

Council – 1 April 2026

Cllr Questions:

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

Would the Leader agree, that this council must put pressure on the Environment Agency and Natural England to change the Shoreline Management Plan SMP 11, section 4C14 Lydd Ranges from 'managed realignment' to 'hold the line' as a matter of urgency to protect the town of Lydd and the wider Romney Marsh from flooding?

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

Given the concerning rise in divisive rhetoric surrounding migration at the county level, does the Leader agree that Folkestone & Hythe should instead lead with compassion and align with our values of equality and inclusion by committing to the principles of the 'District of Sanctuary' scheme?

3. From Councillor Alan Martin to Councillor Mike Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Community and Collaboration

Following my (premature) question last month, I note that the Cabinet has now made the decision to award a grant of £2.4m to support the reopening of Folkestone Swimming pool. This was also included within the budget decision at full council. Can Cllr Blakemore explain what level of detail the council has seen, or will as part of due diligence ahead of finalising contracts, with regard the business plan that demonstrates that the pool can be reopened and run on a sustainable basis?

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

On the new time limited Otterpool Park Collaboration Agreement with Homes England and a £2m injection of Match funding from the Council, what is the expected outcome?

5. From Councillor Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee to Councillor Mike Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Community and Collaboration

Are there any planned (or unplanned) urgent works required for Hythe Pool prior to its closure for redevelopment/refurbishment?

6. From Councillor Paul Thomas to Councillor Jeremy Speakman, Cabinet Member for Waste and Street cleansing and Corporate Health & Safety

Currently, New Romney High Street is included in Section 2A of the Street Cleaning Schedule, whereas many areas of Folkestone are in Section Z, as is Hythe High Street and they benefit from a higher level of service. New Romney residents and High Street business owners are concerned that this lower level of service is having a negative impact on High Street businesses. Can the Cabinet Member give consideration to elevating New Romney High Street from Level 2A to Level Z, to make the area cleaner and more attractive to regular users and visitors?

7. **From Councillor Paul Thomas to Councillor J Martin, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

Will this Council urge Kent County Council, who administer Kent Pension Fund, to ascertain the views of scheme members and to review its investment strategy and responsible investment policy, including those of Border to Coast in which the fund's assets are pooled, to ensure it is not funding human rights abuses or breaches of international law and is exposed to the associated financial risk?

8. **From Councillor Tony Cooper to Councillor Jeremy Speakman, Cabinet Member for Waste and Street Cleansing & Corporate Health**

The District is looking rather shabby as a result of a lack of road maintenance, and weed spraying by the Reform led Kent County Council. Can you please explain what steps FHDC is taking to address this, and when can residents expect to see positive change regarding the elimination of pavement and roadside weeds?