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COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday 28 September 2023 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

COUNCILLORS -

Wildsmith (Chairman)

Smith	Crisp	Oliver
Axam	Davies	Quarterman
Bailey	Delaney	Radley
Blewett	Dorn	Thomas
Butcher	Engström	Vernon
Clarke	Hale	Woods
Cockarill	Harward	Worlock
Collins	Kennett	Wright
Crampton	Neighbour	

Officers Present:

Graeme Clark,
Executive Director, Corporate Services & S151 Officer
Emma Evans,
Committee and Member Services Officer
Sharon Black,
Committee and Member Services Officer

25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 27 July 2023 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

26 PRESENTATION - CHIEF INSPECTOR GILLIAN COX, HAMPSHIRE POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, HART AND RUSHMOOR

Chief Inspector Cox gave a presentation outlining a new locally based police structure, new policing priorities and provided supporting data.

Councillors asked questions around the following areas:

- Yateley Police Station
- Knife crime
- Rural crime
- PCSOs

- Staffing levels
- Perception of crime data
- Shoplifting

The Chairman thanked Chief Inspector Cox for attending Council.

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Butler, Coburn, Farmer, Forster, Makepeace-Browne and Southern.

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Engström declared an interest in Minute 34 as she is an employee of BAE Systems who were a user of Farnborough Airport.

29 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 - QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

A Question has been received from Mr Cornwell, detailed in Appendix A.

APPENDIX A

30 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 - QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Questions had been received from Councillor Crampton and Councillor Farmer detailed in Appendix B.

APPENDIX B

31 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman's engagements since the last meeting were noted.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 14 September: | Showcasing Test Valley at the Army Flying Museum, Middle Wallop |
| 19 September: | Mayor of Basingstoke Civic Afternoon at The Vyne, Sherborne |
| 20 September: | Meeting with Allan Walker, Church Crookham & Fleet Men's Shed |
| 21 September: | Hart Countryside photocall at Whitewater Meadows Play Park |
| 26 September: | Meeting with Alex Stewart, Yateley Community Pantry |
| 26 September: | Meeting with Caroline Winchurch, HVA |

The Chairman announced some key upcoming events, the Chairman's Civic Service will be held at All Saints Church, Fleet on 24 February 2024 and a Chairmans Carol Service is to be held in Yateley, further details will be announced shortly. A series of visits to local schools is also planned.

32 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Director – Corporate on behalf of the Chief Executive reported that a formal review of the polling district is due to begin on 02 October 2023, it is a formal review on how appropriate, fit for purpose and inclusive our polling stations are. Further information will be posted on the website.

33 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

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

A member asked a question regarding how easy is it to move funds once they have been ringfenced, and why ring-fence funds now before the autumn statement?

Cllr Radley explained that the 3 items from the August Cabinet meeting for approval were ultimately Council decisions to ring-fence and therefore it would be for council to un ring-fence. This would be done during the normal process of the yearly budget in February. He explained that financial movements are simple and equitable. Hart was projecting a surplus of close to £1M next year, in part due to higher interest rates, recycling credits being higher than expected and additional car parking monies. The aim is to ring-fence the money as closely as possible to where it came from. In relation to high inflation rates there was a negative aspect in that any contracts that were due to be renegotiated could potentially be more expensive. Ring-fencing funding would assist with the financial challenges the Council could expect to face. Other movements relate to funds ring-fenced for COVID purposes and were being moved to the equivalent function without any restriction in what they could be spent on.

Meeting	Date
Cabinet	03 August 2023 Page 13. Minute 29. Review of Reserves including SANGs funding a. To approve the proposed prudent minimum balance on the General Fund Working Balance of £6m, to be reviewed as part of the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy. b. To approve the earmarking of the 2022/23 underspend to meet the known future cost pressures as

	<p>detailed in paragraph 8 of Initial Review of Financial Reserves report.</p> <p>c. To approve the changes to earmarked reserves highlighted in Appendix 2. Of Schedule of earmarked reserves and proposed actions report.</p>
Cabinet (draft)	07 September 2023
Overview and Scrutiny	18 July 2023
Overview and Scrutiny (draft)	15 August 2023
Audit (draft)	25 July 2023
Licensing (draft)	05 September 2023
Planning	12 July 2023
Planning	09 August 2023
Planning	13 September 2023

The Cabinet items were proposed by Councillor Neighbour and seconded by Councillor Radley. Unanimously agreed.

34 MOTION TO COUNCIL

The following motion was proposed by Councillors Dorn and Radley, it was moved by Cllr Dorn and seconded by Cllr Radley.

Councillor Dorn introduced the motion highlighting both his and Councillor Radley’s membership of the Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Group. Farnborough Airport Ltd (FAL) were consulting on several issues which many members were not comfortable with. There had been negative comments from residents. Alongside the motion, a detailed set of comments will be completed with the Chief Executive to be submitted to the pre-planning application consultation. It is anticipated that a full planning application will be submitted by FAL in late 2023.

“Hart District Council is dismayed that Farnborough Airport Ltd (FAL) should seek to increase their overall flight number cap, as the impact of this will only exacerbate the Climate Change Emergency declared by Hart District Council, Rushmoor Borough Council and the UK government. Hart District Council also recognises that many residents of Hart and surrounding areas will adversely suffer increased noise annoyance from extending the number and operational window of weekend and bank holiday flights. The Chief Executive (in conjunction with Hart’s Farnborough Airport Consultative Committee Members) shall submit a more detailed set of comments to the FAL consultation to reflect these views.”

The motion was debated. Key areas of discussion were:

- The motion should be supported from a climate change perspective as the aviation industry will find carbon neutrality a challenge and that executive travel has one of the highest impacts on climate change and HART should not support an increase in air traffic.
- The council has declared a climate change emergency, and it would be disingenuous to support the proposals put forward by FAL.
- FAL are not close to hitting their overall capacity targets, this increase request is to enable additional weekend flights where they have hit capacity.
- The average flight departs FAL with an average of 2.5 passengers and travels to holiday locations where mainstream airlines fly.
- A move to earlier weekend morning flights will impact on residents' quality of life.

Cllr Woods left at 8:19pm during this item and therefore did not participate in the recorded vote.

A recorded vote was held on the Motion:

For: Axam; Bailey; Blewett; Butcher; Clarke; Cockarill; Collins; Crampton; Crisp; Davies; Delaney; Dorn, Hale; Harward; Kennett, Neighbour; Oliver; Quarterman; Radley; Smith; Thomas; Vernon; Wildsmith, Worlock, Wright (25)

Against: (0)

Abstain: Engström (1)

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Hart District Council FAL Consultation Response

Post Meeting Note: Hart's response to the Farnborough Airport Ltd (FAL) Consultation has been attached for information.

35 OUTSIDE BODIES - FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

Councillor Quarterman updated members on his Blackbushe Airport Consultative Committee attendance. The airport's previous application to deregister as common land some of the airfield is still awaiting determination by the planning inspectorate. In the meantime, the airport is preparing a new application for a section 16 land exchange to remove an area of the operational airport from the common and replace it with a similar plot of land at Cottage Farm. Consultation with local stakeholders on this proposal was expected before the end of the year.

A six-monthly update on their plans to move the airport toward carbon neutrality had been requested and an initial report was presented at the meeting, details were in the Airport Managers' report on their website.

Councillor Neighbour gave Councillor Woods report from the Blackwater Valley Transport Forum. The rail companies were asking that we advertise the upcoming strike days to residents. A footbridge was going to be installed at Farnborough North station to replace a crossing. This station is heavily used by 6th Form students from the Yateley and Blackwater areas.

36 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Direction, and Partnerships, Councillor Neighbour had nothing to report.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Radley had nothing to report.

The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Councillor Bailey gave members updates on 2 issues. He reported that the buy-to-let housing market had been severely affected by the current economic situation and higher interest rates. For many years Hart had been able to find rental properties for people facing homelessness. Local buy-to-let landlords were now withdrawing from the market, this was having a significant impact on officer workloads, and we were increasingly relying on bed and breakfast options.

The government had recently allocated funding to Hart to secure up to nine additional affordable homes for evacuees from Afghanistan and Ukraine. In partnership with Vivid, six of these homes would be available to let within the next two months, 5 Ukrainian families and 1 Afghan family would be moving in. There were three more properties to secure and when Ukrainian and Afghan guests return to their home countries these homes would all become part of Hart's stock for local people on the housing register.

Work to deliver the UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding was underway. The team were talking to local agencies, town parish councils, charities, and local organisations to discuss the funding available, and get an understanding of the type of projects that may come forward. They were helping them to provide compliance and to assist those who wish to put in a bid to understand the guidelines. Expressions of interest need to be submitted by 31 October 2023, and project submissions required by the end of November. The team had been undertaking an extensive data mining exercise to fully understand the issues of inequality and poverty throughout the district which would help determine where the funding goes. A briefing next Wednesday 04 October at 7pm for all Councillors would be held to show what has been learnt from the data exercise and enable them to share their knowledge of their wards.

The Portfolio Holder for Digital and Communications, Councillor Clarke informed Members that the latest edition of the email newsletter was being

issued tomorrow and now has over 1,000 subscribers. The next edition of HART news is being prepared with a planned publication date of 27 November 2023.

The Portfolio Holder for Regulatory, Councillor Collins had nothing to report.

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Development Management, Councillor Oliver confirmed that he had attended several meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) over the last month. In addition to the reopening of Yateley Police station, the PCC was looking for a potential police station site in Fleet.

The Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Corporate Services, Councillor Quarterman reported that the first meeting of the Hart Climate Emergency Engagement Group had taken place on Tuesday 26 September 2023, with 17 representatives of local Towns, Parishes and interest groups attending. Initial feedback was encouraging, and this group would continue to meet on a quarterly basis to encourage local stakeholders to work with the Council to achieve climate change targets.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy and Place, Councillor Cockarill reported that the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) consultation has now closed and that responses were being sifted and with a view to bring the responses to O&S in November. Work was underway on two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), one on viability and another on car parking, which were scheduled to be brought before Cabinet over the next 2 months. The revised Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan had now reached the Referendum stage with a Cabinet report scheduled for October. Following on from the O&S task & finish group on Conservation Area appraisals, the team is working on how we could follow up the group's recommendations. The 5-year land supply statement is now completed and as of today, our 5-year land supply stands at 10.8 years.

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm

Hart District Council

Full Council Meeting, Thursday 28 September 2023

Questions to Council

Agenda Item 5: Council Procedure Rule 12 – Questions by the Public

From Mr Cornwell:

If the formal lease, transferring responsibility for the future management of Hatten's Pond and Causeway Farm Pond to Hartley Wintney Parish Council cannot be signed in time for us to let the contracts necessary for the dredging work to commence on Monday 11 December, are there any reasons precluding Hartley Wintney Parish Council from just going ahead with this work?

From Councillor Neighbour:

If the Parish Council can provide us with a method statement, permissions to undertake the works, relevant risk assessments and proof of public liability insurance then the works can proceed irrespective of the lease issues.

Supplementary question from Mr Cornwell:

Can we have exact and unambiguous questions by the 06 October 2023 so that we can answer those and have confirmation from Hart District Council are completely happy with that so that we can let the approximately £50,000 worth of contracts by 01 November 2023.

From Councillor Neighbour:

Yes.

Hart District Council

Full Council Meeting, Thursday 28 September 2023

Questions to Council

Agenda Item 6: Council Procedure Rule 14 – Questions by Members

From Councillor Farmer:

In the light of the discussion at a recent meeting of O&S concerning planning issues and also concern about the apparent increase in planning appeals being allowed, can the Portfolio holder confirm that there is sufficient leadership oversight of the service and that the service has sufficient skills, and resources it needs, to deliver an efficient and effective planning service to applicants and residents?

Response From Councillor Oliver:

Thank you, Councillor Butcher, for asking the question on behalf of Councillor Farmer.

Firstly, can I just answer your query on the Appeals data. The level of appeals heard by the Planning Inspectorate this financial year is broadly in line with prior years 21/22 and 22/23 of around 65 per annum. Of those determined, as of 23 September 2023 37% have been allowed. This also compares favourably with previous years of 33% and 36% respectively.

However, I do understand the concerns raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (O&S). Every appeal decision is reviewed by senior staff in the planning team as most are on how the planning balance has been interpreted between the community and applicant by officers and Harts Planning Committee. This helps develop the decision-making process for future planning applications. In a small number of cases, it has been found that the sign-off process of the original planning application did not follow Harts established procedures or quality control. Actions have been taken to ensure this will not happen again. As this is a human resources issue, I will not make any further public statement on this.

Turning to your second point on the resources and skills needed in Development Management to provide an effective and efficient service for Hart. Firstly, I would point to the quarterly minutes of the O&S service panel for this and previous years where the challenges are discussed, KPI's monitored, and the implementation of change captured (particularly the Peer review Action Plan of the DM service in 2019). This describes a service in good health and well supported with the tools and budget it needs but being held back by resourcing issues. This challenge (discussed at every review of the Service Plan risk register) is a nationwide problem. We have this summer been successful in recruiting to our senior team, so I am now confident that we have good oversight of the service. We still have 4 roles to recruit to (heritage, enforcement. trees, applications) and these are being actively progressed. The general issue around recruitment of experienced planning people is causing problems.

One area I believe still needs attention and was a long-term action in our Peer Review, was communications between applicants/agents and officers. I am firmly of the opinion that many issues can be overcome if there is a regular personal connection between parties. This would be more than an email from an assigned planning officer and require formal introduction and regular contact with their clients. Most of our officers are very effective communicators whilst a few still work in relative silence. I am discussing with the Executive Director of Place how to bring all staff up to this level to move our service from good to great.

Supplementary Question

From Councillor Butcher:

Given the importance of this issue will the Portfolio holder commit to working with O&S to revisit the action plan to ensure our planning service is fit for purpose including potentially more detailed effective monitoring? And if yes when could this be achieved?

Response From Councillor Oliver:

During the time of the action plan in 2019 I was Chairman of the Planning Committee for four years, whilst it was being implemented. I regularly received updates and progress reports on the issues raised. It is completed, bar the one issue previously acknowledged.

In discussions with the Executive Director – Place we plan to repeat the process as part of the next service plan to be discussed in the autumn. It will be beneficial after 5 years to look at the service from an outside perspective. Yes, I will work with O&S on this and hope they support putting this as a priority action in our service plan.

From Councillor Crampton:

At September's Cabinet meeting the Portfolio holder for Regulatory updated Cabinet that a public consultation on the Dog Fouling Public Space Protection Order had begun, this being some three months after the previous PSPO had expired at the end of May this year.

Why wasn't this paper brought to Cabinet before the PSPO had expired?

Response From Councillor Collins:

Obviously not renewing this before May was an oversight, however, if we had waited to bring the draft PSPO to Cabinet before starting the consultation this would have delayed it further. The draft PSPO covers the same matters as the previous one and therefore it was considered appropriate to start the consultation.

The role cabinet took was to formally delegate Mr Jaggard, Executive Director-Place, in consultation with myself to adopt the new PSPO after assessing the responses to the public consultation. If any significant issues are raised, then we can decide to bring it back to Cabinet for consideration.

Supplementary Question

From Councillor Crampton:

If the PSPO had been renewed in time, a consultation would not have been necessary, do you have systems in place to make sure it does not happen again?

Response From Councillor Collins:

We are implementing some SharePoint workflow functionality to enable email warnings for policies, which will hopefully prevent this from happening again.

Minute Annex

Hart District Council's Response to Farnborough Airport Consultation

Executive Summary

The Council is responding to Farnborough Airport Ltd (FAL) consultation on plans to increase flights with more at weekends and other changes. This is prior to FAL submitting a formal planning Application to Rushmoor District Council later this year (according to the FAL schedule).

The Council is responding to the details that are published on FAL's consultation website: <https://farnboroughairport2040.com/>

The Council has considerable concerns about the possible impacts of such changes and the following Motion agreed by the Council on 28 September frames the Council's response to FAL's consultation.

1. The Motion

Hart District Council is dismayed that Farnborough Airport Ltd (FAL) should seek to increase their overall flight number cap, as the impact of this will only exacerbate the Climate Change Emergency declared by Hart District Council, Rushmoor Borough Council and the UK government. Hart District Council also recognises that many residents of Hart and surrounding areas will adversely suffer increased noise annoyance from extending the number and operational window of weekend and bank holiday flights. The Chief Executive (in conjunction with Hart's Farnborough Airport Consultative Committee Members) shall submit a more detailed set of comments to the FAL consultation to reflect these views.

Proposed by: Cllrs: Dorn and Radley

2. Detailed Response

The Council's detailed response is:

1. Hart is concerned that public consultation events were not more proportionally focussed at locations in the more affected areas to the west of the main runway (eg. Church Crookham, Crondall, etc)
2. Hart would wish to see all negative impactors (greenhouse gases, noise etc) be at reduced in the future, in terms of their total output attributed to FAL operations, even with increased movements.
3. Pursuant to its climate change agenda, Hart is generally against more flights of any type that increases the release of greenhouse gases. Any proposal to modify flight movements at FRN should be at least carbon-neutral and ideally net-zero (though reduced movements, technological improvements etc) before 2040.
4. Carbon emission improvements must be genuine at source and not be achieved through offsetting.
5. Diplomatic & so called "VIP flights" should no-longer be categorised separately and should be included in the overall annual cap and included in noise contour calculations.

Hart District Council's Response to Farnborough Airport Consultation

This is because they have the same impact on residents and generate the same revenue for the airport operator as 'normal' flights.

6. Hart notes that:
 - a. The increase in flights would set-back FAL's carbon neutrality plans.
 - b. The focus on "controllable" emissions should also look to manage and reduce those aspects that are less controllable including: routing for minimal carbon generation and a proportion of Scope 3 (down route) carbon effects to be factored into the airport's calculations (least the airport becomes a clean gateway for highly polluting activities).
 - c. Hart encourages more rapid progress towards more sustainable aviation in terms of fuel types, aircraft use, routing, and ground-side activities.
7. Hart is concerned about the negative effects on residents from aircraft noise. Any increase in flights will have a disproportionate effect on those closest to the current flight paths. Hence the overall noise effects must be shown to be neutral or reduced in the plan period.
8. Hart opposes any shift in flight numbers towards "non weekdays".
 - a. If changed, the flight numbers must be monitored and controlled to a finer timescale (ie limits per hour) to avoid massive flight concentrations around particular times. The "late on Sunday" slot being an obvious candidate for many of such movements which would cause intolerable over-flight burdens to affected residents during their weekends.
9. The extension of operating hours is not supported. Hart residents suffer enough from the current operating times, with the flight routes over areas inhabited by young families.
10. Hart would prefer a change to licence conditions based on noise and emissions, rather than weight.
11. Hart strongly opposes the change in operating weight limitations from 50->55T, due to existing heavy aircraft (in that weight interval) not being counted and managed in any revised movement limitations.
12. Hart welcomes addition apprenticeship and training opportunities for local young people and believes that the selection process should reflect and reward local connections. Increased opportunities should be included in the conditions of the final proposal.
13. Community Environmental Fund¹ (CEF)

¹ [Apply for a Farnborough Airport Community Environmental Fund grant - Rushmoor Borough Council](#)

Hart District Council's Response to Farnborough Airport Consultation

- a. The contribution² to the Community Environmental Fund for each landing/take-off should be increased to £6 and £12 respectively for the current size categories.
- b. The application area must be changed to better align with those affected by noise. The current 5km circle⁴, should be replaced with a defined area that better aligns with affected residents. An eclipse, aligned with the runway with major axis 18km and minor axis 5km would be a possible option.

14. Hart notes the new Sustainability Fund, but makes the following points: -

- a. The inclusion of such a wide area simply dilutes the application of the fund and makes it less effective. A single fund, more aligned to those areas regularly overflowed would be a better option.
- b. That contributions must be additional to those made for the CEF.
- c. The Criteria for application, method of selection and terms for payments for such a fund (if proposed as additional to the CEF) will need to be clarified. These should be focussed on community groups and be broad enough to enable a eclectic range of projects. Inclusion of local representation in the selection process would be required.

15. Sound Insulation Scheme

- a. Hart requests that the current sound insulation scheme³ terms be clarified and more widely publicised, with a revise definition to assist those residents most affected.⁴ To this end, the scheme should be extended through lower noise contour.
- b. The proposed changes to the scheme are disingenuous, as the western extension is over unpopulated military training land.

Daryl Phillips
Chief Executive
Hart District Council

² *These values do not appear to have been adjusted since the "2010 Deed" (based on the planning appeal conditions) that covers current operations. [Farnborough airport's planning history - Rushmoor Borough Council](#) ⁴ [Airport community and environment fund area map \(rushmoor.gov.uk\)](#)*

³ *[Environment | Farnborough Airport](#)*

⁴ *[Farnborough Airport – Possible Policy Mechanisms for Controlling Noise v4 \(rushmoor.gov.uk\)](#) Para 4.15 states no residential properties have met the criteria.*