



## **SUMMONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A MEETING OF THE HART DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY, FLEET ON THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER 2016 AT 7.00 PM

Joint Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY  
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

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## **AGENDA**

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BRAILLE ON REQUEST**

### **1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 November 2016.  
**Paper A**

### **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To declare disclosable pecuniary, and any other, interests.

### **4 PRESENTATION – WORKING WITH VULNERABLE VETERANS**

### **5 INSPIRE BUSINESS AWARDS**

Councillor Crookes to lead congratulations to the short listed and winners.

### **6 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

To receive any questions from members of the public submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.

*Note: The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 12 must be given to the Chief Executive not later than **Noon on Friday, 9 December 2016.***

## 7 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

To receive any questions from Members submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.

*Note: The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 14.3 must be given to the Chief Executive not later than 5.00 pm on Monday, 12 December 2016.*

*The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 14.4 must be submitted to the Chief Executive before 10.00 am on Thursday, 15 December 2016.*

## 8 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 9 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 10 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

## 11 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the following Committees, which met on the dates shown, are submitted.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1, Members are allowed to put questions at Council without Notice in respect of any matters in the Minutes to the Leader of the Council or any Chairman of the relevant meeting at the time those Minutes are received by Council.

Meeting	Date	Page Numbers	For Decision
Licensing	2 November 2016	4-6	<b>Minute 13</b> - Approval Of Stage 2 Review Of Statement Of Principles Under The Gambling Act 2005 <b>Minute 14</b> - Approval Of Revised Statement Of Licensing Policy Under The Licensing Act 2003 For Referral To Full Council For Adoption
Cabinet	1 December 2016		<b>Minute 85</b> - Rotherwick Neighbourhood Plan – Bringing into Legal Force

## 12 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

To note changes in membership of Committees.

**Date of Despatch: 6 December 2016**

## **COUNCIL**

**Date and Time:** Thursday, 24 November 2016 at 7.00 pm

**Place:** Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

**Present:**

### **COUNCILLORS –**

Southern - (Chairman)

Ambler	Crisp	Neighbour
Axam	Crookes	Oliver
Blewett	Dickens	Parker
Burchfield	Forster	Radley (James)
Butler	Gorys	Radley (Jenny)
Clarke	Kennett	Renshaw
Cockarill	Kinnell (from 8.05 pm)	Wheale (from 7.30 pm)
Collett	Makepeace-Browne	Wright
Crampton	Morris	

### **Officers Present:**

Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Gill Chapman	Committee Services

## **53 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 October 2016 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Billings, Bailey, Gray, Leeson and Woods.

## **55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

## **56 PRESENTATION BY THE VINE CENTRE**

The Chairman introduced Mags Mercer, CEO of the Vince Centre, one of the Chairman's charities for this municipal year.

Ms Mercer talked about the Vine Centre, a charity based in Aldershot which supports the vulnerable, marginalised and homeless with the aim of supporting their progress into responsible living. The 27 comprehensive services offered by the

Centre includes an emergency nightshelter for the homeless, of which Hart are a part, and a job club and skills café based on the Prospect Estate in Farnborough. The services are tailored to encouraging clients to move to employment and independence by raising skill levels eg open access help with IT, training.

A Training and Catering Kitchen opened earlier in the year with a new mobile catering unit service to open in the new year. The savings to the NHS etc of delivery of these services could be up to over £1m, and the Centre works with all agencies and is committed to partnership working. The highly valued volunteers worked in all areas of the organisation, in addition to staff such as Project Workers and a Mental Health worker.

Financially the centre relies on Rushmoor BC, statutory funding geared around delivering a project and donations.

Members asked questions on outreach services, ex military clients, volunteering and fund raising, and thanked Ms Mercer for her informative talk on the valuable work of the Centre.

*NB Councillor Wheale entered the meeting during this item.*

## **57 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

Questions had been received from Mr Chris Cornwell, details of which are set out in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

## **58 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

No questions received.

## **59 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had attended the following events on behalf of the Council.

30 October	Hart Civic Service – St John’s Church, Hartley Wintney
10 November	Hampshire Schools’ Sports Federation and HCC – Sports Awards Evening at The Castle Winchester
13 November	Remembrance Day Service in the Harlington, Parade and Act of Remembrance and Wreath-laying at Gurkha Square
17 November	Robert Mays School Prize Giving, Odiham

The Vice-Chairman had attended the Mayor of Surrey Heath’s Pudding & Craft Evening at St Pauls Church, Camberley on 18 November, and Councillor Clarke had attended the Remembrance Sunday Service at Christ Church, Church Crookham, on 13 November.

The Chairman reminded Members that his next event would be a Chairman’s Charity Dinner at Hartley Wintney Golf Club on Monday, 28 November. Places were still available.

## 60 CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, **Councillor Parker**, announced

### Devolution:

The anticipated announcement of a Solent devolution deal did not materialise in the Autumn Statement; no new deals were announced due to the backlog of work involved in the ten deals already announced. I would not expect any further announcements until the budget in March. However, the report commissioned from Price Waterhouse Coopers was published today. I am not going to try to summarise it – the Executive Summary finishes on page 12 – but the link is on Hart’s website and will be emailed to members shortly. I would encourage members to read at least the executive summary. It builds on the Deloitte report performed in the Spring on a limited time and brief, and puts more meat on the bone.

### Housing:

With Councillor Gorys I attended a meeting arranged by the District Councils’ Network, which was addressed by Gavin Barwell MP, minister at DCLG for, among other things, housing delivery. He trailed his white paper on housing due in December, and whilst he was unable to give detail, it is clear that it will contain provisions to deal with the vexed issue of landbanking. I look forward to the detail in due course.

### Local Plan:

I attended, again with Councillor Gorys, a meeting of the Housing Market Area member councils, at which the joint Strategic Housing Market Area Assessment was formally agreed. Following this, we plan to bring the Regulation 18 consultation to January council. The timetable leading up to this is being developed and will be shared with members next week.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, **Councillor Burchfield**, reported:

We had our first Five Councils Partnership Corporate Services Joint Committee meeting on 15 November. The long and short of it all was that we are now three months into the initial launch and whilst we have had a few bumps in the road, the initiative is now running well. We are putting together a KPI tracker so that at each quarterly meeting we can receive a traffic light report on how well the initiative is performing and how each Council is tracking against its savings targets.

Additionally, we have now voted to officially recognise East Hampshire as a full partner with a vote on the board. Previously they were a ‘silent partner’ under Havant.

Lastly, the 5 Council Partnership has been nominated for the ‘Most Innovative Service’ award at the March 2017 LGC Awards event. Both Ms Hughes and I will be attending. This is an important award as it brings more exposure to the service we have created with Capita and Vinci. The more exposure we receive, the more likely other Councils will join our group which is beneficial for all five councils financially in terms of additional savings.

The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, **Councillor Crampton**, announced:

The Sustainability and Transform plan for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight was published yesterday. This is a plan for NHS and Social Service provision.

It begins by stating that the plan will provide services to patients that will be closer to home over the next five years. Patients will have more choice about where and when they receive treatment, less travel time to attend appointments and less waiting time for appointments. There will be more opportunity for treatment at home and in the community.

However, if services do not change there is predicted to be a £577m funding gap by 2021. Formal consultation will take place in some areas, for example in our area North and Mid Hampshire there will be formal consultation over the provision of acute services. Over the next few weeks each statutory organisation involved will receive the plan for discussion at their public board meeting. The plan will also be discussed at meetings of local Health and Wellbeing boards across the area. I have picked out some of the most important points in the plan.

There is much in the plan about prevention and for Local Authorities this will be the largest part of the workload. People will be supported to look after their own health to prevent disease and ill health in the future. GP practices will work to scale to deliver access for urgent needs across a 7 day period. There will be an extended primary care team meaning that going to see a doctor may become going to see a nurse, counsellor, and so on. Urgent and emergency care will be simplified to improve patient flow and home based care capacity will be invested in to reduce delayed discharges. There will be more domiciliary teams and better use made of community beds. Acute hospitals will be reorganised to reconfigure unsustainable acute services.

The four Hampshire and Isle of Wight trusts providing mental health services, commissioners, Local Authorities, third sector organisations and service users are working together to deliver a shared model of care with standardised pathways and to enact the five year forward view for mental health. A local recovery based solution will replace expensive out of area placements for long term rehab patients.

There will be no overall workforce increase, but the domiciliary care workforce will increase, and 300 hospital beds will be removed by making more efficient use of bed capacity. The estate footprint will be reduced by 19% and estate costs reduced by £24m. There will be release of surplus land for housing. The extended primary care teams will free GPs to focus on high impact work such as complex diabetics that currently attend hospital outpatient departments.

Through efficiency savings and transformation and using £60m of the STP fund they will break even by 2021.

On 16 November I attended Everyone Active's Sporting Champions launch event. This scheme provides ongoing support for talented athletes across the UK. Through their work with Local Authorities they have supported more than 500 athletes worth over £1m of sponsorship over the next four years. They will continue their support

by offering both funding and access to Everyone Active new leisure centres across the country.

If you know of a UK athlete who is looking for support they would love to hear from them, all the details can be found on Everyone Active's Sporting Champions webpage.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, **Councillor Crookes**, reported

I recently attended the annual conference of the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise partnership (LEP). The theme of this year's conference was "Unlocking and Connecting talent in the digital age" and it explored the digital skills gap, what it is and why it is there and how do businesses resolve the 'talent drought'. The conference was very well attended and included some fascinating insights into some of the challenges, global, national and local around the Digital Age. The meeting presentations will in due course be posted on the LEP web site:

<https://www.enterprisem3.org.uk/>

Winners and shortlisted businesses were announced and celebrated at the annual Inspire Business Awards event on 10 November. Once again the quality and diversity of entries was excellent, making it difficult for judges to decide in a number of categories. A number of Hart businesses were shortlisted and we had winners in 3 categories. With the agreement of our Chairman I am inviting the Hart shortlisted and winners to our December Council meeting so that we can hear their individual stories, and congratulate them.

Lloyds Bank recently announced the closure of its branch in Odiham. This leaves the villages of Odiham, Hook and Hartley Wintney without a single bank branch and seriously disadvantages both local businesses and residents. I plan to bring a motion to December Council to ask Lloyds to reconsider their position and shall be looking for support from Council.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, **Councillor Forster**, announced:

Waste:

The Members' panel input has been constructive in helping firm up the specification from the tender, along with BDBC who also undertook similar work. As part of the activity, BDBC and Hart invited and considered East Hants and Winchester to join them in the tender when their contracts expire over the subsequent year - however after initial discussions it was felt that there would be little or no benefit to Hart or BDBC or to East Hants and Winchester, therefore they have decided to pursue their own path. We will align for the next time period.

We have had three fly tipping incidents across Hart recently after we were unable to accept fridge/freezers following the national backlog and lack of processing facility. I am glad to report that HCC and Project Integra have cleared our local stockpile and are able to provide the service from the County HWRCs once more, effective as of today. Hart's website has been updated accordingly, and we will publicise this in the press shortly.

Protection of our Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs):

The Officer responsible for the Infrastructure Team and CEOs has told me of three recent incidents where our CEOs have experienced issues which were classified as assault, threat, intimidation or aggressive behaviour. This is totally unacceptable, and I therefore wanted to reiterate that HDC will actively encourage the police to prosecute any person responsible for such activity to the full extent of the law. This will apply to our CEOs, as well as of course all other HDC staff - and councillors. All CEOs use Body Worn Video recording devices, and data from these, along with CCTV, will be gathered to provide evidence. We will act to protect our personnel at all times, so they can do their jobs safely. Officers are looking at ensuring we have messaging and signage that highlight that any type of abuse, threat, intimidation or aggression will not be tolerated.

Lastly, I am glad that the electric vehicle points in Church Road car park are now live. We expect them to be well used, particularly in light of benefit in kind change to 0% announced by the Chancellor (Range 0-14 versus 13-37).

The Cabinet Member for Housing, **Councillor Gorys**, reported:

I would like to congratulate the Housing Options team on the article “LEARNING FROM OTHERS, Written advice and assistance for all customers by Hart District Council”. This was published in a national good practice publication (produced by the Chartered Institute of Housing in partnership with the National Practitioner Support Service).

We are very busy across the service, working up a bid for DCLG Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer funding – it’s a tight deadline with our submission due for Monday, 28 November, and thanks to our partner agencies for their support.

Louise Lyons' team (Private Sector Housing) continues to work through seasonal issues arising in terms of reports of damp and mould and other hazards arising in residential homes around the district. Keith, Don and Pete are doing a great job keeping on top of things!

As members may have read, the autumn statement has introduced a possible right to buy for housing associations. This may have an impact on our partners in due course but we will need to look at the detail before we have a better understanding of an impact in Hart.

Finally, our thanks go to Pat Dunbar (Car Parks, HDC) for going above and beyond the call of duty and supporting the Housing Services team to assist a vulnerable lady in a wheelchair, who presented for help with all her belongings (including her cat) yesterday. Pat gained the trust and confidence of the lady who was supported to return to her home in West Berkshire. Without Pat's help, it would have been very difficult to support this customer, who was mistrustful and highly vulnerable. Pat's approach was caring, sensitive and she managed to develop a positive relationship with the lady. The Head of Community Services is very grateful to her for her help, which was outside the remit of her role but nonetheless instrumental in enabling us to help this individual.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, **Councillor Kennett**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Town and Village Regeneration, **Councillor Morris**, announced:

I would like thank both Councillors Forster and Gorys for bringing to Council's attention further acknowledgement of the good work Hart's parking enforcement team do.

I totally endorse the statement Councillor Forster has just given with respect to the Council's zero tolerance to the seriousness of the antisocial incidences that the parking enforcement officers have recently experienced, and I'm sure Members all agree to support those affected.

I am happy to announce that the food bank store is now currently operating in refurbished Victoria Road car park toilet block. Thanks to all (and there were many) for their input to deliver this building into serviceable use for the Food Bank.

I am also pleased to announce that Crossways Manor toilet block in Hook is in the final stages of completing the legal documentation to be commercially leased. This building has been empty for over 10 years and all are happy to see it in worthwhile use.

#### Meetings

On 1st November I attended an event called "Revitalising British High Streets" and will be bringing initiatives to Fleet Future and Fleet Business Forum for their considered use. This was a very informative event where much was focussed on the benefits of digital high street initiatives. I will be also looking into more detail of these initiatives to see whether Hart and Hart's residents could benefit from them.

On 23 November I attended, along with Liz Glenn, Hart's Health and Policy Officer, a "Quarterly Welfare Forum" held at Aldershot Garrison. Aldershot are now part of Hart's military covenant committee as they are neighbours and have similar military issues which the covenant seeks to address.

On 29 November I will be attending the annual "Military Covenant Conference" in Westminster.

I would like to congratulate Councillor Wheale and the Fleet Christmas Festival committee for organising such a successful and enjoyable event last night. The event takes many months to bring forward activities and a huge variety of stalls for the enjoyment of all who attended.

As a reminder to all... the Hook Christmas Cracker takes place on Saturday, 3 December and I hope you will all consider attending.

## **61 JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVES' REPORT**

The Joint Chief Executives' report is attached as Appendix B to these Minutes.

*NB Councillor Kinnell entered the meeting during this item.*

## **62 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny</b> No questions asked.	<b>18 October 2016</b>
<b>Licensing Committee</b>	<b>2 November 2016</b>
<b>Minute 13</b> – Approval of Stage 2 Review of Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005	
<b>Minute 14</b> – Approval of Revised Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 for referral to full Council for Adoption	
The Chairman announced that, in agreement with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee, these items would be deferred until the next meeting.	
<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>3 November 2016</b>
No questions asked.	
<b>Planning Committee</b>	<b>9 November 2016</b>
No questions asked	

## **63 AMENDMENTS TO POLLING DISTRICTS RESULTANT ON THE COUNTY BOUNDARY REVIEW**

Members considered the necessary amendments to polling districts and their names and identification letters in order to support the Hampshire County elections on new boundaries from May 2017.

The meeting was informed Fleet Town Council will be asking for a Community Governance review regarding the name and parish warding changes.

After a discussion in which some Members protested that the boundary changes had split communities in half, particularly Elvetham Heath, a vote was taken on the resolution which was CARRIED.

### **RESOLVED**

That the changes to the polling districts, as listed in paragraph 4 of the report, be accepted, and the Electoral Registration Officer be permitted to publish the new Electoral Register on 1 December 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.10

## COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

### QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

#### Questions from Mr Chris Cornwell

##### Question 1

Why did Cllr Forster approve the note to potential attendees to the Transport in Hart meeting on 15 April 2016 saying:

'In anticipation that some positives will come out of the meeting and lead to action being required there will be a follow up meeting on Thursday May 26 to review where we are and agree on how to take things forward. Details of the time and venue for this meeting will follow' when clearly, from his answer to the question posed at last month's Full Council meeting, he had no intention that the meeting should take place?

##### Councillor Forster responded:

The meeting in April was an exploratory meeting and, based on the topics discussed, it was felt that a follow up of the same format would not be productive, so no follow up was scheduled.

Mr Cornwell did not have a supplementary question, but commented:

I am surprised that Cllr Forster's view of what happened and mine were so different and would ask that if anybody wants to see the email exchange that supports my view of what happened they should let me know and I would be happy to let them have it.

##### Question 2

My recollection of the discussion around the bullet point 'Stagecoach publicity' in the notes of the Transport in Hart meeting on 15 April 2016 is that Cllr Forster was going to approach Stagecoach to see if they would fund a brochure/bus map showing all routes including Stagecoach buses, community transport and other transport providers. Is this correct?

##### Councillor Forster responded:

Your recollection is correct. I made a request of Stagecoach whether they would consider this; regrettably they declined to provide funding. Stagecoach will continue to provide route maps of their routes such as the Blackwater Valley & Fleet network, [https://tiscon-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/RouteMaps/South/Aldershot\\_Network%20Map\\_2016\\_V2.pdf](https://tiscon-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/RouteMaps/South/Aldershot_Network%20Map_2016_V2.pdf)

##### Question 3

Why did the Council decide not to respond to Hampshire County Council's consultation on the proposed new Community Transport service model?

##### Councillor Forster responded:

Hart recognises the importance of community transport, and the important role it plays in complementing scheduled buses and other public transport services around the district. The Council works closely with, and has an ongoing dialogue with HCC, and whilst due to limited budgets it is unable to directly fund services, the council would like to see an effective Community Transport solution provided across the district. Recognising the variety

and complexity of the service, with independent operators providing tailored services to suit local needs, it was felt that the Parish Councils would be best placed to provide an informed response to the County Council's consultation.

Mr Cornwell asked a supplementary question:

I would like to thank Cllr Forster for the answer to this and my other questions and ask why I had to come to this meeting to get them, when I gave him notice that I would attend, if necessary, in an email dated 14 October?

**Councillor Forster** responded:

I did not note any specific questions asked in your emails, unless directed at officers. If asked and unanswered I apologise, I am more than happy to answer questions at full council.

**Joint Chief Executives' Report**

**Daryl Phillips reported:**

I spoke on behalf of the Council at a conference on the future of funding of infrastructure delivery on Wednesday, 23 November.

**Planning Update**

It is anticipated that the local plan will be presented to Council on 26 January. In the meantime members will be asked to consider the generic policies at the Steering Group meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 29 November, where also a future project plan outlining the 'road map', intended for the 26 January Council meeting, will be presented to Members. This will include how Members will be involved in the formulating of the local plan strategy.

In terms of major planning applications we have received an application for 700 dwellings at Pale Lane, which will be considered by Planning Committee some time during February/March 2017.

We anticipate that the respective planning applications at Bramshill Police College and Grove Farm will be taken to the December or January Planning Committee.

## **COUNCIL**

**Date and Time:** Thursday, 15 December 2016 at 7.00 pm

**Place:** Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

**Present:**

### **COUNCILLORS –**

Southern - (Chairman)

Ambler	Crampton	Makepeace-Browne
Axam	Crisp	Morris
Bailey	Crookes	Neighbour
Billings (7.05 pm)	Dickens	Oliver
Blewett	Forster	Parker
Butler	Gray	Radley (James)
Clarke	Gorys	Radley (Jenny)
Cockarill	Kennett	Renshaw
Collett (7.05pm)	Leeson	Wheale

Officers Present:

Patricia Hughes	Joint Chief Executive
Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Gill Chapman	Committee Services

### **64 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 November 2016 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **65 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Burchfield, Kinnell, Woods and Wright.

### **66 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Billings declared a personal, but not pecuniary interest, in the Licensing minutes.

*Councillor Billings entered the meeting during this item.*

### **67 INSPIRE BUSINESS AWARDS**

Councillor Crookes gave a short talk about the Inspire Awards, and introduced the winners and finalists.

Winner of New Business of the Year, Jen Copeland, transformed an empty space into the successful community based Harletts Café. Finalist Rob Tillier from Accelerate Driver Training works closely with young drivers helping them to understand the risks of driving. Family Business of the Year Finalists, Emma and Gareth Jones from Odiham Cake Company make 'showstopper' cakes. Employer of the Year, Fleet Mortgages, specialise in the buy to let market. Finalist for Entrepreneur of the Year was Rob Collard, and Collards were Business of the Year,

Members congratulated everyone on their hard work and success.

*Councillor Collett entered the meeting during this item.*

## **68 PRESENTATION – WORKING WITH VULNERABLE VETERANS**

Lucy Nield talked about Vulnerable Veterans. Working with armed forces veterans, reserves and their families they help the transition on leaving the armed forces. Some veterans find integration difficult, small numbers struggle and fall through the cracks and the organisation helps with support in the form of signposting to other services, mentoring, bespoke buddying system, online support and helping them to find work.

Members queries and discussions were around PTSD, homelessness, mental health, other local support, networking, sharing ideas and support and how the Armed Forces themselves were recognising the problems.

Members thanked Lucy for the interesting and enlightening presentation, and the valuable work being done.

## **69 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

No questions received.

## **70 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Questions put by Councillors are detailed in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

## **71 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had attended the following events on behalf of the Council.

28 November	HDC Fundraising event at Hartley Wintney Golf Club
29 November	Reception to celebrate achievements of Hampshire's Olympians and Paralympians at 2016 Olympic Games, The Castle Winchester
5 December	Mayor of Winchester Civic Event in Winchester
8 December	Mayor of Farnham Christmas Carol, Farnham United Reformed Church, Farnham
11 December	St John Ambulance, Hampshire – Christmas Celebration Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church, Fareham
13 December	Visit to Royal Mail Delivery office, Waterfront Business Park, Fleet

## 72 CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, **Councillor Parker**, announced:

Apart from the Chairman's dinner in Hartley Wintney, which was excellent, I attended a party in London thrown by the RSPCA to honour the winners of the RSPCA Gold Footprint Awards. Both members of the Hart dog warden team were there enjoying the event and surroundings and networking with peers from other authorities. The event was attended by a number of MPs including the member for North East Hampshire, Ranil Jayawardena.

Last week I attended a Five Councils event on behalf of Cllr. Burchfield who had other commitments. The contract is being rolled out in the first instance in South Oxfordshire and Vale of Wight Horse. It is clear that there are some teething problems in the roll-out which need some attention, but these are being addressed and both contractors are deploying resource not only to ensure the contract is being delivered but also to provide senior liaison to head off future problems where possible. No contract of this complexity is going to be issue free, but we have the assurance that any concerns will be quickly addressed.

Most members attended the Local Plan Steering Group on Tuesday, where members received an update from our planning policy team and discussed some spatial strategy options. The officers took away some good feedback and will be working to refine those areas where members had concerns. Mr. Phillips and I will be meeting with the planning policy team on Monday to determine the management of the output from Tuesday. We are keen not to lose momentum or to allow the timetable to slip significantly, because not only will we progressively be more vulnerable to developer inroads but we will also find ourselves losing New Homes Bonus at a time when our finances will be tightly squeezed, and we may be compelled to make some savings which we would find distasteful.

The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, **Councillor Crampton**, had no announcements

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, **Councillor Crookes**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, **Councillor Forster**, announced:

Garden waste is now over 950 contracts. The conversion of 'sack to green bin' campaign is going well. The kerbside collections also continue to run well (just one valid complaint this month across the whole of Hart) but this month we've had a further increase in compliments, including from Crookham, Odiham, Blackwater and Fleet, which shows the service is running well across the district.

I'm pleased to inform you that over the Christmas period we've arranged for a significant increase in collections at the bring banks (that's the bottle and recycling collection points around Hart). Some will be collected almost daily. We know that in particular glass and cardboard recycling goes up and some areas suffer if residents leave excess despite them being full, so the extra collections will help.

Last year we had a number of issues of residents leaving general (non recyclable) waste at the bring banks at a few sites last year - most notably at Elvetham Heath. This is fly tipping and we will pursue prosecution if we identify anyone who does this.

We'll once again collect Xmas trees kerbside for free with for garden waste subscribers, through January.

The team here will be working 22 & 23 and 29 & 30 December, but the call centre is closed 27 & 28 December - although there will be collections on those dates.

Finally parking has had a good month doing a great job as usual.

Have a very merry Christmas and remember to recycle!

The Cabinet Member for Housing, **Councillor Gorys**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, **Councillor Kennett**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Town and Village Regeneration, **Councillor Morris**, reported:

Funding has finally been secured for several community regeneration projects in Blackwater and as much of the detailed planning has already commenced it is my intention to deliver these projects as soon as possible in the new year. These initiatives include the previously announced re-landscaping of the untidy area on the corner of Vicarage Road and the A30, a public clock and the renovation of the railings down the A30 from the railway bridge to the Vicarage Road. The tree will form a much needed piece of greenery breaking up the some what harsh street scene in that area and can be dressed with lights during Christmas periods. The clock will become a focal point and the refurbished railings should break down the somewhat industrial feel of the pathway and gateway into Blackwater by car. All this work will help give a better identity and softer appearance to Blackwater.

I was pleased to learn that Blackwater and Hawley Neighborhood Plan Steering Group Committee met for the first time on 29th November where also in attendance was the owner of Seymours Estate agents Mr James Sharpin the Chairman of the newly formed Blackwater Business Forum. Leading Blackwater retailers Mr Sharpin is very keen to promote and encourage the regeneration work being carried out in Blackwater and his enthusiasm is a perfect example of a community working together to make their environment work both for the public and the retailers.

As a final note, Rotherwick is the first of our communities to complete and have adopted their NP. Their referendum was attended by 54% of the Rotherwick community a huge uplift on the national average of between 25 to 40%. The highest was 65%. Should we vote through this evening Rotherwick NP it will be live and part of Harts Local Plan and will be used to help determine planning applications in Rotherwick. Rotherwick community should be commended.

### **73 JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVES' REPORT**

The Joint Chief Executives' report is attached as Appendix B to these Minutes.

### **74 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Licensing Committee</b>	<b>2 November 2016</b>

No questions asked.

**Minute 13** - Approval Of Stage 2 Review Of Statement Of Principles Under The Gambling Act 2005

#### **Resolved**

That the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage Review of the Statement of Principles be adopted.

**Minute 14** - Approval Of Revised Statement Of Licensing Policy Under The Licensing Act 2003 For Referral To Full Council For Adoption

#### **Resolved**

That the revised Statement of Licensing Policy be adopted.

<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>1 December 2016</b>
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No questions asked.

**Minute 85** - Rotherwick Neighbourhood Plan – Bringing into Legal Force

#### **Resolved**

That under Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the Rotherwick Neighbourhood Plan be 'made' (brought into legal force) to form part of the statutory Hart Development Plan with immediate effect.

### **75 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Council noted the changes in membership of Committees:

Councillor Forster had replaced Councillor Woods on Planning Committee  
Councillor Dickens had replaced Councillor Kinnell on Licensing Committee  
Councillor Dickens had replaced Councillor Woods on Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **76 MOTION TO COUNCIL**

Councillor Crookes proposed a Motion to Council, seconded by Cllr Gorys.

Members discussed the situation and how it could be changed, particularly by encouraging businesses to be part of the district settlements. Members considered

online banking, the need for local branches, access to other parts of the district, other settlements in Hart that had lost banks, and alternative ways of thinking, and alternative ways of keeping the service in the community without keeping branch open, eg post offices

“This Council, as representative of local residents, regrets the recent decision of Lloyd’s bank to close its Odiham branch in March 2017. The service it provides is particularly highly valued, especially by older residents and small business owners who use the branch to manage their finances. Following recent closures, the residents of Odiham, Hook and Hartley Wintney will have no local bank branch. Bank branches in the nearby towns of Alton, Basingstoke and Fleet are almost inaccessible by public transport.

The Council therefore urges Lloyd’s bank to re consider its decision and to keep the Odiham branch open as a valued service to the communities of the district of Hart.”

After consideration and discussion the motion was supported unanimously.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

## COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14

### QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Collett asked the Leader of the Council:

On 4<sup>th</sup> August the Cabinet decided that a public consultation would take place “*on introducing a Council Tax Support Scheme which requires those covered by the scheme to pay a minimum of 20% of their Council Tax liability*”. This was reported to Council on 29<sup>th</sup> September for noting, and no debate took place, although I was able to ask three questions.

The wording of that resolution was clear. Anyone who is currently entitled to anything between 80% and 100% Council Tax Support would, if such a scheme were to be adopted, only receive 80% support in future and would have to pay the 20% of their Council Tax that was not supported. Those who already pay 20% or more of their Council Tax liability would obviously be unaffected.

Yet the consultation details set out on the Council’s website said something significantly different. This stated that “*residents of working age who currently receive 100% support would have to pay 20% of the charge and those working age claimants who receive partial support (i.e. not 100%), would see the level of their support proportionally reduced*”. In other words, unlike the Cabinet decision, this was now being extended to a 20% cut for ALL those residents of working age who receive Council Tax Support.

I would therefore like to ask:

On what authority were the terms of the consultation changed in such a significant manner?

**Councillor Parker** responded:

Resolutions of Cabinet and other bodies are not designed to be read in isolation, and must be taken in the context of the reports which support them. The report to Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> August sought agreement to carry out public consultation on introducing a Council Tax Support Scheme which required those covered by the scheme to pay a minimum of 20% of their Council Tax liability.

5.7.1 of the report stated :

Minimum payment. If the calculation of Council Tax Support was based on only 80% liability, this would mean that someone living in a Band D property would be billed around **£300 per year** if they previously had full benefit. For those not on full benefit, the extra amount to pay for someone in a Band D property would be in the region of **£150 - £200 per annum**.

5.8 of the report advises :

It is the 1,610 working age (but not necessarily in work) claimants where a local scheme can be determined which can change the level of Support provided.

The terms of the consultation were not changed, it is these 1,610 taxpayers who would have their level of support affected if the suggested change was agreed. Basing the Council Tax Support calculation on 80% liability would mean the CTS calculation would change for all

claimants of working age, which is why it was stated in 5.7.1 that those not on full benefit would face an increase as well as those on full benefit.

Thus as Cabinet passed the resolution based on the report, there was no change, and the consultation was on the authority of Cabinet. Any resulting decisions will be taken by Council in February, and I look forward to hearing the member and others in debate.

**Councillor Collett** asked a supplementary question:

Is the Leader seriously suggesting that resolutions can be interpreted to mean something different to what they actually say in this way? How can any local authority operate when no-one can rely on decisions being implemented in the way that was agreed? Also, bearing in mind that during discussions in the lead-up to this year's budget decisions in February, the Leader told Cllr Neighbour and I that an amendment during the budget debate ruling out such a consultation was unnecessary, because he would never support such a move, now that he has changed his position and this public consultation has taken place, and is now closed, is it still this administration's intention to pick on many of the District's most financially vulnerable residents in this way?

**Councillor Parker** responded:

This is a consultation and we evaluate responses we receive and use that to help the decisions going forward. The decisions are also considered by Overview and Scrutiny and we take advice from them. Things move on, and we are now in a different financial place and having to look at this as one of the possible savings to balance the books. We always want to help vulnerable people, we don't want to do this but sometimes we have to make difficult decisions.

**Joint Chief Executives' Report**

Whilst we are still awaiting the final details, and the devil is always in the detail, the provisional local government settlement today reflects what we broadly anticipated for 2017/2018. However, it does not look so good for the following 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 years where there will be significant challenges.

When assessed against current spend we will need to find £500k worth of savings in 2017/18 set in the context of only a £9.6m budget. That will be hard to achieve without having to resort to the use of reserves, although reserves should not be used to subsidise structural revenue shortfalls.

In the following year, from April 2018, in the absence of an adopted local plan and reliance on planning appeals we are likely will lose the whole of the New Homes Bonus, some £2.4m

We need to restate that the Government have made it very clear that no New Homes Bonus will be paid for any properties granted on planning appeal.

Recognising the challenges this presents the Council, Officers and Members have already considered (through Service Boards during this autumn) potential areas for savings or increases in income. Moving forward, we anticipate working with Members during January to present an informed budget in February.