



# Agenda

Meeting: **Council**  
Date: **2 April 2025**  
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 - 4)**

(Questions can be found on [www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](http://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](mailto:committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) or download from our  
website  
[www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](http://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

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

Up to 45 minutes is allowed for questions from councillors.

## Council – 2 April 2025

### Councillor Questions:

1. **From Councillor Chapman to Councillor Mike Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Community and Collaboration**

We recently learned that Napier Barracks in Shorncliffe is going to be closed in September this year. Before it opened as an asylum accommodation centre it had lain derelict for many years as it was no longer fit for purpose as army barracks. Do you agree that this military site was never a suitable place to accommodate vulnerable and often severely traumatised people and that the closure is therefore good news?

2. **From Councillor Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

The Lyminge Community Hub proposed Community Interest Company has submitted a draft proposal to Cabinet Members and Ward Councillors for the retention of Everist Court as a Community facility. They have asked for a meeting with the Leader to consider this proposal. Will the Leader be meeting representatives of the group in order to explore more fully this proposal?

3. **From Councillor Keen to Councillor Holgate, Cabinet Member for Place Plan, Heritage, Tourism and District Economy**

In the Cabinet Member update report, published on 25 March 2025, Cllr Rich Holgate's update under *Folkestone: A Brighter Future* states:

***“Jackson Civil Engineering has been awarded the contract to deliver the transformation scheme, with work beginning on Monday 7 April 2025 and due to complete in Summer 2026.”***

However, I have checked the Contracts Register on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025, and I was unable to find any entry, in either tab, for Jackson Civil Engineering.

Given that Jackson Civil Engineering is scheduled to begin work on the contract for - *Folkestone: A Brighter Future* on the 7<sup>th</sup> April -, how is it possible that, as of 25 March—the date the Cabinet Member's report was published—and following a review of the Contracts Register on 26 March, the company does not appear on the register, and no details have been made publicly available regarding the contract's scope or value.

Can the Cabinet Member explain how such a substantial contract appears to have bypassed the standard principles of transparency and accountability—once again raising serious concerns about the council's internal controls and oversight of procurement processes?

4. **From Councillor Keen to Councillor Tim Prater, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance**

Since the Greens took control of the Council in May 2023, the Council has borrowed £28m from the Public Works Loan Board. Would the leader explain, in detail, what the borrowing has been used for, how much has been spent, and the total interest in pounds we'll pay on each of these loans?