### **Public Document Pack**



### **SUMMONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A MEETING OF THE HART DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER ON THURSDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER, 2022 AT 7.00 PM

Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

### **AGENDA**

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

Please download all papers through the Modern. Gov app before the meeting.

- At the start of the meeting, the Lead Officer will confirm the Fire Evacuation Procedure.
- The Chairman will announce that this meeting will be recorded and that anyone remaining at the meeting had provided their consent to any such recording.
- 1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 10)

To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

### 2 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.

### 3 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.

## 4 URGENT ACTION: CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF PAID SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

Confirmation of urgent action taken by the Chairman and Leader of the Council regarding the appointments to the statutory roles of:

- Head of Paid Services Mr Daryl Phillips (with no change to Mr Phillips's current duties as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer).
- Monitoring Officer Ms Stephanie Baker (in addition to her current duties as Development Management and Building Control Manager) which took effect from Monday 24th October 2022.

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

To receive any questions from members of the public submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.

Note: The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 12 must be given to the **Chief Executive** (email <u>committeeservices@hart.gov.uk</u>) no later than **Noon on Friday, 18**<sup>th</sup> **November 2022.** 

### 6 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 - QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

To receive any questions from Members submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.

Note: The text of any question under the Council Procedure Rule 14.3 must be given to the **Chief Executive** (email <u>committeeservices@hart.gov.uk</u>) not later than **5.00pm on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022.** 

The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 14.4 must be submitted to the Chief Executive before 10.00am on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

### 7 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES (Pages 11 - 56)

The Minutes of the following Committees, which met on the dates shown, are submitted.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1, Members are allowed to put questions at Council without Notice in respect of any matters in the Minutes to the Leader of the Council or any Chairman of the relevant meeting at the time those Minutes are received by Council.

Meeting	Date	Page	For
		Numbers	Decision
Cabinet	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	11-15	
Cabinet (draft)	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2022	16-21	
Overview & Scrutiny	27 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	22-25	
Overview & Scrutiny (draft)	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	26-29	
Audit (draft)	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	30-34	Item 12
Licensing (draft)	4 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	35-36	
Planning	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2022	37-43	
Planning Enforcement Sub Committee (draft)	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	44-47	
Planning (draft)	19 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	48-51	
Staffing	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	52-54	

### 8 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 9 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 10 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

# 11 POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW – HOOK AND YATELEY WEST (Pages 57 - 62)

The report sets out a proposal to create two new polling districts in the Hook Ward, with a new polling place being allocated.

The report also sets out details of the proposed new polling place for the Yateley West Ward.

### RECOMMENDATION

A. The Hook ward be split into three polling districts: Rotherwick, Hook East and Hook West.

B. The 3rd Bramshill Scout Lodge, Monteagle Lane be designated as the polling

place for the Tudor and Vigo (YT) polling district.

### 12 INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee had considered the appointment of two independent members of its Committee and were bringing to Council the following recommendations:

### RECOMMENDATION

- 1. The Audit Committee recommends to Council that it approves the appointment of two non-voting independent persons to the Audit Committee. This will be for a period of 3 years, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- 2. The Committee further recommends to Council the constitution should be updated to include for the appointment of no more than two independent co-opted persons to the Audit Committee.
- 3. It is also recommended to Council approval is given to the payment of an allowance to the independent persons of the Audit Committee

### 13 OUTSIDE BODIES - FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

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

Date of Publication: Wednesday, 16 November 2022

### Agenda Item 1

#### COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday 29 September 2022 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

### **COUNCILLORS -**

Worlock (Chairman)

Axam Davies Makepeace-Browne

Blewett Delaney Neighbour Engström Quarterman Butcher Butler Farmer Radley Clarke Forster Smith Wildsmith Coburn Hale Woods Cockarill Kennett

Collins Kinnell Crampton Oliver

### **Officers Present:**

Daryl Phillips Joint Chief Executive

Claire Lord Committee and Members Services Officer Rebecca Borrett Committee Services and Members Officer

### 22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were confirmed, with the removal of the words "Doesn't like cabinet will do" from question 5 in Appendix A of the 28<sup>th</sup> July draft minutes signed as a correct record.

### 23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from

Councillor Bailey
Councillor Harwood
Councillor Lamb
Councillor Southern
Councillor Wright

Councillor Dorn joined remotely. A point of order was raised as to the validity of joining remotely. It was clarified that under normal circumstances councillors were required to be in the council chamber for Full Council meetings, however exceptions could be given and had been on this occasion, for councillors to observe but not take part in the meeting if they could not

attend due to illness.

### 24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations made.

### 25 YATELEY COMMUNITY SPORTS AND WELLNESS CENTRE

A presentation was given by Colin Ive, Chairman of Yateley Sports and Community Interest company, about the building of the new sports pavilion on the Sean Deveraux Park in Yateley.

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

No questions from the public had been received.

A point of order was raised by Councillor Farmer requesting an explanation as to why the questions that had been raised by a member of the public had not been accepted. The Joint Chief Executive explained the background to the rejection but confirmed that the questions could be received at the November Full Council meeting.

Under rule 12.6 the rejected questions are recorded in Appendix A of these minutes.

### Appendix A

### 27 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 - QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Questions were received from Councillors Dr Crampton and Forster. These questions and their replies are detailed in Appendix B of these minutes.

### Appendix B

### 28 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Janet Stanton who was retiring as the Fleet Town Council Clerk.

The meeting was informed about the charitable donations made in the name of former Councillor the Late Sharon Wheale. £1,363 had been given to each of the following; Victoria's Promise, Church Crookham Men's Shed and Vision for Youth Yateley. The other charity that Councillor Wheale supported was The Base in Hook. Unfortunately this charity has not run for a number of years, the money for it will be retained in the Chairman's fund.

The Chairman informed the meeting that she was looking at supporting Magic Breakfasts Hook, and hopefully rolling this out over the District.

The D of E Scheme for children with additional needs, is progressing. A business plan is in place and connections have been made with Hart Voluntary Action and Hart and Rushmoor Young Carers Group as well as with some corporate groups to provide funding.

The meeting was informed that plans for the Civic Service and the Civic Day are progressing.

The Chairman also announced she would be reinstating the Volunteer awards.

### 29 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Leader of the Council** congratulated Hart staff for the showcase that had happened that afternoon in the Harlington Centre. He also informed the meeting that he would shortly be meeting with the leader of Hampshire County Council to discuss the next wave of funding.

The **Cabinet Member for Finance** thanked Ms Isabel Brittain for all her help and work as Section 151 Officer.

The **Cabinet Member for Place** made the following announcement:"Our Planning Policy team is currently working on a number of projects, and I can update Members on some of them:

- Hart's Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan or "LCWIP" has been jointly commissioned with Hampshire County Council. Sustrans were the successful consultants. We expect that the LCWIP will take about 12 months to finalise. Once complete, and endorsed by the Council, it will be used as a major part of the evidence base for the Green Grid. By encouraging modal shift to cycling and walking for shorter, local journeys, we will be helping the district towards being net carbon zero. We have also provided consultation responses to our Basingstoke & Deane and Rushmoor on their LCWIPs.
- The Odiham and North Warnborough Conservation Area Appraisal will be reported to Cabinet in November, where we will seek to endorse it and use it as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.
- Winchfield Parish Council has started a review of the 'made'
   Neighbourhood Plan and we will be providing our comments on that as it progresses.
- One of our 'business as usual' tasks is to complete and publish our Annual Monitoring Statement by 31<sup>st</sup> December. The Overview & Scrutiny panel have asked to see a draft of this report and that will be with them for their December meeting.
- Our Housing Land Position Statement and Housing Trajectory were both published in August and demonstrated a 10-year housing land supply.

This means that we can continue to use our Local Plan policies to robustly defend areas from inappropriate and unsustainable development.

 Members will recall that the Cycle and Car Parking standards Technical Advice Note was published in August which updates our previous standards. This is a prelude to a full supplementary planning document. Finally, as a result of the changes in the Council's senior management team, responsibility for Flooding and Emergency Planning are both moving into the Place service and the responsibility for the administration and monitoring of S106 developer contributions will come into the Place service as well.

The **Cabinet Member for Regulatory** told the meeting that some of the newer councillors had been invited to go on some licencing visits. They had all enjoyed the experience and gave their thanks.

The **Cabinet Member for Environment** thanked John Elson, who is retiring at the end of October, for all his work during the many years he has been at Hart District Council; stating that he couldn't have asked for better help from an officer and that John exhibited the values that the council should exhibit to residents.

The Cabinet Member for Commercialisation and Corporate Services made the following statement, "I announce that Hart District Council have agreed terms for a lease with Age Concern to take over the operation of the Care and Wellbeing centre on the Frogmore campus in Yateley. We have been working extensively with the new tenants to provide a modern, well-equipped facility that will continue to provide day care and support services to residents, and it is great news for the District that we have been able to secure such a mutually beneficial deal. The new centre will formally open on Friday 4th November 2022".

### 30 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

The Joint Chief Executive reported that as part of rebuilding links with the local community, post covid, Mrs Hughes was absent from the meeting as she was attending an event at RAF Odiham on the Council's behalf.

### 31 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the following Committees, which met on the dates shown, were received by Council.

Meeting	Date
Cabinet	4 Aug 22
Cabinet	1 Sep 22
Overview & Scrutiny	9 Aug 22
Audit	26 Jul 22
Licensing	2 Aug 22
Planning	20 Jul 22

Staffing 2 Sep 22

A query was raised about not being able to access via Modern.gov exempt papers for the Cabinet Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Aug. Councillor Clarke was asked to work with officers to resolve this issue. Members in return were asked to log any further issues that they may experience.

### 32 SECTION 151 OFFICER APPOINTMENT

The Leader of the Council Councillor Neighbour proposed to the Council that Graeme Clarke be appointed as the Council's Section 151 Officer from 1 November 2022. This was seconded by Councillor Radley and voted for unanimously.

### **DECISION**

Graeme Clarke be appointed as the Council's Section S151 Officer from 1 November 2022.

### 33 MOVE TO A SINGLE CEO MODEL

The Joint Chief Executive, Daryl Phillips, left the Meeting

Full Council was asked to agree to move to a single CEO model and bring the arrangement into full effect at the earliest opportunity (and that some of the estimated annual revenue budget savings achieved potentially be reinvested to create additional capacity in Tier 3 manager posts to increase operational capacity/Monitoring officer provision)

Proposed by Councillor Neighbour and Seconded by Councillor Radley.

Clarification was asked for about an apparent ambiguity in the reports concerning when the shared model arrangement should be put in place. The report from SOLIS had quoted a 2 year timescale for this to happen. However, it was confirmed that Staffing Committee and Cabinet had agreed to progress to a shared CEO model by the end of the 2022/23 municipal year.

A query was raised as to what level savings would be achieved in the current financial year if the model was adopted. It was explained that as this was the start of the process specific figures could not at this stage be confirmed.

A question was asked about keeping the organisation a 'lean' organisation. The meeting was told that for transparency purposes it should be made clear the there may be a need to backfill some resources that are currently being taken out of the staffing structure as the Council had just lost a Head of Service and would now be losing a Joint Chief Executive (JCE). Therefore, there may from a capacity point of view be a requirement for some replacement resources.

### **DECISION**

Full Council unanimously agree that the Council adopt a single chief Executive Model and that it should be brought into full effect at the earliest opportunity (and that some of the estimated annual revenue budget savings achieved potentially be reinvested to create additional capacity in Tier 3 manager posts to increase operational capacity/Monitoring officer provision).

### 34 OUTSIDE BODIES - FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

There was no feedback from Outside Bodies.

The meeting closed at 8.21 pm

#### CABINET

Date and Time: Thursday 6 October 2022 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

Neighbour (Leader), Radley (Deputy Leader), Bailey, Clarke, Cockarill, Collins, Oliver and Quarterman

### In attendance:

### Officers:

Patricia Hughes, Joint Chief Executive

John Elson Head of Environmental and Technical Services

Peter Summersell Sustainability Officer

Gemma Watts Housing Strategy and Development Officer

Laura Stone Eunomia

Sharon Black Committee Services Officer

### 49 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> September were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 50 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

### 51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Joint Chief Executive declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 54, as a Director of the Housing Company.

### 52 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recognising that this would be his last meeting, the Chairman and his Cabinet colleagues thanked Mr Elson for all his hard work and long service to Hart District Council.

### 53 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

Mr Wilf Hardy and Ms Tamsin Briggs from Blackwater Valley Friends of the Earth were at the meeting. Mr Hardy made a statement relating to agenda item 7, in which he stated that it was hoped that the Council would produce a meaningful and comprehensive action plan for the future which would include timescales, milestones and checkpoints, and owners.

## 54 REPORT OF SCRUTINY PANEL ON THE OPERATION OF BUTTERWOOD HOMES

Cabinet received a report from Cllr Farmer on the recent Scrutiny Panel on the operation of Butterwood Homes. Income and expenditure were broadly in line with previous forecasts and there were no significant issues on the horizon.

The Terms of Reference for Butterwood Homes had been amended to show that there were now 4 Directors, with the only other amendment being the amalgamation of 2 separate but similar clauses into 1, making the intent clearer. The Terms of Reference also stated that the Directors would meet twice a year, and there were no plans to change this arrangement. The Terms of Reference were reviewed annually by the Board.

The Portfolio Holder for Commercialisation had also attended the Scrutiny Panel meeting as an observer and thanked Cllr Farmer for his accurate overview of the meeting,

### **DECISION**

### Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the 2021/22 performance of the Housing Company against the initial business plan
- 2. Adopted the altered Terms of Reference, which had been endorsed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### 55 ENDORSEMENT OF HART'S CARBON PATHWAY

Cabinet received the background to the presentation of the delivery of the two reports from Eunomia. These covered the pathway to Operational Net Zero by 2035 and District Wide Net Zero by 2040. Both reports included indicative pathways on how the Council could achieve these targets.

Cabinet discussed a range of items, including:

- Whether the cost analysis had included a historical cost for energy or current prices, it was noted that the figures provided had broad variables included and the current cost of energy was not part of that calculation
- What would happen to the baseline data this would be used to formulate the new action plan, and will inform outcomes and any milestones required
- The amount of carbon reduction that would be achieved against the costs involved
- What funding was likely to be available in future budgets
- Setting a short term (2-4 years) action plan that will still allow us to meet the trajectory required to achieve the 2035 target date. This should be

- pragmatic and focussed, with "owners" for all items to ensure they were effectively managed
- Prioritisation of items and ensuring that there were some "quick wins" for the District
- The potential of future developments to greater assist the pathway to net zero

It was agreed that a third recommendation be added, in that a proposed action plan be brought back to Cabinet at their February 2023 meeting for endorsement.

### **DECISION**

Cabinet endorsed:

- 1. The 2035 Net Zero Operational Road Map which had been circulated to the Cabinet members.
- 2. The Net Zero Carbon Action Plan which had also been circulated to the Cabinet members.
- 3. That a proposed action plan be presented to Cabinet at the February 2023 meeting for endorsement

### 56 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS

The Quarterly Performance Reports for Q1 had been discussed and agreed at the recent Overview & Scrutiny Meeting.

It was noted that the absence of data relating to the waste contract when reported to Overview & Scrutiny was due to a contractual dispute. Details had now been provided but, as indicated by the report's narrative comments, this data was not validated by both parties.

### **DECISION**

Cabinet noted the performance report for Quarter 1 2022/23.

### 57 ESSENTIAL REPAIRS TO THE CROSS BARN, ODIHAM, RG29 1JX

For background, the Chairman advised that the Cross Barn was a Grade II listed building which was owned by the Council and leased and managed by a Board of Trustees.

### **DECISION**

Cabinet agreed:

That £25,000 be allocated from central reserves to fund essential repair works to The Cross Barn, Odiham.

# 58 UPDATE TO COUNCIL'S APPROACH IN DEALING WITH SHARED OWNERSHIP STAIRCASING WITHIN DESIGNATED PROTECTED AREAS AND WAIVER REQUESTS

The Portfolio Holder for Communities gave the background to the paper and explained that the amendment being proposed was to bring the Council into line with current Government legislation.

### Cabinet discussed:

- The need for waivers to be made on occasion when dealing with shared ownership staircasing within designated protected areas
- That the Portfolio Holder for Communities already had the delegated power to deal with waivers but that there were changes to our procedures that needed to be "tidied up"
- Consultation was always undertaken with Ward Members before any decision was made
- There were maps and lists showing where the designated protected areas were within Hart
- Most who were able to staircase up to 100% did not usually do this, preferring to move out of shared ownership into the normal housing market
- There were very few shared ownership properties in Hart that have owners who have staircased to 100%

### **DECISION**

### Cabinet agreed:

That the Council move in line with the updated Government guidance which required all shared ownership properties to seek a waiver, where they wished to staircase above 80%, however the shared ownership homes were funded.

### 59 DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN CONSULTATION

Cabinet was advised that they were being asked to agree that the draft Corporate Plan go out to consultation, with a view to a final report coming back to Cabinet in the new year.

Thanks were given to the working group for the quality of the plan. Cabinet members felt that it was easy to understand and navigate, and well laid out.

### **DECISION**

### Cabinet approved:

1. The draft Corporate Plan for consultation purposes, which had previously been circulated to the Cabinet members.

2. The timetable and approach for public consultation which had also been previously circulated to Cabinet members

### 60 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

Cabinet considered and approved the Work Programme as circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that it was likely that there would be an additional paper for the Civic Regen item, due to go to the December Cabinet meeting. A potential paper on bio-fuels and changes to Council vehicles was also raised.

As outlined, a paper would be coming forward to Cabinet on the outcomes of the public consultation on the Corporate Plan in February

The meeting closed at 8.19 pm

### **Public Document Pack**

#### CABINET

Date and Time: Thursday 3 November 2022 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

Neighbour (Leader), Radley (Deputy Leader), Bailey, Clarke, Cockarill, Oliver and Quarterman

In attendance: Axam, Butcher, Dorn, Farmer

Officers:

Daryl Phillips Chief Executive

Graeme Clark Executive Director – Corporate and S151 Officer

Mark Jaggard Executive Director – Place

Daniel Hawes Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager

Adam Green Countryside Manager

Sharon Black Committee Services Manager

### 61 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Collins.

### 63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

### 64 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Graeme Clark to the meeting in his role of Executive Director – Corporate and S151 Officer.

### 65 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

In relation to Minute 70, Mr David Turver read out a statement to Cabinet (attached at Appendix 1).

### Cabinet noted:

- That Agenda Item 10 on the Shapley Heath Audit Report would address some of the points made
- That Mr Turver's statement would be included with the Minutes as an appendix at the discretion of the Chairman and Chief Executive

### Statement to Cabinet from Mr David Turver

### 66 LEASE OF EDENBROOK FLATS

Cabinet was asked to approve the entering into a lease to transfer the 41 apartments at Edenbrook (known respectively known as Heather Court and Thistle House) to Butterwood Homes.

### Cabinet discussed:

- That this was confirmation of arrangements already put in place
- The advantages and disadvantages of transferring the lease

### **DECISION**

Cabinet agreed:

That The Chief Executive be authorised to agree the terms and then conclude a 20-year lease for Butterwood Homes to manage on behalf of the Council the 41 Apartments at Edenbrook (respectively known as Heather Court and Thistle House)

## 67 ODIHAM AND NORTH WARNBOROUGH CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

Cabinet was asked to adopt the Odiham and North Warnborough Conservation Area Appraisal.

### Cabinet discussed:

- That this Appraisal covered both areas, rather than being 2 separate Appraisals
- That Cabinet was being asked to <u>adopt</u> the Appraisal rather than endorse and that the wording of the Recommendation would be suitably amended before voting to show that this superseded the previous two Area Appraisal documents
- That thanks were due to Odiham Parish Council for the work they had done with the Council on the Appraisal documentation
- That the documentation was partially funded by the Parish Council although it will become a Hart District Council document as the Planning Authority

### **DECISION**

### Cabinet

**1.** North Warnborough Conservation Area Appraisal for Agreed to adopt the Odiham and planning and development management purposes:

- Agreed that the <u>Odiham Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Proposals December 2008</u> and the <u>North Warnborough Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Proposals March 2009</u> will be superseded by the new Area Appraisal
- 3. Authorised the Executive Director Place to make minor alterations and typographical corrections prior to the Appraisal being published.

### 68 LEASE OF POND AREAS TO HARTLEY WINTNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Approval was being sought from Cabinet to enter into a lease with Hartley Wintney Parish Council for the future management of Causeway and Hatton's Ponds, Hartley Wintney; and also to release £50,000 from District S106 Leisure and Open Space receipts to support the future restoration of the ponds.

### Cabinet discussed:

- That this was an excellent example of the Council working together with the local Parish Council
- That thanks were due to Hartley Wintney Parish Council for the work they had undertaken in helping to find an appropriate way forward
- Other agencies would need to be involved in the future
- That the funding request would be used for restoration work on the ponds which was very much required
- That the lease, whilst not yet finalised, would be a long term one rather than a short term lease

### **DECISION**

- Cabinet agreed that the Executive Director for Community be authorised to agree the terms and conclude lease for the transfer of ponds in Hartley Wintney Common (see Appendix 1) to Hartley Wintney Parish Council (HWPC)
- 2. Cabinet agreed that £50,000 of District S106 Leisure and Open Space funding be transferred to HWPC for the on-going restoration of the ponds.

## 69 GRANT FUNDING FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CARBON OFF-SETTING STRATEGY

To seek Cabinet's approval to spend £110k (£100k Grant and £10k for earmarked reserves) towards the delivery of "Phase 2" of the approved Biodiversity and Carbon Off-Setting Project, and to seek Cabinet approval to procure the necessary expertise to progress the project.

### Cabinet discussed:

- That the grant funding had been successfully applied for from DEFRA, and would be used to fund the development of Phase 2 of the strategy.
- That both the grant and additional funding from earmarked reserves would be put towards staffing and other specialist contract work.
- There was a requirement for a large piece of work to be undertaken to design the potential projects, develop costings and look at income streams and future funding mechanisms
- The project would take around 2 years to complete
- A range of projects would be designed but it would be difficult to give any ballpark costings at present whilst no decisions had been made as to what type of projects would be selected
- There was a need for a Project Initiation Document (PID) giving more in depth details
- That the money from earmarked reserves was in addition to the funding allocated to Climate Change initiatives, although it was recognised that there would be some overlap between this project and the work being undertaken by the Climate Change Working Group
- The need for communications from the Council to be clear about whether it was aiming for carbon neutrality or net zero
- A requirement for an easy to read paper showing all the different strands on Climate Change/Biodiversity that meshed together, for ease of reference
- That there was a wealth of resources in Parish Councils that could be accessed, particularly to meet the District 2040 Climate Change target

### **DECISION**

- Cabinet agreed to expend £110k (£100k Grant and £10k from earmarked reserves) towards the delivery of "Phase 2" of the approved Biodiversity and Carbon Off-Setting Project
- 2. Approval was given to procure consultants to project manage and develop the strategy

### 70 SHAPLEY HEATH AUDIT REVIEW

Cabinet received an oral update from the Chief Executive regarding the proposed action plan.

### Cabinet noted:

- The original Audit Report was circulated to Cabinet in September
- Staffing Committee had set up a Panel to look at the staffing issues and would report back to Audit Committee
- It had to be accepted that things had gone awry with the project
- The LGA had confirmed that they would have someone available to undertake the independent review during December/January. This would

involve interviewing Cabinet Members, and members of the Council who were on the Opportunity Board.

The leadership team would be discussing the key outcomes with a view to all future projects being delivered as expected and in a transparent manner

### 71 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

Cabinet considered and amended the work programme as circulated with the agenda paperwork.

### Cabinet noted:

- That the Staffing Committee report on the Shared Chief Executive with Rushmoor may be delayed from December as it had asked for further information from the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) before being able to make any recommendation(s) to Cabinet
- A short paper would be brought to December's Cabinet meeting on the composition of the Board of Butterwood Homes, following by the departure of one of the Joint Chief Executives

The work programme would be updated accordingly.

The meeting closed at 8.01 pm

### Statement to Cabinet 3 November 2022 – Mr David Turver

You have committed to openness and transparency in your follow up of the Shapley Heath Audit Report. Tonight, you might contemplate why none of the deliberations of the Staffing Committee have been published and why there is only a verbal update on the Management Action Plan and no written report.

The verbal update to Audit Committee revealed endemic institutional incompetence. Most pre-November 2021 projects had no PID and no financial documentation; many had no risk register. In other words, the what, why, where, when and who of all these projects wasn't written down and agreed and there was no effective financial control framework. Many of the post-November 2021 projects are also delinquent with the Capita Review, Traffic Management and Fleet Pond enhancements having no documentation at all.

You might recall that strong criticisms were made in the Shapley Heath Audit Report about the lack of effective project management and inadequate financial controls. From the lack of written documentation accompanying this meeting, it is clear that you have missed your self-imposed deadline to deliver the results of your facilitated reflection today. Answers to FOI requests reveal that you haven't created a Terms of Reference for this work and have not set a budget, so you haven't learned even the most basic of lessons. As Einstein said, insanity is continuing to do the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

It is four months since the Audit Report was delivered. There's been a lot of talk about process and none about content. No effective action has been published and nobody from Cabinet has taken responsibility. You have denied the findings of the Audit Report. You have even censored questions where truthful answers would have caused you embarrassment. It is clear that the Council really has no idea how to run projects. The first part of addressing a problem is to admit it exists. You need urgently to pass through the denial phase, accept these fundamental failings and get on with fixing the deep underlying issues or make way for others who can.

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date and Time: Tuesday 27 September 2022 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

Axam, Butcher, Coburn, Davies, Engström, Farmer, Smith (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), Wildsmith, Forster and Kinnell

### In attendance:

**Officers:** Elson, Head of Environment and Technical Services Lord, Committee and Members Services Officer Brittain, Section 151 Officer Summersell, Sustainability Officer

### 32 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors Dorn and Butler, Councillors Forster and Kinnell attended as Substitutes.

### 34 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

### 35 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

### 36 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

None.

### 37 CLIMATE CHANGE CARBON PATHWAY REPORT

The report was introduced as a document that laid out a pathway for the Council to achieve the Carbon emission targets agreed by Full Council in April 2021. The meeting was told that the report highlighted where most emissions came from and the actions that the council needed to take to reduce these.

Discussion took place around the definitions used within the report for Carbon Neutral and Net Zero carbon emissions. It was felt that these should be made clearer.

Discussion took place around the reports baseline carbon footprint. It was queried as to whether calculation of the Council's carbon footprint included scope 3 emissions. Concern was expressed that unless these emissions were included then the Council would not be able to achieve it's agreed targets. The meeting was told that the report did recommend that the operating footprint was extended to include scope 3 emissions.

The meeting felt that the report would be more meaningful if it contained more costings and cost benefits.

### **DECISION**

It was unanimously decided that the report should be sent to Cabinet, but that before endorsing the report Cabinet should consider the comments made by the Committee.

### 38 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER (HALF YEAR REVIEW)

The meeting was presented with the Corporate Risk Register and asked for it's opinion on the new format.

The meeting agreed that it liked the new format, stating that it was easy to read and understand. A request was made for there to be some more details with-in the categories and that where information was obtained from different reports then sign posts to those reports should be included.

### **DECISION**

The reporting of the Corporate Risk Register to Cabinet should be delayed until the November meeting, allowing these changes to be made.

### 39 BUTTERWOOD HOMES UPDATE

The report was introduced and it was explained to the meeting that "Butterwood Homes" is the new name for the management company formally named "Hart Housing Property Management Company".

The meeting was informed that the scrutiny panel had met, reviewed the companies reports and were happy with how the company was performing. It was highlighted that the properties are being let out with very little void time between lets and that there was in the pipeline a Butterwood Homes website, which would be for developers rather than the public.

The meeting was informed about the changes to the Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Committee.

### **DECISION**

The Committee voted to approve the alterations to the terms of reference.

### 40 SERVICE PANEL REVIEWS

Councillor Forster declared an interest as a Hampshire County Councillor Cabinet Member; Street Cleaning and Traffic management both being agency delivered services. He also declared an interest as a company director of an Electric Charging company.

### **Corporate Services**

Councillors Axam and Smith attended.

It was reported that although resources are stretched, all targets are being achieved and so there were no concerns.

Discussion took place around the KPIs relating to the missed collection of bins. A suggestion was made that the council should collect the data on missed bins itself, rather than rely on the information given by Serco. The meeting was told that this suggestion had been made and that the council did not have the resources to do this. The meeting requested that the query was raised at both the next Senior Leadership and Cabinet meeting.

### **Environmental and Technical Services**

Councillors Axam and Farmer attended.

It was confirmed that it had been the final Environmental and Technical Services meeting, as the service was being split up and the functions reallocated into Community and Place.

The meeting expressed concern that the KPIs for these functions, which were awaiting sign off, would not be allocated to the new correct directorate.

### 41 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The meeting confirmed that the Corporate Risk Register should be delayed until November.

A request was made that a draft copy of the "Swan Inn Report" was presented to the Odiham ward before the report is reviewed by Cabinet.

### 42 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The meeting requested the Corporate Risk Register came back to O&S before the required 6 months.

The meeting also asked to see any progress that was made on the Climate Pathway report.

A query was raised as to when the Food and Health and Safety report was seen by O&S. It was agreed that this information would be circulated after the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.57 pm

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date and Time: Tuesday 8 November 2022 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

Dorn (Chairman), Smith (Vice-Chairman), Axam, Butcher, Butler, Coburn, Davies, Engström, Farmer and Lamb (substitute for Cllr Wildsmith)

### In attendance:

### Officers:

Daryl Phillips Chief Executive

Graeme Clark Executive Director, Corporate Mark Jaggard Executive Director, Place

Steve Bennett Digital, Customer & Change Manager

Adam Green Countryside Manager

Alex Jones Flood Risk Management Officer
Joanne Rayne Finance & Property Manager
Phil Sheppard Infrastructure Team Manager
Claire Lord Committee Services Officer

### 43 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 27 September 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Wildsmith (substituted by Cllr Lamb) and Woods

### 45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Farmer declared an interest in Minute 8 as the Chairman of Hart Swimming Club

### 46 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillors were informed that due to the change in management structure, the role of Lead Officer for Overview and Scrutiny would be shared by Executive Directors for Corporate and Community.

### 47 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

None.

# 48 RATIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF DIRECTORATE SCRUTINY PANELS (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS SERVICE PANELS)

The Chairman advised members of the new Scrutiny Panel memberships.

In the short-term, members from the old Environmental and Technical Services Panel would join their relevant new Scrutiny Panel to ensure a smooth transition. The meeting agreed to this suggestion.

A query was raised about Scrutiny Panel meetings being open to non Overview and Scrutiny Committee members. It was explained that when the panels were set up it had been agreed that only Overview and Scrutiny members would sit on them.

### **DECISION**

The Chairman's recommended approach was agreed as below:

Board	Previous 4 Panels	New 3 x "Directorate Scrutiny Panels"
Community	Butcher, Butler,	Butcher, Butler, Woods
	Wildsmith	
Corporate	Axam,	Axam, Farmer, Smith
Services	Farmer,	
	Smith	
Place	Coburn,	Coburn, Engström, Butler
	Davies,	
	Engström,	
	Butler	
Environment	Axam,	
	Farmer,	
	Woods	

### 49 PLACE DIRECTORATE SCRUTINY PANEL FEEDBACK

A summary was given of the items raised at the meeting, which were detailed in the report. The meeting was reminded that the review had covered quarters 1 and 2 and included some elements relating to the transition of Environment and Technical Services into Place

The meeting noted

• The Panel had asked for effort and cost indicators to be added to the task list to help with prioritisation.

- Tier 2 savings had not yet been achieved.
- The Highways Agency Agreement Review was now included within Place.
- The Panel had requested a scoping exercise be carried out whilst the local plan review was currently in abeyance pending the outcome of the Government's Levelling Up agenda proposals.
- The water environment asset management plan had not progressed due to lack of resources.
- The Place Risk Register was to be reviewed and updated.

Concerns were raised about the Council's approach to Conservation Area Appraisals. It was agreed that a cross party, three-member Task and Finish Group would be set up to review the current arrangements to bring forward Conservation Area appraisals. The terms of refence to be agreed with the Chairman but would include engagement with Parish Councils.

Cllrs Farmer and Butler volunteered to serve on the Group and a nomination would come from the Liberal Democrat members. The Group were asked to report back to the meeting in either January or February.

### **DECISION**

A cross party, three-member Task and Finish Group would be set up to review the current arrangements to bring forward Conservation Area appraisals. The terms of refence to be agreed with the Chairman but would include engagement with Parish Councils

### 50 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The S151 officer introduced a presentation focused on two different elements. The first would be the 2023/24 emerging budget and MTFS. The second would be an update on how the current year was performing against budget. Members were reminded that in the current climate there was a lot of uncertainty and that certain assumptions had to be made until decisions were made nationally.

The Tier 2 savings within Place were discussed. Cllr Radley said Cabinet would be working with the Executive Director, Place to ensure that all Tier 2 savings would be achieved.

### 51 COMPLAINTS ANALYSIS Q2 JULY-SEPT 2022

Some concerns were raised about a couple of findings in the report. The meeting was told that management was working to improve how complaints were dealt

with and how the process and progress of complaints was communicated back to the complainant

### 52 MULTI-AGENCY FLOOD FORUM (MAFF)

The forum had been well attended with the Environmental Agency giving an update on the new Flood Warning service in Fleet as well as details on the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

It was noted that the forum had taken place in October and so had not taken into consideration any of the recent storms. Discussion took place around the recent flooding of Fleet Road, and it was confirmed that this incident had been fed back to Hampshire County Council (in its capacity as local highway authority).

# 53 FLEET POND GREEN CORRIDOR AND HARTLAND PARK MITIGATION WORKS

It was confirmed that stage 1 of the Fleet Pond project had been completed and congratulations were given to all involved.

In preparation for the commencement of Stage 2, a Fleet Pond Strategy Plan was being formulated, which would include a detailed project and spending plan. It was confirmed that all the works were going to carried out within the £2m funding that had been identified.

### 54 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The cabinet work programme was noted.

It was noted that a Bad Debt write off item had been included. It was requested that this was put on the Overview and Scrutiny programme. This was agreed.

### 55 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme was noted and with the inclusion of the Bad Debt write off, agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.01 pm

### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Date and Time: Tuesday 25 October 2022 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

Axam (Chairman), Blewett, Davies, Hale, Smith, Southern and Woods

In attendance: Chandrika Sharma, Ernst & Young

Officers: Isabel Brittain, Section 151 Officer

David Harwood, Internal Auditor

Rebecca Borrett, Committee Services and Members Officer

### 22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 26 July 2022 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### 23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Engström, who is substituted by Councillor Woods.

### 24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations made.

### 25 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced:

- 1. The is to be a significant increase in the annual PSAA fees for 2023/24, increasing from approximately £80k to £250K. Members questioned:
- the justification for this
- the last time of an increase
- if this would now go out to tender
- how confident could we be additional supplementary costs would not now be incurred

### The S151 Officer clarified:

- historically tenders were submitted at a price lower than it cost to provide the service
- the last increase was five years ago, when the service was last tendered

- the revised price was following a tender process, but this is a specialist statutory function with limited providers
- as far as possible, previous supplementary work areas were reflected in the new fee structure but there could be no confidence additional fees could not be incurred moving forwards
- Following the conclusion of the meeting there would be a discussion regarding changes to the way internal audit reports were circulated to Audit Committee members. A member asked if this could be off the record as it related to a change in process, which was not relevant to the public.

### 26 SHAPLEY HEATH AUDIT REVIEW

The S151 Officer provided members with an update on the steps taken to introduce the agreed management actions arising from the Shapley Heath Audit Review.

Members said that whilst it was good to know what progress was being made, the update did relate directly to the Shapley Heath Audit review. Officers apologised for the title being misleading.

In respect of Shapley Heath, Members discussed whether or not the outcomes from the findings of both Cabinet and Staffing Committees deliberations would be provided to Audit Committee. Members were reminded that the previous meeting minutes, as agreed, asked:

- Cabinet to provide a response to the management recommendations contained within the Shapley Heath Audit Review report, and to review the application of project governance, financial controls, and reporting for the Shapley Heath project and to provide a response to Audit Committee on lessons learnt.
- Staffing Committee be asked, for the period from March 2021 to the closure of the Shapley Heath project, to review the exercise of officer management oversight over the Shapley Heath project, including a review of officers' application of financial controls, risk management, monitoring, and reporting. The findings to be shared with Audit Committee.

### **DECISION**

If no response has been received to the satisfaction of the Audit Committee, the Leader of the Council will be requested to attend the March 2023 Audit Committee to provide members with a response.

### 27 INDEPENDENT AUDIT UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received an update on the Independent Audit Report from Ernst & Young (E&Y). Issues identified related to the lack of an agreement between the Council and its housing management company and a variance in the valuation of the civic offices following tenant lettings.

Members advised external advice had been sought for validation in relation to the housing management company. E&Y confirmed it was not having a signed agreement which was the issue.

Member asked if the basis of valuation were consistent. E&Y confirmed as part of previous audit there was a difference in methodology.

Members asked to be updated when these points have been reported upon, and not to have to wait until the March 2023 meeting. The Chairman clarified he understood the issues need to be resolved before the accounts are signed off in November. This led to members discussing if the timing of Audit Committees needed to be changed to reflect external factors. Officers felt it was important to hold a meeting to approve the accounts.

### **DECISION**

The new S151 to work with Committee Services for the next year scheduling to ensure meetings coincide with approving accounts.

### 28 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT OCTOBER 2022/23

The Committee received a progress report on the work undertaken by Internal Audit for the period June to 10 October 2022.

Members were advised that:

- all audits were expected to be completed by 31 March 2023
- the intention is for the new internal audit provider to be in place for the new financial year
- a draft internal audit opinion for 2022/23 be presented to the March 2023 meeting
- detailed follow-up work is to be undertaken on the agreed IT controls actions and an update on the current position will be reported at the March 2023 meeting
- the Disabled Facilities Grants audit completed in October 2021 included a
  high-risk action that the grant process was not complying with contract
  standing orders. New Government guidance now renders that action
  obsolete. The action was also referred to in the draft 2021/22 annual
  governance statement and will need to be removed before the statement
  is approved

- CIPFA had issued revised Audit Committee position statement. This will require the Committee's terms of reference to be updated
- the new S151 officer commences working for the Authority on 1 November. They wish to review the internal audit outsourcing process before taking any further decisions

Members asked if the refresher training could be extended to councillors as well as internal teams.

Members questioned Section 7 - IT controls, the discussion at the previous meeting and whether the position remains unchanged. Officers explained last year's report identified weakness in service areas. The intention of the follow-up review is to ascertain whether the same weaknesses apply or have been addressed. The findings of the review will be presented at the March 2023.

### **DECISION**

Refresher training to be extended to Councillors and a workshop to be arranged.

### 29 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Officers sought the Committee's views as to whether they wish to appoint an independent person or persons to the Audit Committee based on papers provided.

Members considered:

- current good practice
- that careful implementation was required
- an independent persons actual independence throughout tenure
- confidentially
- political ideals
- the experience of the current committee members and within the Council, and what would an independent person have added over the last two years
- the possibility of finding someone capable
- risk versus benefit

### Members questioned:

- how typical it is for audit committees to elect. Officers advised that across Hampshire they believed that only Rushmoor Borough Council had made an appointment
- is this an LGA recommendation. Officers confirmed it was not but came from Government looking at external audit processes. CIPFA have also encouraged the use of two independents

 if the independent would have voting powers. Officers confirmed they would not, it is only an advisory role

### Members discussed:

- if additional experience required this could be contracted in
- reaching out to other councils who had appointed an independent person to see if they had found it useful
- the option to wait rather than commit now
- the length of any appointment

Officers confirmed the length of any appointment would be at the Committees discretion. They also suggested that if updated Terms of Reference are to be presented to the March 2023 meeting, they could include for the future appointment of independent persons. This approach also has the advantage of not having to refer the matter back to Council at some future time, as the terms of reference within the Constitution would allow for independent members appointment.

In response to a question about how regularly the Committees terms of reference should be reviewed, Officers explained that the existing Terms of Reference had not been updated since 2018 and need to be updated to reflect best practice. The internal audit manager should review the terms of reference annually, and then bring forward any suggestions for change to the Audit Committee.

### **DECISION**

Members agreed for the appointment of Independent Person(s) to be included in the updated Terms of Reference, but no appointment to be made at this time.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

### LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday 4 October 2022 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

Wildsmith (Chairman), Butcher, Butler, Collins, Coburn and Smith

In attendance: Councillor Lamb

### Officers:

Mark Jaggard, Executive Director Place
Emma Coles, Licensing Team Leader, Shared Licensing Services
Louise Misselbrook, Shared Legal Services
Andrew Wake, Senior Licensing Officer, Shared Legal Services
Neil Hince, Environmental Health & Licensing Manager
Rebecca Borrett, Committee Services and Members Officer

### 12 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 2 August 2022 were agreed and confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Delaney
Councillor Farmer
Councillor Forster (substituted by Councillor Butcher)

### 14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

### 15 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked officers for enforcement visits undertaken with members. Members confirmed they felt it was a very worthwhile, useful and positive exercise.

The Chairman confirmed the cancellation of the November meeting.

### 16 APPROVAL OF CHARITY COLLECTION POLICY

Officers updated members of the outcome of the public consultation on the draft Shared Licensing Service Charity Collections Policy.

### **DECISION**

Licensing Committee agreed to:

- 1. adopt the Shared Licensing Service Charity Collections Policy, as set out in Appendix B to this report; and
- 2. authorise the Executive Director Place to make minor alterations and typographical corrections to the Policy.

The meeting closed at 7.06 pm

#### PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

Cockarill, Forster, Makepeace-Browne, Oliver, Southern, Worlock, Wildsmith, Dorn and Axam

#### In attendance:

#### Officers:

Mark Jaggard, Executive Director - Place
Ann Greaves, Shared Legal Services Manager
Kathryn Pearson, Principal Planner
Peter Lee, Planning Team Leader
Aimee Harris, Senior Planner
Julia Taylor, Planner
Jenny Murton, Committee & Members Services Officer

#### 24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

#### 25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors Blewett, Kennett, Quarterman and Radley.

Councillor Dorn was a substitute for Councillor Kennett and Councillor Axam was a substitute for Councillor Radley.

#### 26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Southern declared he knew the applicant for application 22/01343/HOU but it was a non-pecuniary interest.

#### 27 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had two announcements:

 Parish and Town Council engagement evenings held by the Development Management Team in June and August had been well attended. Future engagement evenings like these will follow in the Autumn. The Chairman asked the Committee to contact their local parishes to encourage them to participate. The Development Management & Building Control Manager to determine which parishes had not participated in these engagement events and to reach out to them specifically.

 The Chairman also highlighted that Built Environment Review tour still need to be arranged. The Executive Director – Place to look at this for Spring 2023.

Members stated they would prefer a minimum 3-5 months' notice for these visits if possible as it was not a lack of interest but a lack of diary availability hindering the scheduling.

#### 28 UPDATE ON CHANTRYLAND, EVERSLEY, HAMPSHIRE

The Executive Director – Place provided an update on a site at Chantryland Eversley, which was considered by Planning Committee in May 2021. The Council was a defendant to litigation brought by the developer. In 2021, Planning Committee gave authority to the Head of Place to participate in mediation with the developer prior to the matter being heard at trial.

The outcome of the mediation was that both parties agreed to appoint an independent viability expert to determine the maximum financial contribution to affordable housing which the planning permission is capable of sustaining.

The Council has now received the determination of the independent viability expert. The expert concluded that maximum financial contribution to affordable housing was £0 (nil).

The Executive Director – Place confirmed that the site would not be required under current planning policy to make any Affordable Housing contributions due to changes in policy since it was determined. It was confirmed that the proposal involved fewer than 10 dwellings.

#### 29 UPDATE ON A PLANNING ENFORCEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Director - Place requested a Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee meeting be arranged regarding ongoing matters at Hawley Park Farm. A Members' site visit before this meeting was also recommended.

Committee Services to arrange a date for this meeting at the earliest convenience.

#### 30 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

#### 31 21/02933/HOU - 35A BASINGBOURNE ROAD, FLEET, GU52 6TG

The Planning Team Leader summarised the application as follows:

Erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling (part of which is completed under permitted development rights), together with alterations to the front elevation and replacement of double garage with ancillary residential accommodation.

At 19:26 Councillor Forster declared a non-pecuniary interest, as a resident was known to him.

There had been 12 letters of objection received from four separate households, and a bat survey had been requested by the Council.

Revised plans have been received after the agenda for this meeting had been published. Officers had not accepted amendments pending the outcome of the Planning Committee's consideration.

Members considered the application and asked the following questions:

- Had a bat survey been requested and if so, had one been carried out.
- How the plans and drawings presented at the meeting and in the Agenda pack differed from what had been built on site and how this may also differ from revised plans that the Planning department received from the applicant but did not accept and did not distribute to Members.
- Fire safety implications which would be considered by Building Control.
- The option to defer the application and bring it to a future Planning Committee Meeting with accurate revised plans and a bat survey included.
- The current enforcement issues relating to the outbuilding.
- Members needed to consider if they considered the likelihood of the presence of bats and if so, a bat survey would need to be forthcoming and could not be subject to condition in line with case law.

The Executive Director – Place confirmed that the planning team had requested a bat survey to be undertaken.

#### Members debated:

- Could a Phase 1 bat survey be undertaken immediately.
- Depending on the findings of the survey work, there could be a need for a Phase 2 bat survey in the survey period.
- The distance from the proposed development to boundary.
- The moral obligation of homelessness which could result from refusal.
- That further clarity is needed on the submitted drawings and what is built under planning permission, must reflect approved plans.
- Adding a condition to ensure materials are used that will be in keeping with the local area due to ambiguity on glazed link element.
- The need for Building Control to manage safety elements.
- The comments from the Ecology Officer and how they appeared inconsistent in the report to one Member, which was clarified by the Chairman when the full quotation was read that the comments were not inconsistent.

- The number of occupants is not a planning issue.
- The Committee considered a duty to ensure the best decision is made for the applicants and neighbours.

The Executive Director - Place suggested there was just sufficient time to do a phase one bat survey that could be incorporated into the final decision.

All Members voted unanimously against the original recommendation to refuse. Members undertook a recorded vote for a revised motion, which was unanimous and a resolution to delegate authority to the Executive Director – Place was carried subject to conditions.

DECISION – GRANT, delegate authority to Executive Director - Place to grant planning permission subject to receipt of acceptable amended plans and receipt of an appropriate bat survey from a suitably qualified ecologist within six months. If not, to refuse permission on the basis of no bat survey.

Subject to the receipt of acceptable amended plans and an appropriate bat survey from a suitably qualified ecologist, to vary the enforcement notice to extend the time period for compliance with the requirements of the Enforcement Notice.

#### Notes:

A site visit was carried out on Tuesday 20th September, as set out in the Addendum paper, and was attended by Councillors Axam, Makepeace-Browne and Southern.

Speaking Against the Application: Mr Owen Davies Speaking For the Application: Mrs Sonia Laurent

## 32 22/01343/HOU - WOODLAND VILLA, CRICKET GREEN LANE, HARTLEY WINTNEY, HOOK HAMPSHIRE, RG27 8PH

Councillor Dorn left the meeting at 20:45.

The Planner summarised the application as follows:

Demolition of existing conservatory and garage and erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey home office/store.

Members considered the application and discussed:

- If an apple tree featured in the plans, whether it was a protected tree.
- Clarification was sought on a specific apex window of the property.
- Members considered the effect of the development on neighbouring properties.

Members undertook a recorded vote on the recommendation, which was unanimous, and Grant was carried.

#### **DECISION – GRANT, subject to conditions.**

#### Notes:

A site visit was carried out on Tuesday 20th September, as set out in the Addendum paper, and was attended by Councillors Axam, Makepeace-Brown and Southern.

Mr Malcolm Shimmin, spoke against the application Mr Frank Dowling, OBO Applicant, spoke for the application.

## 33 22/00778/FUL - LAND ADJACENT TO DAMALES FARM, BOROUGH COURT ROAD, HARTLEY WINTNEY, HOOK, HAMPSHIRE

The Principal Planner summarised the application as follows:

Change of use from agricultural land to a dog walking site with associated parking.

Members considered the application and questioned:

- If the application is a departure from the adopted Local Plan and Planning Policy, and what the consequences would be if it were.
- The type and quality of the soil on the site in Best and Most Versatile Land classification and the monocrop growing.
- Future grass planting that would likely be carried out.
- The number of car owners that would need to travel to the site and the environmental impacts of this.
- What SANGs in the Hart District are currently used for.
- Whitewater Meadows, Bassetts Mead and Holt Park SANGs and how dogs could escape from these as they are unfenced.

#### Members debated:

- Why the report mentioned the need for lights and toilets that would potentially have to come back to Committee as part of an additional planning application.
- The potential impact on Damales House.
- How popular dog walking fields are and could become in the future.
- Concern was raised again over the number of drivers who may wish to travel to the site.
- If conditions could be issued relating to the reinstatement of the land so that the field doesn't become a brownfield site.
- The low impact this scheme would generally have on the environment.
- How this scheme compares to a similar scheme at Wellington Country Park.

The Executive Director – Place asked for clarification on how this site would differ from other potential countryside sites that may come forward in the future and how Members would approach this.

Members voted unanimously against the original recommendation to refuse.

The Executive Director – Place asked if Members were minded to approve the scheme with the reasons for approval given this was contrary to the Officer recommendation.

Members confirmed that on balance:

- The scheme would have a very low impact;
- There would be no lighting;
- There would be no built form on site;
- There would be a maximum of four car parking spaces;
- Its scale: and
- It would only effect a very small percentage of the agricultural unit which would still be a viable agricultural business.

Members undertook a recorded vote for a revised motion, which was unanimous, and Grant was carried subject to conditions.

DECISION – GRANT, delegate authority to the Executive Director – Place to Grant planning permission subject to consultation with the Chairman of this meeting (Councillor Oliver) and the Planning Committee Ward Councillor on the content of the conditions.

#### Notes:

A site visit was carried out on Tuesday 20th September, as set out in the Addendum paper, and was attended by Councillors Axam, Makepeace-Browne and Southern.

Mr David Mitchell, spoke for the application.

#### 34 22/01389/AMCON - 7 BROOME CLOSE, YATELEY, HAMPSHIRE, GU46 7SY

Councillor Southern declared an interest in this application as he regularly plays golf with the next-door neighbour.

The Senior Planner summarised the application as follows:

The Variation of Condition 2 attached to Planning Permission 19/02756/HOU dated 22/10/2020 to allow a relocation of the bin room, door to front elevation, doors to rear elevation, duplex windows to side and rear elevations, reconfiguration of windows and changes to the internal layout.

The Senior Planner confirmed that the application was brought before the Committee as the agent was an elected Member.

Members considered the application, undertook a recorded vote and Grant was carried:

For - Axam, Cockarill, Forster, Makepeace-Browne, Oliver, Wildsmith and Worlock Against - None Abstention - Southern

#### **DECISION - GRANT**

Notes:

No site visit took place and there were no speakers.

The meeting closed at 9.46 pm

### **Public Document Pack**

#### PLANNING ENFORCEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Monday 17 October 2022 at 10.00 am

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

Blewett, Makepeace-Browne, Oliver and Southern (Chairman)

#### In attendance:

Mr Nicholas Silvester Ms Kate Little, Crest Nicholson

#### Officers:

Mark Jaggard, Executive Director Place
Stephanie Baker, Development Management & Building Control Manager
Maxine Lewis, Planning Team Leader
Sharon Whittaker, Enforcement Officer
Craig Harman, Planning Assistant
Tola Otudeko, Principal Lawyer
Jenny Murton, Committee Services Officer
Claire Lord, Committee Services Officer

#### 1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Southern was elected as Chairman.

#### 2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Oliver was elected Vice-Chairman.

#### 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record. Councillors Oliver and Makepeace-Browne highlighted that they did not attend the meeting.

#### 4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

#### 5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

#### 6 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

# 7 REVIEW OF PLANNING ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIONS IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENT AT HAWLEY PARK FARM, HAWLEY ROAD, BLACKWATER, CAMBERLEY

The Planning Team Leader summarised the report and said that it was to explain the enforcement investigations untaken in relation to development at Hawley Park Farm.

The meeting was being held due to the large volume of complaints received and reference was made to the 15 issues in section 4.3 of the agenda report.

It was confirmed that the objections received were from long-standing residents living in Rushmoor, as opposed to new occupiers of the development.

The Planning Team Leader highlighted that the recent complaints were primarily related to:

- The breach of working hours;
- Tree protection issues that are currently ongoing.

Members asked whether there had been complaints from other residents of Fernhurst Road. The Planning Team Leader confirmed that there had been reports from several residents.

Members felt it would be helpful for Officers to outline why issues such as this come to a public meeting of Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee. The Planning Team Leader confirmed that the matter was being brought to a public meeting due to the volume of concerns and complaints which had been received by the Council, to set out the matters and differences.

Members asked if the Planning Team Leader could clarify what work had been undertaken by the Enforcement Team to date. The Planning Team Leader confirmed that a Breach of Condition Notice and Temporary Stop Notice had been served last year.

A public speaker, Mr Silvester, addressed the Committee and made reference to concerns raised to the Council previously in addition to correspondence sent to the Council. This correspondence was stated to set out the speaker's concerns with the Officer's report within the Committee agenda, including areas which he felt were incomplete or inaccurate such as references to the NPPF and lack of documenting each issue which had occurred.

Members discussed the points raised by Mr Silvester, including works carried out over the 2022 Jubilee weekend.

Members also discussed with officers the potential feasibility of updating the report with more specific detail that the speaker had requested. Members considered that they would not want a report which included over two years of history as it would be unwieldy.

A second speaker on behalf of the developer, Ms Little of Crest Nicholson, addressed the Committee and thanked residents for their patience during construction works. She acknowledged that it would likely be no-one's preference to live adjacent to a construction site and that the developer had taken steps to address complaints they had received, including working with Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council.

Ms Little highlighted that a new management team had recently been introduced to the site to minimise disruption and it is working very closely with its subcontractors.

#### Members questioned:

- Crest Nicholson's commitment to compliance with planning permission conditions in the future, given previous breaches in the past.
- How would working hours conditions be policed in future and how will the new management team ensure these conditions are met and not ignored and breached in the future.
- The length of the development's construction phase.

Ms Little confirmed that Crest Nicholson was committed to complying with conditions in future and that this would be ensured by a new reporting structing and working relationship of a new team, liaising with the District Council and County Council where needed. Ms Little confirmed that the anticipated remaining construction phase would last at least another year.

Mr Silvester stated that he had received no feedback from the relevant County Councillor regarding Fernhill Lane and the Development Management & Building Control Manager confirmed that Fernhill Lane is outside of the District Boundary and outside of the planning application red line. As such, issues on Fernhill Lane are not within the Hart District Council remit.

It was agreed that the planning team could provide Crest Nicholson's contact details to Mr Silvester.

Members of the Committee requested that records of the contractors signing in and out processes and attendance sheets be shared with the planning team, and Ms Little agreed to provide this information as it is already recorded for Health & Safety purposes.

Members summarised that the official site visit undertaken by Councillors Makepeace-Browne and Blewett on Thursday 13 October was very useful; they had noticed there were gaps in some fencing and the SANG. Councillor Oliver confirmed he had undertaken his own site visit over the weekend and had spoken to residents whilst there.

Mr Silvester raised his concerns regarding boundary fencing.

The Enforcement Team Leader confirmed that there are two different types of fencing at this site, post and rail and close boarding. She confirmed that some of the fencing installed is permitted development and the team will seek to monitor this issue when and where appropriate.

The Development Management & Building Control Manager reiterated that Mr Silvester had been provided with a single point of contact with the Council, the Planning Team Leader. This is to avoid the scenario where information has not been seen by the Enforcement team.

The Chairman asked Mr Silvester to re-send any questions he had to the Planning Team Leader as she is his designated point of contact.

#### **DECISION**

The Planning (Enforcement) Sub-Committee unanimously endorsed the contents of the report and noted the information.

The meeting closed at 10.38 am

#### PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Wednesday 19 October 2022 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

Quarterman (Chairman), Blewett, Cockarill, Forster, Kennett, Makepeace-Browne, Oliver, Southern, Worlock and Wildsmith

#### In attendance:

#### Officers:

Mark Jaggard, Executive Director - Place Stephanie Baker, Development Management & Building Control Manager Kathryn Pearson, Principal Planner Tola Otudeko, Shared Legal Services, Principal Lawyer Jenny Murton, Committee Services and Members Officer

#### 35 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor Oliver highlighted that the Minutes did not include that he was the Chairman for this September meeting in the list of attendees and Committee Services agreed to add this.

The minutes of the meeting on 21 September 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

#### 36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor Radley.

#### 37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Development Management & Building Control Manager declared that she and the Principal Lawyer had both worked at a previous Local Planning Authority at the same time as agent Robyn Milliner, one of the speakers for item 8 on the Agenda.

#### 38 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

#### 39 UPDATE ON FARNHAM LODGE JUDICIAL REVIEW JUDGMENT

The Executive Director - Place updated the committee on the legal challenge from the decision on Farnham Lodge in April 2021.

On 3rd October 2022 the Council was informed that the Judge upheld the Council's decision as being lawful and the correct approach to Policy H5 and the Council was awarded costs.

#### 40 UPDATE FROM PLANNING ENFORCEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Development Management & Building Control Manager provided two enforcement updates:

- 1. A Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee meeting was held on Monday 17th October 2022. Councillor Southern was elected as Chairman of Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee and Councillor Oliver was elected as Vice-Chairman. Members were briefed on Hawley Park Farm and the breaches of planning control. The Committee endorsed the contents of the report and noted the information.
- 2. The Council has served an Injunction Order in the High Court relating to a breach of planning control on land south of Beechcroft, in Pickaxe Lane, South Warnborough, due to increased unauthorised development on the site. This prohibitive injunction prevents residential occupation and prevent further work being carried out. There is a further Court Hearing on Monday 24th October 2022.

The Committee was shown photographs of the site in Pickaxe Lane and the Development Management & Building Control Manager confirmed that no planning permission had been sought for any of the work shown in the photographs.

It was also agreed that quarterly Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee meetings would be re-instated.

The Chairman of the Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee fully endorsed the actions of the Planning Enforcement Team. The Vice-Chairman of the Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee reiterated that despite the volume of communications in relation to the Hawley Park Farm matter, there are only two on-going issues relating to out of hours working and tree protection fencing.

Members commended Officers for their work at the Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee meeting and in securing the Court Injunction.

#### 41 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

The planning reports from the Executive Director - Place were considered and the updates via the Addendum were accepted.

## 42 22-00734-FUL - 54 RYELAW ROAD, CHURCH CROOKHAM, FLEET, HAMPSHIRE, GU52 6HY

The Chairman highlighted that due to a communication error a public speaker had not managed to register to speak in time however he would allow an additional speaker, Nicola Lyddon, to speak in objection.

The Principal Planner summarised the application as the erection of a detached 5-bedroom dwelling. She apologised that the public representation summaries and Consultee summaries had not been included in the Agenda report and confirmed that they were included in the Addendum and had been visible on the Council's website since the date of receipt. She stated that the body of the report does however address the Representation summaries and that these had been taken into account when formulating the report.

Members reiterated that the Officers had taken the public comments and consultee comments into account within their assessment and this was confirmed.

Members considered the application and asked the following questions:

- The definition of SAMM payments. The Development Management & Building Control Manager confirmed this was the monies paid to Hampshire County Council in relation to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area; Strategic Access Management and Monitoring was the full title for the SAMM acronym.
- The accuracy of the scale of the street scene plan and how this was created. The separation distances between the properties on the plans were also discussed and Members were satisfied with the Development Management & Building Control Manager's response that they are as accurate as possible however these are indicative plans.
- The proposed in-line parking spaces and whether a dropped kerb was required. Officers confirmed that dropped kerb applications were matters for the Local Highway Authority.
- How many storeys the proposed development was, and this was defined as two storeys with accommodation in the roof.
- Where the properties referenced in public speaking were located.
- The existence of other 5-bedroom homes and family homes in the immediate area.

The Chairman highlighted that there were no Ward Members present at the meeting and that there was no official site visit requested however Members may have undertaken their own unofficial visits.

#### Members debated:

- The impact that the proposed dwelling could have on neighbour amenity.
- The size and design of the proposed dwelling and whether it would be in keeping with the street scene or over-development.

- Members asked the agent to consider the design and the quality of materials that may be used.
- The proposed in-line parking spaces, which were defined as being in line with the Council's standards.
- How energy efficient this proposed dwelling may be.
- The windows on the western side of the proposed dwelling which would be obscured.

The Development Management & Building Control Manager confirmed that Building Regulations addressed the issue of energy efficiency, the regulations had been updated in June 2022.

Members undertook a recorded vote on **Recommendation A**, which was:

That subject to the receipt of SANG and SAMM payments within 7 calendar days of the date of the Planning Committee meeting, planning permission be GRANTED subject to conditions 1-9 and informatives 1-2 on the Agenda report.

This vote was unanimous, and Grant was carried.

**DECISION – GRANT**, subject to conditions and informatives on the Agenda report.

Members questioned whether a separate vote was required for **Recommendation B**. The Chairman confirmed that **Recommendation B** only comes into force if the requirements of **Recommendation A** are not met.

Members undertook a second vote and unanimously voted for **Recommendation B**.

Notes:

No site visit took place.

Nicola Lyddon spoke against the application. Robyn Milliner spoke for the application.

The meeting closed at 7.56 pm

Document is Exempt from Publication

#### COUNCIL

**DATE OF MEETING: 24 November 2022** 

TITLE OF REPORT: POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW - HOOK

AND YATELEY WEST

Report of: Chief Executive and Returning Officer

**Cabinet Portfolio: Corporate** 

**Key Decision: No** 

**Confidentiality: Non Exempt** 

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The report sets out a proposal to create two new polling districts in the Hook Ward, with a new polling place being allocated.

2. The report also sets out details of the proposed new polling place for the Yateley West Ward.

#### RECOMMENDATION

- A. The Hook ward be split into three polling districts: Rotherwick, Hook East and Hook West.
- B. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Bramshill Scout Lodge, Monteagle Lane be designated as the polling place for the Tudor and Vigo (YT) polling district.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 3. The Council is responsible for the designation of polling districts and polling places within the District. Issues have arisen in two district wards, which require a permanent resolution.
- 4. In Hook, there are two polling districts Rotherwick and Hook. There are around 6,900 electors in the Hook polling district, with a designated polling place of the Elizabeth Hall.
- 5. There are three polling stations within the Elizabeth Hall, and the electorate allocated to each polling station is at the upper end of the Electoral Commission's current recommended electorate allocation per polling station.
- 6. Any changes made to the polling district arrangements will not affect the current parish arrangements in Hook.
- 7. In Yateley, St Swithun's church have advised that they are no longer available to be the designated polling place for the Tudor and Vigo (YT) polling district.
- 8. There is no suitable venue within the polling district itself, so other venues in neighbouring polling districts have been investigated.

#### **MAIN ISSUES**

#### Hook

- 9. The Electoral Commission guidance currently states that the maximum electorate allocated to a polling place should be 2,500, but that ideally it should not be over 2,000 electors.
- 10. With the introduction of Voter ID from May 2023, it is also likely that the Electoral Commission will reduce the electorate allocations per polling station.

- 11. The electorate in the Hook polling district is currently just over 6,900 electors, which equates to approximately 2,300 electors for each polling station. Although some of these electors will vote by post, with the likelihood that the overall electorate figures will continue to grow, the existing arrangements are not sustainable for one polling place. Therefore, splitting the electorate between two venues would be appropriate.
- 12. Hook Community Centre is an ideal venue for use as a polling place and is accessible for electors, particularly on the eastern side of Hook. There is sufficient space to facilitate two polling stations. This will result in four polling stations being used across the two polling places.
- 13. By dividing the existing Hook polling district into two, and using an additional polling station, the polling arrangements for Hook will be more sustainable as the electorate increases. There will be
- 14. The proposed split within the existing Hook polling districts is set out at Appendix 1 and 2.

#### Yateley

- 15. With St Swithun's no longer available, alternative venues were sought, that would be ideally within the polling district as well as accessible for electors.
- 16. Unfortunately, there are no suitable venues within the Tudor and Vigo polling district, therefore venues outside the polling district were sought.
- 17. The 3rd Bramshill Scout Lodge on Monteagle Lane is a suitable venue, just outside the polling district and is accessible for electors with sufficient parking onsite. A map setting out the location of the proposed new polling place is set out at Appendix 2.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

18. There are no reasonable alternative options.

#### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

#### Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or The Hart Vision 2040

19. These arrangements will ensure electors in Yateley and Hook have suitable access to polling places.

#### Service Plan

- Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan? No
- Is the proposal being funded from current budgets? Yes
- Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for this proposal?
   Additional staff will be required to run the additional Hook East polling station on polling day. These will be recruited in line with normal election staffing recruitment practices.

#### **Legal and Constitutional Issues**

- 20. The Council has authority to designate polling district and polling places within the District.
- 21. The changes to the boundaries to the Hook polling district will not impact on electoral boundaries for any other bodies, such as Hook Parish Council or Hampshire County Council.

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 22. There will be additional hire costs and associated polling station staffing costs in the new Hook East ward. This will be in the region of £1,000.
- 23. These additional costs will have to be met for District Council elections by Hart District Council. At other elections/referenda, these costs will be re-claimed.
- 24. No overall additional polling place costs will be incurred for the changes to the Yateley arrangements.

#### **Risk Management**

- 25. Splitting the existing Hook polling district will ensure the voting arrangements for all voters in this area are fit for purpose and also meet the electorate/polling station staff ratios set out by the Electoral Commission.
- 26. These arrangements will ensure that more electors in Yateley have access to suitable polling station facilities within their polling district.

#### **EQUALITIES**

27. No equalities issues are anticipated relating to these proposed changes.

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

28. The introduction of an additional polling place in Hook will reduce the requirement for many voters to drive to their polling station.

#### **ACTION**

- 29. The new polling districts will be created, to be included in the revised register published on 1 December 2022.
- 30. The new polling places will be confirmed and information published to advise of changes prior to poll cards being issued for the May 2023 elections.

Contact Details: Daryl Phillips/daryl.phillips@hart.gov.uk

#### **Appendices**

Map of Proposed Hook Polling Districts and Proposed Polling Places

Map of Tudor and Vigo Polling District and Proposed Polling Place

#### **Background Papers:**

None.





