



Notice is hereby given that an **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the **COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF GOSPORT** will be held in the **TOWN HALL, GOSPORT** on **WEDNESDAY** the **EIGHTEENTH DAY** of **DECEMBER 2013** at **6.00PM** AND **ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS –**

1. To receive apologies from Members for their inability to attend the Meeting
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th October 2013 (copy herewith).
3. To consider any Mayor's Communications.
4. To receive Deputations in accordance with Standing Order No 3.5 and to answer Public Questions pursuant to Standing Order No 3.6, such questions to be answered orally during a time not exceeding 15 minutes.

(NOTE: Standing Order No 3.5 requires that notice of a Deputation should be received by the **Borough Solicitor NOT LATER THAN 12 O'CLOCK NOON ON MONDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2013** and likewise Standing Order No 3.6 requires that notice of a Public Question should be received by the Borough Solicitor **NOT LATER THAN 12 O'CLOCK NOON ON MONDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2013**).

5. Questions (if any) pursuant to Standing Order No 3.4

(NOTE: Members are reminded that Standing Order No 3.4 requires that Notice of Question pursuant to that Standing Order must be received by the **Borough Solicitor NOT LATER THAN 12 O'CLOCK NOON ON TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2013**).

6. Notice of Motion

In accordance with suspension of Standing Order under 3.3.5 the following notices of Motion have been received:

- a) Councillor Forder –

Motion 1

That this Council suspends Standing Order 3.3.2 so that this Council Meeting may consider the following Notices of Motion

- b) Councillor Forder -

Motion 2

That the Council suspends Standing Order 4.6 so that this Council meeting may consider the motion set out in Motion 3.

c) Councillor Forder –

Motion 3

That, the Council notes with concern the report of the Wessex Clinical Senate, which calls for vascular surgery to be focused in Southampton. The Council vigorously opposes any such move. The Council is troubled that the composition of the Senate fails to adequately represent the residents of South East Hampshire who have clearly expressed their opposition through the News 'Keep it at Q A' petition.

Following research undertaken by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Council is gravely concerned that the loss of vascular surgery services at QA will undermine the viability of other important hospital services and degrade the Hospital

7. To receive the following Part II minutes of the Boards of the Council

- Community Board held on 25th November 2013
- Economic Development Board held on 27th November 2013

8. Local Council Tax Support Scheme for Gosport.

To consider the report of the Borough Treasurer in connection with the above (copy herewith).

**IAN LYCETT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**TOWN HALL
GOSPORT**

18th December 2013

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

(To be read from the Chair if members of the public are present)

In the event of the fire alarm being activated, please leave the Council Chamber and Public Gallery immediately. Proceed downstairs by way of the main stairs or as directed by GBC staff, follow any of the emergency exit signs. People with disability or mobility issues please identify yourself to GBC staff who will assist in your evacuation of the building.

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT:

(1) IF THE COUNCIL WISHES TO CONTINUE ITS BUSINESS BEYOND 9.30PM THEN THE MAYOR MUST MOVE SUCH A PROPOSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 4.11.18

(2) MOBILE PHONES SHOULD BE SWITCHED OFF FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2013 AT 6pm**

Attendance:

The Mayor (Councillor Beavis) (P) (in the Chair);

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Ronayne) (P);

Councillors Allen (P), Ms Ballard (P), Burgess (P), Carter CK (P), Carter CR (P), Chegwyn (P), Mrs Cully (P), Ms Diffey (P), Edgar (P), Farr (P) Forder (P), Foster-Reed, Geddes, Gill (P), Hazel (P), Henshaw (P), Mrs Hook (P), Hook (P), Hylands (P), Jacobs (P), Jessop (P), Kimber (P), Lane (P), Langdon (P), Mrs Morgan (P), Murphy (P), Philpott (P), Ronayne (P), Scard (P), Mrs Searle (P), Mrs Wright (P) and Wright (P).

At the start of the meeting, concerns were raised regarding the distribution and receiving of agendas. Members were advised that the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive will be conducting a poll as to how each Member would like to receive all agendas in the future.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Honorary Alderman O'Neil, Honorary Alderman Foster and Councillor Geddes.

MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council and Extraordinary Council held on 10 July 2013, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

A) The Mayor advised that Kim Carron had been forced to take ill health retirement, and will officially be leaving the Council in a few weeks time. Kim joined Gosport in 1980 and has been with the Council since, making 33 and 1/2 year's service. Kim worked her way up through the Housing Services Unit becoming Housing Services Manager in 2008. Kim then took on the role of Community and Customer Services Manager in January 2012.

The Mayor was sure all Members would like to join him in thanking Kim for all her hard work and commitment to this Council and the Borough and to wish her all the very best for retirement.

B) The Mayor advised that Honorary Freeman Dot Simpson was currently in QA Hospital and wished her a speedy recovery.

C) The Mayor advised that the launch of the Poppy Appeal, on behalf of the Royal British Legion, was taking place in the High Street (Nat Gonella Square) at 11am on Saturday 26 Oct 2013.

D) The Mayor advised that a charity fundraising Musical Extravaganza was taking place on 2nd November 2013, at the Thorngate Halls from 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £10 and available from The Mayor's PA.

PART II MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the following Part II Minutes be received.

Policy & Organisation Board: 25 September (Minute No. 16-25)

Community Board: 7 October (Minute No. 15-23)

Economic Development Board: 9 October (Minute No. 15-22)

FEES AND CHARGES

Consideration was given to the Report of the Borough Treasurer seeking approval of the amended fees and charges contained in the Report and Appendices.

Members were advised that there had been revisions to pages 2 and 7 of the fees and charges book.

Generally the new charges were to be implemented on 1 January 2014 or as stated in the Appendix. In practice this would mean that existing prepaid bookings for pitches etc. would be honoured at current prices so implementation would be gradual for charges of this nature.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That

- a) Approval be given to the amended fees & charges scheduled in the Report and appendices for implementation from 1 January 2014.
- b) The Tuesday market stall charges take immediate effect (paragraph 2.4 of the report)
- c) The charges relating to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 take immediate effect and an amendment to the existing scheme of delegation to Officers, to amend Section 11.0 to remove the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 and replace it with the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, is approved (paragraph 2.5 of the Report)

The meeting ended at 18:35

AGENDA ITEM 07

A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD

WAS HELD 25 NOVEMBER 2013

The Mayor (Councillor Beavis) (ex-officio), Councillor Hook (P), Burgess (P), Carter C K (P), Mrs Cully (P), Edgar (P), Foster-Reed, Henshaw, Mrs Hook (P), Hylands (P), Kimber (P), Mrs Morgan, Murphy (P) and Mrs Wright (P).

It was reported that in accordance with Standing Orders 2.3.6, Councillor Hook had been nominated to replace Councillor Mrs Morgan and Cllr Carter C R had been nominated to replace Councillor Henshaw for this meeting.

PART II ITEMS

28. D DAY MEMORIAL – 70th ANNIVERSARY

The Chairman suggested that item 30 on the agenda be moved to the first item of Part two of the Agenda and this was agreed.

Consideration was given to a report from the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive.

Mrs Whitbread was invited to address the Board whereby she shared that on 4th June 1994, during her role as Mayor, she felt privileged to welcome the Prime Minister of Canada, Canadian Veterans along with other dignitaries. A plaque had been donated by the Canadian Government and was the following April placed on the Granite Memorial at the current location. Mrs Whitbread said that, in her opinion, to re-site the memorial would be seen as disrespectful as disturbing a War Grave.

Mrs Whitbread advised that one of the comments in support of moving the Canadian Stone centred on risk of damage and disrespect to the monument due to its current location which is near to the restaurant. She disagreed with this view stating the current location raised children's curiosity and the restaurant was considered a reputable establishment. Mrs Whitbread said that the proposed location is an area frequented mainly by dog walkers, those 'who gave their tomorrow for our today' are in danger of being forgotten about.

Mrs Whitbread ended her deputation saying that she welcomed Gosport Borough Council's commemoration of the Centenary of World War 1 and that she felt the proposal was a lovely way to do it.

It was clarified that public consultation would take place as part of the planning application process stage. A Member outlined how the concept of the proposal had been initiated in 2012 and this had involved the Gosport

Society, Friends of Stokes Bay, D Day Fellowship and Councillors; 9 proposed locations within Stokes Bay were investigated and throughout all stages it was recognised how important the Stokes Bay shore line was in D Day as this was where embarkation took place. To site a memorial anywhere else would dilute its importance and the area around the Mulberry Stone emerged as the most important.

The Canadian High Commissioner had been written to and his response stated he was happy for the stone to be moved to a more suitable location and requested an update on such a move.

It was confirmed that Gosport Borough Council would be responsible for the maintenance of the memorial.

RESOLVED: That the Community Board agreed

The proposal for the D Day memorial at Stokes Bay as set out in Section 2 of the report that incorporated the estimated costs which will be included as part of the revised budget for 2013/14 for approval by Council in February 2014.

29. PROJECT INTEGRA CONSTITUTION, JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2013-2016

Consideration was given to a report from the Chief Executive which sought approval of the Board for the adoption of the amended Project Integra Constitution, refreshed Project Integra Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) and the Project Integra Draft Action 2013 - 2016 for the Partnership. Approval was sought in accordance with the Project Integra Constitution.

RESOLVED: That the Board agreed the adoption of:

- a) Project Integra Constitution
- b) Project Integra Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy
- c) Project Integra Draft Action Plan 2013 - 2016

30. ALLOCATIONS POLICY REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report from the Housing Services Manager.

Debate took place looking at the feasibility of raising the financial resources capital limit for a household, which was set at £16,000 and raising this to £30,000. It was confirmed that £16,000 was the sum used in housing benefit legislation. Members agreed for the figure to remain at £16,000 at present then re-visit during the next review if it is considered necessary. Members were advised that if the financial resources of a household exceeded the

limits in the proposed policy they could still be considered for Shared Ownership.

Further to a question it was confirmed that the reference in paragraph 3.2 to transitional arrangements should be corrected to read paragraph 2.7, not paragraph 2.6 as it reads in the report.

Members were advised that vulnerable individuals will be identified via their returned housing register application forms and relevant support would be offered to them.

The proposal to increase the sum for capital resources to £30000 and seconded and a vote taken which was lost.

RESOLVED: That the Community Board approved:

- i. That the qualification criteria be included within the Allocations scheme as set out in Appendix B – Scheme of Allocations, Section 3 and Schedule 5
- ii. That the points scheme be altered as set out in Appendix B – Scheme of Allocations Schedule 1 to reflect the inclusion of the qualification criteria.
- iii. That those applicants who are rehoused as a result of homelessness be entitled to one offer of suitable accommodation as set out in Appendix B Scheme of Allocations Section 2.
- iv. The Scheme of Allocations set out in Appendix B
- v. The implementation of the revised Scheme of Allocations be carried out in accordance with paragraph 2.7

31. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

The meeting concluded at: 19:24

CHAIRMAN

A MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

WAS HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2013

The Mayor (ex-officio), Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board Councillor Hook (P); Councillors Allen (P), Chegwyn (P), Edgar, Forder (P), Mrs Hook (P), Lane (P), Langdon (P), Philpott (P) Ronayne (P) and Mrs Searle (P).

It was reported that in accordance with Standing Orders 2.3.6 Councillor Hook had been nominated to replace Councillor Edgar for this meeting.

PART II ITEMS

28. MARINE PARADE CYCLE TRACK – DEDICATION OF LAND

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Transport and Traffic seeking the Board's approval for the dedication of Gosport Borough Council land as a publicly maintainable highway to enable the provision of a cycle track by Hampshire County Council on Marine Parade.

RESOLVED: That the Board approved:

- i. The construction of a cycle track between Flower Buildings and the Monks Hill car park subject to the granting of planning permission
- ii. Authorisation for the Borough Solicitor to enter into an agreement with the County Council to dedicate Borough Council land as publicly maintainable highway to provide a cycle track for the use of pedestrians and cycles as was indicated on Appendix 1
- iii. Authorisation for the Borough Solicitor to grant licences to Hampshire County Council, or its agents, to enter upon the Borough's land to construct the cycle track, amend the access and layout of the car parks and establish temporary site compounds

29. COMPOUND AT GOSPORT RUGBY CLUB

Consideration was given to a report of the Housing Services Manager for proposed heads of terms for a lease of the former Leisure Services Compound at Gosport Park to the Gosport and Fareham Rugby Football Club (the "Club").

A Member asked for clarification that the car parking space within the Compound would be available on Sundays when mini rugby was being played and on any other days when matches are played and what provisions would be included in the lease to safe guard residents from noise and disturbance from the use of the compound. The Borough Solicitor confirmed that the lease would make clear that the additional car parking, created by opening up the compound, was to be made available on days when mini rugby or other matches were being played and that the lease would include the usual covenant not to cause nuisance or annoyance.

A member raised the need for the existing number of car parking spaces to be kept and the Borough Solicitor advised that the lease could include a provision to ensure that the number were not reduced. Further to a question put by a Member it was agreed that the Rugby Club would be given a date by which it must remove the lighting in the main car park.

RESOLVED: That the Board approved:

- i. the grant of a lease of the land shown on Appendix 1 to Gosport and Fareham Rugby Football Club on the terms set out in section 2 of the report with the additional car parking within the compound being made available when mini rugby and other matches are played, a covenant regarding noise and annoyance and that the number of car parking spaces are not to be reduced and authorised the Housing Services Manager in consultation with the Borough Solicitor to complete negotiations and the lease

30. HIGH STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Councillor Hook and Councillor Mrs Hook declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item; they remained in the meeting room and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon.

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Economic Prosperity Tourism & Culture to advise Members of the response to the recent consultation on High Street improvements and seek approval for the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board approved:

- i. noted the response to the High Street consultation
- ii. Members approved the implementation of works and indicative budget allocations, as detailed at Paragraph 2.13 of the report

31. RENEWAL OF LEASE FOR L5 SLIPWAY AT ELMORE, LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive to advise the Board of the proposal to renew the lease with The Crown Estate of the public slipway situated adjacent to the Elmore Angling Club building, Lee-on-the-Solent.

RESOLVED: That the Board approved:

- i. the renewal of the lease for slipway L5 as set out in the report
- ii. authorised the Housing Services Manager in consultation with the Borough Solicitor to complete the negotiations and lease

32. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 18:35

CHAIRMAN

AGENDA ITEM 08.

Board/Committee:	Full Council
Date of Meeting:	18 December 2013
Title:	Local Council Tax Support scheme for Gosport
Author:	Borough Treasurer
Status:	FOR DECISION

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the proposal not to change the Local Council Tax Support scheme (LCTS) for Gosport for the forthcoming 2014-2015 financial year.

Recommendations

That Council approve the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) for Gosport referred to in Sections 1.1 and 2.5 of this report and notes the statutory scheme for Pension Age customers.

1 Background

- 1.1 On 23 January 2012 full Council approved the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for Gosport for the current 2013/14 financial year. Copies of the LCTS scheme were issued to all Members and an additional copy can be found in the Members library and on the Council website @ <http://www.gosport.gov.uk/assets/lcts>.
- 1.2 Legislation requires that the scheme is approved by full Council for each subsequent year. If altering the existing scheme a Public Consultation is required prior to the approval of the amended scheme.
- 1.3 On the 1 April 2013 all cases from the previous national Council Tax Benefit scheme were transferred to either the new Local Council Tax Support scheme for Gosport or the continuing statutory scheme for Pensioners. The caseload at the point of transfer was 7300 made up of 58% working age claims and 42% pension age claims. The caseload count at the end of September 2013 was 6,600, a 9% reduction with the caseload split remaining at 58% Working age and 42% pensioner age.
- 1.4 Whilst the precise cost of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme will not be known until the year end as both the number of claimants and their entitlements are subject to change, it is currently estimated that the scheme can be delivered within approved budgets.

2 Report

- 2.1 Following approval of full Council the Local Council Tax Support scheme came into effect on the 1 April 2013. The introduction of the LCTS scheme for Gosport was widely advertised and all customers were notified of the changes prior to implementation. The current scheme is largely based on the previous national Council Tax Benefit Scheme.
- 2.2 The current scheme maintains the following protections for vulnerable Customers
- The continuation of income disregards for Disability benefits, Child benefit and maintenance payments.
 - The continuation of the full income disregard for War Widows and War disablement pension.
 - The continuation of “extended payments” or benefit “run-ons” when a Customer starts work or increases their hours in work.
 - “fast track” claims to expedite re-claims after a short period of temporary work reducing the requirement for extended verification.
- 2.3 The current scheme saw the following changes to the previous national Council Tax Benefit scheme for working age Customers:
- A 20% reduction in the Council Tax liability figure used in the calculation of the benefit/support entitlement.
 - An overall benefit cap of the equivalent to a Band C Council Tax charge currently £24.69 per week.
 - Abolition of the 2nd Adult Rebate scheme for working age claimants.
- 2.4 Whilst the scheme has led to a number of customers having to contribute a small sum to their Council Tax who hadn't previously been required to do so, the scheme has been generally well accepted.
- 2.5 It is proposed that continuity for Customers is maintained this forthcoming year by an unchanged scheme for 2014/15 which maintains a prudent financial approach whilst continuing to protect and assist our most vulnerable Customers.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 The Central Government Grant 2013/14 included a separately identified sum of £706,000 to fund this Council's costs arising from providing a Local Council Tax Support Scheme. From 2014/15 no separation of the sum included within the Central Government Grant will be made.

3.2 The proposal for an unchanged scheme results in no significant further increase in the cost of the scheme and although total Central Government grant will reduce in 2014/15 no savings are being sought from reductions in the support given within the scheme.

4 Risk Assessment

4.1 To mitigate any challenges to the Council over new LCTS scheme, an initial Equality Impact risk assessment was undertaken followed by a full Equalities Impact Assessment, which considered all factors of the scheme and the responses to the Consultation. This full Equality Impact Assessment has been considered by the Corporate Equalities and Diversity Steering Group and the proposal is that there are no changes to the scheme in the forthcoming year.

4.2 The Central Government Grant given to finance the scheme is no longer separately identified in 2014/15. In common with all Council grant funded expenditure there is a risk that Central Government Support will be further reduced resulting in greater difficulty in providing for the proposed scheme within the resources available.

Financial Services comments:	As detailed in the report.
Legal Services comments:	Contained in the Report.
Crime and Disorder:	-
Equality and Diversity:	As detailed in the report.
Service Improvement Plan implications:	None
Corporate Plan:	None
Risk Assessment:	See Paragraph 4
Background papers:	Full Council report 23.1.2012
	Local Tax Support Scheme 2013/14 (http://www.gosport.gov.uk/assets/lcts)
Appendices/Enclosures:	Nil
Report author/ Lead Officer:	Stephanie Pride