

Meeting: **Council**
Date: **22 February 2023**
Time: **7.00 pm**
Place: **Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone**

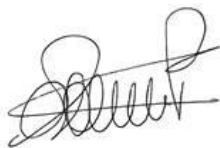
To: **All Members of the Council**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of the Council on the date and at the time shown above.

Anyone who wishes to have information on any matter arising on the Agenda which is not fully covered in these papers is requested to give notice prior to the meeting to the Chairman or appropriate officer.

This meeting will be webcast live to the council's website at <https://folkestone-hythe.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>.

Please note there will be 37 seats available for members of the public, which will be reserved for those speaking or participating at the meeting. The remaining available seats will be given on a first come, first served basis.



Dr Susan Priest
Chief Executive

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest (Pages 5 - 6)**

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Contact Jemma West – Tel: 01303 853369
Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or download from our
website
www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Members of the Council should declare any discloseable pecuniary interest or any other significant interests in any item/s on this agenda.

3. **Minutes (Pages 7 - 28)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the council held on 30 November 2022 and to authorise the Chairman of the Council to sign them as a correct record.

4. **Chairman's Communications**

5. **Petitions (Pages 29 - 30)**

A petition asking for the hoarding along the entire Princes Parade site to be removed has been received and has a total of 325 signatures. As per the petitions scheme, set out in part 4 of the constitution, petitions which receive more than 250 signatures can be presented to a meeting of Full Council.

6. **Questions from the Public**

1. From Mrs Mary Lawes to Councillor Ray Field, Cabinet Member for Transport and Digital Transformation

Residents Permit Holders in Marine Crescent/Parade, The Stade/Folkestone Harbour & in some streets in zone (G) and (G1) are unable to park near their homes.

Why does this council give priority parking for visitors, 1 hour parking and contractors above resident permit holders, who cannot park near their homes because of these decision by council and the Cabinet member for Transport?

7. **Questions from Councillors**

(Questions can be found on www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk from noon 2 days before the meeting, on Modern.gov, under the agenda for this meeting).

Up to 45 minutes is allowed for questions from councillors.

8. **Announcements of the Leader of the Council**

To receive a report from the Leader of the Council on the business of the cabinet and on matters that the leader considers should be drawn to the council's attention. The leader shall have 10 minutes to make his announcements.

The opposition group will have an opportunity to reply to the leader's remarks. The opposition group leader shall have 5 minutes to respond

after which the Leader of the Council will have a right of reply. Any right of reply will be for a maximum duration of 5 minutes.

9. **Opposition Business**

There is no opposition business.

10. **Motions on Notice**

There are no Motions on Notice.

11. **Temporary polling Place (station) Changes at Parliamentary, Local, Police and Crime Commissioner Elections and Parish Polls (Pages 31 - 34)**

It is best practice to ensure delegated power is in place for elections to allow an appropriate officer to determine suitable, alternative arrangements if a polling place (station) is unavailable, or unsuitable for the needs of the election, electorate and/or legislation changes. Temporary measures could be later made permanent at a compulsory polling district and place review and this report seeks to ensure that the necessary authority is in place to ensure polling place requirements are met.

12. **Second and Empty homes Premiums (Pages 35 - 46)**

From 1 April 2024, billing authorities will be given the ability to add a Council Tax premium to second homes and to amend existing long term empty home Council Tax premiums. This report reviews these proposals and recommends that some changes are introduced from the financial year 2024/25.

This report seeks an in-principle decision from Members to agree proposals in accordance with the Council Tax premium proposals set out within Leveling up and regeneration Bill, subject to Royal Assent being obtained. An early, in principle decision is recommended to allow timely decision to be made if and when the Royal Assent is granted.

13. **Report to Council on a decision made in accordance with the constitution's call-in and urgency rule (Pages 47 - 50)**

The constitution provides that, when an urgent decision is made by the Cabinet or Cabinet Member, for which any delay in implementation, likely to be caused by the call-in process, would seriously prejudice the Council's or public interest, then the 'Call-in Rules of Procedure', Part 6.3, rules 1-6 do not apply. Decisions, taken as a matter of urgency, must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.

14. **Review of Political Balance and Committee Membership (Pages 51 - 54)**

This report sets out a summary of the need to review the political balance and membership of committees following the resignation of Councillor P Martin to leave the Conservative Group and become an independent member. The report also sets out the requirement to appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee.

15. **Update to the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme (Pages 55 - 72)**

This report updates the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme for the five-year period ending 31 March 2028. The General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme is required to be submitted to full Council for consideration and approval as part of the budget process.

16. **Capital Strategy 2023/24 and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2023/24 (Pages 73 - 90)**

This report sets out the Council's proposed strategy in relation to capital expenditure, financing and treasury management in 2023/24 to be approved by full Council. The report also sets out the Prudential Indicators for capital expenditure and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2023/24 to be approved by full Council.

17. **Investment Strategy 2023/24 (Pages 91 - 108)**

This report sets out the Council's proposed strategy for its service and commercial investments in 2023/24 to be approved by full Council.

18. **Draft Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Original Budget 2023/24 (Pages 109 - 126)**

This report sets out the Housing Revenue Account ('HRA') Revenue and Capital Budget for 2023/24 for approval and proposes an increase in weekly rents and an increase in service charges for 2023/24 both for approval.

19. **General Fund Budget and Council Tax 2023/24 (Pages 127 - 156)**

This report concludes the budget setting process for 2023/24. It sets out recommendations for setting the council tax after taking into account the district's council tax requirement (including town and parish council requirements and special expenses in respect of the Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Grounds Charity), the precepts of Kent County Council, the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner and the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Service.