



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 28 MARCH 2019 AT 7.00 PM

Joint Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

AGENDA

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

- 1 At the start of the meeting, the Lead Officer will confirm the Fire Evacuation Procedure.**
- 2 The Chairman will announce that this meeting may be recorded and that anyone remaining at the meeting has provided their consent to any such recording – please see our protocol on [Attending and Reporting Meetings](#).**

1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 February 2019.
Paper A

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare disclosable pecuniary, and any other, interests.

4 PRESENTATION – SKY OCEAN RESCUE

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, 22 March 2019.***

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, 25 March 2019.***

*The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 14.4 must be submitted to the Chief Executive before **10.00 am on Thursday, 28 March 2019.***

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 (draft)	19 February 2019		
Standards (draft)	6 March 2019		Minute 7 – Code of Conduct Complaints Form and Guidance and Minute 8 - Members Code of Conduct - Update
Cabinet (draft)	7 March 2019		
Cabinet (draft)	14 March 2019		
Planning (draft)	13 March 2019		

11 OUTSIDE BODIES - FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

To receive any updates from Members who are representatives of the Council on an Outside Body.

12 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(a) The following Motion to Council has been moved by Councillor Radley and seconded by Councillor Oliver:

“This council wishes a prompt review of car parking charges across the district to bring in free 30 or 60 minute parking in a way that is cost neutral to the car parking budget. The 30 or 60 mins free parking is important to help our district wide retailers and therefore cost neutrality is vital in order to make the scheme sustainable in more challenging budget years. The parking review needs to take into account the effect of Hampshire County Council's alarming proposal to introduce on street parking meters in urban areas. The parking review must therefore also consider how best to protect residents ability to park in their own neighbourhoods. A holistic approach is needed to get a balanced parking strategy which works across the board.”

(b) The following Motion to Council has been moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Forster:

“That this Council resolves to support business, particularly small businesses, in Hart by reviewing the parking charges regime in order to offer free short term parking up to one hour.”

13. FEES AND EXPENSES FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

To seek approval to the scale of the fees and reimbursement payable to the Returning Officer to the administration and running of local elections. **Paper B**

RECOMMENDATION

The Council agrees that:

- A. The Hampshire & Isle of Wight scale of election fees shown in Appendix I be approved; and
- B. The Section 151 Officer is delegated authority to approve future local election fee recommendations from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Election Fees Working Party.

Date of Despatch: 19 March 2019

HART REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2018/19

Outside Bodies are external organisations that have invited Hart to nominate a representative to participate in meetings etc.

Outside Bodies	No. of Representatives	Nominee(s)
Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee	2 Councillors (normally taken from Wards that include the line of the Canal)	1. Makepeace-Browne 2. Ambler
Blackbushe Airport Consultative Committee	2 Councillors 1 Reserve	1. Crisp 2. Harward Reserve: Quarterman
Blackbushe Metals Liaison Panel	2 Councillors	1. Crisp 2 Harward
Blackwater Valley Advisory Committee for Public Transport	2 Councillors 1 Reserve Councillor	1. Kinnell 2. Oliver Reserve: Radley
Blackwater Valley Recreation & Countryside Management Committee	2 Councillors (1xCabinet Member)	1. Kinnell 2. Neighbour
Citizens Advice Hart	1 Councillor (1xCabinet Member)	Ambler
Crookham Almshouse Charity (Trustee)	1 Councillor	Butler
District Councils Network	1 Councillor (Leader)	Neighbour
District Health and Wellbeing Forum	1 Councillor	Ambler
Enterprise M3 Leaders Board	1 Councillor (Leader)	Neighbour
Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee (FACC)	2 Councillors 1 Reserve Councillor	1. Radley 2. Axam Reserve: Ambler
Fleet Business Improvement District	1 Councillor	Oliver
Fleet Pond Society	1 Councillor 1 Reserve Councillor	1. Wheale Reserve: Parker
Hampshire Partnership	1 Councillor, 1 Reserve (Leader & Deputy Leader)	1. Neighbour Reserve: Radley
Hampshire Police and Crime Panel	1 Councillor	Radley
Hart Voluntary Action	1 Councillor (1x Cabinet Member)	Ambler
HARAH (Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing)	2 x Cabinet Members	1. Bailey 2. Vacant
Inclusion Hampshire	1 Councillor	Ambler

LGA General Assembly (Annual Event)	1 Councillor (Leader or Deputy Leader)	Neighbour Reserve: Radley
Local Government Association HIOW	1 Councillor (Leader) 1 Reserve	Neighbour Reserve: Parker
Military Community Covenant	1 Councillor 1 Reserve	Collings
North East Hampshire CPRE	1 Councillor (Observer)	Clarke
North Hampshire Road Safety Council	1 Councillor 1 Reserve	Oliver Reserve: Wheale
Project Integra Strategy Board	1 Councillor 1 Reserve Councillor (2xCabinet Members)	Oliver Reserve: Neighbour
Safer North Hampshire Community Safety Partnership	1 Cabinet Member	Radley
South East England Councils (SEEC)	1 Councillor (Leader & Deputy Leader)	Neighbour Reserve: Radley
Thames Basin Heaths – Joint Strategic Partnership	1 Councillor 1 Reserve Councillor	Radley Reserve: Cockarill
Thames Basin Heaths – Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Project Board	1 Councillor 1 Reserve Councillor	Radley Reserve: Cockarill
The Vine Day Centre	1 Councillor*	Burchfield
Vivid Housing Association	1 Councillor (Observer)	Bailey

*Request to be made to The Vine Centre to secure another member

COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday, 28 February 2019 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS –

Makepeace-Browne - (Chairman)

Ambler	Crookes	Neighbour
Axam	Delaney	Oliver
Bailey	Drage	Parker
Blewett	Dickens	Quarterman
Butler	Forster	Radley
Clarke	Gray	Renshaw
Cockarill	Gorys	Southern
Collings	Kennett	Wheale
Crampton	Kinnell	Worlock
Crisp	Morris	Wright

Officers Present:

Patricia Hughes	Joint Chief Executive
Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Andrew Vallance	Head of Corporate Services and S151 Officer
Amy Summers	Media and Communications Manager
Gill Chapman	Committee Services

82 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 December 2018 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

83 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Burchfield.

84 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Regarding the Minutes of the Staffing Committee Minutes, Minute 15, Councillor Forster declared he had an interest in the electric car industry.

85 PRESENTATION BY THE HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Andrew Vallance, Head of Corporate Services, gave a short talk on finance planning and the proposed budget later in the agenda.

86 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

No questions were received.

87 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

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

88 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

14 December	HCC Chairman's Christmas Civic Dinner, Winchester
18 December	Xmas visit to Royal Mail delivery office, Fleet
21 December	Mayor Havant Christmas Charity Dinner Dance, Waterlooville
16 January	Live at Home Charity - Award Presentation
25 January	Havant Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration, Havant Cemetery
7 February	Dinner at Farnborough College of Technology
16 February	Mayor Winchester Big Quiz Night – The Guildhall Winchester

The Chairman reported that, further to the dinner at Farnborough College of Technology (FCOT), she had been invited by the Principal to talk about how Hart and FCOT can help each other and the students.

The Chairman also announced that a Raffle to benefit her Charities would be run in March. The Raffle would be open to both staff and Councillors, and she invited Members to generously support it.

89 CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Along with Councillor Parker I attended the District Council Network conference, where it was stressed that councils should get a bigger slice of the government cake, with a proper replacement for the new homes bonus. In a subsequent session this was put to the Secretary of State, who responded that he hoped to have a replacement for it. Proposed changes for business rates will create a lot of chaos, and it is imperative that the Secretary of State gives us transitional arrangements. We need to make sure that local government is provided with stable finance going forward.

The Cabinet Member for Contracts and Community Safety, **Councillor Radley**, reported

January has been a record breaking month for both Hart leisure centres. Monthly attendance across both leisure centres was a record breaking 70,234; smashing the previous record by approx. 3,000 visits.

Everyone Active are also reporting record membership levels for both leisure centres, with 4,405 members at the Hart Leisure Centre and 1,776 at Frogmore.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, **Councillor Bailey**, reported

On 19 March, for the fifth year running, Rushmoor Borough Council and Hart District Council are holding a joint affordable housing event to help residents looking to take their first step on the housing ladder.

Our two year trailblazer funding that was provided by central government to pilot strategies to help those facing homelessness has now come to an end. I am delighted that the budget, which Council will be debating later this evening, includes funding for our social inclusion team that will continue the work started as part of the trailblazer initiative.

I am delighted to confirm that we learnt earlier today that alongside Basingstoke BC we have been successful in securing £190,000 of funding to increase access for those facing homelessness to private sector landlords

The Cabinet Member for Planning Services, **Councillor Cockarill**, announced:

Members will be aware of the results of the Bramshill planning appeals and the accompanying enforcement cases. I won't go into details as there are a lot, but suffice it to say that overall, it was a conclusive victory for the Council's position. I'm sure Members will want to join with me in thanking the Conservation team, the Development Management team and the Enforcement team for all of their hard work in fighting these extremely important appeals. Bramshill is one of the most important heritage assets in the country and we will continue to protect and defend it robustly.

We have received a letter from the Inspector, Jonathan Manning, giving us some provisional feedback on a couple of issues associated with the Local Plan. I must stress that this is not his final report but the letter gives us a clear indication that, subject to the Council agreeing a couple of important modifications, we are close to having in place a sound Local Plan. It is a very important milestone because we have never reached this stage before.

The Inspector has accepted our assessment of what is our objectively assessed housing need at around 388 dwellings per annum, and recognised our positive approach to meeting that need. It is for this reason that the inspector recommends that we agree to meet Surrey Heath's unmet need because he considers that it can be done within our projected targets without changing our plan or having to find further sites.

The Inspector's other key recommendation is that we do not, at this time, pursue Policy SS3. In his view the new settlement approach is not sufficiently developed to be included within the Plan, particularly as the numbers of new homes it may deliver are not necessary to meet our housing numbers within this Plan. The important point is that the Inspector does not rule out a new settlement option for the future. He recognises our clear aspiration to deliver a new settlement to meet long-term housing needs. He accepts that it would be acceptable for the Plan to retain the Council's aspirations to plan for long-term needs beyond the Plan period, which could refer to the delivery of a new settlement through (potentially an early or

immediate) review of the Plan or a subsequent DPD. He says that this would not change any timescales.

I intend later tonight to circulate to all Members the Inspector's letter and it will be published on our web page. I also intend to work with respective Group Leaders and through the Local Plan Steering Group to agree the next steps, but it would seem to me that our best interests lie in getting a sound local plan swiftly in place in the form as recommended by the Inspector.

This is great news for both the Council and its residents because having a local plan in place will give us a sound basis to make future planning decisions and it removes the threat of planning by appeal.

Councillor Cockarill, in response to a question, agreed to circulate a summary of the Bramshill enquiry decision to Members.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, **Councillor Kinnell**, reported:

Members I am delighted to announce that Hart are in the final stages of negotiating a more comprehensive and focussed shared licensing arrangement with Basingstoke and Deane which will maintain the high standards currently achieved, in the current arrangement. Staff have been consulted and I am content with the arrangements being put into place.

The Cabinet Member for Technical Services, **Councillor Oliver**, reported

Firstly , I attended the Project Integra project board on Monday to discuss Hampshire councils waste collection and disposal strategy. The county council have decided to push ahead with the design phase on a new Material Reprocessing Facility (MRF Recycling), to replace the existing 2 facilities in Hampshire which are coming to end of life, notwithstanding the government (DEFRA) publishing their consultations on the new proposed Waste and Recycling strategy for the UK. I would urge councillors to look at these consultations as they have the potential to significantly change the way we collect waste in Hart. HCC are confident that the MRF design will accomodate any future government policy and importatntly will include facilities to recycle Pots, Tubs and Trays. Councillors will know this is a wish many residents have asked for.

Secondly, we engage Portsmouth CC to prosecute Blue Badge abuse observed by our own enforcement officers. In coming to Hart to collect information to prosecute 2 such cases they agreed to check Fleet High Street for any further digressions. In a 2 hr period they siezed and took records of 7 further Blue Badge offences (out of date, misuse and fake). This level of abuse is not acceptable and blocks disabled bays for the genuine disabled who need this facility. A programme of on-going visits and enforcement is being agreed to stamp out this selfish activity.

Councillors queried the market for some recyclables, and Member visits to recycling facilities, which Parishes may also be interested in.

90 JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVES' REPORT

The Joint Chief Executives' reported that Nick Steevens had left the Council.

91 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Meeting	Date
Overview and Scrutiny	18 December 2018

No questions asked.

Overview and Scrutiny (draft)	15 January 2019
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No questions asked.

Licensing (draft)	5 February 2019
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No questions asked.

Cabinet	6 December 2018
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No questions asked.

Cabinet	3 January 2019
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No questions asked.

Cabinet (draft)	7 February 2019
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Minute 95 - Budget 2019/2020 (see item 11 below)

Minute 97 - Capital Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy Statement And Annual Investment Strategy

Councillor Neighbour put the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Crookes.

RESOLVED

- 1 That the Capital Strategy be approved.
- 2 That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019/20 be approved.

Staffing (draft)	12 February 2019
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Minute 13 - Pay Policy Statement Financial Year 2019-20

Councillor Kennett put the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Radley.

RESOLVED

That the Pay Policy be approved.

Minute 15 - Review Of Staff Allowances And Introduction Of An Electric Vehicle Mileage Rate

Councillor Kennett put the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Neighbour. (Councillor Forster abstained due to his declaration of interest (minute 84).)

RESOLVED

- 1 That the proposed revised allowances from 1 April 2019, be approved
- 2 That the introduction of mileage rates for electric vehicles from 1 April 2019, be approved subject to the addition of “essential car users – 1200cc and above including Electric Vehicles.

Planning Committee

9 January 2019

No questions asked.

Planning (draft)

13 February 2019

No questions asked.

92 BUDGET 2019/20

Council considered a summary of Cabinet’s revenue and capital budget recommendations for 2019/20, enabling Council to calculate and approve the Council Tax requirement for 2019/20. The report also included the Head of Corporate Services’ (Section 151) statutory statement to Council on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of reserves.

Councillor Neighbour introduced the budget, and moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Radley.

Councillor Crookes put forward a motion, seconded by Councillor Parker:

“To change the car parking charges for the Church Road Car Park to make the first 30 minutes free of charge, and that Hart supports the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign by joining the Keep Britain Tidy network, which will cost £1,000 from reserves.”

After a debate, particularly around the planned review of parking charges, a vote was taken and the Motion was NOT CARRIED.

Councillor Radley gave notice that he would be proposing a motion for the March Council meeting:

“This Council wishes a prompt review of car parking charges across the district to bring in free 30 minute parking in a way that is cost neutral to the car parking budget.

The 30 mins free parking is important to help our district wide retailers and therefore cost neutrality is vital in order to make the scheme sustainable in more challenging budget years. The parking review needs to take in to account the effect of Hampshire County Council's proposal to introduce on street parking meters in high foot fall areas.”

After full discussion on the Budget, a recorded vote was taken on the full Recommendation.

FOR the Recommendation: Ambler, Axa, Bailey, Blewett, Butler, Clarke, Cockarill, Collings, Crampton, Crisp, Delaney, Dickens, Drage, Gray, Gorys, Kennett, Kinnell, Makepeace-Browne, Morris, Neighbour, Oliver, Parker, Quarterman, Radley, Wheale, Worlock, Wright

AGAINST the Recommendation: None

Abstentions: Crookes, Forster, Renshaw, Southern

DECISION

I Council resolved:

1. That the Council Tax Base for 2019/20 be noted
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 40,704.11 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix 1A.
2. The Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2019/20 (excluding Parish precepts) is £6,994,594.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31 and 34 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £38,842,140 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) £28,614,070 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £ 10,228,070 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Act).

- (d) £251.28 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) £3,233,476 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per Column 2 of Appendix 1A).
 - (f) £171.84 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
 - (g) The amounts set out in column 6 of Appendix 1A for each part of the Council's area being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned in Appendix 1A divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34 of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
 - (h) The amounts set out in columns 1 to 9 of Appendix 1B for each part of the Council's area being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.
- 2 That it be noted that for the year 2019/20 the Hampshire County Council, and the Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority had stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings below:

Valuation Band	Hampshire County Council (£)	HCC Adult Social Care (£)	Hampshire Fire & Rescue (£)	Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire (£)
A(R)	638.76	48.39	37.62	111.92
A	766.51	58.07	45.14	134.31
B	894.27	67.74	52.66	156.69
C	1,022.02	77.42	60.19	179.08
D	1,149.77	87.10	67.71	201.46
E	1,405.27	106.46	82.76	246.23
F	1,660.78	125.81	97.80	291.00
G	1,916.28	145.17	112.85	335.77
H	2,299.54	174.20	135.42	402.92

- 3 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 2.2 above, the Council, in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, set the amounts shown in Appendix 1D as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2019/20 for each of the categories of dwellings in each of the Parishes.
- 4 That for the purposes of section 35 (2) (d) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, any expenses incurred by the District Council in the financial year 2019/20 in performing functions in a part of the district which elsewhere in the district are performed by a Parish Council, shall not be special expenses of the District Council.
- 5 That the fees and charges for 2019/20 be approved.
- 6 That the budget changes be approved.
- 7 That the revised Capital Programme for 2018/19 to 2019/20 be approved.
- 8 That the Section 151 officer's statutory report regarding the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves be noted.

93 OUTSIDE BODIES - FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

Councillor Morris updated the meeting on the Military Covenant, after which he made a personal announcement that he may be resigning from the Council at the next election in May 2019. With that in mind and, with immediate effect, Councillor Collings had agreed to take on board the role of Military Champion, supporting the important work being done by Liz Glenn in this sector.

Councillor Parker reported on the Wider South East summit, held on 11 January, which he attended as part of the SEEC delegation. Details would be circulated, but Councillor Parker considered that the statement by Mayor Sadiq Khan was important and needed to be in the public domain. He said "I do not want to export London's housing need to unwilling partners". This was as near a safeguard for Hart against London housing overspill as it will get.

Councillor Wheale reported that the Chairman of the Fleet Pond Society, Colin Gray had received a very deserved MBE. She praised the work done by the Society, who gave a lot of time and effort to maintenance of the pond, all voluntarily.

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Question received from **Councillor Kennett**:

In 2011/12, when, as it happens, I was Chairman of this Council, Hart was rated the best place to live in the entire country by the respected Halifax Quality of Life Index. Our District then maintained this top position for several years but I note that in the most recent Halifax Index it has slipped down the rankings to 13th place.

What plans does the Council have to restore Hart's status as the best place in the country to live?

Councillor Neighbour responded:

The Halifax Quality of Life Survey measures twenty-four variables across eight broad headings. Hart has been first in 5 of the last six years (including last year). We are still 13th out of 405 local authority areas throughout the UK. That is, we still hit the 97 percentile for Quality of Life.

Our objective as a Council is to provide the services people need at a price they can afford. We should not be distracted from this by a subset of subjective factors that we cannot control.

Councillor Kennett asked a supplementary question:

Given that building a new Harlington would take years and be too costly, would a refurbished Harlington enhance the quality of life in Hart?

Councillor Neighbour responded:

Yes.

COUNCIL

DATE: 28 MARCH 2019

TITLE OF REPORT: FEES AND EXPENSES FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

Report of: RETURNING OFFICER

Cabinet Member: Leader

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval to the scale of the fees and reimbursement payable to the Returning Officer to the administration and running of local elections.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Council agrees that:

- A. The Hampshire & Isle of Wight scale of election fees shown in Appendix I be approved; and
- B. The Section 151 Officer is delegated authority to approve future local election fee recommendations from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Election Fees Working Party.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In accordance with the Representation of the People's Act 1983 the cost of local elections are met from the local authority's budgets.
- 3.2 The local authority is required to appoint a Returning Officer to conduct these elections on their behalf and the Returning Officer is personally (not corporately) responsible for the management of elections. The Returning Officer is directly accountable to the Courts system as an independent Statutory Officer. The duties of the Returning Officer are separate from the duties as a Local Government Officer.
- 3.3 Each local authority is required to place the services of its staff at the disposal of the Returning Officer to help run the election.

4 COMMENTARY

4.1 In order to run a local election, experience shows that in Hart, the Returning Officer needs to employ and pay up to 350 additional staff with different levels of responsibility. It is important that this is done fairly and transparently. In order to achieve this, the Returning Officers across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight review and agree a schedule of fees which they all use and share with their own local authority. This ensures that there is a consistent approach for everyone.

- 4.2 The proposed Hampshire & Isle of Wight fees for 2019/2010 are attached at Appendix I.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The potential fees for administering local elections are already built into the Council's annual budget. Fees for Neighbourhood Plan referendums can be reclaimed as part of the Neighbourhood Plan Grant application to be made by the Council upon adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan following a successful referendum. Fees for Parliamentary and European Elections, and for national referendums are set by the Government on each occasion.

Contact: Daryl Phillips, x4143, daryl.phillips@hart.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix I - Local Government Act 1972, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Scale of Costs, Charges and Expenses at Elections of County Councillors, District Councillors and Parish Councillors (2019/2020).

(2019/2020)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT****SCALE OF COSTS, CHARGES AND EXPENSES AT ELECTIONS OF
COUNTY COUNCILLORS, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND PARISH COUNCILLORS****PART 1 - FOR SERVICES AND EXPENSES**

Fees for conducting the election, giving the prescribed notices, preparing and supplying nomination papers, distributing, filling up, verifying and adjudicating upon the same, appointing Deputy Returning Officers, arranging for or conducting the poll, counting the votes, declaring results and making return of same, and generally performing all the duties which a Returning Officer is required to perform under the Act or the Rules and Regulations made under it, and including all disbursements and expenses other than those for which special provision has been hereinbefore made, shall be as set out below save that where there is currently in force a scale which provides for the payment of a greater amount by way of fees and costs, such scale shall remain in full force in those respects in which it is more favourable.

Where a Returning Officer acts as Presiding Officer, he or she is also entitled to the Presiding Officer's fee; he or she is not entitled to the fee for counting.

Where a Deputy Returning Officer acts as Presiding Officer, he or she is also entitled to the Presiding Officer's fee and, where he or she has been appointed to attend at the count for the purpose of declaring the result of the poll and carrying out any other duty deputed by the Returning Officer, he or she is also entitled to the fee prescribed in Part 2 of this scale.

DISTRICT COUNCILS:	For the first 1000 local government electors within each electoral area	For each additional 500 local government electors or fractional part of 500
Contested elections:		
including the preparation, first revision and the issue of poll cards on the occasion of an election:	£100.00	£38.00
Uncontested elections:	£67.00 for each electoral area	

PARISH COUNCILS:	For the first 500 local government electors within each electoral area	For each additional 100 local government electors or fractional part of 100
Contested elections:		
Where the election is for Parish Councillors only:	£64.00	£12.00
Where the elections are for District Councillors and Parish Councillors on the same day:	£42.00	£6.00
Uncontested elections:		
Where the election is for parish Councillors only:	£36.00	
Where there are District and Parish Council elections on the same day:	£24.00	

COUNTERMANDED ELECTIONS

In the event of an election being countermanded, the fees for an uncontested election shall be paid, plus **£20.10** if the election is countermanded after the latest time for withdrawal of candidature.

POSTAL VOTING

In the event of a contest, the fee payable to the Returning Officer for services in connection with the despatch and receipt of ballot papers of persons entitled to vote by post shall be:

(a) for one electoral area for which an election is held on any one day if the number of persons entitled to vote by post does not exceed 50:	£24.00
for each additional 50 or fraction thereof:	£3.00
(b) for each of the remaining electoral areas for which elections are held on the same day, if the number of persons entitled to vote by post does not exceed 50:	£8.00
for each additional 50 or fraction thereof:	£3.00

POLLS CONSEQUENT UPON PARISH MEETINGS

For every poll consequent on a parish meeting where such poll is not taken as to the elections of parish councillors, to cover all the services of the Returning Officer and, if the poll is taken on more than one question on the same day in any parish, only one fee to be charged:

(a) For the first 500 local government electors in a parish	£64.00
(b) For each additional 100 local government electors or fractional part of 100:	£12.00

If the poll is not taken in consequence of the withdrawal of any candidates, for services preliminary to the poll: **£36.00**

Disbursements in connection with these polls are to be made in accordance with Part 2 of this scale.

TRAINING

<p>For Providing Training to Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks, per session (suggested ratio 1 trainer per 20/25 staff)</p> <p>Where a training session is undertaken by a person other than the Returning Officer, the fee shall be payable to that person accordingly</p>	£167:00
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PART 2 - DISBURSEMENTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for use and fitting up of a building for polling or constructing a polling station with its fittings and compartments } } • for the hire of a venue for postal vote processing or the count, where a commercial rate is payable and recoverable in accordance with the current Parliamentary Election Guidance Notes } } • for each ballot box required to be purchased } } • for the use of each ballot box when hired } } • for stationery, postages, telephone } } • for printing and providing poll cards } } • for printing and providing ballot papers } } • for each stamping instrument } } • for copies of the register of electors } } • for printing and providing notices, nomination forms and other documents required in and about the election and cost of publishing same } 	Actual and necessary cost
PRESIDING OFFICER – for each Presiding Officer	£255.00
For the Presiding Officer where more than one election is held on the same day:	The fee for a Presiding Officer plus £25.00
POLL CLERK - for each Poll Clerk	£160.00
For each Poll Clerk employed for part only of the period of the poll:	The hours worked to be paid at the Poll Clerk's hourly rate, plus up to 25% of that total at the discretion of the Returning Officer
For the Poll Clerk where more than one election is held on the same day:	The fee for a Poll Clerk plus £15.00
COUNTING ASSISTANT - for each Counting Assistant	£14:00 per hour for a daytime count £17:00 per hour for a night time, weekend or bank holiday count (A night time count is a count that starts once polling closes and runs through the night)
COUNTING SUPERVISOR - for each Counting Supervisor	The fee for a Counting Assistant plus £60:00
SENIOR SUPERVISOR - for each Senior Supervisor (number and duties to be determined locally)	The fee for a Counting Supervisor plus £50:00
COUNT MANAGER – for each Count Manager (number and duties to be determined locally)	The fee for a Senior Supervisor plus £100:00
For each DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER appointed to conduct the count in the absence of the Returning officer(<i>where for example two counts are being conduct simultaneously but in geographically different locations warranting the DRO taking full responsibility for a Count</i>)	£77.00 for each electoral area, except that where the count for more than one electoral area is conducted by the same DRO, a further £61.00 be paid for the second electoral area and thereafter at the rate of £36.00 for each electoral area. The fee shall be increased by 60% in any electoral area where the number of electors exceeds 5000.

<p>For Returning Officer's travelling expenses where necessary to make arrangements for the poll and for the conveyance of ballot boxes and papers etc to and from the polling place:</p> <p>For Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks and Counting staff travelling expenses including collection of the ballot box and delivery to place of count:</p>	<p>} Second class railway or bus fare }or, where not available, sums actually } and necessarily incurred. For private } cars (to be shared wherever practicable) } the current AMAP (HM Revenue and Customs) rate } }</p>
<p>For clerical and other assistance not specifically mentioned in this scale, including the employment of persons in connection with the preparation and issue of official poll cards, including charges for employers' share of national insurance and superannuation contributions where payable</p>	<p>£51.00 per electoral area plus, in contested elections, £35.00 for each 500 electors or part thereof. (NOTE: This is a maximum allowance and it is not an entitlement)</p>
<p>For the remuneration of persons employed for the despatch and receipt of ballot papers of persons entitled to vote by post (in each electoral area)</p>	<p>Actual and necessary cost</p>
<p>Expenses in connection with the provision of security measures</p>	<p>Actual and necessary cost</p>
<p>Expenses in connection with the hire of mobile telephones</p>	<p>Actual and necessary cost</p>
<p>Polling Station Inspectors (suggested ratio – 1 Inspector per 15 stations)</p> <p>At the discretion of the Returning Officer, an appropriate payment may be made for a second team of polling stations inspectors, to assist with the collection of postal votes therefrom.</p>	<p>The fee for a Presiding Officer</p>
<p>For each Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk who attends a training session</p>	<p>£40.00</p>

PART 3 - COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

In respect of Hampshire County Council Elections:

1. The County Returning Officer shall not receive a fee. No fees for election duties are included in Hampshire County Council Chief Officer salaries, nor are any additional fees payable for such responsibilities.
2. Deputy County Returning Officers (Local Returning Officers) shall receive the Returning Officer fee payable for District Elections set out in Part 1 of this Order net of superannuation
3. Deputy County Returning Officers (Local Returning Officers) shall receive the amount payable for District Elections set out in Part 1 of this Order in respect of postal voting and training
4. In respect of Disbursements(Part 2), the Deputy County Returning Officers (Local Returning Officers) shall receive the amounts set out in Part 2 of this Order payable for District Elections
5. The terms of this order shall be construed accordingly eg 'each electoral area' shall be taken to mean each County Electoral Division (as opposed to Ward)

NOTES:

1. "Electoral area" means any district, ward or parish council for which a separate election is held.
2. The fees prescribed for Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks are for the hours of poll from 7am to 10pm. In the event of an election or poll for a non-principal area where the hours of poll are fewer in number, the fees payable to Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks shall be at the discretion of the Returning Officer.
3. With regard to Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), each BID area shall be treated as one electoral area and this schedule shall be used as the basis for calculating both the Ballot Holder's fee and the clerical support fees.
4. With regard to other electoral activities and events where there is not a fees and charges order set by Government (this includes but is not limited to business and residential neighbourhood planning referendums, council tax referendums and local polls) this schedule shall be used as the basis for calculating the fees and charges.
5. By law, all expenditure properly incurred by a returning officer in relation to the holding of an election of a councillor for a principal area must be paid by that council in so far as such expenditure does not, in cases where there is a scale fixed for the purpose by the council for that area, exceed that scale.

***Printed and Published by Mark Heath, Chairman of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Election
Fees Working Party***

February 2019

COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday, 28 March 2019 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS –

Makepeace-Browne - (Chairman)

Ambler	Crisp	Kennett
Bailey	Crookes	Kinnell
Blewett	Delaney	Neighbour
Burchfield	Dickens	Oliver
Butler	Drage	Parker
Clarke	Forster	Quarterman
Cockarill	Gray	Radley
Collings	Gorys	Wright
Crampton		

Officers Present:

Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Gill Chapman	Committee Services

94 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 February 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

95 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Axam, Renshaw, Southern, Wheale and Worlock.

96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Drage declared that he was a paid employee of Sky.

97 PRESENTATION – SKY OCEAN RESCUE

Fiona Ball gave a presentation on the work of Sky Ocean Rescue, using the channel to increase awareness of the condition of ocean health, and the risk of non-recyclable plastics to our seas. Sky, as a large, global business, can publicise and discourage the use of single use plastics, eg working with sports organisations to use a reusable cup at stadiums instead of single use plastics for beer and soft drinks. Small actions can make a substantial amount of difference, eg deposit return schemes, tools, use of alternatives, etc.

Questions were around acting now, the global problem, publicising problems and potential solutions, and the responsibilities of larger organisations in global issues.

Members thanked Fiona for the insight into Sky Ocean Rescue's work. Hart being the first Council working with Sky on this, Members looked forward to help to set the agenda.

98 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Details of questions received are set out in Appendix I attached to these Minutes.

99 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

No questions had been received.

100 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- 4 March All Saints Church Fashion Show Fundraiser
- 7 March Mayor of Havant Civic Day – Havant Offices, Havant
- 8 March OT Practice Limited opening in Hook
- 10 March Thanksgiving Service for Freemasons at Winchester Cathedral
- 20 March Mayor Eastleigh – Hampshire Constabulary/Hants Fire & Rescue/South Central Ambulance Service Emergency Services Exhibition Day at Southern Support & training HQ, Hamble-le-Rice
- 22 March Mayor Eastleigh Charity Dinner at Botley Park Hotel, Botley
- 24 March Mayor Test Valley - Fizz, Cream Tea, Daffodils and Dance Band, Houghton Lodge Orangery, Nr Stockbridge

In light of Councillor Morris' recent resignation, the Chairman thanked him for his sterling work for the Council. Members paid tribute to his work and efforts for the residents and the Council, and wished him well for the future.

The Chairman announced that, with the end of her term in sight, a Raffle would be held through April, and encouraged officers and Councillors to participate. Pre-meeting farewells would be made before the April Council meeting.

101 CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

I would like to thank all the members and officers who were so kind last week after I was not well.

The Cabinet Member for Contracts and Community Services, **Councillor Radley**, reported that Everyone Active were optimistic that the teaching pool would be ready to be open to the public from tomorrow afternoon.

The Cabinet member for Partnerships, **Councillor Ambler**, reported:

At the Ageing Well meeting on 1 March we had a very interesting presentation from Hart Voluntary Action on their latest major project, Making Connections Home from Hospital Service. This project has been commissioned jointly by North East Hampshire and Farnham CCG and HCC Adults' Health and Care. It is for adult patients registered with a North East Hampshire GP practice, and provides support for up to 6 weeks for clients who have been identified by hospital or adult services staff as needing low-level support to settle back at home. HVA are to be commended for successfully bidding for, and getting the service up and running in a very tight timescale.

Autism Friendly Fleet have two events coming up to promote World Autism Awareness Week, 1-7 April. They will be at Hart Leisure Centre on Saturday, 30 March from 10am to 4pm with a stand and a cake sale. They will also be at Hart House, Fleet on Tuesday, 2 April 10am to 12pm for a drop in coffee morning. Drinks and cakes will be available to purchase.

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

Last Tuesday I attended the popular shared ownership event held in partnership with Rushmoor Borough Council. Over 320 residents attended, highlighting the continuing demand for shared ownership.

Hart have been successful in a joint bid with Rushmoor, Winchester and Basingstoke and Deane councils in securing £240,000 financing to support those facing rough sleeping and single people challenged with being homeless.

After a query from Members, Councillor Bailey agreed to circulate the number of Hart residents who attended the shared ownership event.

The Cabinet Member for Planning Services, **Councillor Cockarill**, announced:

The planning appeal at Owens Farm, Hook, for 700 homes plus supporting infrastructure was withdrawn on Friday, 22 March, halfway through the inquiry hearings. This is a fantastic result for the Council and for all those that were concerned about this proposal which was totally contrary to the Submission Local Plan. I congratulate the Planning team for their efforts but we are also very grateful for the support given to us by Hook Parish Council and local residents. It certainly was partnership working and more importantly, it shows clearly the benefit of having a well advanced local plan, which the Council now has in light of the inspector's recommendations which were agreed by Cabinet on 14 March 2019.

The outcome of another large appeal - 700 dwellings at Pale Lane, Fleet, is still awaited. The hearings were held in January 2019 and the inquiry was adjourned in anticipation of the local plan Inspector's letter. The Council made submissions following receipt of the letter and we hope that the outcome will be another positive one for the Council. The Pale Lane Inspector will make recommendations to the Secretary of State who will make the decision.

As for the local plan, the next stage will be a six week consultation on Modifications to the Plan. This will set out the changes deemed necessary to make the plan

'sound'. The consultation will take place hopefully sometime in April 2019. Hopefully the Inspector will then be able to quickly finalise his report to enable us to be able to adopt the Plan later this summer.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, **Councillor Kinnell**, reported:

The Council has been working with partners including the Police, Hampshire County Council and Natural England for some time, to seek to resolve matters at the Scrap Metal dealer and Motor salvage business located at Totters Lane, Hartley Wintney.

The business was carrying out unlicensed dismantling of vehicles which encroached onto the public highway and the adjacent Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

I'm pleased to be able to advise you that Hart District Council has been successful in its recent application for a 'Site Closure Order', the first of its kind, under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013. We were also awarded full costs.

The order was granted at Basingstoke Magistrates court on the 14 March following a failure to comply with a closure notice issued by the Council's Environmental Health team in April 2017.

Some of the finer points of the court Order still need to be finalised, as this is a new area of law with no current precedents. It is however anticipated that the Order will provide a direct requirement to clear the land (including the SSSI) of all vehicles and parts. There will be a significant financial payment required to be paid by Mr Ball to the courts, which will also hopefully provide a robust financial insurance against a future non-compliance, and open up the potential option to undertake works in default at his expense.

This is an excellent result for Hart and the local residents who were impacted, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the EH officers involved in this case.

102 JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVES' REPORT

The Joint Chief Executive reported that the elections team were getting ready for the local elections, with nominations closing next week. The uncertainty around Brexit and the European Elections scheduled for the end of May was bringing its own challenges as arrangements were still having to be made, eg halls for polling stations, printing of ballot papers etc. Standard practices had to be ongoing, which may cause some interest from residents, and until the UK side of the European Elections are called a halt, arrangements have to carry on.

103 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Meeting	Date
Overview and Scrutiny (draft)	19 February 2019

No questions asked.

Standards (draft)

6 March 2019

Minute 7 – Code of Conduct Complaints Form and Guidance.

Councillor Clarke put the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Kennett. After a vote it was

RESOLVED

That the Monitoring Officer be delegated authority to update the Form and Guidance as per the recommendations of the Committee.

Minute 8 – Members' Code of Conduct Update

Councillor Clarke put the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Kennett. After a vote it was

RESOLVED

That the updated Members' Code of Conduct be adopted.

Cabinet (draft)

7 March 2019

No questions asked.

Cabinet (draft)

14 March 2019

Councillor Burchfield raised a point about a question he asked at Cabinet, and asked why it was not reflected in the minutes. The Leader agreed to address this matter when the minutes were reviewed at the next Cabinet meeting.

Planning (draft)

13 March 2019

No questions asked.

104 OUTSIDE BODIES - FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

Councillor Parker, had attended the spring meeting of HLOWLA, the minutes of which he would circulate to Members.

105 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following Motion to Council had been moved by **Councillor Radley**:

“This Council wishes a prompt review of car parking charges across the district to bring in free 30 or 60 minute parking in a way that is cost neutral to the car parking budget. The 30 or 60 mins free parking is important to help our district wide retailers and therefore cost neutrality is vital in order to make the scheme sustainable in more challenging budget years. The parking review needs to take into account the effect of Hampshire County Council's alarming proposal to introduce on street parking meters in urban areas. The parking review must therefore

also consider how best to protect residents ability to park in their own neighbourhoods. A holistic approach is needed to get a balanced parking strategy which works across the board.”

Councillor Radley introduced the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Oliver.

Members debated the motion. Issues considered included cost neutrality, longer dwell time, the draft service plan, the plans of Hampshire County Council, de-politicising parking, and a sustainable solution.

After a suggestion from Members, Councillor Radley agreed to change the word ‘wishes’ to ‘requires’. The final Motion was therefore as follows:

“This Council requires a prompt review of car parking charges across the district to bring in free 30 or 60 minute parking in a way that is cost neutral to the car parking budget. The 30 or 60 mins free parking is important to help our district wide retailers and therefore cost neutrality is vital in order to make the scheme sustainable in more challenging budget years. The parking review needs to take into account the effect of Hampshire County Council's alarming proposal to introduce on street parking meters in urban areas. The parking review must therefore also consider how best to protect residents ability to park in their own neighbourhoods. A holistic approach is needed to get a balanced parking strategy which works across the board.”

A Recorded Vote was taken:

FOR the Motion:

Ambler, Bailey, Blewett, Butler, Clarke, Cockarill, Collings, Crisp, Delaney, Drage, Gray, Gorys, Kennett, Kinnell, Makepeace-Browne, Neighbour, Oliver, Parker, Quarterman, Radley, Wright

AGAINST the Motion:

Burchfield, Crampton, Dickens

ABSTENTIONS:

Crookes, Forster

The Motion was therefore **CARRIED**

The following Motion to Council had been moved by **Councillor Parker**:

“That this Council resolves to support business, particularly small businesses, in Hart by reviewing the parking charges regime in order to offer free short term parking up to one hour.”

Councillor Parker withdrew his motion.

I06 FEES AND EXPENSES FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

Members considered the fees and expenses for local elections as detailed in the report.

DECISION

- 1 The Hampshire & Isle of Wight scale of election fees be approved
- 2 The Section 151 Officer be delegated authority to approve future local election fee recommendations from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Election Fees Working Party.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr Timothy Smart asked:

The draft Local Plan lacks any commitment to create a Master Plan for Fleet, despite evidence that Fleet is falling behind other comparable urban centres and is in need of regeneration. The Inspector is recommending that SS3 should be removed from the Local Plan at least until alternative strategies have been objectively assessed. My question is whether the Council will direct that the monies budgeted for work on SS3 should be reassigned to developing a plan for urban renewal across Hart and specifically a Master Plan for Fleet in accordance with the Inspector's letter.

Councillor Cockarill responded:

The premise of the question is based on something the Inspector did not say. For those who attended the hearings, they will recall that the Inspector has no criticism of the Council's approach to town centres. Indeed, at the examination he gave little airtime to the issue and in his recent letter he made no mention of regeneration.

The emerging local plan sets out an aspiration to look beyond the Plan period (2014-2032) to address the District's long-term housing and infrastructure needs. The Inspector has praised us for this aspiration, although he has been unconvinced by the specific approach we set out in the Draft Plan. The aspiration remains in the emerging Local Plan, however, to provide a strategic and visionary framework for future planning policies.

Hart has submitted a bid to the Government's 'Future High Street Fund', which is designed to help local authorities fund urban regeneration projects, primarily to re-vitalise shopping areas. The scheme is primarily intended to support 'shovel-ready' projects to get underway, however we are hoping to be awarded money to support the scoping and feasibility of a town centre regeneration project. One of the criteria of the fund is that such projects must have the support of the local community, most obviously through the Neighbourhood Plans process.

Mr Smart asked a supplementary question:

A group of residents are interested in helping Hart to move a plan for Fleet forward. What do you consider to be the next steps, as it is quite clear that the local planning inspector feels that this should be encouraged further.

Councillor Cockarill responded that not all plans seem to be supported by the local community, and that as yet there was no scheme to drive forward.

Mr Simon Brown asked:

In the Report and Executive Summary "Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study and Playing Pitch Strategy 2016-2032" the Cycling Facilities section prioritises a feasibility study into provision of BMX tracks and mountain biking trails. With cycling – and specifically mountain

biking – a popular sport in the District would the Leader please provide a brief update on progress of the study.

Councillor Radley responded for the Leader:

We have 2 schemes being developed at Hartland Park SANGs and a more complex version at Edenbrook.

Basic provision (a pump track) has been provided for Edenbrook but there is funding agreed for a larger facility in which we will be doing some consultation as to the nature of this provision. We expect to get ownership of the bike area at Edenbrook in the spring which will allow us to start to the consultation process in the summer.

Mr Brown asked a supplementary question:

With the emerging military training area restrictions, and civilians being squeezed into other areas, eg Fleet Pond, would Council debate this issue?

Councillor Radley responded that it was an important issue for Council to consider. He agreed to ask the Leader to write to the Commander of Aldershot Garrison expressing the Council's, and resident's, dismay at the Army's actions in closing off access to military land when not in use by military personnel.