



## **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 26 OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM

Joint Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY  
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

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## **AGENDA**

**COPIES OF THIS AGENDA ARE AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT AND  
BRAILLE ON REQUEST**

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

To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 September 2017.  
**Paper A**

### **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To declare disclosable pecuniary, and any other, interests.

### **4 PRESENTATION - ROSEFIELD DAY CENTRE**

### **5 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, 20 October 2017.***

## **6 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, 23 October 2017.***

*The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 14.4 must be submitted to the Chief Executive before **10.00 am on Thursday, 26 October 2017.***

## **7 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **8 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **9 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

## **10 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
Overview and Scrutiny	19 September 2017	14-19	
Audit	26 September 2017	4-7	
Cabinet	5 October 2017	17-20	
Planning	11 October 2017	48-54	

**Date of Despatch: 17 October 2017**

## **COUNCIL**

**Date and Time:** Thursday, 28 September 2017 at 7.00 pm

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

**Present:**

### **COUNCILLORS –**

Crisp - (Chairman)

Ambler	Crookes	Oliver
Axam	Dickens	Parker
Billings	Forster	Radley (James)
Blewett	Gorys	Radley (Jenny)
Burchfield	Harward	Renshaw
Butler	Kennett	Southern
Clarke	Leeson	Wheale
Cockarill	Makepeace-Browne	Woods
Collett	Morris	
Crampton	Neighbour	

Officers Present:

Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Gill Chapman	Committee Services

Prior to the meeting, Tim Colman of the Federation of Small Businesses awarded a Certificate to the Chairman in recognition of being highly commended in Best All-round Small Business Friendliness.

### **31 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Bailey, Gray, Kinnell and Wright.

### **33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Oliver declared an interest in item 12, as a member of Fleet Town Council.

### **34 PRESENTATION BY FLEET AND CHURCH CROOKHAM FIRST RESPONDERS**

Tom Gallagher, Team Leader, gave a presentation on the work of the Fleet and Church Crookham First Responders. The team covers an area where it can take over ten minutes for an ambulance to arrive, and the First Responders can give valuable treatment and care before the ambulance arrives as they are already in the immediate vicinity. They are all volunteers, some with other jobs, and volunteers are always welcomed with full training given. Tom explained the process and how they can help the patient and potentially save lives. Defibrillators, positioned around the area, are also of great help in heart attack situations, but are expensive to buy. Residents are encouraged to know where their nearest machine is, and the group run training on using the machines and CPR all round the area, in schools, clubs, leisure centres etc. Tom added that the team would be happy to organise a course at the Council office for Councillors and Officers to attend.

Questions ranged around other First Response teams in the area, how often the defibrillators were being used and their cost. Members with personal experience of the excellent work done by the team added their thanks and support.

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

Questions from the Public are detailed in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

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

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

### **37 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- 2 Sept Eversley Sports Association & Yateley Hockey Club official opening of new astroturf facility at Eversley Sports Association
- 7 Sept New Forest Civic Day – Bucklers Hard
- 21 Sept Mayor Gosport Civic Day – Gosport Town Hall
- 28 Sept Official opening of the Daisy Chain Dementia Café at Monteagle Hall, Yateley

The **Vice Chairman** attended the following events on behalf of the Council:

- 29 July Portsmouth Mayor Grand Summer Ball, Royal Marines Museum, Portsmouth
- 17 Sept Mayor Waverley Civic Service – St Mary's Church, Chiddingfold

The Chairman announced that he would be holding his Civic Day on 24 October, inviting representatives from neighbours and other authorities in Hampshire to show them the best of Hart.

### **38 CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

I would like to echo the sentiments from the Federation of Small Businesses in all the good work being done by our Economic Development Team, and there are other things coming up.

In light of the Hampshire County Council budget consultation and ongoing preparatory work, we have invited our five County Councillors to a meeting to share information and to look at how we can work together to help mitigate any reductions in services in our area that may occur.

I met with the Leaders and CEOs of both East Hants and Rushmoor Councils, and discussed ongoing partnership working and other areas of mutual interest. Meetings with Basingstoke and Surrey Heath are in the diary. We will report back on any issues that arise.

It was suggested that meetings with Chairmen of the Parish Councils would be beneficial to both parties. Councillor Neighbour confirmed that he had already met with Fleet and Yateley Town Councils, and agreed that this was important. He added that Councillor Ambler had ongoing liaison with Parishes as part of his Partnerships portfolio.

The Cabinet Member for Services, **Councillor Radley**, reported:

The litter enforcement initiative has been running since May. In that time 320 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) have been issued. The busiest areas being Fleet Road and the Tesco Car Park in Hook. The majority of these fines have been issued for the dropping of cigarette butts and chewing gum. A clean environment is an important aspect of the quality of life which we strive to enjoy in this district. Hopefully the threat of a £75 fine will have would be litterers thinking twice.

Questions were asked regarding dog fouling and other littering, more publicity around enforcement and an appeals procedure. Councillor Radley added that these issues were in hand, and was sure there was an adequate appeals process.

The Cabinet Member for Partnerships, **Councillor Ambler**, had no announcements.

In his absence, the Cabinet Member for Housing, **Councillor Bailey**, reported he had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, **Councillor Cockarill**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and Community Safety, **Councillor Collett**, reported:

**Police Buildings in Hart** - At a recent meeting of the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel, the body which holds the Police and Crime Commissioner to account, we were given an update on the Police Estate Strategy. Members will be aware that Fleet Police Station has already been decommissioned and the police are now very welcome joint users of this building.

The next phase of the strategy involves selling off the Hart Neighbourhood Centre, or Dickson House, in Hook, which has been declared surplus to policing requirements. Further down the line the intention is to dispose of Yateley Police Station as well, which will involve finding suitable alternative premises for the Safer Neighbourhood Team that is based there. Maybe there will be some form of premises sharing opportunity in the Yateley area.

**Northern Hampshire Police Investigation Centre** - On 3rd August I attended the opening, by Home Secretary Amber Rudd, of the Northern Hampshire Police Investigation Centre in Basingstoke. This is the second of three PICs that will eventually cover the whole of Hampshire. Southampton was opened several years ago and work is continuing to provide the third in Portsmouth.

So what is a PIC? Well their first role is that anyone who the police have to arrest anywhere in northern Hampshire will be taken there. The cells in local police stations, such as Aldershot, will no longer be used. This may sometimes result in slightly longer driving time to get there, but once there a centralised professional team can take over from the arresting officers and get them back on the streets much more quickly.

The Basingstoke PIC includes 36 state of the art cells, a room equipped with all technology needed for remote court appearances of vulnerable people and over 325 officers and staff are based there. The detectives working there will deal with the cases associated with those who have been arrested, but also the whole crime picture for northern Hampshire.

**Terrorist Threat** - On a sombre note. Members will be aware that the national terrorist threat level was raised to Critical recently following the explosion on a tube train at Parsons Green. This has, of course, now been reduced to Severe, although this still means that an attack is highly likely.

Hart is not immune from this and our local police were fully involved in the extra measures that were put in place during the Critical period. In a briefing note from Hampshire Police they stressed how important it is that we all play our part in being vigilant and reporting any suspicious activity. Better safe than sorry.

**Support for LGBTQ young people in Hart** - A new one-to-one support service for young people in Hart who identify as LGBTQ has been launched by the Breakout Youth charity. They hold weekly social groups in safe locations and offer a confidential service to young people up to the age of 21, or 25 with additional needs. More details can be found on the Breakout Youth website.

**Gold Stray Dog Footprint Award** - Finally, it is my great pleasure to start by telling you that our Dog Warden Service has won yet another award – the RSPCA's Community Animal Welfare Gold Stray Dog Footprint Award. As it says on the tin, this award recognises and celebrates the high standards of animal welfare being achieved by our officers in the work they do with stray dogs and Ayesha Saifie will be attending the Winners Reception in London in November to receive the award.

Members congratulated the dog warden service, and questioned the fate of Inclusion Hampshire, who occupied space in Dickson House. Councillor Collett assured

members that Inclusion Hampshire would be positively engaged with, if and when Dickson House becomes unavailable through the police estates plans.

Councillor Neighbour gave the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside Services, **Councillor Kinnell's** report in her absence.

On Tuesday, in my capacity as Fairtrade Champion, I attended the Hart Fairtrade Steering Group meeting. The aim of the group is to increase the awareness of Fairtrade throughout the district and to encourage residents to purchase Fairtrade products. There are four events being run between now and Christmas to do just this:

- On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September, there is a Fairtrade event at the Church On The Heath between 2 and 5pm.
- On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, there will be a stall at the Fleet Festivities between 3 and 8pm
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, a stall at the Hook Christmas Cracker between 4 and 7pm
- And finally, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December, a stall at The Hartley Wintney Christmas Market between 4 and 8pm.

Sue Moll, a true champion for Fairtrade, will be organising these events, however, she is in need of 3 - 4 volunteers to help her run the stalls for the three Christmas events. If anybody can offer assistance, please let me know and I will pass your details onto Sue.

For the Leisure element of the portfolio - The customer user surveys that we requested Everyone Active to carry out as per the contract, will go out next month. It will be carried out over a 2 week period, on site, and there will be a dedicated member of staff stationed in the reception foyer area, with a tablet, asking customers whether they would like to complete the questionnaire. The survey will also be emailed out to everybody on Everyone Active's database, except of course those who have opted out of contact by email. This will include members and non-members and those people who book and use the centre, but for whatever reason have not joined as a member.

Membership of both Hart & Frogmore Leisure Centres has grown: 1,600 new members at Hart Leisure Centre, up from 2,500 to 4,100 in last 12 months and 600 new members at Frogmore Leisure Centre up from 1,100 to 1700, over the same period. Monthly attendance has also increased compared to the same period last year, with Hart experiencing a 1600 increase and Frogmore an even more impressive 3000 increase.

I'm delighted to be able to announce that the Hart Leisure Centre is up for the "New Centre of the Year Award" at the Annual National Fitness Awards. The winner will be announced on 1<sup>st</sup> December and I will ensure that I let members know the outcome.

On 4<sup>th</sup> October, there will be an Open Day for the over 50's and 60's, organised by Liz Glenn and Everyone Active, as part of the Joint Health & Wellbeing Partnership.

We will be showcasing free taster sessions of activities that, if popular, could then become permanent activities at the Leisure Centres.

The new Sports Hall for Calthorpe Park School: Stages 1 to 3 have all been about designing a building, within budget, that both HCC and HDC are happy with. We are now at stage 4 of the SCAPE process and all the various packages have now gone out to tender. During the last 2 weeks of November, it will be evaluated by Artelia, our consultants, and If HCC and HDC agree to proceed, the contract will be signed on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Building work will then start early January, with a completion date of the end of July 2018. Demolition of the former HLC is currently out to tender and is likely to commence when the new sports hall is built. Once demolished the lease can then be handed back to HCC.

Questions were asked around the attendance of the Portfolio Holder in these events, publicity on the website and social media, and the affect on parking whilst the new sports hall was being built.

The Cabinet Member for Contracts, **Councillor Oliver**, reported:

Firstly, I am pleased to report that the current waste collection service from Veolia is meeting all Service Level targets within the existing contract. This is despite knowing they will not be providing the service from October next year. This shows a responsible and professional attitude by both management and staff. The tender process is on time and within budget in the selection of a new Waste and Recycling partner for the council.

Secondly, I am pleased to announce that Hart's recycling rate for the first quarter this year exceeded 43%. This is 4% points better than last year showing we are moving forward in our ambition to exceed 50% in partnership with HCC

Lastly, on the 5 Councils Shared Services Contract. The transition to the new Lot 1 services with Capita (HR, Revs&Bens) will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> October as planned. However Lot 2 services (Parking, FM) have been delayed, in consultation with Vinci the contractor, until 1<sup>st</sup> December. This will allow outstanding issues on the delivery model and baseline costs to be agreed.

Questions were asked around recycling rates and the impact of missed and late collections on the targets.

## **39 JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVES' REPORT**

The Joint Chief Executives updated members on their workload.

## **40 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny</b>	<b>18 July 2017</b>

No questions asked.

**Overview and Scrutiny**

**15 August 2017**

No questions asked.

**Licensing**

**5 September 2017**

No questions asked.

**Planning**

**9 August 2017**

No questions asked.

**I7/00842/FUL – Beechwood Farm, Dares Lane, Ewshot, Farnham**

Since insufficient requests to debate had been received this departure to the local plan was deemed to be **ACCEPTED**

**Planning**

**24 August 2017**

No questions asked.

**Planning**

**13 September 2017**

No questions asked.

**Cabinet**

**3 August 2017**

No questions asked.

**Cabinet**

**7 September 2017**

No questions asked.

**41 CHANGES TO THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS - CHURCH CROOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Members considered the findings of the recently completed Community Governance consultation concerned with an adjustment of the number of councillors across the existing wards of that parish. The resultant changes from the review are planned to come into effect from the parish elections scheduled for May 2018.

**DECISION**

That the number of councillors for the 3 wards of the parish be adjusted as per the table below:

<b>Number of Parish Wards</b>	<b>Ward Names</b>	<b>Electorate Jan '22</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>3</b>	Crookham East	3900	5	0
	Gally Hill	1800	2	-15%
	Queen Elizabeth	c2100	3	10%
<b>Total</b>			10	

## **42 CHANGES TO THE WARDING ARRANGEMENTS OF FLEET PARISH**

Members considered the findings of the recently completed Community Governance consultation into the internal parish ward boundary arrangements of Fleet parish and to make a recommendation for implementation of new parish ward boundaries at elections from May 2018.

### **DECISION**

- A. To support the Fleet Town Council proposal for 5 parish wards;
- B. To make a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to amend the proposed scheme that is due to come into effect in May 2018 to reflect the Fleet Town Council proposals; and
- C. To make amendments to the electoral register with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 that will enable the delivery of elections on the new boundaries from that date.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

## COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

### QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

**Mr Max Clark and Mr Tony Gower-Jones** on behalf of FACE IT asked:

- 1 Given the recent publication by the Government of new guidelines 'Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places' on housing needs assessment and associated proposals for housing allocations published for consultation on 14 September, which proposes for Hart the figure of 292 dwellings per annum (vs the current SHMA figure of 382), can he advise how this will affect Hart's development of the Local Plan?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

The Government's paper is a consultation only on a possible standardised methodology. Clearly one cannot prejudge the use of a possible methodology prior to the end of the consultation whilst also speculating on the outcome.

The current arrangements for calculating housing needs remain in place until such time as the methodology for calculating housing need is changed by the Government. The objectively assessed housing need for Hart remains at 382 new homes/annum but we agree with the previous administration that an affordable housing uplift is essential and that we should be planning to deliver at least 485 new homes/annum.

- 2 There are number of major sites either under consideration, being promoted by developers and landowners, or already in planning. Can you please explain the process for developing the spatial strategy and plans for major sites and the associated quantum of homes where not all the information is available to make even an outline determination?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

The Local Plan will be fully underpinned by a robust evidence base which will be available for independent examination when the Local Plan is submitted. That evidence base will be at a level and detail that is proportionate to the strategic objectives of a Local Plan Spatial Strategy - it should not be confused with the far more detailed and refined evidence base that is required to support individual Planning applications.

- 3 At the full Council meeting on 22/07/2012 Councillor Parker (then deputy Leader and member for Planning) stated: "The Local Plan timetable has unfortunately slipped to October for full council approval; we cannot afford for it to slip further. We need urgently to finalise numbers, distribution and where possible allocations ... to bring a final draft local plan to ... full Council by the end of October for approval for publication".

Can you explain why we still do not have a Local Plan to guide the Council in its development and for consideration of planning applications?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

I cannot answer for what Councillor Parker said in 2012, but let us not forget that the previous Core Strategy was subsequently rejected by the independent Inspector for the failure of that Strategy to deliver enough housing and to cooperate with our neighbours to meet their unmet needs.

The whole approach to the Local Plan therefore has had to be totally rebuilt - that inevitably takes time and resources. Identifying growth needs and then translating that into where that need should be delivered will always be difficult and undoubtedly challenging in an area such as Hart.

The new Local Plan is now very robust and seeks to properly to meet our housing needs in full including affordable housing needs, and it takes into account the emerging needs of our housing market area partners. Our neighbours support us. We will now push it to examination.

In the meantime however, I should point out that it is wrong to say that we do not have a Local Plan to guide development and for the consideration of Planning applications. We do have a Local Plan in place and its saved policies have served us well and they will continue to do so. The issue is that our policies for the delivery of new homes are out of date and so carry little weight in light of the government's policy to boost significantly the supply of new homes. The Government will continue to press for more homes to be delivered right across the country irrespective of whether a new Local Plan is in place.

**Mr David Turver** asked:

I        Recently the Government launched a consultation on a new method for calculating housing need. If this new approach was adopted Hart's target building rate would fall to 292 dwellings per annum, compared to 382 in the SHMA and 485 in the draft Local Plan. How does HDC plan to respond to this consultation?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

There could be benefits to having a standard approach to assessing the need for housing, but a formula drawn up by the Government can never fully understand the complexity and unique needs of local housing markets, which vary significantly from place to place. It is crucial that councils and communities can lead new development in their areas.

The consultation runs until the beginning of November and we shall use that time to assess the robustness of the government's draft proposals to understand how it would meet all our housing needs such as the need locally to deliver affordable homes for example. We intend also to work with our Housing Market Area Partners and with other partners, such as the District Council Network and the Local Government Association, to formulate our response to the consultation.

**Mr Turver** asked a supplementary question:

Will you make the consultation response public, and if so, when?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

We will endeavour to put as much in the public domain as soon as possible.

- 2 The same consultation (Table I and Para 54) indicates that Councils with no Local Plan should start to use the new methodology immediately. What steps have the Council taken, and what steps will you take to adopt this new method and when?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

The point about using the methodology immediately is not strictly true. The Government's paper is a consultation only on a possible standardised methodology. Clearly one cannot prejudge the use of a possible methodology prior to the end of the consultation whilst also speculating on the outcome. In any event, the consultation makes it clear that only if adopted, the new methodology will only take effect for Local Plans submitted either after 1 April or when the new revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is published (whichever is the later). It would clearly therefore be premature at such an early time to start to speculate wildly about the possible use of an methodology that has not yet even been agreed.

- 3 Both Rushmoor and Surrey Heath have also seen their housing targets reduced by the new methodology by 142 and 30 dwellings per annum respectively. Rushmoor have already said they will accommodate their original, higher figure. Will Hart still need to consider building additional houses for Surrey Heath?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

The Governments' paper is a consultation and consultation only - one should not speculate about the outcome. It would therefore, be totally unwise to start to speculate about how our market area partners would react to the consultation and what that may mean for future unmet housing needs particularly as Surrey Heath is already well behind in meeting its current needs.

- 4 The consultation says (Para 46) that an Inspector should work on the assumption that the approach to calculating housing need is sound, if the plan calls for more houses than the standard method would provide. What does HDC now consider to be the most appropriate housing target to plan for in the Local Plan?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

The current arrangements for calculating housing need remain in place until such time as the methodology for calculating housing need is changed by the Government. The objectively assessed housing need for Hart remains at 382 new homes/annum but we agree with the previous administration that an affordable housing uplift is essential and that we should be planning to deliver at least 485 new homes/annum.

**Mr Turver** asked a supplementary question:

The total of the Government housing targets for each planning authority amounts to ~266,000 dpa, in line with national needs identified in ONS figures. In the draft Local Plan, Hart is planning for more than twice the demographic requirement in the local ONS

numbers. If this was repeated across the country, it would result in over 500,000 dpa, so what justification is there for keeping Hart's planning target at 485 dpa, given that the new 292 dpa target already includes an affordable housing uplift to the base demographic requirement?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

Not all districts are the same and we are not starting from the same point, This consultation ends in November, with the results not available until the new year, and we need to progress our local plan process rather than waiting for these consultation results. If you need more detail please get in touch with me and I will try to help.

**COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14**

**QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

**Councillor Parker** asked:

Following the discussions and amendments of the first months of this Administration, what further changes are planned to the currently published listing of Cabinet members and responsibilities, or likely.

**Councillor Neighbour** responded:

Whilst no changes are planned portfolios are being adjusted to reflect the changing needs of the Council as the year progresses.

**Councillor Parker** asked a subsidiary question:

The reason for asking this question arose at a Scrutiny meeting asking where responsibilities for town regeneration may fit, which could be Councillor Ambler and Partnerships portfolio. A more important aspect may be that we could be overloading some members of the Cabinet with large portfolios.

Would you consider reviewing the Cabinet responsibilities to ensure a more even allocation of tasks?

**Councillor Neighbour** responded:

Portfolios were worked out collectively with colleagues, and every member of the Cabinet is welcome to discuss their work and their workload with me and the rest of the Cabinet at any time.

## **COUNCIL**

**Date and Time:** Thursday, 26 October 2017 at 7.00 pm

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

**Present:**

### **COUNCILLORS –**

Crisp - (Chairman)

Ambler	Forster	Oliver
Axam	Gray	Parker
Bailey	Gorys	Radley (James)
Blewett	Harward	Radley (Jenny)
Burchfield	Kennett	Renshaw
Clarke	Kinnell	Southern
Cockarill	Leeson	Wheale
Crampton	Makepeace-Browne	Woods
Crookes	Morris	Wright
Dickens	Neighbour	

### **Officers Present:**

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

## **43 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 September 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Billings, Butler and Collett.

## **45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

## **46 PRESENTATION BY THE ROSEFIELD DAY CENTRE**

Lynne Ewing informed Members of the work of the Rosefield Day Centre, one of the Chairman's Charities for this year, which started as a coffee morning within Rosefield Court.

Now based at Odiham cottage hospital, the day centre was taken over 5 years ago by Age Concern Hampshire, and is open 3 days a week. It caters mainly for clients with dementia, and some physically frail. It provides respite day care, emergency respite care, social interaction, for people from care homes, who live on their own or live with family. They aim to provide a fun filled day for them, with physical and mental activity, and provide all sorts of activities - skittles, quoits, beetle drive, as well as mental activities. Clients are referred from adult services as well as private clients. They fund raise to bring entertainment in or take clients out. Examples of activities include a visit to a garden centre, a visit from the military wives choir from RAF Odiham, schools and nurseries visit, making fireworks and a farm visit. There are many benefits to clients, both social and mental and physical stimulation.

Councillors asked questions around where clients come from, running costs, staffing levels, and changes in adult services budgeting.

The Chairman thanked Lynne and Vanessa for the information and congratulated them on their valuable and inventive way of helping their clients and the community.

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

Questions were received from Mr Tristram Cary, Ms Gemma Read and Mr David Turver, details of which are set out in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

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

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

#### **49 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

29 September	Mayor Havant Charity Dinner, Waterlooville
1 October	Hampshire Harvest Celebrations at Winchester Cathedral
5 October	HCC Civic Day, The Great Hall, Winchester
11 October	Autism Friendly Fleet Launch at the Harlington
20 October	Yateley Mayor Charity Dinner, The Ely, Yateley
24 October	Hart Chairman's Civic Day
26 October	Home-Start Rushmoor and Hart AGM, Farnborough

The **Vice Chairman** attended the following events on behalf of the Council:

12 October	Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire Awards Ceremony, Winchester
24 October	Hart Chairman's Civic Day

The Chairman reported that the Civic Day had been a great success. Chairmen and Mayors from all over Hampshire had enjoyed visits to Gibraltar Barracks and Blackbushe Airport, and some had been invited to fly. The Vice Chairman added that the day had admirably showcased Hart to other Chairs and Mayors from Hampshire.

Councillor Southern reported on the fund raising total in his year as Chairman. He had received after final sums he had raised over £13,000 for his charities over the

Councillor Parker announced his Shadow Cabinet:

Leader of the Opposition and Planning - Councillor Stephen Parker

Deputy Leader and Contracts - Councillor Brian Burchfield

Finance - Councillor Ken Crookes

Services - Councillor Steve Forster

Partnerships - Councillor Anne Crampton

Housing - Councillor Stephen Gorys

Regulatory and Community Safety - Councillor John Kennett

Town & Village Regeneration – Councillor Mike Morris

Leisure & Countryside Services - Councillor Shawn Dickens

## 50 CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, **Councillor Neighbour**, reported that the Council had responded to this year's technical consultation by the DCLG in relation to this year's financial settlement. He indicated that the response built on work that had been carried out in tandem with the District Councils Network, with the full response being available on the Council website, but in essence stressed our opposition to negative Revenue Support Grant. Concern had also been expressed over the lack of legislation on business rate retention and the subjective use of planning performance data to materially affect the outcome of the New Homes Bonus.

The Cabinet Member for Services, **Councillor Radley**, reported that, in the updating of parking machines, the last new parking machine had been installed in the canal car park in Fleet.

The Cabinet Member for Partnerships, **Councillor Ambler**, announced that he had attended the AGM of Hart Citizens Advice Bureau, who would be giving a presentation to Council on Universal Credit at December Council, and that the Hart Voluntary Action's AGM was coming up in November.

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

The Cabinet Member for Planning, **Councillor Cockarill**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside Services, **Councillor Kinnell**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Contracts, **Councillor Oliver**, had no announcements.

## 51 JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVES' REPORT

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

## 52 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

**Meeting**

**Date**

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee (draft minutes)**

**19 September 2017**

No questions asked.

**Audit Committee** (draft minutes)

**26 September 2017**

No questions asked.

**Cabinet** (draft minutes)

**5 October 2017**

Councillor Parker enquire why Councillor Radley had introduced item 59 on SANGs at the meeting. Councillor Radley explained his involvement, in this instance the item was about managing a service which falls under his portfolio.

**Planning Committee**

**11 October 2017**

No questions asked

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm

## **COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

### **QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

**Mr Tristram Cary** asked:

Question 1 - At the Council Meeting on 29 June I asked for an indication of when the responses to the Reg 18 Local Plan Consultation would be published and Councillor Cockarill responded that the answers were being collated and that "we hope to be able to publish this information in the next couple of months". Four months have now passed since that answer was given and there is still no sign of any of the consultation responses. Can the Council state when the Consultation responses will now be published?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

The key priority is to get the local plan published, which is the priority work officers are doing in the final process of collating that information. It will be published on the website by 6 November, in full and unedited, except for personal information which will be redacted.

Question 2 - With reference to the responses to the Reg 18 Local Plan Consultation responses, will the Council confirm that the collation process referred to by Cllr Cockarill will not involve changing the responses in any way, and that the Council intends to publish all the Consultation responses in full?

**Mr Cary** indicated that this question had already been answered, but asked as a supplementary question why any details needed to be redacted as it was clear that responses would be published in full.

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

There are rules around data protection and some people may not wish for their name published. Those organisations or people responding in an official capacity are a different matter. Ordinary citizens will have their information redacted for privacy reasons.

The Joint Chief Executive added that under the Data Protection Act personal details should not be published. In this case names would be shown, but addresses would not be published. This was in accordance with the approach the Council had used at the time of the consultation.

**Ms Gemma Read** asked:

What action, if any, is Hart District Council taking to oppose the proposals contained in South Western Railway's current timetable consultation, which will significantly reduce the frequency of peak train services to both Winchfield and Hook from December 2018 if brought in, and will therefore have a significant impact on the district, not only users of those stations, but also users of Fleet and Farnborough stations?

**Councillor Radley** responded:

He would join the Winchfield and Hook Stations Action Group in encouraging anyone who feels that they would be adversely affected by these proposals to respond to the consultation. This would extend to passengers who use Fleet and Farnborough stations because of the knock on effect from those stations directly affected adding to the capacity issues in the car parks of both these stations.

For Hart District Council's part, we shall be responding to this consultation before the 22<sup>nd</sup> December deadline. We shall be drawing attention to the likely impact on Fleet station of this proposal. We shall alert South Western Railways to the proposal for a new settlement in our emerging local plan which would in time help boost the number of passengers using Winchfield station.

**Mr David Turver** asked:

Question 1 - It is, of course, highly regrettable that the Grove Farm planning application was granted at appeal. However, given that officers recommended that planning permission be granted and the planning committee failed to make a determination on time, it is not unexpected that the appeal was allowed. Can you please set out the cost of defending the appeal including:

- a) External legal and consultant costs
- b) Internal time costs of officers
- c) Any potential loss of New Homes Bonus
- d) Lost time on the Local Plan due to resources being diverted to defend the appeal
- e) Appellant costs

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

This is a fairly lengthy answer, which I will send in full in writing to you. In short, the response to your bullet points are:

- a - we have not yet received the respective invoices
- b - the internal time costs of officers are not divided
- c - none
- d - none
- e - the appellant costs are not known as Hart is not responsible.

Question 2 - Did the council receive legal advice on the chances of success in defending the appeal? In accordance with the Hart Code of Conduct objectives for openness and transparency, can you answer the following:

- a) What, in summary, did the advice say?
- b) Will you make the advice public?
- c) Was the provider of this legal advice the same organisation that helped defend the appeal?
- d) How much did the advice cost?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

This was not a matter of law, it was a matter of Planning judgement and not a point of law, so no legal advice was sought in this situation as it was not necessary.

Question 3 - A recent joint Chief Executive statement said “In terms of the impact for planning across the District this appeal decision tells us little that is new. The Inspector used the same reasons that had previously been used by the Inspector at Moulsham Lane”. In accordance with the Code of Conduct statements about “Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management”, will the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be examining the decision to defend the Grove Farm appeal and making recommendations to avoid future waste of public funds?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee exists to scrutinise the Executive (Cabinet), not the actions of the statutory Committees of the Council. As background, we believed as a Council that the grounds on which we were fighting the appeal, namely the gap argument, was valid. The Planning Inspector judged that the need to provide more houses outweighed maintaining the gap. Nothing in that approval was unreasonable.

**Mr Turver** asked a supplementary question:

Will councillors or officers who made the decision to refuse the appeal make a contribution to the public funds.

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

This is not a question to be answered. We would not expect anyone to ‘contribute’ to a logical decision made by the Council, particularly as the refusal reflected the view of the local residents including those expressed by interest groups such as WeHeartHart.

Question 4 - Given the saved policies have been ruled to be out of date twice now, what steps can the council take to avoid becoming a sitting duck in future planning decisions and appeals in advance of the Local Plan being adopted?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

The Government is looking to boost the supply of new homes as we know. We are looking at the challenges and getting a local plan together with confidence should we have to go to appeal.

## **COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14**

### **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

**Councillor Parker** asks:

1. To ask the Leader of Council: Will the Leader please advise who exactly in his Cabinet is dealing with Health & Wellbeing, and who exactly is dealing with Town and Village Regeneration?

**Councillor Neighbour** responded:

Health and Wellbeing is a cross-cutting agenda which touches on many aspects of the Councils programme. Specifically, much of the Councils resource is provided by the Health & Policy Project Officer. In the summer we saw the Partnerships Portfolio as having the main overview of Health and Wellbeing. Recently, Councillor Bailey has taken on the Chair of both the Hart Health and Wellbeing Partnership and the Ageing Well Network. The next meeting of the Ageing Well Network takes place in this Chamber tomorrow.

**Councillor Parker** asked a supplementary question:

Interpreting that, I assume that Councillor Ambler is no longer responsible for Health and Wellbeing, can I ask that the website be updated. Where does Regeneration fit?

**Councillor Neighbour** responded:

Town and Village Regeneration is another cross-cutting agenda, an agenda which the previous administration failed to mention in their Corporate Plan or indeed in this years' service plans. Work in this area is currently led by myself in my capacity as Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, as well as Councillor Ambler with regards to partnership working with our Town and Parish Councils. Not to forget the role of any emerging Neighbourhood Plans, which come under Councillor Cockarill.

2. To ask the Leader of Council: In the light of recent legal advice from DCLG, how many non-Housing Association residential blocks have ACM and what action has this council taken to enforce appropriate testing and action?

**Councillor Neighbour** responded:

The advice from the DCLG referred to the testing of ACM (Aluminium Composite Material) in buildings over 18 metres in height, of which there are none in Hart. Working in partnership with Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services, this work was extended to include educational establishments where cladding may be a concern. To our knowledge there are no buildings clad with ACM in Hart.

3. To ask the Cabinet Member for Housing: Following the New Burdens funding of £35k announced last week under the Homelessness Reduction Act, how is it planned for this funding to be used?

**Councillor Bailey** responded:

The Government supports Councils with additional funding. This additional funding is to help with extra costs for homelessness. The allocation for Hart is fairly modest at just

£11,500 a year over the next three years. The emerging Homelessness Strategy is going to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee imminently.

4. To ask the Cabinet Member for Planning: Does the Cabinet Member for Planning support the proposed methodology for determining Objectively Assessed Housing Need detailed in H.M. Government's current consultation?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

In principle yes. As expected, the Government has proposed a proportionate and straightforward approach to estimating local housing need. There are questions remaining over whether household projections are still the best starting point, but their continued use reflects a longstanding approach with which most are familiar. However, consideration will still be required, particularly in the Hart context, to ensure that sufficient flexibility is retained in any final local housing numbers to ensure:

- Key affordable housing needs are addressed - particularly the need for rented affordable homes
- A buffer is maintained to accommodate potential non-delivery of key sites, and to cushion the effects of any unmet need arising from neighbouring HMA partners
- That the Local Plan can over time robustly address any pressure to increase delivery in light of the bi-annual publication of fresh household projection forecasts without becoming out of date or failing to maintain a five year supply of housing land.

**Councillor Forster** asked:

Can the Cabinet member for Contracts provide an update for residents concerned about speeding vehicles on when each of Hart's Speed Indicator Devices will be redeployed under the Basingstoke & Deane Contract, and provide a schedule of future deployment.

**Councillor Radley** responded:

Hart's grounds and street cleaning services are provided by Basingstoke and Deane under the terms of a delegated service agreement between the two authorities. This agreement does not include for the installation of speed indicator devices (SIDS). Whilst this work has previously been delivered by Basingstoke this had been agreed as a goodwill gesture which due to increasingly stretched resources Basingstoke are now unable to continue to deliver. It has, however, been agreed that the specification for the street care service should be reviewed and it may be possible to incorporate the installation of speed indicator devices within this. We are looking to other local councils to see if they can help us to provide a solution.

Any town or parish council who has access to an individual whom is authorised to work on the highway such as through Hampshire's Parish Lengthsman scheme could put up their own SIDs device. It may even be possible to borrow one of Hart's units if one is available.

Councillor Forster asked for a clarification that there is no schedule for deployment at this moment? Councillor Radley confirmed that at this moment in time Hart does not have the ability to do that.

**Councillor Forster** asked a supplementary question:

The data from the SID device is not just about speed but also traffic volume, and could be used as evidence for highway matters and the planning department. Why are Hart not harnessing that data through these low cost SIDS?

**Councillor Radley** responded:

Any major application that relies on highways data, highways will provide that data for themselves. Any data that Hart gathers will not be considered robust enough as it would not have been collected in the proper way.

**Joint Chief Executives' Report**

Ms Patricia Hughes reported:

- 1 A multi agency live emergency exercise (LIVEX) had been held last week, an example of many groups working together on a scenario of a chinook crashing on the M3 and the resulting effects on the Hart district. This was a good and exciting test which went very well, with compliments going especially to our own Emergency Centre at Hart.
- 2 Planning permission has been granted for the new sports hall at Calthorpe. Interest is also continuing in Hart's new leisure centre, and staff have been showing round Councillors and officers from Shepway, South Buckingham and Chiltern Councils, with a great level of interest. There is a customer satisfaction survey underway for the new leisure centre, so please do encourage your residents to participate.
- 3 As branch chairman of SOLACE this year I will be taking part in a conference next week. My colleague, Mr Phillips will still be available here.
- 4 Members will have received an email about the recruitment of a new Head of Community Services, inviting them to meet the candidates on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Please remember to let us know if you are intending to attend.
- 5 Members will have noticed we are refurbishing the toilets at the moment. This floor is scheduled for week beginning 6 November, with redecoration of the public areas of the Council offices to follow.

Councillor Forster commented on his observation of the LIVEX exercise. He reported that comments made about Hart's overall performance were good, and he congratulated everyone involved on the day.