

CABINET

Meeting held on Thursday, 20th August, 2026 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 3.30 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council
Cllr Sophie Porter, Deputy Leader and Healthy Communities & Active Lives Portfolio Holder

Cllr Keith Dibble, Housing, Planning & Property Portfolio Holder
Cllr Christine Guinness, Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Gaynor Austin and 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 **3rd September, 2026**.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

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

24. MINUTES –

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th August, 2026 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

25. NOS. 16-18 THE MEADS, FARNBOROUGH - ADDITIONAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT –

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

The Cabinet considered Report No. REG2603, which set out a proposal to consider increasing the capital budget allocation to enable the completion of the building works at Nos. 16-18 The Meads, Farnborough.

Members were informed that most of the main contractor works had been completed and that additional unforeseen costs had arisen which had resulted in an overspend of the project's budget allocation. It was explained that these additional costs could be attributed largely to the complexity of the ground conditions alongside risks inherent in carrying out refurbishment works to an ageing asset.

The Cabinet was supportive of the proposed approach to complete the delivery of this important project in the regeneration of Farnborough town centre. Concern was expressed, however, that the cost of this project had exceeded the agreed budget and that this been the case with other recent projects. It was agreed that the method by which project budgets and contingencies were calculated should be thoroughly reviewed.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that an increase to the project's capital budget of up to £35,000, to enable the completion of the works by the end of September, 2026, plus the provision of a contingency of up to £15,000, be approved, both funded from capital receipts balances.

26. **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
27	3	Information relating to financial or business affairs

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

27. **UNION YARD - RIGHT OF LIGHT CLAIM - EMPIRE BANQUETING HALL –**
(Cllr Julie Hall, Economy, Skills & Regeneration Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report No. REG2604, which sought approval to agree a revenue budget to settle a claim for compensation.

Members were advised that a compensation claim had been received from the owners of a nearby property in respect of an interference with its right to light caused by the Union Yard development. It was reported that settlement of the claim would avoid the issue of legal proceedings by the applicants. The Report set out the legal position in relation to this matter and summarised a report that had been commissioned from the Council's rights of light surveyors.

The Cabinet queried whether insurance against such claims might have been appropriate but it was explained that insurance of this type was cost-prohibitive.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that the establishment of a Supplementary Budget within the Revenue Account, in the sum set out in the Exempt Report No. REG2604, be approved, to be funded from the Stability and Resilience revenue reserve.

The Meeting closed at 3.54 pm.

CLLR GARETH WILLIAMS, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
