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FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone on Wednesday, 19 February 2020

Present: Councillors Mrs Ann Berry (Chairman), Danny Brook, Miss Susan Carey, John Collier, Laura Davison, Ray Field, Gary Fuller, Peter Gane, Clive Goddard, Anthony Hills, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Nicola Keen, Michelle Keutenius, Jim Martin, Philip Martin (Vice-Chair), Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Ian Meyers, David Monk, Terence Mullard, Stuart Peall, Tim Prater, Patricia Rolfe, Rebecca Shoob, Georgina Treloar, Douglas Wade, Lesley Whybrow, David Wimble and John Wing

Apologies for Absence: Councillors David Godfrey

92. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Fuller declared a DPI in respect of minute no 103 (Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital original budget 20/21), in that he lived in a council property.

Councillors Rolfe and Gane declared a DPI in respect of minute no 101 (Update to the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme and Budget Monitoring 2019/20) in respect of their roles as Directors on the Board of Oportunitas.

Councillor Rolfe also declared a personal interest in respect of minute no 102 (General Fund Budget and Council Tax 2020/21), due to her role as a New Romney Town Councillor, and due to her owning a business on the High Street.

Councillors Gane, Keutenius and Meade also declared personal interests in respect of minute no 102, due to their roles as Councillors on Folkestone Town Council.

Councillor Mrs Carey declared a personal interest with regard to Minute No 101 (Update to the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme and Budget Monitoring 2019/20), as she was a customer of Oportunitas.

93. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2020 were submitted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

94. **Chairman's Communications**

The Chairman gave the following communications:

“Firstly I would like to thank our Officers and the team on their quick response to the severe weather that we have had over the past couple of weeks. The officers were in touch with the Environment Agency who are continuing to monitor the severe weather conditions. The officers were and are on standby should any emergency occur. Partners were advised that SWEP would be implemented on Saturday and Sunday due to the severe weather warnings.

Thanks must also go to all the Emergency services that have worked long hours to keep the roads open and us safe.

Our website has a comprehensive guide on flooding and you can sign up for free phone, email or text alerts from the Environment Agency.

Since the last full Council meeting, the Deputy Chairman and I, supported the Ashford Mayor's Charity at the London Beach Hotel in Tenterden and also the Mayoral Civic Service in Broadstairs.

On Sunday 2nd February I was pleased to attend the 125th Anniversary of All Souls Church in Cheriton. The service was very well attended and we all had a chance to meet up at the buffet in the church hall afterwards.

On Tuesday 4th February I attended the Installation of The Rev Dr John Walker as Priest in charge to St Mary and St Eanswythe Church in Folkestone. This came after a long interregnum of just over two years. It was pleasing to see so many of his fellow Priests in support.

The Bishop of Dover, The Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin conducted the service. During her talk to the Congregation she asked the newly installed Priest, Dr John what his favourite song was, then proceeded to ask one other person. I was hoping like a great many I'm sure, that I would not be asked. However, when the time came for me to stand and say a few words of welcome on behalf of the District to Rev Dr John Walker, I mentioned that, had I been asked by the Bishop what my favourite song was, I would have said, Oh Happy Day!".

95. **Petitions**

There were no petitions to be presented.

96. **Questions from the Public**

The questions asked, including supplementary questions (if any), and the answers given are set out in Schedule 1, appended to these minutes.

97. **Questions from Councillors**

The questions asked, including supplementary questions (if any), and the answers given are set out in Schedule 2, appended to these minutes.

98. **Announcements of the Leader of the Council**

Leader gave the following announcements:

"Good evening to you all.

It is interesting times we live in, we have held the first meeting of the Cabinet today that has diverse representation from across the Council. I think it went very well and I look forward to it proceeding in the future to the benefit of the whole of the district.

On a more local issue, on the closure of Debenhams, we have just negotiated to take a licence to enter the premises to animate the windows. Now this will take three to four weeks and then we will make the whole building look a lot happier. I'm pleased to say a local business man, Martin Jackson has taken a great lead in this and has liaised with a lot of local business who have raised money to help bring this project forward that is all from my report this evening. Thank you".

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

That the announcements of the Leader be noted.

99. **Opposition Business**

There was no opposition business.

100. **Motions on Notice**

There were no motions on notice.

101. **Update to the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme and Budget Monitoring 19/20**

The report updated the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme for the five year period ending 31 March 2025. The report provided an updated projected outturn for the General Fund capital programme in 2019/20, based on expenditure to 30 November 2019. The General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme is required to be submitted to full Council for consideration and approval as part of the budget process. The report also sets out the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2020/21 to be approved by full Council. Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report on 21 January 2020 ahead of Cabinet approving it for submission to full Council on 22 January 2020. The report has been updated to incorporate changes to the Medium Term Capital Programme which have occurred since these meetings.

Proposed by Councillor Prater,
Seconded by Councillor Whybrow;

That the following recommendation be inserted as recommendation two (and subsequent recommendations be renumbered):

The Princes Parade (Princes Parade Leisure and Housing development) allocated budget of £28.608m be deleted and that a future capital programme considers the required budget for a leisure centre on an alternative site, probably at Martello Lakes.

In accordance with the council procedure rule 17.5 five members present demanded a recorded vote.

FOR: COUNCILLORS DAVISON, KEUTENIUS, FULLER, GANE, KEEN, J MARTIN, MCCONVILLE, MEADE, PRATER, SHOOB, TRELOAR, WADE, WHYBROW, WING (14).

AGAINST: COUNCILLORS MRS BERRY, BROOK, MRS CAREY, COLLIER, FIELD, GODDARD, HILLS, MRS HOLLINGSBEE, P MARTIN, MEYERS, MONK, MULLARD, PEALL, ROLFE, WIMBLE (15).

ABSTENTIONS: (0).

(Voting figures: 14 for, 15 against, 0 abstention).

The amendment was therefore **LOST**.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/19/26 be received and noted.
2. That the updated General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme, as set out in appendix 2 to the report be approved.
3. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement for 2020/21, as set out in appendix 3 to the report be approved.

(Voting figures: 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

In accordance with the council procedure rule 17.5 five members present demanded a recorded vote.

FOR: COUNCILLORS MRS BERRY, BROOK, MRS CAREY, COLLIER, FIELD, GANE, GODDARD, HILLS, MRS HOLLINGSBEE, P MARTIN, MEYERS, MONK, MULLARD, PEALL, ROLFE, WIMBLE (16).

AGAINST: COUNCILLORS DAVISON, KEUTENIUS, FULLER, KEEN, J MARTIN, MCCONVILLE, MEADE, PRATER, SHOOB, TRELOAR, WADE, WHYBROW, WING (13).

ABSTENTIONS: (0).

(Voting figures: 16 for, 13 against, 0 abstention).

102. General Fund Budget and Council Tax 2020/21

This report concludes the budget setting process for 2020/21. It sets out recommendations for setting the council tax after taking into account the district's council tax requirement (including town and parish council requirements and special expenses in respect of the Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Grounds Charity), the precepts of Kent County Council, the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner and the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Service.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/19/29 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the District Council's budget for 2020/21 as presented in Appendix 1 to the report and the Council Tax requirement for 2020/21 be approved, to be met from the Collection Fund, of £13,044,673.**
- 3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2020/21 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):**
 - a) £105,350,102 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act (as in Appendix 2).**
 - b) £92,305,429 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act (as in Appendix 2).**
 - c) £13,044,673 – 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 (as in Appendix 2).**
 - d) £333.55 – being the amount at 3(c) above divided by the tax base of 39,109.15 calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.**
 - e) £3,104,691 – being the aggregate of all special items (including parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.**
 - f) £254.16 - being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the tax base of 39,109.15 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 special item relates, ie Old Romney and Snargate.

g) Part of the Council's area

Folkestone	348.59	Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council area mentioned here divided in each case by the appropriate tax base calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) 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.
Sandgate	329.90	
Hythe	312.32	
Lydd	315.69	
New Romney	385.24	
Acrise	256.45	
Elham	312.54	
Elmsted	271.67	
Hawkinge	362.41	
Lyminge	301.24	
Lympne	304.49	
Monks Horton	263.57	
Newington	301.17	
Paddlesworth	265.04	
Postling	282.25	
Saltwood	279.20	
Sellindge	326.09	
Stanford	295.32	
Stelling Minnis	275.61	
Stowting	270.66	
Swingfield	307.23	
Brenzett	299.02	
Brookland	326.22	
Burmarsh	288.56	
Dymchurch	316.87	
Ivychurch	305.19	
Newchurch	290.53	
Old Romney	254.16	
St Mary in the Marsh	294.73	
Snargate	254.16	

(h) Part of the Council's area

Valuation Bands

Parish	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Folkestone	232.39	271.12	309.86	348.59	426.05	503.52	580.98	697.18
Sandgate	219.93	256.59	293.25	329.90	403.21	476.52	549.83	659.80
Hythe	208.21	242.91	277.61	312.32	381.72	451.12	520.53	624.64
Lydd	210.46	245.54	280.61	315.69	385.84	456.00	526.15	631.38
New Romney	256.83	299.63	342.44	385.24	470.85	556.46	642.07	770.48
Acrise	170.97	199.46	227.96	256.45	313.44	370.43	427.42	512.90
Elham	208.36	243.08	277.81	312.54	381.99	451.44	520.89	625.08
Elmsted	181.11	211.30	241.48	271.67	332.04	392.41	452.78	543.34
Hawkinge	241.61	281.87	322.14	362.41	442.94	523.48	604.01	724.82
Lyminge	200.83	234.30	267.77	301.24	368.18	435.12	502.07	602.48
Lympne	202.99	236.82	270.66	304.49	372.15	439.82	507.48	608.98
Monks Horton	175.72	205.00	234.29	263.57	322.15	380.72	439.29	527.14
Newington	200.78	234.25	267.71	301.17	368.10	435.03	501.96	602.34
Paddlesworth	176.69	206.14	235.59	265.04	323.93	382.83	441.73	530.08
Postling	188.17	219.53	250.89	282.25	344.98	407.70	470.42	564.50
Saltwood	186.13	217.16	248.18	279.20	341.25	403.29	465.34	558.40
Sellindge	217.40	253.63	289.86	326.09	398.56	471.02	543.49	652.18
Stanford	196.88	229.69	262.51	295.32	360.95	426.57	492.20	590.64
Stelling Minnis	183.74	214.36	244.98	275.61	336.85	398.10	459.35	551.22
Stowting	180.44	210.52	240.59	270.66	330.81	390.96	451.11	541.32
Swingfield	204.82	238.96	273.10	307.23	375.51	443.78	512.06	614.46
Brenzett	199.35	232.57	265.80	299.02	365.47	431.92	498.37	598.04
Brookland	217.48	253.73	289.97	326.22	398.71	471.21	543.70	652.44
Burmarsh	192.37	224.44	256.50	288.56	352.68	416.81	480.93	577.12
Dymchurch	211.25	246.46	281.66	316.87	387.29	457.70	528.12	633.74
Ivychurch	203.46	237.37	271.28	305.19	373.01	440.83	508.65	610.38
Newchurch	193.68	225.97	258.25	290.53	355.09	419.65	484.21	581.06
Old Romney	169.44	197.68	225.92	254.16	310.64	367.12	423.60	508.32
St Mary in the Marsh	196.49	229.24	261.98	294.73	360.23	425.73	491.22	589.46
Snargate	169.44	197.68	225.92	254.16	310.64	367.12	423.60	508.32

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 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.

4. To note that for the year 2020/21 Kent County Council, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Service have 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 shown below:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Kent County Council	900.84	1,050.98	1,201.12	1,351.26	1,651.54	1,951.82	2,252.10	2,702.52
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner	135.43	158.01	180.58	203.15	248.29	293.44	338.58	406.30
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue	52.86	61.67	70.48	79.29	96.91	114.53	132.15	158.58

Major preceptor amounts remained subject to confirmation at the time of preparing this report.

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2020/21 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

(i) Part of the Council's area Valuation Bands

Parish	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Folkestone	1,321.52	1,541.78	1,762.04	1,982.29	2,422.79	2,863.31	3,303.81	3,964.58
Sandgate	1,309.06	1,527.25	1,745.43	1,963.60	2,399.95	2,836.31	3,272.66	3,927.20
Hythe	1,297.34	1,513.57	1,729.79	1,946.02	2,378.46	2,810.91	3,243.36	3,892.04

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Lydd	1,299.59	1,516.20	1,732.79	1,949.39	2,382.58	2,815.79	3,248.98	3,898.78
New Romney	1,345.96	1,570.29	1,794.62	2,018.94	2,467.59	2,916.25	3,364.90	4,037.88
Acrise	1,260.10	1,470.12	1,680.14	1,890.15	2,310.18	2,730.22	3,150.25	3,780.30
Elham	1,297.49	1,513.74	1,729.99	1,946.24	2,378.73	2,811.23	3,243.72	3,892.48
Elmsted	1,270.24	1,481.96	1,693.66	1,905.37	2,328.78	2,752.20	3,175.61	3,810.74
Hawkinge	1,330.74	1,552.53	1,774.32	1,996.11	2,439.68	2,883.27	3,326.84	3,992.22
Lyminge	1,289.96	1,504.96	1,719.95	1,934.94	2,364.92	2,794.91	3,224.90	3,869.88
Lympne	1,292.12	1,507.48	1,722.84	1,938.19	2,368.89	2,799.61	3,230.31	3,876.38
Monks Horton	1,264.85	1,475.66	1,686.47	1,897.27	2,318.89	2,740.51	3,162.12	3,794.54
Newington	1,289.91	1,504.91	1,719.89	1,934.87	2,364.84	2,794.82	3,224.79	3,869.74
Paddlesworth	1,265.82	1,476.80	1,687.77	1,898.74	2,320.67	2,742.62	3,164.56	3,797.48
Postling	1,277.30	1,490.19	1,703.07	1,915.95	2,341.72	2,767.49	3,193.25	3,831.90
Saltwood	1,275.26	1,487.82	1,700.36	1,912.90	2,337.99	2,763.08	3,188.17	3,825.80
Sellindge	1,306.53	1,524.29	1,742.04	1,959.79	2,395.30	2,830.81	3,266.32	3,919.58
Stanford	1,286.01	1,500.35	1,714.69	1,929.02	2,357.69	2,786.36	3,215.03	3,858.04
Stelling Minnis	1,272.87	1,485.02	1,697.16	1,909.31	2,333.59	2,757.89	3,182.18	3,818.62
Stowting	1,269.57	1,481.18	1,692.77	1,904.36	2,327.55	2,750.75	3,173.94	3,808.72
Swingfield	1,293.95	1,509.62	1,725.28	1,940.93	2,372.25	2,803.57	3,234.89	3,881.86
Brenzett	1,288.48	1,503.23	1,717.98	1,932.72	2,362.21	2,791.71	3,221.20	3,865.44
Brookland	1,306.61	1,524.39	1,742.15	1,959.92	2,395.45	2,831.00	3,266.53	3,919.84
Burmarsh	1,281.50	1,495.10	1,708.68	1,922.26	2,349.42	2,776.60	3,203.76	3,844.52
Dymchurch	1,300.38	1,517.12	1,733.84	1,950.57	2,384.03	2,817.49	3,250.95	3,901.14
Ivychurch	1,292.59	1,508.03	1,723.46	1,938.89	2,369.75	2,800.62	3,231.48	3,877.78
Newchurch	1,282.81	1,496.63	1,710.43	1,924.23	2,351.83	2,779.44	3,207.04	3,848.46
Old Romney	1,258.57	1,468.34	1,678.10	1,887.86	2,307.38	2,726.91	3,146.43	3,775.72
St Mary in the Marsh	1,285.62	1,499.90	1,714.16	1,928.43	2,356.97	2,785.52	3,214.05	3,856.86
Snargate	1,258.57	1,468.34	1,678.10	1,887.86	2,307.38	2,726.91	3,146.43	3,775.72

6. To determine that the District Council's basic amount of council tax for 2020/21 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The motion was put to a recorded vote in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 as set out below:

FOR: COUNCILLORS MRS BERRY, BROOK, MRS CAREY, COLLIER, FIELD, GANE, GODDARD, HILLS, MRS HOLLINGSBEE, P MARTIN, MEYERS, MONK, MULLARD, PEALL, ROLFE, SHOOB, TRELOAR, WHYBROW, WIMBLE and WING (20).

AGAINST: COUNCILLORS DAVISON, KEUTENIUS, KEEN, MCCONVILLE AND WADE (5).

ABSTENTIONS: COUNCILLORS FULLER, J MARTIN, MEADE AND PRATER (4).

(Voting figures: 20 for; 5 against; 4 abstentions).

103. **Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Original Budget 20/21**

The report set out the Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Budget for 2020/21 and proposed an increase in weekly rents and an increase in service charges for 2020/21.

Proposed by Councillor Meade,
Seconded by Councillor McConville; and

RESOLVED:

That paragraph 3.5.2 of the report be amended to read as follows:

“Service charges for heating and hot water in sheltered housing schemes should be set at actual cost or 10%, whichever is lowest”.

(Voting figures: 26 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

Councillors Gane and Goddard left the chamber for this vote.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/19/27 be received and noted.
2. That the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2020/21 be approved. (Refer to paragraph 2.1 and Appendix 1)
3. That the increase in rents of dwellings within the HRA on average by £2.22 per week, representing a 2.7% increase, be approved, with effect from 1 April 2020. (Refer to paragraph 3.2)
4. That the increase in service charges be approved. (Refer to section 3.5)
5. That the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme budget 2020/21 be approved. (Refer to paragraph 4.1 and Appendix 2)
6. That the additional funding to be allocated between 2020/21 – 2022/23 of £10 million for the investment into the existing housing stock through an enhanced capital programme be approved. (Refer to paragraph 4.1.3).

7. That Service charges for heating and hot water in sheltered housing schemes should be set at actual cost or 10%, whichever is lowest. (Refer to paragraph 3.5.2).

(Voting figures: 28 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

Councillor Fuller left the chamber during the consideration of this item, and returned after the vote.

104. Housing management options appraisal - outcome of formal consultation

An options appraisal was completed in October 2019, reviewing the delivery of housing management services provided by East Kent Housing (EKH) on behalf of Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council, Folkestone and Hythe District Council and Thanet District Council. The four councils agreed that the preferred option for future service provision to the four councils' tenants and leaseholders is that it should become an in-house service, subject to consultation. The Cabinet report sets out the outcomes from the formal consultation exercise undertaken with EKH tenants and leaseholders. It proposes that officers from across the four councils be instructed to negotiate ending the agreement with EKH and to make preparations for the housing management service to be brought in-house.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Carey,
Seconded by Councillor P Martin; and

RESOLVED:

1. **That Report A/19/28 be received and noted.**
2. **That it be recommended to Cabinet that:**
 - (1) **That having noted the results of the tenant and leaseholder consultation, the cost/benefit analysis and the risk analysis, it be agreed that the management of the council's housing stock be brought back in-house.**
 - (2) **That the Director of Transformation and Transition, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Transport and Special Projects be authorised to negotiate and conclude a termination of the management agreement with EKH as soon as practicable.**
 - (3) **That the Director of Transformation and Transition, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Transport and Special Projects be authorised to take such decisions as may be necessary to facilitate the process of bringing the housing service in-house in discussion with the appropriate statutory officers..**

(Voting figures: 29 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

105. Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Update 2020 - 2050

The Council is required to produce a comprehensive Business Plan for its housing stock. The Business Plan is focused on improving the quality of the Council's landlord services and sets out the investment priorities for its existing Council housing stock. The document also provides details of the council's new build and acquisition housing programme. In view of policy changes implemented by the Government in 2018 to abolish the HRA borrowing cap, it was possible for the Council to increase its delivery target for new builds and the Business Plan was revised to deliver up to 300 homes by 2024/25. Following further reviews of the HRA financial position, its borrowing capacity and the Council's priorities the Business Plan has been updated to deliver a further 1,000 homes over the 10 year period from 2025/26 to 2034/35. The revised Business Plan also includes capital investment of £10m into existing housing stock. The report provided the details supporting the updated plan.

The Leader advised that Cabinet had met earlier that evening and made an amendment to recommendation 2 of the report. The revised recommendation, which now read as shown below had been circulated to Members at the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/19/30 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the number of homes delivered through the HRA new build and acquisition programme be increased to 1,200 homes over the period from 2020/21 to 2034/35.**
- 3. That £10m be invested into existing housing stock.**
- 4. That an update to the text of the HRA Business Plan be considered by Full Council in June.**

(Voting figures: 29 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

Councillors Whybrow, Prater, Treloar, J Martin, Meade, Shoob, Keutenius, Fuller, Wing, Wade and Davison indicated that with regard to paragraph 2.2 of the report, in respect of new builds at Princes Parade, they could not support this part of the report, and asked for this to be recorded in the minutes.

106. Committee Membership Changes

Under the Folkestone and Hythe District Council Constitution, Part 8.1 'Delegation to Officers', paragraph 3.18, the Head of Paid Service is authorised to make appointments to Committees or Sub-Committees at the request of the relevant political group leader. The report set out the appointments made, under these powers, on the instruction of both the Green and Liberal Democrat Group Leaders, following the changes to Cabinet on 1 February 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

That report A/19/24 be received and noted.

(Voting figures: 29 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

107. **Amendment to the Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions made by the Leader of the Council**

Under the Council's constitution (part 6, para 1.4.1) the Leader of the Council decides on the delegation of cabinet functions. The Leader may amend the delegations at any time by giving written notice to the Head of the Paid Service. Where such a notice is received the Head of the Paid Service must submit a report on the amendments to the next ordinary meeting of the Council. The report set out the amendments made by the Leader.

An addendum to the report setting out further changes had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

That report A/19/25 be received and noted.

(Voting figures: 16 for, 7 against, 6 abstentions).

Council – 19 February 2020

Public Questions

1. From Mrs Lawes to Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities

Following a briefing to district councillors in 2016/17 about Community Led Local Developments (CLLD). Now known as Folkestone Community works.

Councillors from the deprived wards of Harbour, East Folkestone and Central were assured that jobs would be created for long term unemployed. With the amount of funding so far distributed from Folkestone Community fund of £2.9 million to a number of New businesses.

Could you let me know how many long term unemployed have gained employment if any, and what type of employment ie: part time, full time or seasonal, zero hours minimum wage?

ANSWER:

Folkestone & Hythe District Council was successful in its bid to the England European Structural and Investment Funds Growth programme 2014 – 2020 to implement Folkestone Community Works (FCW) CLLD Programme and was awarded £2.49 million. This funding is and will be invested through open call projects during the lifetime of Folkestone Community Works. The programme is scheduled to run until December 2022. The Government has confirmed that ‘under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement the UK will continue to participate in the 2014-2020 ERDF Programme in England and other EU programmes until their closure’.

Folkestone Community Works aims to improve social and economic community cohesion in Broadmead, East Folkestone, Central Folkestone and Folkestone Harbour wards by funding projects that:

- Support unemployed and economically inactive residents of these wards on their journey back into the workforce
- Encourage residents to be entrepreneurial
- Support local businesses and start-ups to grow
- Strengthen the local economic base to provide new job opportunities

The programme has currently allocated £519,853 ESF funds to two projects which are currently running in the area. These projects are engaging with over 60 residents and the results so far up to Dec 2019 are that 2 long-term unemployed have moved into employment - 1 person found employment on a zero hour contract (permanent and above minimum wage) though the feedback is they have since been employed by Tesco's on a permanent contract, and 1 person is working regular shifts (above minimum wage) on a zero hour contract. In addition, a further 2 unemployed participants have

moved into employment and 9 onto training or education courses. We are expecting that to the end of 2022, these two projects will have supported over 111 residents into employment. We are planning to have another call for ESF projects to support residents in March 2020 as we have a further £455,147 ESF to allocate to employability projects in the programme.

The local business base is being supported through the several initiatives:

- A local SME Business Grant Scheme has awarded £168,000 of ERDF funding to 13 businesses of which one is classified as a new business i.e. operating for less than a year. A further call for applications is scheduled for the autumn 2020 as we have £281,901 ERDF funding still available for grants.
- Business support is now available to local businesses and start-ups through a project allocated £50,000 ERDF funding. This project is scheduled to support 66 businesses of which 33 will be classified as new. Each business will receive a minimum of 12 hours of free advice, in addition the project will assist 39 local residents who want to be entrepreneurs on to more enterprise ready. We are planning to have another Call for ERDF projects to support business and potential entrepreneurs in March 2020 as we have a further £174,22 ERDF to allocate to business support and entrepreneurial skills.
- A new business centre in the centre of Folkestone has been allocated £420,000 of ERDF funding which will increase the amount of modern office space in Folkestone by over 800sqm. A further £250,000 ERDF funding is to be allocated to support a Community Hub for Enterprise and Employability, once a project has been identified.

The delivery of Folkestone Community Works is overseen by the Folkestone Local Action Group (LAG), which is made up of representatives from the local private, voluntary, community and public sectors. This role includes reviewing applications and making recommendations to the Council on which applications to fund and monitoring the delivery of the programme. At each LAG meeting, members receive a presentation from the Programme Management Team on the delivery of the programme and individual projects.

The progress of funded projects is monitored through visits to them and a project claim process. The project claim process requires the project to report on the project progress, expenditure, and delivery of targets. Under the England European Structural and Investment Funds Growth programme 2014 – 2020 Regulations, projects are reimbursed for expenditure and are required to provide detailed evidence of the participants engaging with the projects and the outcomes. All expenditure is listed on a transaction list line by line with supporting evidence including invoices and bank statements showing defrayal. The Programme Management Team continually supports the funded projects to ensure they are collating the appropriate evidence and their project claims are correct. All project claims are checked and rechecked by the Programme Management Team prior to payment.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Is it possible to break down which wards have had some of the employment, and where they are?

ANSWER:

I'll certainly take this question back to officers.

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Full Council – 19 February 2020

Councillor questions:

1. From Councillor Rolfe to Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities

Ageing is a growing global phenomenon. This has widespread implications. Following extensive consultation, KCC are changing the way they distribute grants to Adult Social Care service providers who are now encouraged to take a more collaborative approach and 'bid' for funding as part of a consortium that will, if successful, win the contract to deliver services across a wide locality. The Romney Marsh Day Centre based in New Romney provides a lifeline for some of the most vulnerable people in our area. It offers a range of services tailored to meet the needs of older residents living on Romney Marsh and so helps tackle issues of rural isolation. The Centre's manager recently announced that its range of services may, be adversely affected, by the new funding regime. It is now part of a consortium that covers the first new contracts' locale which is South Kent Coastal CCG's geographic footprint (Romney Marsh through to Folkestone, Dover and Deal), and Thanet. This is a very large catchment area.

Therefore my question to you is: How can this District Council support service providers such as the Day Centre and others across this District to ensure they can continue to deliver help and support to the elderly and other vulnerable groups living in our area?

ANSWER:

On 10 February KCC launched their consultation on their new Civil Society Strategy. This replaces KCC's Voluntary and Community Sector Policy and is based on engagement with the sector over the last 5 years and specific engagement with sector representatives and networks over the past few months. I would encourage all members to respond to the consultation which can be found on the KCC Website/civil society strategy. The consultation ends on 14 April.

As far as we are aware all key voluntary sector groups will have been invited to engagement events to discuss KCCs proposals and Age UK Hythe recently came in to the Council to describe the forward planning they were doing to proposed funding changes. Age UK have been aware of this change in the way KCC Funding is provided and have put in place a number of mitigating measures - although still hoping to receive KCC funding.

I have discussed KCC Funding of Romney Marsh Day Centre with Councillor Tony Hills who in turn facilitated a meeting for Jon Wilson, Romney Marsh Day Centre Manager with Claire Bell Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health at KCC. Councillor Hills, along with other members is well aware of the services provided by the Day Centre and he is keeping a watching brief on the situation. He has put the Day Centre in touch with CALM (Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh) to see if there is a way of working together and also the Romney Resource Centre who may be able to assist with submitting the bid.

As a District Council we already signpost and make available information on where support services to vulnerable groups are, including use of Spotlight, hosting meet the funders events for the voluntary sector group, supporting the voluntary sector groups through networking events etc.

Some of the KCC work, we believe is aimed at reducing duplication and encouraging co-location where possible and encouraging groups to work together.

The most important aspect is that the elderly receive the services they require where and when needed.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

This situation is only going to get worse, and we need to find a solution. Do you agree?

ANSWER:

Yes, I totally agree.

2. From Councillor Davison to Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities

Please could the portfolio holder for communities give an update on her work to tackle our GP crisis?

ANSWER:

Firstly, I would say that the shortage of GP's is not a matter that we can control, it is the direct responsibility of NHS South Kent Coast Commissioning Group. However I know how important this issue is to our residents and we are keen to support our GPs. We are regularly engaging with the health sector on this matter and it is an issue that I have raised on many occasions: I did raise it at the last Kent Health & Wellbeing Board. In addition, I have been updated on the East Kent Medical School and the work they will be doing with new Graduate GP'S and Dr Bryant, Lead Clinician of the South Kent Coast CCG is extremely positive about this initiative. The School is currently oversubscribed for the intake in September this year: and from the start of the course, students will spend time out in GP Surgeries. Dr Bryant has said that evidence suggests, Students will remain in the area where they study and as a District there are ways in which we can also encourage students to remain in the area ie housing.

Very recently we addressed the closure of Park Farm surgery and were encouraged that new GP resource is coming into the District - I issued a briefing note on 4th February 2020 after the last Council Meeting, after a meeting the Leader and I had with Dr Bryant, Bill Millar, Director of Primary Care and our MP Damian Collins. Previous closures were also addressed at the time they were announced. The health service has been redesigning its services in order to ensure the most efficient use of GPs and this is also reflected in the note to

members. We are also awaiting decisions from Primary Care on the Urgent Treatment Centres which will provide an additional source of care to residents.

Additionally, consultation regularly takes place between our Officers and the CCG with regard to large scale housing development and particularly with regard to Otterpool Park where we are looking at best practice examples for a Health Centre such as the Estuary View medical facility in Whitstable.

With my Officers I will continue to liaise with Dr Bryant and the Health Service.

The note to all members was as follows:

Note for Members on the Closure of Park Farm Surgery – From Councillor Mrs Jenny Hollingsbee

On Friday 31 January 2020 , with the Leader, I met Dr Jonathan Bryant Clinical Lead of the CCG and Bill Millar Director of Primary Care. Our MP, Damian Collins joined us.

Dr Bryant and Bill Millar were keen to inform us that all patients registered at the Park Farm Surgery would have a choice of Surgery to register with locally. They also informed us that they were beginning to recruit new GP's to the area and that Dr Banik will remain in the District.

We emphasised the need to ensure patients were informed as soon as possible and that the more vulnerable patients be supported. We were advised that sessions would be held, probably at Three Hills, to help all patients and to assist with registration. Dates to be announced, probably in the letter to residents. We also suggested that they use Academy FM and BBC Radio Kent to inform patients more widely, in addition to social media and other methods of communication. The District Council will also communicate information as it becomes available through our own channels and Damian Collins will use his weekly newspaper columns to also communicate the information to residents.

The following statement was released by the CCG on 3rd February 2020, which I hope you will find helpful.

Dr Banik has decided to close Park Farm Surgery in Folkestone on 31 March 2020. All of the patients that are registered at Park Farm Surgery will receive a letter from the NHS within the next two weeks explaining how they can register with another local GP practice. The letter will explain the arrangements the NHS has made with six local GP practices so all of Dr Banik's patients will have a choice of local GP practices to register with. The letter will also give details of registration events where patients will be able to register with their chosen GP practice. Even though Park Farm Surgery is closing there will be more appointments at GP surgeries available in Folkestone as all the GP practices will receive additional funding to see Dr Banik's patients when they take on new patients. Patients who don't register with a new GP practice after they receive their letter will receive an additional reminder before the end of March informing them how to register with a new GP practice. If patients don't register with a new GP practice before 31 March 2020, the NHS will allocate them to a local GP

practice to make sure every patient currently registered at Park Farm Surgery knows who to contact should they need to make an appointment with a GP practice.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

I'm not sure if the briefing note has been disseminated more widely, to members of the public. Do you have any view on the claim that there are more GPs are wanting to retire, and does it factor in population changes which mean that the ratio between GPs and the patient is actually lower now than it was previously?

ANSWER:

The CCG will soon be issuing a letter to all patients of Dr Banik setting out how they can register with other doctors, or if they don't register, they will be allocated another doctor. I will request the information on the other points you raised. All I can tell you is that Dr Bryant, I've had to ask him twice to say it, but more GPs are coming to this area.

3. From Councillor Davison to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council

Please could the leader of the council give an update on any work being carried out to prepare the district for the end of the Brexit transition period?

ANSWER:

Officers continue to work with key partners across Kent under the umbrella of the Kent Resilience Forum. Close links are also maintained with central government via MHCLG. The Council has carried out much work recently updating emergency plans and business continuity plans and procedures. These plans will be updated further as the position becomes clearer. Key officers across the council have been identified and training needs have been assessed with training plans in place. The Council has a nominated Brexit Officer who will continue to monitor and cascade information where appropriate. Our Communications Team continue to monitor information coming in and will use social media channels to cascade this information where appropriate. Our Economic Development Team continue to work with businesses across the District to ensure that they are as prepared as they can be. Key Officers are continuing to attend both Strategic and Tactical level meetings concerning contingency planning for any potential disruption across the county. As more information becomes available throughout this year, Officers will inform residents and report to Members.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

What work is being done in relation to food price rises?

ANSWER:

I don't know, but I will find out.

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Full Council – 19 February 2020**Responses to supplementary questions:****Public Questions****1. From Mrs Lawes to Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities**

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Is it possible to break down which wards have had some of the employment, and where they are?

ANSWER:

We do not collect information about the location of the employment or training venue that participants of the programme move in to, but we have information on the wards of residence of the participants themselves and this is as follows. All the long term unemployed participants that went into work are residents of the East Folkestone and Folkestone Harbour wards. Of the unemployed participants, those that went into work are residents of the East Folkestone and Folkestone Central wards and those that went into education and training are residents of East Folkestone and Folkestone Harbour wards.

Councillor questions

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wanting to retire, and does it factor in population changes which mean that the ratio between GPs and the patient is actually lower now than it was previously?

ANSWER:

The CCG will soon be issuing a letter to all patients of Dr Banik setting out how they can register with other doctors, or if they don't register, they will be allocated another doctor. I will request the information on the other points you raised. All I can tell you is that Dr Bryant, I've had to ask him twice to say it, but more GPs are coming to this area.

I have considered your request and am now of the view that your query on GP numbers to patient ratio is one that you must direct to the CCG. The queries you are putting to us are the responsibility of the CCG and not the District Council. This is information that they hold and update and not information that the Council is responsible for.

3. From Councillor Davison to Councillor Monk, Leader of the Council

Please could the leader of the council give an update on any work being carried out to prepare the district for the end of the Brexit transition period?

ANSWER:

Officers continue to work with key partners across Kent under the umbrella of the Kent Resilience Forum. Close links are also maintained with central government via MHCLG. The Council has carried out much work recently updating emergency plans and business continuity plans and procedures. These plans will be updated further as the position becomes clearer. Key officers across the council have been identified and training needs have been assessed with training plans in place. The Council has a nominated Brexit Officer who will continue to monitor and cascade information where appropriate. Our Communications Team continue to monitor information coming in and will use social media channels to cascade this information where appropriate. Our Economic Development Team continue to work with businesses across the District to ensure that they are as prepared as they can be. Key Officers are continuing to attend both Strategic and Tactical level meetings concerning contingency planning for any potential disruption across the county. As more information becomes available throughout this year, Officers will inform residents and report to Members.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

What work is being done in relation to food price rises?

ANSWER:

I don't know, but I will find out.

The District Council is not doing any work with regards to food price rises. This is not a District Council function and we would have no influence in such matters.

Officers have contacted the Kent Resilience Forum who have advised:

The issue of increasing food prices was raised before the potential no deal Brexit date of October too. It's on our KRF risk register but because increasing food prices would be a national issue, we would look to Government for mitigations for this. As far as I'm aware, nothing has been announced to date.