

NOTICE OF MEETING

CABINET

TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 12.00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER - THE GUILDHALL, PORTSMOUTH

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Please note the public health requirements for attendees at the bottom of the agenda.

Membership

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Chair)

Councillor Suzy Horton (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Chris Attwell Councillor Jason Fazackarley

Councillor Kimberly Barrett Councillor Lee Hunt Councillor Darren Sanders Councillor Steve Pitt

Councillor Lynne Stagg Councillor Matthew Winnington

(NB This agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Deputations by members of the public may be made on any item where a decision is going to be taken. The request should be made in writing to the contact officer (above) by 12 noon of the working day before the meeting, and must include the purpose of the deputation (for example, for or against the recommendations). Email requests are accepted.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Declarations of Interests
- Record of Previous Decision Meetings 22 November 2022, 13 December 2022 and 17 January 2023 (Pages 15 30)

A copy of the record of the previous decisions taken at Cabinet on 22 November 2022,13 December 2022 and 17 January 2023 are attached.

4 Portsmouth City Council Budget and Council Tax 2023/24 and Medium Term Budget Forecast 2024/25 to 2026/27 (Pages 31 - 142)

<u>Purpose</u>

- The primary purpose of this report is to set the Council's overall Budget for the forthcoming year 2023/24 and the associated level of Council Tax necessary to fund that Budget.
- The report makes recommendations on the level of Council spending for 2023/24 and the level of Council Tax in the context of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, with its stated aim as follows:

OVERALL AIM

"In year" expenditure matches "in year" income over the medium term whilst continuing the drive towards regeneration of the City, being innovative, creative and protecting the most important and valued services

- 3. The recommended Budget for 2023/24 has been prepared on the basis of the following:
 - The requirement to meet savings amounting to £2.0m in order to offset the substantial cost pressures being driven by extra-ordinary levels of inflation and service demand
 - An increase in the level of Council Tax for 2023/24 for general purposes of 2.99%
 - The flexibility to increase the level of Council Tax for an "Adult Social Care Precept", within the limits set by Central Government at 2.0%, and the direct passporting of that additional funding to Adult Social Care to provide for otherwise unfunded cost pressures including the 9.7% increase in the National Living Wage.
- 4. This report also provides a comprehensive revision of the Council's rolling 3 Year Forward Financial Forecast for the new period 2024/25 to 2026/27 (i.e. compared to the previous forecast covering 2023/24 to 2025/26, this forecast now replaces the forecast for the previous 3 year period).
- 5. The new forecast considers the future outlook for both spending and funding, and in that context, wider recommendations are made regarding the levels of reserves to be maintained and additional contributions to the Capital Programme in order to meet the Council's aspirations for the City, as well as maintaining the Council's overall financial resilience throughout this uncertain period.
- 6. In particular, this report sets out the following:
 - (a) The dramatic change in the financial environment during the current year alongside the financial challenges that this presents for 2023/24 and beyond
 - (b) A brief summary of the Medium Term Financial Strategy for achieving the necessary savings
 - (c) The revised Revenue Budget and Cash Limits for the current year
 - (d) The Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023/24

- (e) The Business Rate income for 2023/24 and future years
- (f) The Council Tax base and recommended Council Tax for 2023/24
- (g) The forecast Collection Fund balance as at 31 March 2023 for both Council Tax and Business Rates
- (h) The detailed indicative savings (Appendix C) that could be made by each Portfolio / Committee in meeting its overall savings amount in order to provide the Council with the assurance necessary to approve the recommended savings amount for each Portfolio / Committee
- (i) The proposed Revenue Budget and Cash Limits for 2023/24
- (j) The forecast Revenue Budgets for 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27
- (k) Estimated General Reserves over the period 2022/23 to 2026/27
- (I) The Medium Term Resource Strategy (MTRS) Reserve, its financial position and proposed use to achieve cashable savings
- (m) The proposed Capital Programme and "new starts" (including the Housing Investment Capital Programme) for 2023/24 and future years in accordance with the Capital Strategy
- (n) The Statement of the S.151 Officer on the robustness of the budget in compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1. That the following be approved in respect of the Council's Budget:
 - 1) The revised Revenue Estimates for the financial year 2022/23 and the Revenue Estimates for the financial year 2023/24 as set out in the General Fund Summary (Appendix A)
 - 2) The Portfolio Cash Limits for the Revised Budget for 2022/23 and the Budget 2023/24 incorporating the savings amounts for each Portfolio and amounting to £2.0m as set out in Sections 7 and 11, respectively
 - 3) To maintain the overall financial resilience of the Council, any underspendings arising at the year-end (outside of those made by Portfolios) be transferred either to Capital Resources to fund future Capital Programmes, the Covid Reserve, the MTRS Reserve or General Reserves with the level of each transfer to be determined by the S.151 Officer
 - 4) Any variation to the Council's funding arising from the final Local Government Finance Settlement be accommodated by a transfer to or from General Reserves
 - 5) The S.151 Officer be given delegated authority to make any necessary adjustments to Cash Limits within the overall approved Budget and Budget Forecasts
 - 6) That the level of Council Tax be increased by 2.99% for general purposes in accordance with the referendum threshold for 2023/24 announced by Government (as calculated in recommendation 3.4 (d))
 - 7) That the level of Council Tax be increased by a further 2.0% beyond the referendum threshold (as calculated in recommendation 3.4 (d)) to take advantage of the flexibility offered by Government to implement a "Social Care Precept", and that in accordance with the conditions of that flexibility, the full amount of the associated sum generated of £1,805,400 is

- passported direct to Adult Social Care
- 8) That Revenue Contributions to Capital be made in 2022/23 in the sum of £0.75m in order to provide sufficient funding for the New Capital Investment proposals set out in Appendix D
- 9) Managers be authorised to incur routine expenditure against the Cash Limits for 2023/24 as set out in Section 11
- 10) That no savings requirement for 2024/25 be set at this stage but that this is kept under review, pending any significant impact on the Council's future Forecast that may arise during 2023/24
- 11) That the S.151 Officer be given delegated authority to make transfers to and from reserves in order to ensure that they are maintained as necessary and in particular, adjusted when reserves are no longer required or need to be replenished
- 12) The minimum level of General Reserves as at 31 March 2024 be maintained at £10.0m to reflect the known and expected budget and financial risks to the Council
- 13) The Revised Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2027/28 attached as Appendix E which includes all additions, deletions and amendments for slippage and re-phasing
- 14) The S.151 Officer be given delegated authority to determine how each source of finance is used to fund the overall Capital Programme and to alter the overall mix of financing, as necessary, to maximise the flexibility of capital resources used and minimise the ongoing costs of borrowing to the Council
- 15) That the S.151 Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council be given delegated authority to release capital resources held back for any contingent items that might arise, and also for any match funding requirements that may be required of the City Council in order to secure additional external capital funding (e.g. bids for funding from Government or any other external source)
- 16) Subject to a satisfactory financial appraisal approved by the Director of Finance and Resources & S.151 Officer, the schemes described in Appendix D be reflected within the recommended Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2027/28
- 17) Subject to a satisfactory financial appraisal approved by the Director of Finance and Resources & S.151 Officer, that delegated authority to borrow up to £10m per year be granted in order that the Council can enter into transactions in an efficient and timely fashion and avoid the risk of lost opportunities which may be of a time critical nature
- 18) The Prudential Indicators described set out in Appendix F be approved.
- 19) Members have had regard for the Statement of the S.151 Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in Section 16.
- 2. That the following be noted in respect of the Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme:
 - 1) The Revenue Estimates 2023/24 as set out in Appendix A have been prepared on the basis of a 2.0% tax increase for the "Social"

- Care Precept" (amounting to £1,805,400) and that this is passported to Adult Social Care in order to provide for otherwise unfunded budget pressures including the current underlying budget deficit, the cost of the National Living Wage and demographic pressures arising from a "living longer" population
- 2) The decision on the amount at which to set the Adult Social Care precept will be critical for the Social Care and wider health system in the City; in the event that the additional flexibility of the "Social Care Precept" and associated 2.0% tax increase is not taken, then equivalent savings will need to be made in Adult Social Care in 2023/24
- 3) In general, any reduction to the proposed increase in the level of Council Tax for 2023/24 will require equivalent offsetting savings to be made in order for the Budget 2023/24 to be approved. Each 1% reduction requires additional savings of £902,700 to be made
- 4) The indicative savings proposals set out in Appendix C which are provided for the purpose of demonstrating to the Council that the Portfolio savings as recommended in paragraph 3.1 2) of the report are robust and deliverable
- 5) The likely impact of savings as set out in Appendix C
- 6) That the responsibility of the City Council is to approve the overall Budget and the associated cash limits of its Portfolios and Committees; it is not the responsibility of the City Council to approve any individual savings within those Portfolios / Committees
- 7) That it is the responsibility of the individual Portfolio Holders (not Full Council) to approve the individual savings proposals and the Portfolio Holder can therefore, in response to any consultation, alter, amend or substitute any of the indicative savings proposal(s) set out in Appendix C with alternative proposal(s) amounting to the same value within their Portfolio
- 8) Managers will commence the implementation of the approved savings required and any necessary consultation process or notice process
- 9) The Revenue Forecast for 2024/25 to 2026/27 as set out in Section 12 and Appendix B
- 10) That at this stage the Council's Future Forecast for the 3 Year Period 2024/25 to 2026/27 is estimated to be in balance; this is the Council's "central base case scenario" but due to the uncertainty associated with inflation, unavoidable cost pressures that may arise (particularly in Care Services), business rate appeals arising from the 2023/24 revaluation and the forthcoming overhaul of Local Government Funding, this could vary by +/- £5m
- 11) The MTRS Reserve held to fund the upfront costs associated with Spend to Save Schemes, Invest to Save Schemes and redundancies will hold an uncommitted balance of £5.8m and will only be replenished in future from an approval to the transfer of any underspends, contributions from the Revenue Budget or transfers from other reserves which may no longer be required
- 12) The Council's share of the Council Tax element of the Collection Fund deficit for 2022/23 is estimated to be £618,996
- 13) The Council's share of the Business Rate element of the Collection

- Fund surplus for 2022/23 is estimated to be £2,984,906
- 14) The Retained Business Rate income^[2] for 2023/24 is based on the estimated Business Rate element of the Collection Fund surplus as at March 2023, the Non Domestic Rates poundage for 2023/24 and estimated rateable values for 2023/24 and has been determined at £64,303,198
- 15) That Cabinet Members, in consultation with the S.151 Officer, have authority to vary Capital Schemes and their associated funding within or across Portfolios in order to manage any potential overspending or funding shortfall or to respond to emerging priorities
- 16) That Cabinet Members, in consultation with the S.151 Officer, have authority to vire funding between Portfolios (both Revenue and Capital Budgets) in order to manage any potential overspending or funding shortfall or to respond to emerging priorities
- 17) The City Council note that Prudential Borrowing can only be used as a source of capital finance for Invest to Save Schemes.
- 3. That the S.151 Officer has determined that the Council Tax base for the financial year 2023/24 will be 57,480.6 [item T in the formula in Section 31 B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")].
- 4. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the financial year 2023/24 in accordance with Section 31 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

(a)	£518,369,198	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
(b)	£423,591,161	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£94,778,037	Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3.4 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3.4 (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Act.
(d)	£1,648.87	Being the amount at 3.4(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item 3.3 above (Item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(e) Valuation Bands (Portsmouth City Council)

Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,099.25	1,282.45	1,465.66	1,648.87	2,015.29	2,381.70	2,748.12	3,297.74

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 3.4 (d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings in different valuation bands.

5. That it be noted that for the financial year 2023/24 the Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner is consulting upon the following amounts for the precept to be issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands (Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner)

Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
167.64	195.58	223.52	251.46	307.34	363.22	419.10	502.92

6. That it be noted that for the financial year 2023/24 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority it is estimated that the following amounts for the precept issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority)

Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
53.62	62.56	71.49	80.43	98.30	116.18	134.05	160.86

7. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.4(e), 3.5 and 3.6 above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the financial year 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands (Total Council Tax)

Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,320.51	1,540.59	1,760.67	1,980.76	2,420.93	2,861.10	3,301.27	3,961.52

8. The Council determines in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24, which represents a 4.99% increase, is not

excessive in accordance with the principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC of the Act; and it be noted that:

- i) The 4.99% increase includes a 2.0% increase to support the delivery of Adult Social Care
- ii) As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority (the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire or the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority) that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 9. The S.151 Officer be given delegated authority to implement any variation to the overall level of Council Tax arising from the final notification of the Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority precepts.

5 Exclusion of Press and Public

"That, under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985, the press and public be excluded for the consideration of the following items on the grounds that the report(s) contain information defined as exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972".

The public interest in maintaining the exemption must outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.

Under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) England Regulations 2012, regulation 5, the reasons for exemption of the listed item is shown below.

Members of the public may make representation as to why the item should be held in open session. A statement of the Council's response to representations received will be given at the meeting so that this can be taken into account when members decide whether or not to deal with the item under exempt business.

(NB The exempt/confidential committee papers on the agenda will contain information which is commercially, legally or personally sensitive and should not be divulged to third parties. Members are reminded of standing order restrictions on the disclosure of exempt information and are invited to return their exempt documentation to the

^[1] Council Tax increases beyond the referendum threshold can only be implemented following a "Yes" vote in a local referendum

Includes Retained Business Rates £38,841,437, "Top Up" £6,284,998, a surplus on the Collection Fund of £2,984,906 plus S.31 Grants of £16,191,857 for compensation due to national Government business rate relief initiatives

Local Democracy Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for shredding.)

Item

Paragraph

6. Portico Shipping Limited – 2023/24 Budget & 2024/25 to 2025/2026 Forecast

Appendices 1-6

7. Recycling Infrastructure Update

Appendix 2

6 Portico Shipping Limited - 2023/24 Budget & 2024/25 to 2025/2026 Forecast (Pages 143 - 168)

<u>Purpose</u>

- 1. The Council wholly owns Portico Shipping Limited ("the Company"), a company which provides cargo handling and stevedoring services from Portsmouth International Port.
- 2. The Company's board of directors are required, by their Articles of Association, to prepare an annual budget and to seek the approval of Cabinet as shareholder, of that Business Plan. Once approved, the directors of the Company must ensure that the Company's business is conducted in compliance with that plan.
- 3. The Budget & Forecast has been presented and scrutinised by the Company Advisory Group, as part of the governance for the shareholder.
- 4. The report sets out the advice and recommendations from the Council's officers together with areas of concern and key risks for Cabinet to consider in its on-going investment in the Company.

RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- a) Approves the Company's annual Business Plan, as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- b) Notes the likely call-down of up to £1.8 million from the £15 million loan approved within the Council's existing Capital Programme in the Financial Year 2023/2024, as set out in exempt Appendix 3.
- c) Notes that the Council will carry out an independent assessment of the future business plan of the Company in comparison to reasonable alternatives to ensure that ongoing Council support provides the best financial return to the Council. This should be carried out and reported back to Cabinet ahead of the 2024/25 budget before any further Revenue or Capital Budgets are approved.

Recycling Infrastructure Update (Pages 169 - 184)

Purpose

- 1. This report sets out the business case for Portsmouth City Councils capital investment of a 11.52% share in a new materials recovery facility (MRF) at Chickenhall Lane in Eastleigh and associated works at the Waste Transfer Station (WTS) network across Portsmouth, Southampton and Hampshire. This will enable the delivery of a new system (twin stream) for collecting dry recyclable waste across Portsmouth, Southampton and Hampshire that complies with the requirements for consistency in kerbside recycling services set out in the Environment Act 2021.
- 2. The report sets out the benefits to residents with the introduction of twin stream recycling to enable improved recycling at the kerbside.
- 3. Hampshire County Council (HCC) have agreed the capital investment required for the MRF and Southampton City Council (SCC) have set aside funding in their capital programme.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) That Cabinet approves the requirement for a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Chickenhall Lane in Eastleigh and the associated necessary works to the WTS network, as outlined in this report subject to approval by the Director of Finance and Resources to incur expenditure in line with the sum in the approved capital programme. It is additionally subject to continued support for the scheme from tripartite disposal authority partners HCC and SCC, and Hampshire district authorities.
- 2) That approval be given to procure, spend and enter into the necessary contractual arrangements, in consultation with the City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, to implement the proposed development of the new MRF and associated works to the WTS network as set out in this report to be funded from prudential borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board.
- 3) That authority to make the arrangements to implement the scheme, including minor variations to the design or contract, be delegated to the Director of Housing, Buildings and Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources as appropriate.
- 8 Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (Pages 185 420)

Purpose

To inform Cabinet that the draft Parks and Open Spaces strategy is ready for wider consultation. To seek approval to share the draft strategy for public consultation.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) That approval is given for the wider distribution of the draft Parks and Open Spaces strategy for consultation.
- 2)
- 2) If approval is given, the strategy will be reviewed following receipt of any responses and brought back to Cabinet at a future date for

adoption.

9 Milton Common Local Nature Reserve Mitigation and Management Framework (Pages 421 - 492)

Purpose

- The purpose of this report is to present for adoption the Milton Common Local Nature Reserve Mitigation and Management Framework (2023). This updates and will supersede the Milton Common Local Nature Reserve Restoration and Management Framework, which was adopted by the City Council in 2015.
- 2) The updated Framework, appended to the report, redesigns the landscape and management plan of Milton Common to reflect changes that have occurred since 2015, such as the sea defence work. The evidence regarding recreational usage and existing habitat provision has also been updated and relevant changes legislation and guidance has been considered and included. Overall the proposed management framework now seeks a total contribution of £4,229,332 from developers in the area. This can be compared to the £3,411,520 that was being sought from developers in the area under the current 2015 Framework.

RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approve and adopt the update to the Milton Common Local Nature Reserve Mitigation and Management Framework subject to any comments from Natural England being addressed.

10 Coastal Schemes Achievements (Pages 493 - 494)

Purpose

- 1. To update Cabinet on the progress made on the Southsea and the North Portsea Island Coastal Schemes.
- 2. To note the wider benefits of the schemes and their contributions to sustainable construction with zero to waste at its core, approach to working with and support the natural habitats around Portsea and to note how the scheme continues to surprise with historic finds and adapts to acknowledge the history of the place.

11 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Pages 495 - 500)

<u>Purpose</u>

- UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) was launched in August 22 as a key strategy to within the levelling up agenda. UKSPF replaces previous ESF (European Social Funding) and is designed to support local areas to overcome the deep-seated geographical inequalities and promote people's pride in place.
- 2. Portsmouth received an allocation of £1,423,433 over 3 years, significantly less than anticipated based on previous ESF delivery, the CRF (Community Renewal Fund) pilot delivered in 21/22 as a trial for UKSPF

and local need.

3. The allocation is received as follows:

22/23 23/24 24/25 £172,747 £345,493 £905,193

- 4. Money is awarded against a provisional Investment Plan, which was approved and submitted in August 2022, highlighting provisional spend against the 41 delivery lines. The investment plan was clearly linked to Imagine Portsmouth 2030 and Portsmouth City Councils priorities.
- 5. In December 22 we received confirmation of the approved Investment Plan. With contracting agreed we now have an allocation of £172,747 for in year spend.
- 6. Spend is over 3 priorities (Community & People / Local Business/ People & Skills), noting there is no allowed spend on People & Skills until year 3 (24/25). 10% of the overall spend is required to be capital not revenue spend.
- 7. It is noted that in each financial year we are seeing the ending of significant ESF funded projects including business support (in excess of £1M per year), Solent LEP provisions, FE Capital spend and wider social/community and business projects including CCIXR (UoP) Augmented Reality etc which will have very limited sources of funding.
- 8. Allocations have been shared with cross council funding groups to ensure priority has gone to maximising existing funding streams and securing impact for businesses and residents.

12 Parking Strategy (Pages 501 - 510)

Purpose

- 1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the forthcoming Portsmouth Parking Strategy, including key milestones and an indicative timeline to adoption.
- 2. This report outlines how the parking strategy will support all those who travel in Portsmouth, ultimately supporting improved travel choices for all those seeking to travel into and move around the city, whether by private car or using alternative modes.
- This report highlights the other key workstreams that will be integral to the development of the Parking Strategy, including alignment with the Parking Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the new Portsmouth Local Plan.
- 4. The Parking Strategy is an integral strategy document to support delivery of both the Portsmouth Transport Strategy and the Portsmouth Local Plan. The parking strategy seeks to support the strategic sites and area allocations identified in the local plan by re-distributing valuable land in order to increase productivity and economic benefits to Portsmouth.

Public health guidance for staff and the public due to Winter coughs, colds and viruses, including Covid-19

- Following the government announcement 'Living with Covid-19' made on 21 February 2022 and the end of universal free testing from 1 April 2022, attendees are no longer required to undertake any asymptomatic/ lateral flow test within 48 hours of the meeting; however, we still encourage attendees to follow the public health precautions we have followed over the last two years to protect themselves and others including vaccination and taking a lateral flow test should they wish.
- We strongly recommend that attendees should be double vaccinated and have received any boosters they are eligible for.
- If unwell we encourage you not to attend the meeting but to stay at home. Updated government guidance from 1 April 2022 advises people with a respiratory infection, a high temperature and who feel unwell, to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature. From 1 April 2022, anyone with a positive Covid-19 test result is still being advised to follow this guidance for five days, which is the period when you are most infectious.
- We encourage all attendees to wear a face covering while moving around crowded areas of the Guildhall.
- Although not a legal requirement, attendees are strongly encouraged to keep a social
 distance and take opportunities to prevent the spread of infection by following the 'hands,
 face, space' and 'catch it, kill it, bin it' advice that protects us from coughs, colds and winter
 viruses, including Covid-19.
- Hand sanitiser is provided at the entrance and throughout the Guildhall. All attendees are encouraged to make use of hand sanitiser on entry to the Guildhall.
- Those not participating in the meeting and wish to view proceedings are encouraged to do so remotely via the livestream link.

14 February 2023