

CABINET

Meeting held on Tuesday, 25th November, 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
Cllr Julie Hall, Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder

The Cabinet considered the following matters at the above-mentioned meeting. All executive decisions of the Cabinet shall become effective, subject to the call-in procedure, from **8th December, 2025**.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

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

40. MINUTES –

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14th October, 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

41. COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN, PERFORMANCE AND RISK REGISTER QUARTERLY UPDATE Q2 JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2025/26 – (Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council)

The Cabinet received Report No. ED2509, which set out the performance monitoring information for the Council Delivery Plan and key service measures for the second quarter of 2025/26. Members were informed that key projects and activities from the Council Plan and key service indicators and measures used by the Council to monitor how the Council runs services were included in the report. The Cabinet heard that the Council's Corporate Risk Register identified factors that could impact on the future delivery of the Council's services and key priorities. A summary of those risks was provided in the report for discussion. Annex D to the report set out an updated Corporate Risk Management Policy and Procedures for approval. Members were informed that where, at paragraph 2.5.2 of the Policy, it was stated that the Council's Audit and Governance Committee would review the risk management arrangements on a quarterly basis, this should have read annually. The Cabinet would continue to receive quarterly updates.

In discussing the report, Members were satisfied that good progress was being made by the Council towards delivering this year's Council Delivery Plan.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) the progress made towards delivering the Council Delivery Plan and the latest performance information in relation to Council services, as set out in Report No. ED2509, be noted;
- (ii) the changes highlighted in the Corporate Risk Register, as set out in Section 5 of the Report, be noted; and
- (iii) the updated Corporate Risk Management Policy and Procedures, as set out in Annex D of the Report and amended at the meeting, be approved.

42. 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
43 and 44	3	Information relating to financial or business affairs

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

43. DISPOSAL OF OPTREX BUSINESS PARK, ROTHERWICK, HOOK –
(Cllr Julie Hall, Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report No. PG2540, which sought approval to dispose of the freehold interest in Optrex Business Park, Rotherwick, Hook, 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 Optrex Business Park, Rotherwick, Hook, as set out in Exempt Report No. PG2540, be approved; and
- (ii) 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.

44. **PROPOSAL TO ACCEPT A GOVERNMENT GRANT –**
(Cllr Sophie Porter, Healthy Communities & Active Lives Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report No. PG2541, which set out details of Government funding that was due to be received in respect of an event which, potentially, would be held in the Borough in Summer 2026.

Members were informed that details of this event could not be made public at this time but that it would be prestigious for the Borough to host and would deliver benefits that would be in line with the Council's priorities. At this point, Members were informed that the event would represent a significant undertaking and that it would be necessary to ensure the event was resourced sufficiently.

The Cabinet expressed strong support for the proposed hosting of this event as a significant opportunity for the Borough.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) the opportunity to host the event set out in Exempt Report No. PG2541 be welcomed and accepted, with the arrangements for a launch date in early December being noted;
- (ii) the grant to support the event, in the sum set out in the Exempt Report, be accepted;
- (iii) the underwriting of the cost, up to the estimated figure set out in the Exempt Report to be raised from commercial sponsorship, be approved;
- (iv) in the case of insufficient private sponsorship being realised, funding of the sum set out in the Exempt Report, along of the split between the 2026/27 events budget and the Community Recovery Fund, be approved;
- (v) the proposals for seeking sponsorship to cover the remaining costs and the commencement of fundraising activity to meet the projected costs net of grant costs of hosting the event, as set out in the Exempt Report, be approved; and
- (vi) the Cabinet to be informed of the projected net cost as the project progresses and a formal request for additional funding to be made beyond the sum set out in the Exempt Report before it is committed, including how this would be funded.

The Meeting closed at 8.17 pm.

CLLR GARETH WILLIAMS, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
