



**SUMMONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A MEETING OF THE HART DISTRICT COUNCIL  
WILL BE HELD AT THE HART LEISURE CENTRE, HITCHES LANE, FLEET, ON  
THURSDAY, 20 MAY, 2021 AT 7.00 PM

Joint Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY  
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

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**AGENDA**

**This meeting is being administered under the provisioning of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meeting) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. The Provision made in this regulation applies notwithstanding any prohibition or other restriction contained in the standing orders or any other rules of the Council governing the meeting and such prohibition or restriction had no effect.**

**This Agenda and associated appendices are provided in electronic form only and are published on the Hart District Council Website**

**1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

To elect a Chairman from among the Councillors of the District.

**2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

To elect a Vice Chairman from among the Councillors of the District.

**3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 15)**

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 April 2021.

**4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence from Members\*.

**\*Note:** Members are asked to email Committee services in advance of the meeting as soon as they become aware they will be absent.

## **5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To declare disposable pecuniary, and any other interests\*.

**\*Note:** Members are asked to email Committee Services in advance of the meeting as soon as they become aware they may have an interest to declare.

## **6 CHAIRMAN AND JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVES ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman and/or the Joint Chief Executive.

## **7 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader of the Council to confirm the composition of Cabinet.

## **8 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

To receive nominations of Members to serve on each Committee

(THE FIGURES ARE CALCULATED ON **PROVISIONAL** PARTY GROUPS)

<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Audit*</b>	7
<b>Licensing</b>	11
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny***</b>	11
<b>Crime and Disorder Joint Scrutiny</b>	3
<b>Five Councils Partnership Joint Committee</b>	2
<b>Planning**</b>	11
<b>Standards</b>	6 †
<b>Staffing</b>	6 †
<b>Appeals Panel</b>	6

† Committee size adjusted to take proportionality implications into consideration

**Notes:**

\* No Members of the Cabinet may be Members of the Audit Committee.

\*\* It is Council practice that membership of the Planning Committee will comprise the maximum of one representative from each Ward, provided this is consistent with the rules on political balance.

\*\*\* No Members of the Cabinet may be Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1. To confirm membership of the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2021/22

i. Six District Councillors (as above)

ii. One Lay Person (Peter Kern)

iii. Three Parish Members to be appointed by Hart District Association of Parish and Town Councils.

2. Standards Committee will elect its own Chairman at its first meeting.

**9 ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES**

The Chairman will take nominations for Chairmen of each of the Committees\*, and Members of each Committee will elect its Chairman for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

**\*Note:**

1. A Councillor may not be Chairman of any committee of the Council, for more than three consecutive years without the consent of the Council.
2. The Committees will subsequently elect their respective Vice-Chairman at their first meeting.

**10 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Pages 16 - 23)**

The Chairman of the 2020/21 Overview and Scrutiny Committee to present the Committee's Annual Report and to make recommendations for future work programmes.

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of Council is 29 July 2021.

**Date of Publication: Wednesday, 12 May 2021**

**COUNCIL**

**Date and Time:** Thursday 29 April 2021 at 7.00 pm

**Place:** Council Chamber

**Present:**

**COUNCILLORS -**

Kennett (Chairman)

Ambler	Davies	Oliver
Axam	Delaney	Quarterman
Bailey (7.03pm)	Dorn	Radley
Blewett (7.04pm)	Drage	Smith
Butler	Farmer	Southern
Clarke	Forster	Tomlinson
Cockarill	Kinnell	Wheale
Crampton	Lamb	Wildsmith
Crisp	Makepeace-Browne	Worlock
Crookes	Neighbour	Wright

**Officers Present:**

Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Emma Foy	Head of Corporate Services
Jenny Humphreys	Democratic Services Officer
Helen Vincent	Committee and Member Services Officer

**87 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

It was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders 9.3 (Show of Hands for Voting, 22.1 (Standing to Speak) and 22.2 (Chairman Standing).

**88 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2021 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**89 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence had been received.

**90 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

## 91 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 - QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Questions had been received from Ms Louise Hodgetts, details of which are set out in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

## 92 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 - QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Questions had been received from Councillor Crookes, details of which are set out in Appendix B attached to these minutes.

## 93 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that during this year about £7,500, most of which has come from the Hart Lottery and he been raised for charitable purposes. He would welcome suggestions from councillors for charities who would benefit from these funds - particularly charities that are in difficulty due to the impact of the current pandemic and also charities that have been particularly helpful in helping those in need.

The Chairman also announced that Councillor Liz Tomlinson is standing down at the May elections and thanked her for services to the Council. Councillors joined the Chairman to thank her for all her hard work and commitment.

## 94 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, **Councillor Radley** announced:

In regard to the various grant schemes which we are administering on behalf of the government to local businesses:

Statistics today are as follows:

- We have received 172 valid discretionary restart grant applications and we have authorised 105 for payment.
- We have received 270 valid main scheme restart grant applications and we have authorised 119 for payment.
- The total value of restart main grant authorised is £953,340.
- The total value of restart discretionary grant authorised is £163K.

Therefore, we have paid in excess of £1m in just the last 12 days. After a government U-turn and there retracting the restart grant from Parish Council Halls, bridal shops, and tailors, we propose to amend our own policy on discretionary grants and use Additional Restrictions Grant funding to pay both the Parish Councils for halls and top up the bridal shops and tailors from non-essential shop level to personal care level.

In an update from the community Safety Team:

In regard to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) one Closure Notice is in place and goes to Court in June for a Closure Order hearing and another Closure Order was granted through the Court on 1st April. These have both been successful outcomes in two very persistent and ongoing ASB cases where the impacts of

the behaviours were far reaching on particularly vulnerable victims. A further Closure Notice (and then Order) is being pursued through Legal at present.

A presentation of approximately 40 minutes has also been prepared to share what Hart Community Safety covers, which can be delivered to Members that express an interest. This will be after the elections.

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

**Lateral Flow Test Centre:**

The centre that has been hosted by Hart District Council, closed on Friday 30th April. Thanks to staff and volunteers for tremendous efforts in setting it up and running such an effective resource for Hart residents. We have completed circa 1400 tests and a huge thanks to the 35 volunteers who made the operation of the Centre possible. Lateral Flow tests can now be collected from most high street pharmacies or ordered online for postal delivery.

**Hart into Employment:**

A pilot service has commenced and will run for six months initially. It is a supportive online community to support people into employment and has three aspects of delivery:

1. There are weekly Zoom sessions by trained career advisors
2. Online community for networking and information sharing
3. Access to online learning and career assessment tools

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

Following the departure of our Dog warden, we took the opportunity to review how this service is delivered. Environmental Health have been providing interim cover for the service using existing internal resources and I can advise that as of the 22nd April the Dog collection service has gone live with its outsourced contract to SDK Environmental.

SDK will be the designated contact point for all reported stray dogs. This will include matters of dog returns, dog rehoming enquiries, and 'Out of Hours' dog collection services.

The service will be contactable 24hours per day 7days per week (including all National holidays).

With regard to 'dog on dog' attacks, this is not a service Hart can currently offer, (this is not a statutory service) although any incidents involving dangerous dogs,

dogs dangerously out of control, banned breeds, or 'dog on human' attacks should be reported directly to the Police.

Complaints concerning noise from dog barking will continue to be investigated within the Environmental Health Team. Concerns regarding dog welfare should continue to be reported directly to the RSPCA.

Matters in respect of 'Animal Welfare licensing' will continue to be dealt with internally by Environmental Health. This includes Dog breeding licensing, kennels, and home boarders.

Councillor Kinnell agreed to give a written response to Members with regard to the nature of the service levels agreed with East Hampshire District Council.

## **95 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS**

The Chief Executive updated members on the outcome of the High Court consideration of Lawyers in Local Government, the Association of Democratic Services Officers, and Hertfordshire County Council's application for court declarations that pre-existing legislation (the Local Government Act 1972) allows councils in England to hold remote meetings. The High Court had however, rule that from 7 May meetings by local authorities in England under the Local Government Act 1972 must take place in person with the participants gathering face-to-face at a designated physical location. Therefore, from 7 May all further Council meetings would return to the pre-pandemic arrangements.

## **96 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

<b><u>Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>4 March 2021</b>

No questions asked.

<b>Cabinet (draft)</b>	<b>1 April 2021</b>
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No questions asked.

**Minute 121 – The Equality Objectives 2021 – 2023**

Councillor Neighbour put the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Quarterman.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Equality Objectives for 2021 – 2023 be adopted.

<b>Planning (draft)</b>	<b>10 March 2021</b>
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No questions asked.



**Overview & Scrutiny** **16 March 2021**

No questions asked:

**Audit (draft)** **23 March 2021**

No questions asked:

**Licensing (draft)** **2 March 2021**

No questions asked.

**97 MOTION TO COUNCIL**

The following Motion has been received from Councillor Anne Crampton, seconded by Councillor Chris Dorn.

“This Council declares a climate emergency and will:

1. Pledge to make Hart District carbon neutral by 2050 whilst maintaining the 2040 target for areas under direct control of Hart District Council.
2. Report to full Council within six months setting out the immediate actions the Council will take to address this emergency and the plan to measure annual District wide progress towards meeting the 2050 target.
3. Meaningfully engage with the local community and to work with partners across the District and County to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans drawing on local, national, and global best practice.
4. Actively work with Hampshire County Council and the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2050 target.”

At the commencement of the debate an amended motion was moved by Councillor Quarterman and seconded by Councillor Radley.

“Following the successful adoption of Hart’s Climate Change Action Plan, this Council now wishes to declare a climate emergency, which commits us to putting the reduction of CO2 in the atmosphere at the front and centre of all policies and formal decision making, particularly Planning, and will:

1. Pledge to make Hart District carbon neutral by 2040 whilst bringing forward the current 2040 target to 2035 for areas under direct control of Hart District Council.
2. Report to full Council every six months setting out the current actions the Council is taking to address this emergency and the plan to measure annual District wide progress towards meeting the 2040 target.

3. Meaningfully engage with the local community and to work with partners across the District and County to deliver these new goals through all relevant strategies and plans drawing on local, national, and global best practice.
4. Actively work with Hampshire County Council and the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2040 target.
5. Actively encourage and push for Hampshire County Council to reduce its target for net zero Carbon to 2040, acknowledging that 2050 is too far away for such an emergency.”

With the consent of the meeting the amendment was agreed and so it became the substantive Motion.

Members were unanimous in acknowledging the fact that there is a climate emergency and were prepared to set challenging new targets to encourage and promote sustainable communities.

After the debate, a recorded vote was taken on the substantive Motion (as amended) was unanimously agreed:

**FOR:** Ambler, Axam, Bailey, Blewett, Butler, Clarke, Cockarill, Crampton, Crisp, Crookes, Davies, Delaney, Dorn, Drage, Farmer, Forster, Kennett, Kinnell, Lamb, Makepeace-Browne, Neighbour, Oliver, Quarterman, Radley, Smith, Southern, Tomlinson, Wheale, Wildsmith, Worlock, Wright

**AGAINST:** None

**Abstentions:** None.

**Decision:** The Motion as amended was agreed:

Following the successful adoption of Hart’s Climate Change Action Plan, this Council now wishes to declare a climate emergency, which commits us to putting the reduction of CO2 in the atmosphere at the front and centre of all policies and formal decision making, particularly Planning, and will:

1. Pledge to make Hart District carbon neutral by 2040 whilst bringing forward the current 2040 target to 2035 for areas under direct control of Hart District Council.
2. Report to full Council every six months setting out the current actions the Council is taking to address this emergency and the plan to measure annual District wide progress towards meeting the 2040 target.
3. Meaningfully engage with the local community and to work with partners across the District and County to deliver these new goals through all relevant strategies and plans drawing on local, national, and global best practice.

4. Actively work with Hampshire County Council and the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2040 target.

5. Actively encourage and push for Hampshire County Council to reduce its target for net zero Carbon to 2040, acknowledging that 2050 is too far away for such an emergency.”

## **98 OUTSIDE BODIES - FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS**

Councillor Quarterman informed Members that Hart has completed its year chairing the Blackwater Valley Advisory Committee for Public Transport and this has now passed to Waverley Borough Council. At the last meeting, issues raised were regarding climate change as a major area of concern and the Council will receive regular reports from transport companies with action plans on climate change.

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm

## COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

### QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

**Ms Louise Hodgetts** asked:

1. What is the latest update on the award of a grant from MHCLG to the Council towards the funding of the Shapley Heath Garden Village project?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

Unfortunately, we have no further updates from the MHCLG on when they will announce the results of our funding bid for the Shapley Heath Garden Community. We submitted the latest funding bid back in September last year and, whilst I appreciate the difficult times, we are all living in, the radio silence from MHCLG since then is disappointing, to say the least.

**Ms Hodgetts** asked a supplementary question:

What is the current position from MHCLG with regard to continuing with funding the current 19 sites identified in the national Garden Village programme in light of the change in housing quotas and a shift in national distribution and what implication has this on Hart continuing with Shapley Heath Garden Village?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

As I said, we have had pretty much radio silence from MHCLG since about September/October when they acknowledged receipt of our latest funding bid. We've received no information or advice from them to suggest that they have no intention of not carrying on with the garden community programme. I am aware that some of the garden community projects around the country have for various reasons, come to points where they had to have rethinks, but this isn't unusual in significantly large developments and often plans have to change midway through. Until we hear from the MHCLG on the funding bid and until we have collected a little more data for the Opportunity Board to assess, we can't really say what the next stages are or whether or not they will actually take place, which is part of the reason for doing this evaluation process.

**Ms Hodgetts** asked a second question:

2. When does the Council intend to issue the consultation survey for the Shapley Heath Garden Village project to the public?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

The first consultation on the Garden Community will be launched week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> May and will run for 6 weeks. This consultation includes the entire District, and its aim is to understand what our residents feel makes a sustainable, healthy, well-

integrated community. The results will help the Opportunity Board to decide what the key priorities for any new community should be. This is an important step in providing the evidence base for the Opportunity Board when it considers whether or not to recommend continuing with the Garden Community to Cabinet; so, I encourage as many people as possible take part in the survey.

We will also be launching the full Garden Community website on or around the 24<sup>th</sup> May, which will have all of the details of the project as it progresses, including minutes of the meetings of the Stakeholder Forum and the Opportunity Board, which are currently on the Garden Community page of the Hart website.

**Ms Hodgetts** asked a supplementary question:

Given the next Opportunities Board is not scheduled until sometime in July (the date of which is still to be published), and the survey is due to be issued week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> May, how does Hart Council propose to engage with the Opportunities Board to consider the key concerns raised about the survey by 4 of your Parish Councils (Dogmersfield, Hartley Wintney, Odiham and Winchfield), as well as the community groups, Rural Hart Association and We Hart Heart, in a letter sent to the Joint Chief Executives and Head of Place on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**Councillor Cockarill** responded

We have got that communication and the Opportunity Board has had sight of the draft survey as have the stakeholder forum and they have put forward their thoughts and their ideas. Cabinet has also seen a draft version of the garden community website and has made comments and it has been changed in light of some of the comments received. Consultation is about what residents feel makes a good community and what sort of things we should be thinking about in terms of developing communities in the future. It covers a whole range of areas, whilst primarily focused around evidence based for Shapley Heath, the results of this survey could be easily be applied to any future housing development anywhere in the district, whether it be a new settlement type development or a smaller development of the kind we generally see, so this is going to be a very important piece of evidence for us for this project and indeed for framing planning policy in the future.

## COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14

### QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

#### Councillor Crookes asked:

The NPPF contains the following paragraph.

151. To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should:

a) provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);

b) consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development; and

c) identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable, or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers.

Will the Executive Member take immediate steps to update Hart's Local Plan to incorporate these policies in order to enable appropriate renewable energy projects but at the same time protect valuable landscapes and quality agricultural land?

#### Councillor Cockarill responded:

The Hart Local Plan contains an up-to-date policy on Renewable and Low Carbon Energy - Policy NBE10. This was found sound at examination against the old NPPF but is also consistent with the new NPPF. The Policy ensures that when proposals come in, the relevant planning considerations are taken into account. Impacts on landscape and high-grade agricultural land are explicitly referred to within the Policy.

The Local Plan cross refers to an Energy Opportunities Plan which identifies the opportunities in Hart for renewable energy generation - solar, wind, biomass etc. (paras. 307 and 308 of the Local Plan).

The supporting text (Para 310 of the Local Plan) encourages decentralised energy networks with major new developments. In practice this is only practical on large, strategic developments such as new settlements so it's more relevant to the next Local Plan.

The NPPF does indeed suggest that councils should consider identifying sites for renewable energy installations. When Hart either revises its current Local Plan, or begins work on a new one, that would be the most appropriate time to look at this issue, but it would be for a future Council to decide whether any sites should be identified in a revised or new Local Plan.

**Councillor Crookes** asked a supplementary question:

Is he therefore confident, given the policies that we have for the plan, that we have appropriate policies in order to be able to protect 2 key aspects against valuable landscapes and good quality agricultural land and the key thing which I can't see out of the plan is the cumulative impact of nearly adjacent solar farm applications which is going to become a very important issue in the very near future?

**Councillor Cockarill** responded:

The answer is yes, I think this policy does give us the opportunity to balance planning applications properly between their environmental benefits and any potential harms they might have, in terms of the cumulative aspect although each planning application is always judged on its merits, you will be aware that in several situations, the cumulative impact of developments of any kind can be taken into account when judging that planning balance and ultimately it is up to the council to judge that planning balance as it sees fit. So yes, I do believe the current policy is fit for purpose as it currently stands.

## **COUNCIL - AGM**

**DATE OF MEETING:** 20 MAY 2021

**TITLE OF REPORT:** REVIEW OF THE WORK OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OVER THE PAST YEAR 2020/21

**Report of:** Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.1** To review the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the past year 2020/21.

### **2 WHAT IS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY?**

**2.1** Every local authority operating a Cabinet and Scrutiny model has a Cabinet made up of the Leader of the Council and up to nine other members. All executive decisions (i.e those needed to implement the Policy Framework and Budget approved by the Council) are taken by the Cabinet.

**2.2** Overview and Scrutiny bodies are not “decision making” bodies but are bodies which monitor and influence those that are. The Overview and Scrutiny role, carried out by non-Cabinet members, is designed to support the work of the Council in the following ways:

- Reviewing and scrutinising decisions taken by the Cabinet (acting as a “critical friend”)
- Considering aspects of the Council’s performance
- Assisting in research, policy review and development
- Involving itself with external organisations operating in the District to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working
- Providing a means of involving the communities in the Council’s work

The Committee also reviews and scrutinises decisions made, or actions proposed in connection with the Council functions, including that of budget monitoring and service delivery.

### **3 REVIEW OF 2020/21 AND THE ACTIONS TAKEN**

This year, despite the challenging constraints of the Coronavirus pandemic, has been an active period for the Overview and Scrutiny committee with support from Cabinet Members and Officers. The committee met in June 2020 after two meetings had to be cancelled due to the first lockdown of the pandemic. It was the first committee of the Council to meet during Covid-19 restrictions; all meetings since then have been held virtually.



Members held a mid-year review in January 2021 to track the progress of the committee and enlist Members' views on how meetings could either be improved or facilitate the introduction of new initiatives to facilitate more insightful scrutiny.

At the mid-year review, it was agreed that future agendas should include an informative external presentation each month on a subject of interest to the Council. The first of these, about the Census 2021, was presented at the March meeting and open to all Councillors.

Four members of Overview and Scrutiny volunteered to join a cross party working group to monitor the action plan for the Planning Performance Peer Review. Due to the acknowledged collaborative success of this approach, it was agreed that opportunities for other cross party working groups should be further explored.

Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee provides an excellent introduction for newly elected Councillors to gain an understanding of the policies and procedures of local government, enabling them to contribute effectively in debate and decision – making.

### **3.1 Regular reports -**

The Committee received quarterly monitoring reports on the following

- Service performance relative to Service Plan and Key Performance Indicators
- Budget monitoring to ensure that the Council is on track to meet and stay within Council agreed budget parameters
- The use of RIPA authorisations
- Civic Enforcement Officer use of handheld CCTV
- Hart Flood Forum

### **3.2 Regular annual one-off reports -**

The Committee also received:

- prior to consideration by Cabinet the draft Treasury Management Statement; 2019/20 Outturn Position, the Medium-Term Financial Statement (MTFS), the draft 2021/2022 Budget, and draft Service Plans,
- Corporate Risk Register update
- Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review Letter.

### **3.3 Heads of Services**

Heads of Services rotated each month to attend and present Service updates relative to Service Plans.

### **3.4 Individual Items of Note**

#### **3.4.1 June 2020**

#### **COUNCIL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND NEXT STEPS**

Members reviewed the speed and effectiveness of the Council's COVID-19 pandemic response and decisions made, in particular, in relation to Business Grants.

### **3.4.2 July 2020**

#### **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)**

The Committee welcomed the proposal to introduce CIL and asked to review the draft CIL Charging Schedule before it is consulted upon.

#### **COMMERCIALISATION STRATEGY – REVIEW OF ASSETS-BASED PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

The Committee reviewed the processes for the procurement of assets-based investment and expressed the view that it was a good example of a Commercialisation Strategy. The database framework was complimented.

#### **PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PEER REVIEW AND ACTION PLAN**

The Committee received a Peer Review report on the Council's Planning Development Management service and agreed to set up Member Working Group comprising four members: Councillors Farmer, Makepeace-Browne, Smith and Wildsmith to review the Plan.

### **3.4.3 August 2020**

#### **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CORPORATE VEHICLE FOR PROPERTY HOLDING PURPOSES**

Members were asked to consider a report by the Joint Chief Executive recommending, in principle, the creation of a local authority company to allow commercial trading in property. The Officer recommendation to support the creation of the Company was supported.

### **3.4.4 September 2020**

#### **FUTURE PROVISION OF CCTV SERVICE**

This paper sought Members' views on Runnymede Borough Council monitoring CCTV in the future, on behalf of Hart District Council. Members could not support Officer recommendations in its totality due to lack of information but agreed that further information would be circulated and that this information together with this Committee's concerns, be addressed at Cabinet.

#### **5 COUNCILS (5Cs) CONTRACT (Exempt Report)**

Members discussed the alterations to the contract for Corporate Services and agreed the recommendations contained with the report.

### **3.4.5 October 2020**

#### **UPDATED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS**

Subject to some minor adjustments, the Committee supported the draft Revised Financial Regulations and draft update to Contract Standing Orders.

#### **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER REPORT**

The Corporate Risk Register was reviewed with assurance that appropriate arrangements were in place to mitigate identified risks.

#### CIVIC QUARTER REGENERATION UPDATE

Members received an update from Councillor Quarterman on the regeneration of the Civic Quarter.

### **3.4.6 November 2020**

#### FLEET ROAD PEDESTRIANISATION UPDATE

Councillor Cockarill gave an oral update to confirm his decision to seek the removal of the Fleet Road pedestrianisation scheme.

#### NATIONAL COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS FROM 5 NOVEMBER 2020

The Joint Chief Executive gave an oral update to Committee on the implications for the delivery of Council services from 5 November 2020 arising from new national COVID-19 restrictions.

#### COMMERCIALISATION STRATEGY PRESENTATION – DIGITALISATION

Councillor Ambler and the Digital Manager gave a presentation on the impending launch of Mod.Gov (digitalisation of the Committee Services).

#### DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ACTION PLAN

Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Working Group on the Planning Peer Review reported back on the final version of the Development Management Service Action Plan and recommended to Cabinet that it should be approved.

#### IT SECURITY AND ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Members were asked to consider the draft Policy and recommend to Cabinet that it be adopted.

### **3.4.7 December 2020**

#### COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

The Head of Place provided an update on setting a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule in Hart and confirmed that the Committee will be consulted on draft CIL charging schedule in mid-year 2021.

#### COMMUNITY SAFETY TRANSITION

The Head of Community updated Members on the transition of the shared Community Safety Service which returned to Hart in October 2020. Members requested targets and budgets to be brought through Overview & Scrutiny as part of the process of commenting on the Community Services' Service Plan 2021/2022.

#### CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

Councillor Axam updated the Committee on the progression of the scrutiny work of this joint Committee.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

Councillor Oliver gave an update on the interface between the Climate Change Working Group and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and explained the changed action plan, work programme and delivery times of

the working group, which had been delayed by 6 months due to COVID restrictions.

#### COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATE

The Joint Chief Executive updated the Committee on the implications for the delivery of Council services arising from the new national COVID-19 Lockdown 2.0

#### CONFIDENTIALITY OF INTERNAL COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

The Joint Chief Executive provided Members and Officers with an update on the approach to confidentiality with respect to internal communications within the Council.

#### 2020-21 BUDGET MONITORING – POSITION STATEMENT AT 31 OCTOBER 2020 FOLLOWING LOCKDOWN 2.0

Members were advised of the position on revenue expenditure following Lockdown 2.0.

#### UPDATE ON BUSINESS RATES GRANTS SCHEMES LOCKDOWN 2.0

Members were updated on the process and performance regarding the two Lockdown 2.0 Business Rate Grant Schemes that the Government had introduced.

### **3.4.8 January 2021**

#### CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that a summary of the discussions held at the mid-year Overview & Scrutiny review on 6 January 2021 was to be circulated

#### CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

Councillor Oliver updated members on the progress made by the Climate Change Working Group and outlined the three ways of how this cross-party working group can work together with the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

#### CAR PARKING CHARGES

Members were updated by Councillor Oliver on the current situation on the car parking charges review, which concluded in November 2019, and on the proposals sent to all Parishes who have an HDC Public Car Park, to include the proposals HDC intended to implement in May 2021.

#### CIVIC REGENERATION WORKING GROUP

Councillor Quarterman and the Commercialisation Manager updated Members on the progress made with the Civic Quarter regeneration project, work undertaken, findings and recommendations for next steps. Members considered and confirmed that the Working Group will continue to investigate possible opportunities for potential redevelopment alongside its position with the town and any potential impact on Fleet town as a whole and were happy with the balance of questions and level of detail.

#### TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Members were presented with the draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2021/22, which incorporated the Annual Investment Strategy and Prudential and Treasury Indicators and recommended to Cabinet that it be agreed.

#### DRAFT BUDGET 2021/2022

This report provided a summary of the revenue and capital budget proposals for 2021/2022 and the Committee was invited to forward its comments on the proposed draft budget and Council Tax levels to Cabinet.

### **3.4.9 February 2021**

#### MEMBER TRAINING – A REVIEW

The Joint Chief Executive provided Members with an overview of the Council's Member training and discussed the support and requirements for Members moving forwards. It was recognised that not all Members would require all areas of training offered, but importance of clarity is required on mandatory topics and discretionary events.

#### DRAFT BUSINESS CASE FOR HOUSING COMPANY

The Committee were presented with the Business Case to set up a new Company limited by shares as a vehicle to hold the Council owned Edenbrook development of 41 apartments. Members were advised of the two reasons for this business case, these being to secure more affordable housing for residents and to generate long term steady revenue for the Council. The Committee supported the proposals and forwarded its more detailed comments to Cabinet.

#### DRAFT BUDGET 2021/2022

Members considered the report which provided a summary of the revenue and capital budget proposals for 2021/2022 approved by Cabinet and recommended to Council. The report included the statutory statement of the Head of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer) to Council on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of reserves.

The Chairman advised Members that no additional papers had been received since the last meeting of the committee and the Budget Book would be available before going to the next full Council. Members were advised that all questions should be forwarded to the S151 Officer, who would respond within 24 hours.

#### NOMINATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANNING IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN MONITORING

Members nominated were Councillors Farmer, Makepeace-Brown, Smith and Wildsmith to join a cross party working group to monitor the action plan for the Planning Performance Peer Review. The Chairman commended the working group on the tremendous job they did last year, and the Monitoring Officer requested the working group also include looking at performance and complaint handling.

### **3.4.10 March 2021**

#### **PRESENTATION BY THE 2021 CENSUS TEAM**

Jeremy May, the Census Engagement Manager from the Office of National Statistics, presented the implementation of the 2021 Census. The presentation explained how the Census is a snapshot of a time in society and covers housing, healthcare, education, and transport, with 2021 being the first year that the Census is done digitally. Members were advised how the Office of National Statistics has been raising awareness of the Census using local news, radio and local authorities covering deadlines, support centres and field staff help that is available.

#### **TO NOTE SECTION 4 OF THE MINUTES OF 2ND MARCH CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MEETING – UPDATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN**

Councillor Oliver updated the Committee on the action plan from the Climate Change Working Group and the Council's corporate objective to build pathways to net zero omissions. As there is no budget at present for funding the actions and it was suggested that the action plan is incorporated as a consideration into service plans. The Working Group was working on making conscious decisions on how best to achieve carbon efficiencies and on its long term plan. Members asked for clarification on:

- Energy efficient waste vehicles being trialled by Serco in urban areas.
- Working closely with Everyone Active to minimise emissions.
- Specific targets with firm dates.

#### **FLEET ROAD PEDESTRIANISATION: COSTS**

Members noted the costs incurred by the Council in implementing and then securing the removal of the Fleet Road pedestrianisation scheme. The Joint Chief Executive explained that the report is a factual statement of costs incurred. The report was not intended to be a commentary on the merits of the scheme or how it was implemented and then removed. The report was for noting only.

#### **DRAFT SERVICE PLANS 2021/2022**

The Committee considered the draft Service Plans for 2021/22 and recommended to Cabinet that, subject to more detailed information being provided in the resourcing charts for both Place and Environmental & Technical Services, the draft Service Plans 2021/2022 be adopted.

#### **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & LICENSING ENFORCEMENT PLAN**

The Committee considered and reviewed the draft Environmental Health & Licensing Enforcement Plan and endorsed the Plan for adoption by Cabinet.

#### **EQUALITY OBJECTIVES 2021 - 2023**

Members were presented with highlights of the progress made against the Council's Equality Objectives 2017-2021 and comments were requested on the proposed Equality Objectives for 2021-23. The Committee supported and endorsed the objectives and recommended to Cabinet that the Equality Objectives for the period 2021-2023 be adopted.

#### **QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT - 2020/21**

Members were updated on the Council's performance indicator results for the third quarter of 2020/2021 (1 October 2020 – 31 December 2020); the report was for noting only. It was agreed that a small informal cross party working group of Committee be set up to review the number and purpose of KPIs.

#### CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Members were asked to review the Corporate Risk Register which is reviewed by management on a regular basis and reported to members to provide assurance that appropriate arrangements are in place to mitigate identified risks. The report was for noting only.

**Contact Details:** Councillor Dr Jane Worlock, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee