



Agenda

Meeting: **Council**
Date: **25 February 2026**
Time: **7.00 pm**
Place: **Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone**

To: **All Members of the Council**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of the Council on the date and at the time shown above.

Anyone who wishes to have information on any matter arising on the Agenda which is not fully covered in these papers is requested to give notice prior to the meeting to the Chair or appropriate officer.

This meeting will be webcast live to the council's website at <https://folkestone-hythe.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>.

Please note there will be 37 seats available for members of the public, which will be reserved for those speaking or participating at the meeting. The remaining available seats will be given on a first come, first served basis.

Dr Susan Priest
Chief Executive

7. Questions from Councillors (Pages 3 - 6)

(Questions can be found on www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk from noon 2

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Contact Jemma West – Tel: 01303 853369
Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or download from our
website
www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

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days before the meeting, on Modern.gov, under the agenda for this meeting).

Up to 45 minutes is allowed for questions from councillors.

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Cllr Questions:

1. From Councillor Cooper to Councillor P Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control

Due to dog fouling complaints reflecting on responsible dog owners does the council have any plans to pass a bye law requiring the appropriate dog walkers to carry a bag or container to pick it up?

2. From Councillor Hills to Councillor J Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy

Following last week's Folkestone and Hythe Beach Bathing Community Engagement Meeting. Would the leader agree to write to Emma Reynolds MP Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to ask for more resources to be given to the Environment Agency to delve deeper and identify the ongoing underlying problems with water quality within Hythe Bay?

3. From Councillor Hills to Councillor J Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy

Following the storm 'Goretti' Can the leader arrange a meeting with the Environment Agency, MOD, and Natural England to discuss the concerns of residents looking to defend the Romney Marsh and Lydd from flooding?

According to the Environment Agency the current position is:

"The long-term plan for this frontage is to maintain the current alignment to a standard of protection of 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year). Due to the MoD requirements this will be until at least until 2045. Sometime in the future a new realigned defence further inland may be required. This would also be a 0.5%AEP standard of protection ensuring that Lydd and the wider area is protected."

I believe time is not on our side as the weather becomes more extreme due to our changing climate as a matter of urgency.

4. From Councillor Mrs Jenny Hollingsbee to Councillor J Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy

The Princes Parade site has laid dormant and fenced off for three years now and £3.5m has been written off in this year's accounts as the original swimming pool project was abandoned. When the Council put out a 'call for development sites' was Princes Parade put forward as a possible option and if not what is the plan for its future use?

5. From Councillor Godfrey to Councillor M Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Community and Collaboration

Folkestone Invicta FC, which is a successful and welcome asset to our District, has recently found it necessary to significantly increase membership fees for their youth teams in their “Centre of Excellence” training programmes. The sign on fee has been increased from £45 to £200 and the monthly fee from £45 to £70 over 10 months thus a total fee of £900 per annum per child. These fees have proved too high for many families, and many will no longer be able to afford them. Access to grassroots football, as with all sports, is an invaluable source of social and physical education for young people and access to smaller town and village clubs in the District is limited. Whilst it is not in this Councils gift to interfere in the running of the Club in the Councils capacity as the Land Owner could I ask the Cabinet Member to open a dialogue with the Owner and Sponsors of Folkestone Invicta, Kent FA and perhaps Sport England to review these fees and seek a way to mitigate the impact on the youth of the District?

6. From Councillor Godfrey to Councillor Prater, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance

The MTCP which will be discussed later this evening contains provision for £6 million for the refurbishment of Hythe Pool of which £ 2 million will be required from prudential borrowing in 2026/27. Whilst the Conservative group is fully supportive of providing a pool in Hythe it questions the wisdom of spending this large amount of money on an ailing pool which has already cost residents substantial sums annually simply to patch it and keep it open with no income stream fully supporting it. Could the Cabinet Member advise where members can review the full business case and financial justification including assumptions on capital funding, borrowing costs, projected income, ongoing operating subsidies, projected lifetime and lifecycle maintenance?

7. From Councillor A Martin to Councillor Prater, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance

The Cabinet has agreed to pay a £2.4m grant to support Folkestone Sports Centre. A one-off capital grant intended in part to make the facility more sustainable is more acceptable than an ongoing commitment to subsidise, and most would agree that we should support the pool reopening. It is however a significant concern that we should be spending such a large amount of money to support an asset our council does not own and without direct control over its management. Can Councillor Prater please share why the council is comfortable offering a grant, rather than (for instance) a loan secured on land owned by the charity and lay out the business case that demonstrates that the facility can be run sustainably without risking the pool closing and the council wasting residents’ money?

8. From Councillor Keen to Councillor J Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy

The council and others interested bodies have begun legal action against Southern Water. What progress has been made to date that you can share with councillors and residents?

9. From Councillor Keen to Councillor McConville, Cabinet Member for Assets and Local Government Reorganisation

The recent bad weather that we have experienced has seen a lot of damage to the wooden beach huts. My question is “are wooden beach huts really fit for purpose should we as a council not look for a more sustainable material or better quality wooden structures”?

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