



NOTICE OF MEETING

CABINET

TUESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 2.30 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER - THE GUILDHALL, PORTSMOUTH

Telephone enquiries to Anna Martyn - Tel 023 9283 4870
Email: Democratic@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

If any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the contact named above.

Membership

Councillor Steve Pitt (Chair)	
Councillor Suzy Horton (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor Dave Ashmore	Councillor Hugh Mason
Councillor Kimberly Barrett	Councillor Darren Sanders
Councillor Ian Holder	Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Councillor Lee Hunt	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**
- 3 Record of Previous Decision Meeting - 9 January 2024 (Pages 7 - 12)**
A copy of the record of the previous decisions taken at Cabinet on 9 January 2024 is attached.
- 4 Portsmouth Cemeteries Delivery Plan (Pages 13 - 52)**
Purpose

To present a framework for the future provision and management of cemeteries in Portsmouth.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet

- 1. Give approval for distribution of the cemeteries delivery plan to key user groups for consultation.**
- 2. If approval is given, agree that the delivery plan will be reviewed following receipt of any responses and brought back to Cabinet at a future date for adoption.**

5 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (Pages 53 - 206)

Purpose

To seek Cabinet approval to formally adopt the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet formally adopt the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

6 Community Inclusion Grants (Pages 207 - 214)

Purpose

To update on the Community Inclusion Grant scheme.

7 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Year 2 Interim Report (Pages 215 - 222)

Purpose

To identify the approved and intended spending allocations under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

8 Supporting residents with the cost of living (Pages 223 - 254)

Purpose

1. To highlight the impact if the Government decides not to extend Household Support Fund (HSF) grant to local authorities from 1 April 2024, and what this would mean for the Council's ability to support residents affected by the cost of living crisis.
2. To make recommendations for the Council to continue to provide cost of living support to residents in financial hardship during the financial year April 2024 to March 2025, subject to the Council budget-setting process and any announcement from Government on HSF or other funding for local authorities to provide cost of living support.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet

- 1. Approves the plan to deliver cost of living support to residents through the service delivery outlined in Appendix 1, subject to the Council budget-setting process and any announcement from Government on HSF or other funding for local authorities to provide cost of living support.**
- 2. Delegates to the Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services, the implementation of the plan and adjustments to the plan and spend, in the event that other funding sources become available,**

in agreement with the Leader and S.151 officer.

3. Asks the Tackling Poverty Coordinator to continue to work with partner agencies and residents to ensure we have a joined up, partnership approach to cost of living support, making best use of resources across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors.
4. Notes the Leader's letters sent to the Secretaries of State at the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities shown in Appendix 2, and agrees to continue to lobby Government for additional funding for Local Authorities, to enable us to provide more comprehensive local welfare provision and support to residents affected by the ongoing cost of living crisis.
5. Places on record their thanks for the cross-directorate working group which has supported the implementation of the delivery of the Household Support Fund in 2023/24 and produced a plan to sustain a package of cost of living support throughout 2024/25.
6. Also places on record a note of special thanks to the teams across the Council who have delivered support to residents affected by the cost of living crisis, and to the Council's Tackling Poverty Coordinator and the Household Support Fund delivery team who have administered the HSF in 2023/24. The setting up of a delivery team, designing application processes to deliver the grant to households throughout the city in the same financial year the grant was received is noted as exemplary work.

9 Council Tax Support Fund (Pages 255 - 270)

Purpose

To seek approval of the attached Council Tax Support Fund policy.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet

1. Agree that where funds remain available after making reductions as outlined in the core scheme's provisions, that Portsmouth City Council apply the discount as described within the core scheme to those chargepayers who become eligible for LCTS in respect of the 2023/24 financial year between 03 March 2023 and 31 March 2024.
2. Should it become apparent that funding will be remaining above what is required for the activity detailed in recommendation 1, the Council will use its discretion to further support vulnerable households in receipt of LCTS where hardship has been identified through the council tax recovery process.
3. Approve the proposed policy accompanying this report.

10 Council Tax Premiums on Second Homes and Empty Properties (Pages 271 - 286)

Purpose

To seek confirmation of the Council's intentions in respect of Council Tax premiums.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet

- 1. Agree to recommend that Full Council resolves to implement a 100% premium for second homes which will be effective from 01 April 2025, the earliest opportunity for the Council to introduce this change.**
- 2. Agree to further recommend that Full Council resolves to implement a 100% premium for properties that have been empty and unfurnished for a period between 1 and 5 years. This will change to current policy of charging a 100% premium where a property is empty and unfurnished for period between 2 and 5 years.**

11 PCC Budget and Council Tax 2024/2025 and Medium Term Budget Forecast 2025/2026 to 2027/2028

Report to follow

12 Integration of LEP Functions into Upper Tier Local Authorities (Pages 287 - 298)

Purpose

To update Cabinet on the integration of Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions into Upper Tier Local Authorities (UTLAs) and seek approval for Portsmouth City Council to work with the Isle of Wight Council and Southampton City Council to jointly take on these integrated LEP functions and deal with the changes that result from this new approach including the creation of a joint UTLA Board to take on these responsibilities.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet

- 1. Note that subject to meeting certain conditions (see paragraph 3.3) the Government is looking to integrate a number of existing LEP functions into UTLAs.**
- 2. Note that to meet the conditions, and to maintain a focus on the Solent area, Portsmouth City Council (PCC) will need to work with Southampton City Council and the Isle of Wight Council to take on these functions through the creation of a new joint UTLA Board.**
- 3. Agree that, subject to the three Solent UTLA area being recognised by the Government as an area for LEP integration, with appropriate due diligence, PCC should become a Member of Solent Partners (SP), a company limited by guarantee, that is a successor body to the Solent LEP, to help drive economic growth in the sub-region. This agreement to be conditional on Isle of Wight Council and Southampton City similarly agreeing to become Members of Solent Partners.**
- 4. Agree that PCC should not appoint a Director to the Board of Solent Partners to ensure that there is no conflict of interest with the wider governance needed for the new LEP integration arrangements. PCC will seek appropriate requirements, within the articles of Solent Partners, to ensure representatives of the three Solent UTLAs are entitled to observe board meetings.**
- 5. Note the proposed draft governance structure attached as Appendix 1 that shows how PCC should work with partners to achieve our economic growth ambitions which will need to be outlined in an updated Solent 2050 Strategy.**

6. Agree that subject to the agreement of SCC and IOWC, PCC is confirmed as the Accountable Body for Solent Partners.
7. Agree that PCC, as the accountable body, agrees that any existing LEP funding, disaggregated to the three Solent UTLAs can be pooled (subject to the agreement of Isle of Wight Council and Southampton City Council), for the benefit of economic growth of the region.
8. Agree that PCC, as one of the three UTLAs, will work with partners to develop an agreement on how Solent Partners will deliver economic growth for the functional economic area.
9. Agree that delegated authority be jointly given to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance and S151 officer, to agree the final details of the transfer of LEP functions to the UTLAs including future governance arrangements.
10. Agree that PCC should seek to support the creation of a Solent Economic Partnership, inviting adjacent Districts and Boroughs, Hampshire County Council, and other key public sector stakeholders, to enable Local Authorities leaders and leaders within the business community to have a regular opportunity to discuss and support economic growth in the region.
11. Note the intention to agree disaggregation of assets held by the LEP to the Accountable Body on behalf of the Upper Tier Local Authorities (subject to the agreement of the three Solent unitary UTLAs).

13 Southsea and North Portsea Island Coastal Schemes updates (Pages 299 - 330)

Purpose

1. To update Cabinet on the progress made on the Southsea and the North Portsea 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 Southsea Coastal Scheme continues to surprise with historic finds and adapts to acknowledge the history of the place.

14 Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2026 (Pages 331 - 362)

Purpose

To officially launch and provide information about the Portsmouth's Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2023 - 2026.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet agree that the council adopt the Strategy.

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