



Agenda

Meeting: **Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee**
Date: **20 January 2022**
Time: **7.00 pm**
Place: **Remote Meeting**

To: **All members of the Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils Joint Committee**

The committee will consider the matters listed below at the date and time shown above. The meeting is open to the press and public and will be streamed live at bit.ly/YouTubeMeetings.

Members of the committee who wish to have information on any matter arising on the agenda which is not fully covered in these papers are requested to give notice prior to the meeting to the Chairman or appropriate officer.

1. **Appointment of chairman**

The committee must appoint a district councillor to chair the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence**

3. **Declarations of interest (Pages 3 - 4)**

Members of the Council should declare any interests which fall under the following categories:

- a) discloseable pecuniary interests (DPI)
- b) other significant interests (OSI)
- c) voluntary announcements of other interests

4. **Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2021.

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Contact Kate Clark – Tel: 01303 853267
Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or download from our
website www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

5. **Carbon Action Plan Update**

A presentation to members giving an update on the Carbon Action Plan as well as a general update on the different areas of work carried out.

6. **Budget Strategy and Draft General Fund Budget 2022/23 (Pages 9 - 14)**

Report FH/21/01 sets out the Council's Draft General Fund budget for 2022/23 as well as summarising the overall Budget Strategy for the same period. The report seeks to outline the proposals being consulted upon.

In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 full Council will consider and agree the budget and council tax for the coming financial year 2022/23, this meeting will be held on 23 February 2022. Both the draft budget and the Budget Strategy will build into the final position, which is also affected by the Local Government Finance Settlement.

Declarations of Interest

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a Member has a new or registered DPI in a matter under consideration they must disclose that they have an interest and, unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed in advance that the DPI is a 'Sensitive Interest', explain the nature of that interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a DPI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation permitting them to do so. If during the consideration of any item a Member becomes aware that they have a DPI in the matter they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

Other Significant Interest (OSI)

Where a Member is declaring an OSI they must also disclose the interest and explain the nature of the interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a OSI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so or the meeting is one at which members of the public are permitted to speak for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. In the latter case, the Member may only participate on the same basis as a member of the public and cannot participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter and must withdraw from the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

Voluntary Announcement of Other Interests (VAOI)

Where a Member does not have either a DPI or OSI but is of the opinion that for transparency reasons alone s/he should make an announcement in respect of a matter under consideration, they can make a VAOI. A Member declaring a VAOI may still remain at the meeting and vote on the matter under consideration.

Note to the Code:

Situations in which a Member may wish to make a VAOI include membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items; where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person; or where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position. It should be emphasised that an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI.

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Minutes

Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee

Held at:	Remote Meeting
Date	Thursday, 18 November 2021
Present	Councillors Graham Allison, Michael Boor, Peter Coe (In place of Paul Thomas), Laszlo Dudas, Frank Hobbs, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Roger Joyce, Terence Mullard and Martin Sweeney
Apologies for Absence	Councillors Paul Thomas
Officers Present:	Kate Clark (Case Officer - Committee Services), Ewan Green (Director of Place), Jyotsna Leney (Health, Wellbeing and Partnership Senior Specialist) and Llywelyn Lloyd (Chief Planning Officer)
Others Present:	Karen Sharp (Programme Director, East Kent Health and Care Partnership)

13. **Appointment of chairman**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Jenny Hollingsbee
Seconded by Councillor Martin Sweeney

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Frank Hobbs be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

14. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

15. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021 were agreed. The Chairman's electronic signature will be added confirming approval.

16. **Overview of changes to Health Services Architecture**

A presentation was given to members by Ms Karen Sharp from East Kent Health and Care Partnership. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Members comments and questions followed:

- Staffing, namely GPs in the area. The statistics for staffing across all levels is not good, recruitment is a problem, however the establishment of the Medical School in Canterbury will hopefully encourage students to settle in the East Kent area.
- Care Homes. Problems have occurred where patients are unable to be discharged from hospital wards due to the shortage of care staff. Approximately 10% of the care workforce could have been lost due to non-vaccinated staff.
- Kent and Medway Medical School in Canterbury. It is hoped this will attract students to this area who will then settle here. Councillor Hollingsbee advised that this Council is supporting one medical student. There is a need to work more closely with schools, looking at apprenticeships, working within the care system and hospitals, for example health and wellbeing; nursing; physiotherapy and medicine.
- It was noted that the whole industry needs to attract more men into nursing, health and care.
- Otterpool Park – this development will include state of the art medical facilities and proposal to provide keyworker housing. A comment made that it was hoped these facilities would not detract from other parts of the district at a GP level.
- A member mentioned an initiative of surveying residents with regard to health and wellbeing, how could Parish Councils integrate with East Kent Health? The Hythe and Romney Marsh Hubs may be able to offer support and signposting.
- Using the volunteer sectors for help, neighbourhood plans, health and welfare of population, profiling.

Ms Sharp ended the presentation and said how important it is to encourage young people to settle and work in the East Kent area, promotion of the area as a great place to live and work. Both Ms Sharp and Mrs Jyotsna Leney were keen to encourage members to forward any ideas they may have in promoting the district, taking into account the close proximity of the Medical School in Canterbury.

Members thanked both Ms Sharp and Mrs Leney for the informative presentation.

17. **Place Plan**

A presentation was given to members by the Director of Place, Mr Ewan Green and Chief Planning Officer, Mr Llywelyn Lloyd. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Members noted there is a large amount of investment involved which has raised the hopes and aspirations of all. Mr Lloyd commented that the quality of planning applications has increased due to the Place Plan.

However, members did comment that more focus is needed on the Romney Marsh. Mr Green, said that whilst Folkestone has a pivotal role for the whole district, the Council recognised the important role of the Romney Marsh area. This is reflected in the Council's priorities. He went on to say that the Romney Marsh Partnership is in the process of producing an Action Plan for the Marsh aimed at taking forward a range of future projects, and not forgetting the Council's investment in the new business hub at Mountfield Road in New Romney and the proposed new visitor facilities and beach huts at Littlestone.

Also, members were advised that the Core Strategy, to be adopted, mentions plans for Lydd and Dungeness.

Overall members were very impressed with the Place Plan and thanked officers for their presentation.

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This Report will be
made public on 12
January 2022

Report Number: **FH/21/01**

To: Folkestone & Hythe District & Parish Councils'
Joint Committee
Date: 20 January 2022
Head of Service: Charlotte Spendley, Director of Corporate Services
Cabinet Member: Councillor David Monk – Leader of the Council

**SUBJECT: BUDGET STRATEGY & DRAFT GENERAL FUND BUDGET
2022/23**

SUMMARY: This report sets out the Council's Draft General Fund budget for 2022/23 as well as summarising the overall Budget Strategy for the same period. The report seeks to outline the proposals being consulted upon.

In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 full Council will consider and agree the budget and council tax for the coming financial year 2022/23, this meeting will be held on 23 February 2022. Both the draft budget and the Budget Strategy will build into the final position, which is also affected by the Local Government Finance Settlement.

The objectives for consultation on the 2022/23 budget proposals will be to:

- (i) Engage with key stakeholder groups and local residents;
- (ii) Seek feedback on specific budget proposals for 2022/23; and
- (iii) Seek feedback on general spending and income generation priorities

1. BACKGROUND AND BUDGET STRATEGY

- 1.1 Council approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2025/26 (MTFS) on 24 November 2021 and Cabinet agreed the Budget Strategy for 2022/23 on 15 December 2021. These reports considered the council's forecast budget position for 2022/23 from a strategic perspective.
- 1.2 The budget proposals in this report been prepared assuming a 2.0% council tax increase in 2022/23. The final decision will not be confirmed until 23 February 2022. In addition, the following remain to be finalised:
- the forecast for council tax and net business rates income.
 - the council tax base position.
 - this council's share of Collection Fund balances.
 - the Local Government Finance Settlement.
- These items will be confirmed in the final budget report.
- 1.3 The MTFS identified that the Council faced a budget shortfall of £1.6m in 2022/23. The Corporate Leadership Team, Assistant Directors and Chief Officers have reviewed current budget allocations and savings proposals. Unavoidable budget growth of £444k was approved by Cabinet on 15 December. In addition the review of fees & charges and other identified savings resulted in savings of £1.047m being identified through the Budget Strategy process. The draft budget detailed in this report reflects the changes made as a result of these reviews.

2. CONTEXT

- 2.1 The context and financial climate are outlined more fully in the MTFS and Budget Strategy reports. The Council continues to face challenging times and tight financial restraint is expected to continue to be applied across the public sector well over the medium to longer term.

Local Government Finance Settlement

- 2.2 The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was announced on 16 December. This was a one year settlement proposal for 2022/23 with further details on proposed funding reform to follow during early 2022.
- 2.3 The settlement confirmed the referendum limits for Council Tax at 2% (or £5 for district and fire authorities where this exceeds the 2%). No referendum limits will apply for town and parish councils. The settlement also confirmed that New Homes Bonus will be 'rolled over' for a further year, confirming allocations and the final legacy payment honoured. The lower tier services grant was also 'rolled over' with £111m being made available nationally.

3. GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2022/23

- 3.1 The draft budget for 2022/23 is noted below. It includes the Council's contribution to the Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Grounds Charity, the cost of which determines the special expense falling on Folkestone and Sandgate taxpayers.
- 3.2 The budget estimates are presented on a 'controllable' basis only; all inter service area recharges, capital charges and certain other technical

accounting adjustments are excluded. Focus can therefore be on real changes in expenditure and income within a service area.

3.3 Table 1 below sets out a summary of the budget.

Table 1: General Fund Summary

	2021/22	2022/23
	Original	Original
	Budget	Budget
	(Based on outturn prices)	
	£	£
SUMMARY OF NET EXPENDITURE		
Service Heads		
Finance, Strategy & Corporate Services	6,148,800	7,657,250
Human Resources	655,850	626,780
Governance & Law	2,449,910	2,589,890
Leadership Support	907,520	1,004,220
Place	6,600,060	6,254,240
Economic Development	1,304,330	762,030
Planning	212,940	137,020
Operations	2,487,590	1,358,450
Strategic Development	70,490	39,670
Housing	3,345,600	3,342,840
Transition & Transformation	-	-
Recharges	(5,559,000)	(5,613,000)
Vacancy& savings target	(608,800)	(224,000)
TOTAL HEAD OF SERVICE NET EXPENDITURE	18,015,290	17,935,390
Internal Drainage Board Levies	483,570	493,241
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	739,000	801,000
Interest and Investment Income	(754,000)	(1,320,000)
Council Tax Freeze Grant	-	-
New Homes Bonus Grant	(836,050)	(744,272)
Other non-service related Government Grants	(1,971,230)	(1,763,462)
Town and Parish Council Precepts	2,594,250	2,646,132
TOTAL GENERAL FUND OPERATING NET EXP	18,270,830	18,048,029
Net Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(2,760,260)	(3,526,170)
Minimum Revenue Provision	886,000	1,667,000
Capital Expenditure funded from Revenue	1,280,000	2,363,000
TOTAL TO BE MET FROM LOCAL TAXPAYERS	17,676,570	18,551,859
Transfer to/(from) the Collection Fund	67,290	-
Business Rates Income	(3,905,100)	(3,943,223)
TOTAL TO BE MET FROM DEMAND ON THE COLLECTION FUND & GENERAL RESERVE	13,838,760	14,608,636
Council Tax-Demand on Collection Fund	(13,128,210)	(13,494,053)
(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	710,550	1,114,583

4. RESERVES

4.1 The forecast balance on the General Reserve was reported to Cabinet through the Budget Strategy in December 2021 and will be updated to reflect

planned use and 2021/22 outturn predictions for inclusion in the final budget reports to Cabinet and Council on 23 February 2022.

Given the current budget gap forecast for 2022/23, it is anticipated that the use of reserves will be necessary to balance the budget. The Council will need to consider the prudent use of reserves, across both General and Earmarked Reserves.

4.2 Estimated levels of General and Earmarked Reserves before balancing funding is determined are shown below:

Notes:

¹ IFRS = International Financial Reporting Standards

Description of Reserve	Balance 1/4/21 £000	Forecast Balance 31/3/22 £000
General Reserve	3,822	4,333
Earmarked Reserves:		
Business rates	2,723	1,901
Carry forwards	691	472
IFRS	8	5
Vehicles, equipment and technology	283	317
New Homes Bonus initiatives	2,341	1,998
Corporate initiatives	598	69
Maintenance of Graves	12	12
Leisure	547	447
Otterpool Park	-	-
Economic Development	1,991	1,754
Community Led Housing	365	310
Lydd Airport	9	9
Homelessness Prevention	488	586
High Street Regeneration	2,070	1,054
Climate Change	4,946	4,530
Covid Recovery	6,501	300
Total Earmarked Reserves	23,573	13,764
Total General Fund Reserves	27,395	18,097

5. BUDGET PREPARATION – NEXT STEPS

5.1 The following items remain subject to confirmation:

- Final Local Government Finance Settlement.
- Council Tax Base position
- The council's share of the Collection Fund surplus or deficit.
- Town and parish precepts.
- Business rates income forecast.

- 5.2 These will be covered in the final budget reports to Cabinet and Council on 23 February 2022, along with details of the special expense charged to Folkestone and Sandgate taxpayers.

6. BUDGET CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The objectives for consultation on the 2022/23 budget proposals will be to:
- (i) Engage with key stakeholder groups and local residents;
 - (ii) Seek feedback on specific budget proposals for 2022/23; and
 - (iii) Seek feedback on general spending and income generation priorities
- 6.2 This report outlines summary information on the Councils budget setting for 2022/23 however more detailed information can be found both through the committee papers referenced and at the Councils consultation page on the website.
- 6.3 The Budget Consultation page is available at [Budget consultation 2022-23 - Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/budget-consultation-2022-23) The page includes all key document links (Medium Term Financial Strategy, Budget Strategy including Growth and Savings, Fees and Charges) as well as links to complete the consultation questionnaire. The consultation is open to everyone, but residents, parish/town councils, businesses and local community groups are particularly encouraged to provide their feedback. The consultation will remain open until 1 February 2022.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Any feedback provided through the budget consultation will be reported to Cabinet through the final budget report in February, which will determine the proposed budget and council tax levels for the forthcoming financial year.

8. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

8.1 Legal Officer's Comments (AK)

Subject to Cabinet ensuring best value and having regard to its general fiduciary duties and those relating to equality, transparency and efficiency, there are no legal implications arising directly out of this report.

8.2 Finance Officer's Comments (CS)

The Budget for 2022/23 will be submitted for approval by Cabinet and Full Council in February 2022. This report is the latest stage in the detailed budget process and will be used to inform the preparation of the final budget proposals.

8.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications (CS)

The budget report to Council in February will include an Equality Impact Assessment of the budget recommendations for 2022/23.

9. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting

Charlotte Spendley, Director of Corporate Services

Tel: 07935 517986

E-mail: charlotte.spendley@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

- Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2025/26
- Budget Strategy 2022/23
- Draft General Fund Budget 2022/23