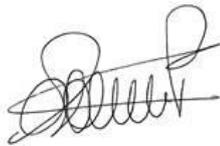


Meeting: **Council**
Date: **21 October 2020**
Time: **7.00 pm**
Place: **Zoom - remote meeting**

To: **All Members of the Council**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a remote meeting of the Council on the date and at the time shown above. The meeting will be open to the press and public, who can watch the meeting live at: bit.ly/YouTubeMeetings

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



Chief Executive

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest (Pages 7 - 8)**

Members of the Council should declare any discloseable pecuniary interest or any other significant interests in any item/s on this agenda.
3. **Chairman's Communications**
4. **Announcements of the Leader of the Council**

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

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

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

The opposition group will have an opportunity to reply to the leader's remarks. The opposition group leader shall have 5 minutes to respond after which the Leader of the Council will have a right of reply. Any right of reply will be for a maximum duration of 5 minutes.

5. **Opposition Business**

The Labour Group has raised the following matter:

This council notes that:

- Last year 2160 young people (aged 16 or over) left the care of Kent County Council and began the difficult transition out of care and into adulthood.
- A 2016 report by The Children's Society found that when care leavers move into independent accommodation they begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time. The report showed that care leavers can find this extremely challenging and with no family to support them and insufficient financial education, are falling into debt and financial difficulty.
- Research from The Centre for Social Justice found that over half (57%) of young people leaving care have difficulty managing their money and avoiding debt when leaving care.
- The local authority has statutory corporate parenting responsibilities towards young people who have left care up until the age of 25.
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017 places corporate parenting responsibilities on district councils for the first time, requiring them to have regard to children in care and care leavers when carrying out their functions.
- That in January of 2020 KCC resolved to: Agree that Kent County Council will fund the council tax payments for Kent young people who are Care Leavers from the age of 18 years, up to the age of 21 years. All young people will be supported and expected to claim any council tax benefit/discount entitlement that they are eligible for. E.g. singled person, student, severe impairment of mental capacity etc.
- A campaign by the Children's society has successfully

lobbied at least 130 councils to commit to keeping care leavers exempt from council tax until the age of 25. So far some 47,459 young people are benefiting from this scheme.

This council believes that:

1. To ensure that the transition from care to adult life is as smooth as possible, and to mitigate the chances of care leavers falling into debt as they begin to manage their own finances, they should be exempt from paying council tax until they are 25.
2. Care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group for council tax debt.

This council, therefore, resolves:

1. To consider a report assessing the options with the aim of exempting or significantly reducing the amount of council tax due by young people, who have left the care of Kent County Council between the ages of 22-25 who currently reside in the district of Folkestone and Hythe.

Debates on opposition business shall be limited to 30 minutes. If the time limit is reached or the debate concludes earlier, the leader of the group raising the item shall have a right of reply.

The Council shall:

- a) Note the issue raised and take no further action;
- b) Refer the issue to the cabinet or relevant overview and scrutiny committee, as the case may be for their observations before deciding whether to make a decision on the issue;
- c) Agree to examine the matter as part of a future scrutiny programme;
- d) Adopt the issue raised by opposition business provided that the decision so made is within the policy framework and budget.

6. Motions on Notice

The following motions have been placed on the agenda in the order received; up to 60 minutes shall be allowed for debates on motions on notice:

1. From Councillor Prater, Leader of the Liberal Democrat group

This Council resolves to:

1. Encourage all publicly organised firework displays within the district area to be advertised online in advance of the event by offering or signposting a free listing service, so that residents can both enjoy the celebrations and take precautions for their animals and

- vulnerable people;
2. Promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people and the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks, such as asking people to let neighbours know about private displays in advance, and the penalties for causing a noise nuisance late at night where not allowed by legislation;
 3. Encourage retailers to follow the lead of Sainsburys in withdrawing the sale of fireworks to the public;
 4. Develop and promote a voluntary local code on firework sale licenced premises to promote quieter firework options;
 5. Write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private display;
 6. Encourage the public to notify KCC Trading Standards of retail outlets that are not correctly applying the regulations of the selling of fireworks both in terms of age-appropriateness, licensing and CE markings;
 7. Given the damage they cause and risk they present, institute a ban on the release of sky lanterns from F&HDC land, and write to the UK Government urging them to consider banning sky lanterns in the UK in total.

2. From Councillor McConville, Leader of the Labour Group

Council Notes

That in recent years there has been a worrying reported rise in racism, xenophobia and hate crimes across the United Kingdom. In the year 2018/19 there were 103,379 reported hate crimes, this is in comparison to 42,255 in 2012/13.

Taking many forms, the impact this is having on people in their day-to-day lives and the inequalities faced have been highlighted by groups such as Amnesty International, Stonewall, Black Lives Matter, stop hate, hope not hate and many others.

Folkestone and Hythe District Council is proud that communities in our area are tolerant and inclusive to people from all racial, ethnic, sexual and religious backgrounds, but also recognises that continuing work is still necessary to ensure that everyone feels welcomed and safe here.

Council Believes:

That there needs to be a commitment to ensure there is no place for institutional racism or unconscious bias in its functions and practices and that it is an authority not just tackling inequality to meet a duty, but one that actively works with its communities and other agencies to fight racism and hate crime throughout the district.

That a key duty of a council and its representatives is to condemn racism, xenophobia, hate crime, and all other forms of intolerance. Express our

support to victims of these crimes and urge members of the public to report such incidents and work with key partners to break down barriers in reporting.

Council Resolves:

- Make a recommendation to cabinet to consider the following
- To declare that this Council is intolerant to racism and will continue to seek to eradicate it, Islamophobia, sexual orientation discrimination, Anti-Semitism and hate crime across the district by developing initiatives that are actively inclusive and anti-racist. This declaration, or pledge, should appear on the council's website.
- Commit to working with all our partners, including the KCC, national government and Kent Police, to ensure that divisive and discriminatory behaviour is not allowed to continue in our area.
- Be supportive of groups and individuals that are seeking to address these issues through respectful and constructive dialogue.
- To invite appropriate speakers on these issues to help with training for councillors and staff.
- To ensure the points raised above can be realised, the council should establish a community working group. This group can act as a conduit between community groups and organisations and elected representatives with the aim of building community cohesion, tackling discrimination and promoting the district.

3. From Councillor McConville, Leader of the Labour Group

This Council notes:

- The publication by Government of the White Paper, 'Planning for the Future' on 6 August 2020, which set out proposals on reforms to the planning process for the future.
- That the vast majority of planning applications are given the go ahead by local authority planning committees, with permission granted to around 9 out of 10 applications.
- That research by the Local Government Association has said that there are existing planning permissions for more than one million homes that have not yet been started.

This Council is concerned that the proposals have the potential to:

- Reduce or remove the right of residents to object to applications near them.
- Grant automatic rights for developers to build on land identified as 'for growth'.
- Makes alterations to how and where affordable homes can and will be built.
- Reduce the effectiveness of the Infrastructure Levy to provide ring fenced money for affordable housing or perhaps even infrastructure.

This Council Further Notes:

1. The Royal Institute for British Architects called the proposals 'shameful

and which will do almost nothing to guarantee delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes'. RIBA also said that proposals could lead to the next generation of slum housing

2. The reforms are opposed by the all-party Local Government Association, currently led by Conservative Councillors.

This Council Believes:

1. That existing planning procedures, as currently administered by our own team allow for local democratic control over future development, and give local people a say in planning proposals that affect them.
2. That proposals for automatic rights to build in 'growth' areas, and increased permitted development rights, risk unregulated growth and unsustainable communities.
3. That local communities must be in the driving seat on shaping the future of their communities, and local determination of the planning framework and planning applications play an important part in this process.

This Council resolves to:

- Highlight the council's comments submitted through consultation to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by means of an addressed letter.
- Highlight the council's comments submitted through consultation, including any possible responses to the public via the council website.

7. **Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21 (Pages 9 - 12)**

This report presents recommendations for the work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2020/21.