

CABINET

Meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd June, 2026 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council

Cllr Keith Dibble, Housing, Planning & Property Portfolio Holder

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

Cllr Julie Hall, Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Sophie Porter) and Councillor Gaynor Austin.

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 **15th June, 2026**.

92. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

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

93. **MINUTES –**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 21st April, 2026 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

94. **COUNCIL PLAN AND RISK REGISTER QUARTERLY UPDATE AND YEAR END 2025/26 –**

(Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council)

The Cabinet received Report No. ED2606, which set out the performance monitoring information for the Council Delivery Plan and key service measures for the fourth quarter and end of year 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.

In discussing the report, Members were satisfied that good progress had been made by the Council towards delivering the Council Delivery Plan and that the Risk Register represented an accurate summary of the most significant risks faced by the Council.

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. ED2606, be noted; and,

- (ii) the changes to the Corporate Risk Register, as set out in Section 6 of the Report, be approved.

95. **ALDERSHOT AND FARNBOROUGH (RUSHMOOR BOROUGH) LOCAL PLAN SCOPING CONSULTATION –**
(Cllr Keith Dibble, Housing, Planning & Property Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. PG2610, which set out the next stage in relation to the production of a new local plan for Rushmoor.

Members were informed that, in order to comply with Local Plan Regulations, it would be necessary to carry out a scoping consultation exercise. It was proposed that this would run for six weeks between 19th June and 31st July, 2026. The consultation would combine online and in person engagement and would focus on what the local plan should include and how future engagement should be carried out.

In discussing the report, Members expressed support for the proposed approach and requested to be informed if consultation responses were low in any particular area or demographic. In response, it was confirmed that there would be a review halfway through the exercise and that any such discrepancies would be identified and communicated to Members.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) the undertaking of the scoping consultation, as set out in Report No. PG2610, be approved;
- (ii) the Executive Head of Property and Growth be authorised to finalise the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping and Habitats Regulations Assessment Pre-Screening for consultation; and
- (iii) the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Housing, Planning & Property Portfolio Holder, be authorised to finalise the Consultation and Engagement Strategy following the scoping consultation to reflect the feedback received.

96. **ARMED FORCES DAY NATIONAL EVENT 2026 - UPDATE –**
(Cllr Sophie Porter, Healthy Communities & Active Lives Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. ED2608, which set out an update on progress with planning for the Armed Forces Day National Event 2026, along with a revised budget position that was required to ensure the safe and successful delivery of the event.

Members were reminded that the Council, working in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and local shareholders, had secured the opportunity to host this prestigious event, bringing significant economic, social and community benefits to the Borough. The Cabinet, at its meeting in November, 2025, had agreed to

underwrite the cost of the event and had approved proposals for seeking sponsorship to cover the costs of running the event. The Cabinet had received a further report in April, 2026 which had set out revised cost projections and Members had agreed to underwrite an anticipated budget gap. Since this time, planning had progressed further and Police and Armed Forces leads had become more involved and this had resulted in a more thorough understanding of the safety, security and specialist infrastructure that was required to deliver an event of national significance. This has resulted in an updated forecast budget that more accurately reflected the safety and logistical demands involved. It was reported that considerable commercial sponsorship and in-kind supports had already been secured, with further opportunities still being actively pursued. At the time of writing, however, there was a funding gap between current income and expenditure of around £431,736, which the Council would need to underwrite for the event to be delivered.

The Cabinet continued to express strong support for this event, which Members considered would be of significant benefit to the Borough, despite the costs escalating to a level considerably higher than was indicated when the Council initially discussed the possibility of hosting the event.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) the current financial position, as set out in Report No. ED2608, be noted and the underwriting of the current budget gap of £431,736 be approved, to be funded from any forecast underspend in the events budget, broader service budget savings, the community recovery fund and, as a last resort, the stability and resilience reserve;
- (ii) the adding of a contingency of 10% to the forecast event budget be approved;
- (iii) the proposals for seeking additional commercial income to cover the remaining costs and to close the budget gap, as set out in the Report, be noted; and
- (iv) officers be requested to identify options to achieve the required level of savings following the budget outturn, Medium Term Financial Strategy review and final event account.

97. APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET WORKING GROUPS 2026/27 –

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) the following Cabinet Working Groups be appointed for the 2026/27 Municipal Year based on the memberships as set out below:

(1) Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Working Group

Leader of the Council
(Cllr Gareth Williams)

Deputy Leader of the Council
(Cllr Sophie Porter)

One Labour Member
(Cllr Tom Day)

Two Conservative Members
(Cllrs Steve Harden and Gareth Lyon)

One 'Others' Group Member
(Cllr Craig Card)

One Reform Member
(Vacancy)

(2) Strategic Housing and Local Plan Working Group

Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Local Plan
(Cllr Keith Dibble)

Chairman of Development Management Committee
(Cllr Calum Stewart)

Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder
(Cllr Julie Hall)

Chairman or Vice-Chairman of Policy and Project Advisory Board
(Cllr Tom Day)

One 'Others' Group Member
(Cllr Leola Card)

Two Conservative Members
(Cllrs Jib Belbase and Steve Masterson)

One Reform Member
(Vacancy)

(3) Member Development Group

Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Member Development
(Cllr Sophie Porter)

Two Labour Members
(Cllrs Bill O'Donovan and Rhian Jones)

One Conservative Member
(Cllr Sue Carter)

One 'Others' Group Member
(Cllr Halleh Koohestani)

One Reform Member
(Vacancy)

(4) SERCO Waste Contract Extension Group

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

Cabinet Champion for Pride in Place
(Cllr Lisa Greenway)

One Labour Member
(Cllr Tom Day)

Two Conservative Members
(Cllrs Steve Harden and Martin Tennant)

One 'Others' Group Member
(Cllr Leola Card)

One Reform Member
(Vacancy)

(5) National Armed Forces Day Working Group

Healthy Communities & Active Lives Portfolio Holder
(Cllr Sophie Porter)

Two Labour Members
(Cllrs Lisa Greenway and Dhan Sarki)

Two Conservative Members
(Cllrs Steve Masterson and Martin Tennant)

One 'Others' Group Member
(Cllr Leola Card)

One Reform Member
(Vacancy)

- (ii) the Corporate Manager - Democracy, in consultation with Group Leaders, be authorised to finalise the named appointments to the Groups as required.

98. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC –

RESOLVED: That, taking into account the public interest test, the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the under mentioned item to avoid the

disclosure of exempt information within the paragraph of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 indicated against the item:

Minute No.	Schedule 12A Para. No.	Category
99	3	Information relating to financial or business affairs

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

99. **PROPOSED SURRENDER OF LEASE - BRIDGE HOUSE, EELMOOR ROAD, FARNBOROUGH –**
(Cllr Keith Dibble, Housing, Planning & Property Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report No. PG2611, which sought approval to agree a strategy for the lease at Bridge House, Eelmoor Road, Farnborough.

Members were reminded that the Council had purchased Bridge House in 2019 as an investment property to generate income to support the Council's revenue account. The Cabinet was informed that the current tenant had expressed a wish to exit the lease early and this would provide the Council with the opportunity to address dilapidations issues and consider the future of this asset in the context of a wider review of its commercial investment portfolio. The exempt report set out details of the proposed lump sum settlement that had been negotiated in respect of the early surrender of the lease.

The Cabinet expressed support for the proposed approach as being the best available to the Council at the current time.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) in principle and subject to legal documentation, the early surrender of the lease in respect of Bridge House, Eelmoor Road, Farnborough, as set out in Exempt Report No. PG2611, be approved, on the basis of a negotiated lump sum settlement for the figure set out in the Exempt Report;
- (ii) the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Executive Head of Finance and the Executive Head of Governance and Law, be authorised to confirm the final terms of the surrender and settlement;
- (iii) officers be authorised to attempt to relet the property whilst also putting the property up for sale with or without vacant possession; and
- (iv) a further detailed options appraisal be brought back to the Cabinet once feasible let and/or disposal options are secured.

The Meeting closed at 7.58 pm.

CLLR GARETH WILLIAMS, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
