2023. Under the Council's Constitution, Standing Order 4 (5) stated that 'if any Member shall be absent from three consecutive meetings of a committee, he or she shall cease to be a Member thereof, unless he or she shall in the opinion of the Committee show reasonable grounds for their absence.'

It was noted that the Chairman would contact Cllr KC to determine the reasons for his absence at these meetings and report back at the meeting to be held on 30th March, 2023.

24. FARNBOROUGH AIRPORT

The Committee welcomed, Simon Geere, Chief Executive, and Mark Sanderson, Group Corporate Responsibility Manager, at Farnborough Airport, Tim Mills, (Executive Head of Property and Growth) and Richard Ward, (Environment and Airport Monitoring Officer) who were in attendance to provide presentations on the environmental and economic impacts of Farnborough Airport. This followed the publication of the Economic Impact of Farnborough Airport Report produced by Lichfields. In Addition, Luke Bonnici, Associate Director – Economics, Lichfields, joined the meeting online.

Mr Mills provided a background to the Economic Impact Report. It was noted that the previous Report had been published in 2009 and had been commissioned to inform the Rushmoor Local Plan. The current Report had been commissioned jointly by the Council and Farnborough Airport to update the previous Report; calculate the Airport's actual economic impact, as observed in 2019 (pre-covid baseline); and, revise how the economic impact of the airport might change as it increased its Air Traffic Movements (ATMs) and reached its current 50,000 ATMs per annum planning limit.

It was noted that the Report had been split into sections, also including an introduction and executive summary, as set out below :

- Section 3 - An overview of Farnborough Airport, its facilities and operations, and other economic activities based there, which were considered in the economic assessment – key points
 - The Airport occupied 7% of the Boroughs land area
 - Operations were restricted by planning conditions
 - Key infrastructure included a 1800m runway, a state of the art control tower, modern terminal building and hangar space. Considerable investment in infrastructure and facilities on the site was also ongoing
 - Over 70 tenants co-occupied the space, including Gulfstream, Flight Safety International and Farnborough International
- Section 4 - Definition of business aviation and an overview of the role Farnborough Airport played within the sector – key points
 - Farnborough was the largest UK business aviation airport
 - Business aviation had shown more resilience than commercial aviation during the pandemic
 - Farnborough was one of five “red list” entry ports in the UK
- Section 5 - An overview of the policy context and socio-economic conditions in the area – key points
 - Policy context which influenced current operations and future growth included, Government Policy, Sub-Regional Policy and the Local Plan
 - Socio-Economic characteristics of the local economy included, a resilient and strong local economy, stable employment levels with low levels of unemployment and dominant service sector/knowledge based industries
- Section 6 - Examination of the economic impact of Farnborough Airport and consideration of how this had changed – key points
 - Total employment in Rushmoor, both direct and indirect, estimated to be in the region of 1,735 FTE jobs (3.5% of the Boroughs employment), an increase of 44.9% since 2009
 - Total economic contribution, at Borough level, estimated to be in the region of £151.8 million, as increase of 63.2% since 2009
 - Total fiscal contribution of £2.04 million in 2022/23 and capital investment of £55 million

- Section 7 - The economic impact associated growth in ATMs (up to 50,000 movements per annum) – key points
 - The study set out updated projections for FTE jobs and direct GVA, based upon the Airport reaching 50,000 ATMs. Jobs were estimated to be between 4,125 and 4,260 and direct GVA between £187.3 million and £193.7 million
- Section 8 - The Airport's catalytic and wider community and economic effects – key points
 - Catalytic effects related to the wider role of an airport in attracting investment and businesses to an area, where no direct economic linkages are quantifiable, but gain/competitive advantage, may be made from a location near an airport
 - Local opportunities related mainly to the Airshow, through local employment opportunities and supporting skills development
- Section 9 - The overall conclusions for the study
 - Farnborough Airport played a key role in supporting the vitality and resilience of the Borough's economy through both the direct and wider (i.e., supply chain and induced) effects of the Airport's activities (i.e., both on-Airport and off-Airport). In addition to benefits associated with the clustering effect around aviation, defence and related industries across the sub-region
 - The Airport's overall impact, as annual ATMs increased to 50,000, was now anticipated to be higher than the impact estimated in the 2009 Study. Overall, total employment was estimated to be between 37.4% and 43.2% higher than identified in the 2009 Study. In addition, the Airport's economic output (i.e. direct GVA) was expected to be between 53.2% and 57.5% higher than identified in the 2009 Study

The Committee discussed the Report and raised a number of queries, relating to;

- When would the ATMs reach 50,000 – it was noted that in 2019 they were 31,561 and by 2022 they were about 33,000. The Airport was not in a position to predict when the 50,000 would be reached
- Noise level monitoring – it was advised that there were currently two fixed noise level monitors at each end of the runway, with mobile units utilised in other locations. It was noted that overall complaint levels relating to noise, were considered to be low
- Hiring and increasing skills locally – It was noted that the Airport held Generation Aviation Careers Days, apprenticeship programmes (four per year) and were in liaison with Farnborough College of Technology regarding aviation specific educational courses.
- Relocation of aviation companies to Rushmoor – it was noted that when a company relocated some employees relocated with the company and others were employed locally

- Farnborough Airport Consultative Committee (FACC) – it was recognised that the Consultative Committee needed to improve engagement with the community
- Environmental Impacts – Farnborough Airport's operations had been carbon neutral since 2018 and a role model in the industry. Current initiatives included solar, hydrogen, electric vehicles and green fuel

The Chairman thanked Mr Mills for his presentation and asked Mr Ward to provide his presentation on Air Quality.

Mr Ward advised that it was the Council's responsibility to review and assess air quality. There were seven key pollutants, of which the main pollutant of concern in Rushmoor was nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) – emissions from traffic. Through the Section 106 Agreement, the Council monitored air quality in and around the Airport. It was advised that as part of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) scheme Rushmoor monitored 20 general sites, 13 sites in and around the Airport and six sites on the A331.

The Committee reviewed data on emissions which showed a decrease at all key sites in and around the Airport up to the start of the pandemic in early 2020. It was advised that emissions had risen slightly once ATMs had recommenced but were still considerably below the target levels. In addition, it was noted that the A331 site readings had dipped during the pandemic but were now, generally, back to pre-pandemic levels.

The Committee discussed the presentation and raised a number of queries, including:

- Particle PM_{10/2.5} – it was advised that the main contributors of PM_{10/2.5} particles was users/vehicles. The Airport was not considered to be a large contributor to PM_{10/2.5} particles
- Offsetting – it was advised that most of the Airport's offsetting was carried out abroad
- Airport emissions – it was noted that most of the emissions from the Airport related to ground services
- Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) – It was noted that the Airport used JetA1 biofuel

Following discussion, it was formally proposed that a Task and Finish Group should be set up to look closer at the economical and environmental impacts of the Airport on the Borough. It was suggested that this should be picked up at the next Progress Group meeting, at which a way forward could be determined.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ward for his presentation and asked Mr Geere and Mr Sanderson to make their presentation.

As a flagship employer in the Borough, it was noted that the Airport was committed to driving prosperity in the region, by doing so, Rushmoor had recorded a 6% increase in annual GDP growth compared to a national average of 1.8%. It was also noted that employment during the pandemic had remained resilient, resulting in no redundancies and all furloughed monies being paid back to the government. In

addition, continued investment in the Airport could result in more jobs and further growth.

It was noted that over the last 10 years the Farnborough Airport Community Environment Fund had awarded over £700k in grants to enhance community areas and facilities within a 5km radius of the Airport. Following a discussion, it was requested that the terms of reference for the fund should be reviewed, possibly to open the funding pot to all Wards in the Borough.

It was noted that a significant number of employees lived within a 10 mile radius of the Airport and in 2022 the Airport was certified with 'Great Place to Work' – the global authority on workplace culture. It was advised that, where possible, local recruitment was preferential and recently a former Farnborough Sixth Form student had been recruited as an apprentice; this tied into a commitment to attract and inspire talent from all backgrounds in the Borough.

It was noted that there was a dedicated sustainability team at the Airport who managed the impact of noise, air quality, carbon emissions, waste recycling, biodiversity and wildlife management through an ISO 14001 certified system. It was advised that in 2022, having measured the carbon footprint, the Airport had launched a Net Zero Roadmap to Net Zero by 2030 – the aim of which was to reduce emissions, within both direct and indirect control of the Airport, by 91% by 2030 or earlier. It was also noted that new ways to supply and create sustainable energy sources were being considered, from solar power to Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF). Following an emissions reduction pathway would enable the Airport to reduce a wider scope of emissions, which included aircraft movements up to 3,000 feet, by more than 40% by 2035 or sooner.

The Chairman thanked Mr Geere and Mr Sanderson for their presentation and for taking the time to come and talk to the Committee.

25. WORK PLAN

The Committee noted the current Work Plan and was advise that the next meeting, scheduled for 30th March, 2023 would include a presentation on the management of damp and mould in the Local Housing Sector and the annual reports of the Council's Cabinet Champions.

It was noted that a combined letter, from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Policy and Project Advisory Board, had been sent to Hampshire County Council regarding a range of highways issues that had been raised by Members. An update would be provided at the next Progress Group.

The meeting closed at 9.31 pm.

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Report of the meeting held on Wednesday, 15th March, 2023 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Marina Munro (Chairman)
Cllr Jessica Auton (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr P.I.C. Crerar (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr C.W. Card
Cllr M.S. Choudhary
Cllr Jules Crossley
Cllr Michael Hope
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr Jacqui Vosper

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Jib Belbase.

Cllr P.J. Cullum attended as Standing Deputy.

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st January, 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

25. COUNCIL PLAN

Rachel Barker, Assistant Chief Executive, gave a report on the current position with the Council Business Plan.

It was advised that the three year plan underwent a refresh annually and following the Outcomes Based Budgeting process, undertaken earlier in the year, and the call for evidence from the Board at its November meeting, the Board were being asked to consider the challenges and opportunities set out in the draft Plan.

The Board noted the key projects and activities, set out in the Plan and were apprised of the BRAG (Blue, Red, Amber, Green) status as set out in the [Council Business Plan Monitoring Report](#).

Following discussion, it was noted that:

- The definition of the Local Plan versus the Council Plan would be made clear
- Data on education would be circulated to the Board
- Work was underway with the Equality and Diversity Champion to help address the targeted work relating to surveys

- Local Mental Health data would be shared with the Board
- Data on population density would be requested

The Chairman thanked Ms Barker for her report.

26. **UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND**

The Board received an update from Ms Barker on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

Since the previous meeting at which the UKSPF had been discussed, it was noted that a number of changes had taken place, these included; confirmation of the UKSPF Investment Plans in early January 2023, changes to the Council's financial position following the Outcomes Based Budgeting process, confirmation of the Levelling Up funding for Farnborough Town Centre and the commencement of benchmarking work on the outcomes of the Annual Residents Survey. It was advised that the funding allocation had remained the same, (£34,000 in 2022/23, £64,000 in 2023/24 and £898,000 in 2024/25) however, it had been possible to roll over the allocation for 2022/23 into 2023/24 as required.

The Board reviewed the Investment Plan and were advised on how the Council's identified projects had been aligned with the Government's interventions. It was noted that there was an ability to adjust funding allocations locally, however, if a sizable sum needed to be moved to a different intervention this would require agreement from Government. It was advised that budgets were set within the parameters of the allocation and projects would be managed to ensure spend didn't exceed the budget, any underspend would need to be returned.

The Board were asked to agree the proposed project development plan, governance arrangements and role of the Board as follows:

- Development of project detail for Years 1 and 2 – March/April 2023
- Review Project Plan for Years 1 and 2 and reflect on process for year 3 – Policy and Project Advisory Board meeting June 2023
- Consider Project Plan for Year 3 – July/September 2023
- Progress reports presented to the Board for noting on a six monthly basis – commencing September 2023

In response to a query regarding the community grant scheme element, consideration would be given to how this would be ran and a criteria developed for securing funds.

The Chairman thanked Ms Barker for her presentation.

27. **WORK PLAN**

The Board noted the current Work Plan.

It was noted that an annual review Progress Group meeting would take place on 28th March, 2023 to review the Work Plan in full and identify potential items for the New Municipal Year.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Thursday, 30th March, 2023 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr M.D. Smith (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr K. Dibble (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr L. Jeffers
Cllr Prabesh KC
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr S. Trussler

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Marina Munro

26. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February, 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

The Chairman reported on the absence of Cllr Prabesh KC from three consecutive meetings of the Committee held on 20th October, 1st December 2022 and 9th February 2023. Under the Council's Constitution, Standing Order 4 (5) stated that 'if any Member shall be absent from three consecutive meetings of a committee, he or she shall cease to be a Member thereof, unless he or she shall in the opinion of the Committee show reasonable grounds for their absence.'

It was noted that the Chairman had been in contact with Cllr KC and had accepted the reasons for his absence at these meetings, and it was agreed that Cllr KC should be allowed to participate in the meeting.

27. MANAGEMENT OF DAMP AND MOULD WITHIN THE LOCAL HOUSING SECTOR

The Committee welcomed James Duggin, (Executive Head of Operations), Suzannah Hellicar (Service Manager – Housing) and Hilary Smith (Private Sector Housing Manager) who were in attendance to provide a presentation on the management of damp and mould in the local housing sector. Cllr Maurice Sheehan, Operational Services Portfolio Holder, was also in attendance.

The presentation covered the following:

- Legislation – the Council followed the Housing Act 2004 Part 1 Legislation, which incorporated the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS). The HHSRS provided operating guidance and enforcement guidance.
- Managing disrepair in Rushmoor – It was noted that complaints were received by email, phone or via the website from both social and private tenants. Each case was allocated to an officer with the expectation of a response to the claimant in three working days. Urgent cases were expedited. The process recommended that tenants contacted landlords directly, prior to contacting the Council. The Council offered advice, information and inspection, assessment and action where appropriate. It was advised that damp and mould could be caused by a number of factors, examples of which were shared with the Committee. These included:
 - Penetrating/rising damp
 - Lack of ventilation
 - Lack of heating
 - Overcrowding
 - Poor energy efficiency
 - Tenant behaviour
- The Rochdale case and the Government response – the Committee was apprised of the case in Rochdale where a two year old had passed away. His death had been attributed to living in a flat that had damp and mould present. The Government had responded by issuing a directive under Section 3 (3) Housing Act 2004, followed by a request for and overview of, how local authorities dealt with damp and mould complaints in the Private Sector.
- Rushmoor's response – It was noted that all complaints of damp and mould were now inspected and assessed under the HHSRS. It was noted that there had been an increase in complaints since the Rochdale case, although the numbers of complaints had now evened out. The Committee noted that larger Housing Associations were establishing damp and mould teams within their organisations to deal with complaints.
- Data – the Committee reviewed Council data on disrepair issues and it was noted that numbers had increased in the first quarter of 2023. It was also noted that the number of complaints from both the private and social housing sectors had evened out, whereas in the previous year, complaints had mainly come from the social housing sector.
- HHSRS – Government Consultation – it was noted that questions within the consultation had centred around the condition of housing stock (as far as the authority was aware). The Committee noted that the team had concerns that the existing legislation, which was complex and time consuming, was not fit for purpose. This had been raised as a concern in the Council's response. It was also noted that damp and mould scored low in the HHSRS outcomes, making formal enforcement challenging, this had also been raised in the response.

The Committee noted a number of proposed changes which were being considered, these included:

- Social Housing –
 - The Social Housing Regulation Bill
 - Tighter restrictions and timescales
 - More power to Housing Regulators
 - Ofsted type inspections of Housing providers
 - Quicker process through the Ombudsman
- Private Sector –
 - Review of guidance on health impacts of damp and mould
 - New guidance on dealing with damp and mould – Summer 2023
 - Potential review of HHSRS as a system for assessing disrepair

The Chairman thanked Mr Duggin, Ms Hellicar and Ms Smith for their presentation.

The Committee discussed the presentation and **ENDORSED** the process, working arrangements and way forward. However, a number of actions were raised and agreed, as follows:

ACTION	BY WHOM	WHEN
Provision of a shared spreadsheet to allow Members to note complaints made directly to them that don't have Council involvement	Hilary Smith – Private Sector Housing Manager	May 2023
Repairs and living conditions to be added to the questions used by the Registered Providers Task and Finish Group	Cllr Diane Bedford and Zoe Paine – Strategy and Enabling Manager	June 2023
Arrange a visit for the Housing Team to attend the Community Hub "Meet and Greet" Network Session at the Garrison to meet local military families to discuss the situation with the condition of military housing (held every third Thursday of the Month)	Hilary Smith – Private Sector Housing Manager	June 2023
Consideration be given to establishing a Group for Private Landlords similar to the Registered Providers Group	Hilary Smith – Private Sector Housing Manager	June 2023

Note:

The following interests were noted during the meeting Cllr Prabesh KC (private landlord in the Borough) and Cllr Keith Dibble (Director of Rushmoor Homes Limited). Both were permitted to remain in the meeting.

28. CABINET CHAMPIONS

The Committee welcomed the three Cabinet Champions, Cllr Steve Masterson (Climate Change), Cllr Nem Thapa (Armed Forces) and Cllr Mara Makunura (Equality and Diversity) who were in attendance to provide a review of the work undertaken during the 2022/23 Municipal Year. Rachel Barker, Assistant Chief Executive was also in attendance with Cllr Sue Carter, Democracy, Strategy and Partnerships Portfolio Holder and Jill Shuttleworth, Corporate Manager – Democracy joining the meeting remotely.

(1) Climate Change

The Committee noted the report from the Climate Change Cabinet Champion and in particular the work undertaken by the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG). The Group had heard from a number of external speakers, this had allowed the Council to align its plans with those of key stakeholders who also had a significant role to play in reducing emissions across Rushmoor. Progress monitoring on the Council's Carbon Footprint had also been a key piece of work for the Champion and it was noted that this was due to conclude shortly with a report being made to the CCWG at its next meeting.

It was noted that during the year, the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan had undergone a review process against the agreed actions. Strong progress had been made against a number of actions, including the rollout of food waste collections, the launch of the Repair Café and work with local schools to raise awareness. The Strategy and Action Plan was currently undergoing a refresh, taking into account the new carbon footprint data. It was felt that the Strategy and Action Plan should be more focussed with a smaller number of key projects to be delivered.

Communication and engagement had also been a key area during the year, activities included an article in Arena, increased frequency of updates to Members via the Chief Executive's bulletin and continued engagement with key stakeholders. A number of events were also being planned for later in the year, these included Big Green Week and an Eco Fair.

The Committee discussed the Report and made a number of comments, in particular, taking account of the proposed reduction in the number of Cabinet Champions from three to two. Following the Outcomes Based Budgeting processed, it was proposed that the Climate Change Champion be retained. It was also felt important that the Cabinet Champions reported into the Cabinet on a regular basis throughout the Municipal Year.

Concern was raised over the slow progress of the response to the Climate Change emergency and some Members expressed the view that more progress would be made going forward.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Masterson for his presentation.

(2) Armed Forces

The Committee noted the Report from the Armed Forces Cabinet Champion and the work undertaken during the year. It was noted that the Champion had participated in the Covenant Partnership Conference in November 2022, which had brought together a range of military and civilian partners working together for the effective delivery of the provisions of the Armed Forces Covenant and Armed Forces Act 2021. Cllr Thapa and Shadow Champion Cllr Nadia Martin, had also regularly attended the Aldershot Garrison Community Hub “Meet and Greet” network meetings which brought together a range of welfare and advice organisations to support military and non-military families. It was noted that veterans had also been a priority for the Champion during his year - work had included understanding the current provision to developing connections through a monthly surgery at the Prospect Community Centre.

It was also noted that the Champion had attended a number of events throughout the year which were aimed at both the military and civilian communities.

Cllr Thapa made a number of recommendations and proposals for next steps for the 2023/24 Municipal Year, that could be incorporated into the priorities going forward. These included:

- An Armed Forces Champion webpage on the Rushmoor site to help sign post and provide relevant information
- Increase the visibility of the veteran community to help improve links with support services
- Continue to develop the covenant partnership
- Re-examine the criteria and possibility for the Council to work towards the Gold Award standard in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme

The Committee discussed the report and **ENDORSED** the work of the Armed Forces Champion. It was felt important that the criteria for the Gold Award was understood and taken forward if possible.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Thapa for his report.

(3) Equality and Diversity

The Committee noted the Report from the Equality and Diversity Cabinet Champion. Cllr Makunura provided an overview of the achievements and activities throughout the 2022/23 Municipal Year. These included:

- The establishment of the Rushmoor Accessibility Action Group (RAAG) which aimed to develop awareness around accessibility and safety for residents and visitors and to highlight inclusivity.
- The establishment of the Rushmoor Cohesive Communities Group (RCCG) which contributed to the actions in the Council's Equality and Diversity Action Plan. It was noted that around fifteen different nationalities were represented in the Group which had met twice so far. The Group were looking at opportunities to hold a Rushmoor Cultural Day and to work closer with the Rushmoor International Association.
- The Champion had been involved in a number of events throughout the year, these included Black History Month, International Women's Day and supporting Homes for Ukraine

It was noted that the focus during the year had been to establish a structure to support the Council's Equality and Diversity Action Plan. It was suggested that the Action Plan could be considered for a review and refresh to ensure it remained relevant and up to date.

The Committee discussed the report and made a number of comments, these included:

- Ensuring events, such as the Black History Month exhibition were more accessible to the public
- Ensure that the LGBTQ+ activities/events (Pride) were incorporated into the Equality and Diversity Action Plan going forward

The Chairman thanked Cllr Makunura for her report.

29. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee noted the current work plan and was advised that a meeting of the Progress Group was scheduled for the following week to address any outstanding issues and plan for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

The meeting closed at 9.54 pm.