Notice is hereby given of

A MEETING OF FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at 7pm at The Harlington

All members are summoned to attend

To Councillors:
R. Schofield (Chairman), G. Chenery, P. Einchcomb, R. Fang, L. Holt, A. Hope, K. Kuntikanamata, E. May, S. Neves, A. Oliver, P. Powell, R. Richmond, J. Stanton, D. Taylor, S. Tilley, P. Wildsmith, G. Woods.

RC Tong

Rita Tong, Executive Officer
26th November 2025

AGENDA

1.	**APOLOGIES** Schedule 12 of the LGA 1972 requires a record to be kept of members present, and that this record forms part of the minutes of the meeting. A resolution must be passed on whether the reason(s) for a member's absence are acceptable.
2.	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Under the Local Authorities Localism Act 2011, members must declare any interest and the nature of that interest, which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. Members are reminded that they must disclose both the existence and the nature of a personal interest that they have in any matter to be considered at this meeting. A personal interest will be considered a prejudicial interest if this is one in which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the members' judgement of the public interest.
3.	**QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC** (3 min per person maximum 15 minutes) To receive questions and statements from members of the public. Question received via email from a resident: *Can FTC provide details on how they are validating the responses to the survey, including preventing someone responding multiple times, ensuring only residents vote and enabling people who share devices to vote?* Statement and questions received via email from a resident: *I have lived in Fleet for over 20 years and have always taken pride in our town. Over that period, however, the character of our High Street has changed significantly, with an increasing number of vape shops, cash-intensive businesses and barbers operating in close proximity. This shift comes at a time when national law-enforcement bodies are raising clear concerns about the vulnerability of such businesses to serious organised criminal activity.* *In April and October 2025, the National Crime Agency conducted two major national operations — Operation Machinize and Machinize 2 — targeting high-street, cash-intensive businesses believed to be involved in organised money laundering (sources: NCA links provided). Additional BBC reporting has highlighted how some of these businesses have facilitated illegal working and labour exploitation.*

	A new premises on our High Street, ARUSH LIMITED, trading as "Ismash Vape (Fleet)" at 248 Fleet Road, opened on 26 September 2025 with substantial promotional activity on social media. Local residents expressed serious concerns in response to subsequent coverage on the For Fleet's Sake community website. *In reviewing publicly available corporate data, I have identified that ARUSH LIMITED forms part of a wider network of companies displaying characteristics similar to those highlighted by the NCA — including rapid dissolutions, minimal filings, and complex interconnections between directors. I have attached a network-analysis diagram summarising these findings. This forms part of an ongoing, broader review I am conducting into high-risk business patterns on Fleet High Street. I intend to publish the results publicly in due course.* *My questions to the Council are:* *1. What licences, permissions or consents did Fleet Town Council provide to enable this premises to open?* *2. Does the Council intend to use any of its legal powers — or to engage with partners such as Hart District Council, Trading Standards or the local Safer Neighbourhood Team — to ensure the premises is compliant with all relevant regulations?* *3. More broadly, what action does the Council intend to take in response to the increasing penetration of potentially high-risk cash-intensive businesses on Fleet High Street?*
4.	**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS** To receive any updates from the Chairman of Fleet Town Council.
5.	**HCC/HDC** (3 mins per person – max 15 mins) To receive any update on HDC/HCC matters concerning FTC which are not included within the agenda.
6.	**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** To receive and approve as a correct record minutes of the Town Council held on 5th November 2025 (*copies attached).* To receive resolutions and consider approval of recommendations from the following committees and to return to committees any issues for reconsideration: • Development Control 10th and 24th November 2025 • Establishment 12th November 2025
Part 1 – ITEMS FOR DECISION	
7.	**FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT** a) To receive the bank reconciliation and list of payments for October 2025 *(copies attached).* b) To receive a statement from Councillor Stanton that the bank reconciliation and list of payments for October 2025 have been verified and signed off against the original bank statement. **RECOMMENDATIONS** a) To receive and accept the bank reconciliation and list of payments for October 2025. b) To accept the statement from Councillor Stanton that the bank reconciliation and list of payments for October 2025 have been verified and signed.
8.	**ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL** To consider a report from the Executive Officer following a request from Ancells Farm Community Pre-School for financial support, including grant funding or other Council assistance, to cover room hire costs and support replacement of an ageing storage shed. **RECOMMENDATIONS** To determine whether to:

1. Award grant funding (cash or in kind) to Ancells Farm Community Pre-School;
2. Provide support via reduced or non-commercial rent; or
3. Take no financial action and require the pre-school to pay the full hire charges.

9. DRAFT BUDGET 2026/27

Members to consider a report (attached for the information of Members) from the Executive Officer. Members are requested to approve the revised estimates 2025/26 and draft budget 2026/27 and agree a precept for the financial year 2026/27.

Additionally, Members are requested to note the budget forecast projections for periods 2027/28 and 2028/29 which are based on Officers' understanding of the Council's potential future activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

a) Members to resolve to approve the revised estimates for the financial year 2025/26.
b) Members to resolve to approve the budget for the financial year 2026/27.
c) Members to resolve to agree a precept requirement for the financial year 2026/27.
d) Members to note budget forecast projections for period 2027/28 and 2028/29.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION FOR HAMPSHIRE

To consider a report on the latest stage of the Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire.

RECOMMENDATION

To consider the report and agree how the Council wishes to proceed.

11. HARLINGTON UPDATE

The public consultation to determine the preferred concept design option for the Harlington refurbishment has now concluded.

A public drop-in event was held, which was well attended by 201 residents, providing an opportunity for questions to be asked and answered. Throughout the consultation period, the Council's Frequently Asked Questions page on the website was regularly updated to reflect queries received in person from the drop-in sessions and via email and social media.

The raw results from both the online survey and paper voting slips were provided to an independent auditor for verification. Their audit report is attached for Members' information.

The Harlington Working Group met on 19 November 2025 to consider the consultation results and other matters arising from the consultation and recent developments. The Chairman will provide a verbal update on the detail of these discussions.

A question raised frequently during the consultation was whether Fleet residents should receive any form of benefit or recognition to reflect that they are funding the renovation, even though residents from outside the parish will also be able to enjoy the improved facility. A report outlining several possible options was presented to the Harlington Working Group. It was agreed that these options should be considered further by a separate Working Group.

Following consideration, the Harlington Working Group has made the following recommendations to Full Council:

a) Instruct BFF to proceed with design development based on Option A, with the priority remaining to deliver the project within budget. It is acknowledged that Option A is a conceptual design and will require refinement to address issues previously raised (e.g. stage access, bar functionality, staff circulation, storage, etc.). Where possible, the design should allow for future development potential (for example, in relation to the stairwell layout).
b) Instruct BFF to install gas boilers rather than air source heat pumps.

	c) Reallocate the surplus reserve previously held for a pension liability to the fit out of a Hart Shopping Centre retail unit to accommodate the temporary relocation of the Harlington activities. d) Engage with Fleet Phoenix and Sasha's Project to discuss how the renovation project may affect their operations and agree appropriate arrangements. **RECOMMENDATIONS** a) To note the independent auditor's report on the consultation results. b) To accept the Harlington Working Group's recommendations as set out above.
Part 2 – ITEMS TO NOTE	
12.	**ANNOUNCEMENTS** To receive and note announcements from the Executive Officer or any Member by permission of the Chair.
13.	**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING** The next meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 7pm at the Harlington.
Part 3 – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS	
	Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Exclusion of the public in accordance with Section 1(2) and by reason of the confidential nature of the business of the Town Council, the Public and Press will be excluded from the meeting. The following types of business will be treated as confidential: a. Engagement, terms of service, conduct and dismissal of employees. b. Terms of tenders, and proposals and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts. c. Receipt of professional legal advice and preparation of cases in legal proceedings. d. The early stages of any dispute. e. Matters of a commercial nature. **There are no confidential matters for consideration.**

FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

held on
Wednesday 5th November 2025 at 7pm

* Councillor Schofield (Chairman)

* Councillor Einchcomb (Vice Chairman)

*	Councillor Chenery	0	Councillor Powell
L	Councillor Fang	*	Councillor Richmond
*	Councillor Holt	*	Councillor Stanton
#	Councillor Hope	*	Councillor Taylor
*	Councillor Kuntikanamata	0	Councillor Tilley
0	Councillor May	*	Councillor Wildsmith
*	Councillor Neves	#	Councillor Willcocks
*	Councillor Oliver	*	Councillor Woods

* Present # Absent & No Apology Received 0 Apology for Absence L Late

Also in attendance:
Rita Tong – Executive Officer
Councillor Stuart Bailey – HCC
Councillor Stephen Parker – HCC
Three representatives from Fleet Cricket Club

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received and accepted the apologies as recorded above.

In accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, due to the continued non-attendance of Councillor Willcocks throughout the prescribed six-month period, he has now ceased to be a Member of the Council. Accordingly, a casual vacancy has arisen, which will be formally reported to the Returning Officer in accordance with statutory requirements.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Taylor declared an *Other Registerable Interest* in Agenda Item 12, as he is a Director of Fleet Market CIC.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2nd October meeting with rep of new RRN care home. Soft opening later this month. Offered some support for lighting in Gurkha Square for Fleet Festivities

- 6th October BID Board Meeting – agreement to support development of the Views play area with a contribution of £50,000 to be in addition to FTC budget of £150,000.
- 7th October Meeting at Blackwater and Hawley for presentation on military on Exercise Titan Storm.
- 7th October Meeting with representatives of HCC Library Services re-heating systems and future provision of heating to the library. Supported by Natasha from S&K
- 13th October Fleet BID AGM. Sadly, very poorly supported, only two businesses represented outside of Board members.
- 17th October Attended Hart Youth Awards – again an excellent evening with some remarkable achievements by some of our young people. FTC supported two awards.
- 22nd October Attended the HALC AGM at Botley, Southampton. Major item was subscription charges review. FTC annual fee to be increased by £300 whereas CCPC and EHPC's fee reduced. FTC awarded a prize for Community Communications
- 23rd October Advised of a sewer collapse in Oakley Park, attended site with Facilities Manager.
    - 1m deep sewer finally exposed at 2.2m depth. Work is now completed and apart from some vehicle damage to the grass near the entrance to the park reinstatement is acceptable.
    - As a consequence of the work at Oakley Park , Cappagh's area manager who had been involved in the Ancells sewer works returned to inspect Ancells site and agreed the quality of reinstatement, especially because of more recent visits by Thames tanker lorries, was unacceptable and reported back to Thames Headquarters who have now agreed to return to site and improve the reinstatement.
    - There is a continuing concern as to why Thames tankers are returning to site on a regular basis and this needs to be resolved
- 28th October Along with other Councillors visited the Odiham Scout hut at Basingbourne Park for a presentation on the Troop's proposals for a new building. The proposals look very promising and in principle cannot see any reason for FTC, as landlord, to object to the proposals. The key factor in achieving their aims is raising the money.
- 3rd and 4th November attended sessions for the Harlington Exhibition.
- 4th November together with the Executive Officer met with the Chief Finance Officer at Hart to discuss a number of finance issues primarily related to the Harlington.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 5 HCC/HDC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following reports were received from Hampshire County Council.

<u>Cllr Stephen Parker (HCC)</u>

- **Footpaths:** There is a network of paths around and between Calthorpe Park School and Crookham Village requiring improvement. As designated footpaths would be required to be 3 metres wide, which is not feasible in all locations, a workaround has been agreed to designate them as bridleways, enabling the improvement works to proceed.
- **Valmead Zebra Crossing:** Planned works are scheduled for April 2026.

- **Buses:** There have been ongoing issues with timekeeping and capacity. Hampshire County Council has had constructive engagement with Stagecoach South in seeking to resolve these matters.
- **Local Government Reorganisation:** All proposals have now been submitted to Government. Information on the forthcoming consultation is awaited and is expected later this year or early next year. It was noted that Government has opted for two large unitary councils in Surrey.
- **Consultation:** A consultation on the County Council's budget for 2026/27 is currently open and will close on 7 December 2025.

Cllr Stanton asked what surface material would be used for the proposed bridleways. Cllr Parker advised that they are likely to be tarmac.

Cllr Woods asked whether there had been any progress on the traffic order for single-side parking around Valmead School. Cllr Parker advised that the matter remains on the list for consideration, but due to the volume of requests, he was unable to provide a timeframe.

Cllr Stuart Bailey (HCC)

- **Consultations:**
  - A consultation on school transport is currently open. The proposal includes the removal of the facility allowing spare seats on school transport to be used by other passengers. This may be of particular relevance to Fleet residents given previous issues at Ancells Farm. The consultation closes on 7 December 2025.
  - The budget consultation explains the financial challenges facing Hampshire County Council and seeks residents' views on potential priorities and the overall direction of travel.

Cllr Oliver asked what the budget gap was for 2026/27. Cllr Bailey advised that the current forecast budget gap for 2026/27 is £143 million.

Cllr Schofield reported that Fleet Town Council had received a letter threatening debt recovery action in relation to the Ancells Farm school bus. He asked whether the Hampshire County Councillors were able to assist in resolving the matter, noting that Fleet Town Council was not a party to the contract concerned. Cllr Bailey advised that he would look into the matter.

Cllr Alan Oliver (HDC)

- **Planning Matter:** A planning application for a further large data centre on the site adjacent to Ively Road has been submitted. This falls within Rushmoor District Council's planning area and is on their system should Fleet Town Council wish to submit any observations on behalf of Fleet residents.
- **Hartland Village:** The developers have withdrawn their planning application for a further 300 homes and have halved their forward build rate. This reduction will have an impact on the timing of the construction of the planned school on the site.
- **Local Plan:** The recent *Call for Sites* received a strong response, and it is anticipated that the updated Local Plan will include provision for approximately **15,000 homes**.
- **Food Waste Collection:** The rollout of the food waste collection service has progressed well and is being implemented successfully.

Cllr Peter Wildsmith (HDC)

- **Job Fair**: Hart District Council expressed its thanks to Fleet Town Council for the use of The Harlington for the recent Job Fair, which was reported to be the most successful to date.

- **Hardship Grant**: The Hardship Grant scheme closes on 13 November 2025. As it has not been fully subscribed in previous years, Members were encouraged to promote the availability of the grant to eligible residents.

Councillors Bailey and Parker left at the conclusion of this agenda item.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 1st October 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Council received and noted the minutes of the following Committees:

- Development Control 13th and 27th October 2025 (if available)
- Policy & Finance 15th October 2025

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 7 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Members noted receipt of the bank reconciliation and the list of payments for September 2025.

Councillor Stanton confirmed that the bank reconciliation for September 2025 and list of payments for September 2025 had been verified and signed off against the original bank statement.

RESOLVED

a) That the bank reconciliation and list of payments for September 2025 be received and accepted.
b) That the statement from Councillor Stanton confirming the verification and sign-off of the September 2025 bank reconciliation and list of payments be accepted.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 8 REPORT FROM FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION

A fire safety inspection was conducted on 25 September 2025. The following findings and actions taken were noted.

Inspection Finding	**Action Taken**
Ensure you record any and all systems of planning, organising, controlling, monitoring and reviewing the performance of each of the fire safety measures you have in place. A number of compensatory fire safety policies and procedures had been put in place but had not been recorded.	Documented issue, risk and mitigation for Fire Doors and Fire Vent. Investigating whether C2's can be remedied – if not will prepare a further risk note.
Carry out and record fire drills; to practice the procedures you have in place for people to follow in case of fire. Increased frequency of fire drills had been identified	Form developed to ensure all required information is captured regarding fire drills.

as a mitigating factor. These had not been recorded with any significant detail.	

RESOLVED

a) Members noted the findings and recommendations outlined in the Fire Safety Inspection report.
b) Members considered the actions taken to date and determined they were appropriate.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 9 REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26

Members considered the report from the Council's Internal Auditor, Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd, on an interim internal audit conducted on 25 September 2025 for the 2025/26 financial year.

Audit Point	Audit Findings	Proposed Council Response
B. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS	I recommend the form is updated to include formal acceptance to receive information by electronic means in the form "As per Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, I consent to the receipt of all council meeting papers by electronic methods. I understand I may withdraw this consent at any time"	Agreed. Form has been amended to include recommended wording.
B. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS	Based on the level of financial activity of the council, and through discussion with the Executive Officer, the authorisation threshold within FR 3.2.4 appears low and the council may wish to consider increasing this to ensure that appropriate action can be taken without delay if the need arises.	FR3.2.4 sets level at £2k. Other similar sized Councils have set the limit at: Godalming TC £4.5k Yateley TC £5k Church Crookham PC £2k Auditor recommendation reasonable given size of FTC. Suggest increasing to £5k.

B. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS	The council holds a credit card and has adopted a Credit Card Policy which is published on the council website. The policy includes spending limits for each cardholder, assigned to the specific job roles. I note that the minutes of the meeting held in February 2025 show that the council approved an amendment to these thresholds, but the updated limits have yet to be reflected in the policy document and this should be updated as soon as possible to avoid any confusion	Agreed Updated policy taken to P&F 15 October 2025. Approved Policy now on website.
G. PAYROLL	All staff members have a signed contract of employment, although these are inconsistent and contain different terms and conditions for different staff members, or in some cases no reference to key employment terms at all. I recommend the council considers using the new NALC model employment contract which has been developed in consultation with ACAS and is available on the NALC website.	To be taken to the Establishment Committee meeting on 12 November for discussion.

RESOLVED

a) Members considered the findings and recommendations outlined in the Internal Auditor's report and thanked Officers (particularly the Finance Manager) for their work that contributed to such a good report.
b) Members agreed to increase the Executive Officers authorisation in relation to FR3.2.4 from £2,000 to £5,000.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 10 CRICKET CLUB LEASE AND FACILITIES

Members received a presentation from Mark Bramah, Chairman of Fleet Cricket Club, outlining the financial challenges currently faced by the Club.

Members considered a range of issues raised by the Cricket Club (now operating as a Community Interest Company (CIC)), including:

- **Lease Agreement** – The lease requires review to reflect the Club's new CIC status. No Schedule of Condition was completed at the start of the tenancy, and the Club requested that the Council arrange this.
- **Building Compliance** – The Club sought assistance with completing a fire risk assessment and installing a fire alarm system.
- **Grounds Maintenance** – The Club highlighted the high costs (approximately £10,000) associated with maintaining Council-owned land and undertaking tree work, requesting support and asking whether the Council's contractors could cut the outfield.

- **Future Development** – The Club suggested installing a junior artificial pitch on the former tennis courts to reduce wear and pressure on the main pitch.

RESOLVED

a) That the lease be updated to reflect the change in the Club's legal status to a CIC.
b) That the Council further consider each of the Club's requests to determine what, if any, assistance may be provided.

The Fleet Cricket Club representatives left at the conclusion of this agenda item.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 11 THE VIEWS PLAY EQUIPMENT

At the September 2025 meeting of the Recreation, Leisure and Amenities (RLA) Committee, Members agreed to set a budget of £150,000 for *The Views Play Park* project.

At that time, it was hoped that Fleet Business Improvement District (BID) might contribute to the project; however, the level of any potential support was not yet confirmed. To enable planning to progress, the budget was set at £150,000, with any contribution from Fleet BID to reduce the Council's funding requirement accordingly.

Following its Annual General Meeting, Fleet BID has now confirmed an offer of £50,000 towards the project. A condition of this offer is that the Council's contribution remains at £150,000, resulting in a total project budget of £200,000. Fleet BID also requested that, should the final contract sum be less than £200,000 (as occurred with the Skate Park tender), the reduced cost would be shared proportionately between the parties.

RESOLVED

a) That the total project budget for *The Views Play Park* be increased from £150,000 to £200,000.
b) That any reduction in the final contract cost, if applicable, be shared proportionally with Fleet BID.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 12 FLEET MARKET

Members noted that Fleet Town Council currently provides an outdoor storage area which is being used by Fleet Market. This arrangement was originally intended to be temporary but has since become longstanding. The continued use of this space has placed pressure on the Council's own storage capacity, which is already limited, and no charge is currently made to the Market for use of the area.

Members acknowledged that the Market relies on this storage to remain viable and that pitch space is also provided free of charge, supporting the Market's continued operation. Staff highlighted, however, the importance of maintaining sufficient storage for Council activities, particularly in light of the upcoming Harlington refurbishment, which will increase the Council's storage requirements.

The Market has requested that a shared rental arrangement be explored, with costs apportioned between the Council and Fleet Market.

Members commended the efforts of Cllr Taylor in stabilising the Market and improving its financial viability.

RESOLVED
That officers obtain costings and report back to a future meeting with options for a sustainable solution.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 13 PUBLIC CPR TRAINING SESSIONS

Fleet Town Council has, since 2025, facilitated monthly public CPR training sessions at The Harlington, supported by the St John Ambulance (SJA). Sessions have been held from May to October 2025, with cancellations in May, August, and October due to insufficient participant numbers.

SJA has confirmed their willingness to continue supporting these sessions provided a minimum number of participants justify deploying two volunteers and equipment from Farnborough.

While there is some administrative work involved in informing participants when sessions are cancelled, the sessions provide a valuable life-saving skill to members of the public.

RESOLVED
To continue offering one session per month in 2026 (excluding August), with SJA support as outlined.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 14 MUSIC ON THE VIEWS 2026

Members received a report from Cllr Tilley regarding plans for *Music on The Views 2026*, which included a request for the Council to allocate funds—similar to the arrangement for the Christmas Festival—to meet the following costs:

- Safety Officer – £350
- First Aid – £300
- SIA Security – £2,000
- Event Cancellation Insurance – £1,050

RESOLVED

a) That £4,000 be added to the 2026/27 budget to cover the costs of the Safety Officer, First Aid, SIA Security, and Event Cancellation Insurance.
b) That officers investigate whether the event cancellation insurance could be incorporated into the Council's main insurance policy, and if so, identify the associated cost.
c) That Cllrs Tilley and Stanton prepare a phased budget for *Music on The Views 2026* to determine when funds will be required for Council cashflow and budgeting purposes.

Cllr Wildsmith left at the conclusion of this agenda item.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 15 HARLINGTON UPDATE

Chairman gave an update on the project and the Public Consultation.

RESOLVED
To note the Chairman's update.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 16 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- The PWLB loan application for the skatepark has gone through all the processes and the money will be in the Councils account on 12 November 2025. A Meeting has been set up with the contractors to commence the project.
- The Remembrance Parade is this upcoming Sunday. Members are needed to help serve tea and coffee to the public and / or man the drop in public consultation.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 17 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

A complaint was received by a resident regarding the Calthorpe Play Area. The issues raised are over noise, anti-social behaviour and parking issues. The Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, responded to the complaint on the Council's behalf.

A complaint was received over information published on our website that was considered to be confidential by the complainant. The report in question has been removed from the website and the complainant is satisfied with the Council's actions.

FC NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 18 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at 7pm at the Harlington.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed…… Date:……..
Chairman

MINUTES OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Monday 10th November 2025
at 7pm in the Function Room, The Harlington

Present:
Cllr Schofield
Cllr Chenery
Cllr Holt
Cllr Hope

Officers: Charlotte Benham

1	**Apologies** No apologies received
2	**Declarations of interest to any item on the agenda** None declared
3	**Public Session** 2 members pf the public were present regarding Silverlea, Cove Road - care home with concerns about loss of privacy to their garden and house and flooding.
4	**Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the development and control committee meetings held on Monday 27th October 2025 were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.
5	25/01978/AMCON 24 Kenilworth Road,Fleet,GU51 3AX Application to vary Condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 23/01605/HOU dated 20.11.2023 - Erection of a porch, extension of accommodation at first floor within the existing roof space and creation of accommodation at second floor within the proposed roof space, erection of a two storey rear extension, erection of single storey side and rear extensions, erection of a covered canopy to the rear, alterations to garage, demolition of outbuilding, blocking up two windows and insertion of door to ground floor side, replacement of standard window and bay window to ground floor front Comments required by 13 November

Only issue appears to be impact on extended porch on restricting parking
NO OBJECTION

25/01995/HOU
The Glen ,Victoria Hill Road,Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 4LG
Erection of a part two storey, part single storey side and rear extension
Comments required by 13 November

- Recognises that the property is in the NFCA and is a more recent infill (3 identical properties). The proposed extension is in keeping with the host building.
- There is a slight infringement of the 45^0 rule but the sight line is already encroached by the existing garage.
- There is a tree protection plan and remedial work is defined in the root zone of impacted trees. No trees are to be removed.
- The front boundary will remain unchanged so there are no negative impacts on the character of the Conservation Area.

NO OBJECTION

25/01952/HOU
42 Springwoods,Fleet,Hampshire, GU52 7SX
Erection of a hip to gable loft conversion with front and rear dormer
Comments required by 13 November

- This is a challenge to Fleet Neighbourhood Plan Policy 11, Safeguarding building stock for people of limited mobility, including people with disabilities and older residents.
- The existing property is a bungalow – a house which has only one floor and no stairs.
- Two of the three existing bedrooms at the ground floor are retained but an additional two bedrooms are constructed in the loft space.
- The roof extension is beyond permitted development rights.
- If developed the property would become a family home and no longer a bungalow breaching Fleet Neighbourhood Plan Policy 11.

OBJECTION

25/02138/HOU
23 Oasthouse Drive,Fleet,Hampshire, GU51 2UL
Demolition of conservatory and erection of a single storey rear/side extension
Comments required by 13 November

- Development to the rear and side.
- No apparent impact on neighbours.
- No ecological issues and no trees.

NO OBJECTION

25/02097/AMCON
Silverlea ,Cove Road,Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 2RR
Application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of Planning Permission 22/02520/FUL Erection of a 70 Bed care home (use class C2) including

	access, parking, landscaping and other associated works, following demolition of existing dwellings Comments required by 18 November • It would appear that there has been a surveying error – and an incorrect datum established on the site that has made the difference of about 1m. • Two new sections have been provided that show the relative levels between Woodside and 30 Forest Dean. • The important point appears to be that the absolute levels have changed, but the relative levels as revealed by the new sections has not changed • The long front elevation clearly states a difference between Planning Drawing levels and what are stated to be "Actual" levels. • The original general finished floor level was 68.40 but is now 69.35 mod. • This finished level is dictated by the road level at the entrance to the site and is then carried through the whole of the ground floor. • From the levels taken for the roof and the eves for 30 Foerst Dean, if 6.4m height is taken from ground level to the eaves, it would make the garden level 67.2m compared with 67.3 shown as the bottom of the slope adjacent to the fence. • A significant number of trees and vegetation have been removed between the new development and 30 Forest Dean which has made the level difference totally apparent. • The newly presented section clearly shows the slope between the new building footings and the garden level of 30 Forest Dean. • The drainage plans have concentrated on dealing with all the surface water off the building, but has totally failed to address the problem of the reprofiled land draining towards the property boundaries. • The detailed paving slab set vertically as a kerb/barrier is totally inadequate. • Proper drainage plans clearly identifying how the runoff from the sloping ground will be dealt with and how the drainage proposals integrate with new tree and shrubbery planting that was proposed in the original planning application to reestablish a natural screen between the new development and the exiting surrounding properties. • In the view of the relative levels exposed by the new section showing 30 Forest Dean new boundary planting is essential. OBJECTION inadequate treatment of surface water to prevent flooding of the adjoining properties. 25/01666/HOU Courtenay ,Avenue Road,Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 4NG Erection of a 1.5m high front boundary softwood timber close board fence with concrete fence posts and gravel boards behind an existing conifer hedge and erection of 1.8m high softwood timber driveway gates. Amended plans received 31.10.25 reducing height of of fence and gates to 1.2 metres and altering gate design to five bar gates Comments required by 14 November • Plans have been amended following FTC comments and neighbour's objecting to the sharing of the entrance. • Proposed 5 bar gate is in keeping with the character of the Conservation area.

	• The lower fence will allow the planting in front of the fence to mature and establish a green screen to the hard fence line more in keeping with the character of the North Fleet Conservation Area. NO OBJECTION
6	**Noted:** Weekly List
7	**Noted:** **Hart Planning Meeting Dates** 19th November
8	**Date of Next Development Control Committee Meeting** 24th November

Meeting closed: 8.20pm

Signed:.....

Date: ……

MINUTES OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Meeting held on 24th November 2025
at 7pm in The Function Room, The Harlington

Present:
Cllr Holt
Cllr Schofield
Cllr Chenery

Officers: Charlotte Benham

1	**Apologies** Apologies received from Cllr Hope
2	**Declarations of interest to any item on the agenda** None declared
3	**Public Session** None present
4	**Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the development and control meeting held on Monday 10th November were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.
5	25/02062/FUL Clinton Cards ,168A Fleet Road,Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 4BE Replacement windows to first floor Comments required by 25 November Replacing single glazed windows with 55mm double glazed windows in walnut brown to match existing NO OBJECTION 25/02098/FUL Coach House,Cove Road,Fleet, GU51 2RT Change of use of coach house to dwelling to include erection first floor side extensions, replacement of flat roof with pitched roof and alterations to fenestration Comments required by 25 November

- House isolated from any adjoining property.
- Proposed design retains the character feature of the proposed development.
- Two rear bedrooms to have Juliet balconies? No apparent overlooking issue and proposed plans to reinforce rear hedge
- Drainage Officer has questioned the proposed drainage strategy as no on-site infiltration testing has been performed. This should be undertaken as a Condition of approval.
- Use of Klargester Bio Disk treatment system is well proven, but capacity for only 6 residents is questionable for a 4-bedroom house.
- Use of SUDS crates for soakaways is good practice again subject to proof of site conditions to meet design standards.
- Support the Drainage Officers comments.
- Access for vehicles off cove road onto property needs improvement due to sight lines and how busy Cove Road is

NO OBJECTION in principle subject to Conditions regarding drainage and improved vehicle access onto Cove Road

25/02263/HOU
15A Warren Close,Fleet,Hampshire, GU52 7LT
Demolition of conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension and floor plan redesign
Comments required by 25 November

- Property located in the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area, but the building and the adjoining buildings have no architectural value and the proposed extension does not detract from the character of the area.
- Property located in Flood Zone 2/3 so liable to flooding and local ground water levels impacted by the proximity of the canal.
- Means of collecting the rainwater off the extended flat roof are preferable as defined by the Drainage Officer.
- Reference to feeding surface water in the sewer, even at a low rate is not an option.

NO OBJECTION in principle subject to adequate plans for drainage

25/01120/FUL
Hart Leisure Centre,Emerald Avenue,Fleet, GU51 5EE
Installation of 3 indoor padel courts and erection of canopy
Comments required by 25 November

- In August the Planning Committee commented no objection in principle subject to the accuracy of the noise predictions. There have been concerns raised by some residents of Emerald Avenue, the nearest residences.
- There is the intention to reduce the ground level in the immediate vicinity of the courts and create a new 2m high earth bund between the courts and the nearest houses. The impact of this bund is not tested or proven.
- It is recommended that noise impact tests are conducted on site prior to any construction work to validate the noise report

	NO OBJECTION subject to evidencing noise levels will not disturb residents. - Sound testing needs to be conducted before construction and should be set as a Condition of approval. 25/02283/HOU 31 Albany Road,Fleet,Hampshire, GU51 3PR Erection of a single storey rear/side infill extension with in-line rooflights and sun-pipe, changes to windows and a new feature glass door to rear Comments required by 2 December • Addition of downstairs shower room makes potential for another bedroom (described as a study) - two downstairs bedrooms requires an additional on-site parking space • Looks to be a potential area for parking but would result in a loss of soft landscaping and consequentially a reduction in biodiversity which breaches Fleet Neighbourhood Plan Policy 15. • Rear extension has no impact on immediate neighbours. • Design of extension is compatible with the host building and use of materials conforms with the host building. NO OBJECTION but concern about parking 25/02320/HOU 51 Basingbourne Road,Fleet,Hampshire, GU52 6TG Erection of single storey side and rear extensions following full demolition of existing garage and workshop and part rear kitchen and dining room wall Comments required by 3 December • Increase from 3 to 4 bedrooms, but adequate parking on site • Extension blends with the host building and has no impact on adjoining neighbours NO OBJECTION
6	**To Note:** Review of weekly lists
7	**Noted:** **Hart Planning Meeting Dates** 17th December
8	**Date of Next Development Control Committee Meeting** 15th December

Meeting closed: 8.20pm

Signed:.....

Date: ……

FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
held on
Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7pm

* Councillor Woods (Chairman)
0 Councillor Tilley (Vice Chairman)

* Councillor Einchcomb
* Councillor Holt
* Councillor May
* Councillor Schofield
\# Councillor Wildsmith

* Present # Absent & No Apology Received 0 Apology for Absence L Late

Also in attendance:
Rita Tong – Executive Officer

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES

Members received and accepted the apologies as noted above.

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Establishment Committee meeting held on 9th July were approved and signed by the Chairman.

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 5 INTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT – EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

The Internal Auditor noted that, while all members of staff have signed contracts of employment, these contracts are inconsistent in both content and format. Some contain differing terms and conditions, while others omit reference to key employment provisions.

The Auditor recommended that the Council consider adopting the NALC Model Contract of Employment, which NALC advises has been developed in consultation with ACAS and reflects current best practice for local councils.

DRAFT

The Executive Officer advised that, following review, it is proposed that all staff contracts be updated and harmonised using the Council's current standard BrightHR contract template, rather than the NALC model, as this reflects existing working practices and legal requirements. The Executive Officer does not anticipate any significant issues in implementing this approach.

It was agreed that the Chairman of the Establishment Committee will be consulted on any complex or sensitive cases arising during the review. Where matters are particularly complex or have potential financial implications, these will be reported back to the Establishment Committee, either for information on how they have been resolved or for guidance on the appropriate course of action.

The Executive Officer aims to complete the review and issue updated contracts to all staff by **31 December 2025**.

RESOLVED

a) To note the findings of the Internal Auditor regarding inconsistencies in staff contracts.
b) That the Executive Officer review and harmonise all employment contracts using the Council's standard BrightHR template, ensuring consistency with current best practice and existing Council policies.
c) That any complex or sensitive matters be discussed with the Chairman of Establishment in the first instance and referred to the Committee if further discussion or agreement is required.

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 6 TRADE UNION REFORMS

The Employment Rights Bill introduces the most significant update to UK employment law in decades. Trade union reforms will be the first to take effect, commencing following Royal Assent expected in late 2025, with further stages to be implemented through to October 2026.

Members noted key proposed changes, including:

- the lowering of the threshold for recognising trade unions from 10% to 2% of employees;
- the creation of a new statutory body to issue guidance, mediate disputes, and enforce compliance with union access and recognition rules; and
- new employer duties requiring that all new starters are provided with written information about their right to join a trade union.

The Executive Officer advised that, as part of the wider contract harmonisation exercise, a record will be kept of those employees whose current contracts contain clauses regarding unions, so that these can be reviewed and formally varied once the new legislative requirements are confirmed. All other employees will be issued new terms based on the new legislation.

Members noted that the Bill remains subject to amendment prior to receiving Royal Assent.

RESOLVED

a) To monitor Government and Fair Work Agency guidance as it is issued.
b) To review current employment policies and contracts for references to trade union rights, access, and industrial action, noting which staff have existing clauses for later variation when the new law comes into effect.

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 7 EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS BILL

Members considered a report on the impact of the Employment Rights Bill on the Council.

DRAFT

RESOLVED
That members note the report and review relevant policies and procedures to ensure compliant with legal requirements.

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 8 WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Members considered the revised Whistleblowing Policy. Members requested that Councillors be added to the Scope.

RESOLVED
To approve the revised Whistleblowing Policy

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 9 BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY

Members considered the revised Bullying and Harassment Policy.

Cllr Schofield raised the point that part of the definition of harassment was not easily understood, specifically the sentence, *"Harassment may occur by association or perception, even where the assumption is incorrect."* Members agreed that this section should be clarified to ensure the policy is clear and easily understood.

It was further agreed that, once the clarification has been made and Cllr Schofield has confirmed that the amendments reflect the intended meaning, the policy will be deemed approved without the need to return to Committee.

RESOLVED
To approve the revised Bullying and Harassment Policy, subject to the clarification of the definition of harassment and confirmation from Cllr Schofield that the amendments are satisfactory.

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 10 GRIEVANCE POLICY

Members considered the revised Grievance Policy and made several minor amendments.

During discussion, Members noted that the Council's Standing Orders would need to be updated to provide delegated authority for a Grievance Panel, in line with the arrangements recently approved for the Disciplinary Panel.

RESOLVED
a) To approve the revised Grievance Policy.
b) To amend Standing Orders to include the following provision:

Delegation to a Grievance Panel
a) Comprising three Members of the Establishment Committee, to hear and resolve grievance matters raised by staff, including the authority to determine outcomes and make recommendations as appropriate.

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 11 TRAINING UPDATE

Members noted training received by Officers since the last Establishment Committee meeting.

DRAFT

Members requested the ACT Awareness training also be circulated to all Councillors.

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 12 STAFF APPRAISALS

All staff appraisals for 2024/25 have now been completed with the exception of the Executive Officer.

The Chairman of Establishment and the Chairman of the Council to arrange to meet with the Executive Officer to conduct her appraisal.

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 13 STAFFING UPDATES

Members to note staffing updates since the previous Establishment Committee meeting.

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Establishment Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7pm in The Harlington (Music Room).

Part 3 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The Chairman stated the reasons that the remainder of the meeting should be held in confidential session is due to matters relating to individual staff and terms of service being discussed.

RESOLVED

That subject to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Exclusion of the public in accordance with Section 1(2) and by reason of the confidential nature of the business of the Town Council, the Public and Press will be excluded from the Meeting.

EST NOVEMBER 2025 ITEM 15 STAFF SALARY BUDGET FOR 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR

Members received the impact of draft payroll scenarios on next year's budget and agreed the recommended salary budget for inclusion in next year's budget.

RESOLVED
To recommend Option 2 to Council regarding the staff salaries budget for next financial Year.

Signed: …… Date……
Chairman

The meeting closed at 9.01pm.

DRAFT

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/10/2025
for Cashbook 1 - Bank Current/Deposit Account

Bank Statement Account Name (s)	Statement Date	Page No	Balances
HSBC	31/10/2025	900	319,342.83
			319,342.83

Unpresented Payments (Minus)	Amount	
	0.00	
		0.00
		319,342.83

Unpresented Receipts (Plus)		
	0.00	
		0.00
		319,342.83
	Balance per Cash Book is :-	**319,342.83**
	Difference is :-	**0.00**

Signatory 1:

Name [redacted] .....Signed [redacted] .....Date 14/11/25

Signatory 2:

Name .....Signed .....Date .....

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT AND CURRENT ACCOUNTS

Account balances for Fleet Town Council as of 31 October 2025

Account	Funds	Interest Rate	Comment
HSBC Current Bank Account, Account No: 61539272	£319,342.83		
HSBC Savings Account, Account No: 91620886	£1,218,429.50	1.53% Per annum	Interest paid into HSBC Savings account each month.
Nationwide Building Society, Business Instant Saver, Account No: 900041402	£415,280.03	2.55%	Interest paid into Nationwide current account. Business 35 Day Saver, interest paid monthly
CCLA Investment Management Ltd, Public Sector Deposit Fund, Account No.: 0662920001	£3,045,313.36	4.01% Per annum	Interest paid into CCLA current account, monthly.
TOTAL	**£ 4,998,365.72**		

Please note:

Interest received on 31 October 25 into Nationwide account:
Nationwide £897.45

Interest received on 2 October 25 into CCLA account:
CCLA £10,040.09

Interest received on 21 October into HSBC Savings account:
HSBC Savings £1,068.17

Recommendation

1. To note the balances held in the Fleet Town Council Accounts

Bank Current/Deposit Account

Payments made between 01/10/2025 and 31/10/2025

						Nominal Ledger Analysis			
Date	Payee Name	Reference	£ Total Amnt	£ Creditors	£ VAT	A/c	Centre	£ Amount	Transaction Details
01/10/2025	Hart District Council - DD	dd1014	210.00	210.00		500			Business Rates 25/26
01/10/2025	Hart District Council - DD	dd1015	1,634.00	1,634.00		500			Business Rates 25/26
01/10/2025	Hart District Council - DD	dd1016	119.00	119.00		500			Business rates 25/26
08/10/2025	BACS P/L Pymnt Page 2774	BACS Pymnt	53,122.42	53,122.42		500			BACS P/L Pymnt Page 2774
09/10/2025	BACS P/L Pymnt Page 2780	BACS Pymnt	-1,164.60	-1,164.60		500			BACS P/L Pymnt Page 2780
09/10/2025	Sage UK Ltd	dd1017	53.40	53.40		500			payroll 6/10-5/11/25
09/10/2025	Total Energies	dd1018	38.79	38.79		500			gas 31/7-31/8/25
09/10/2025	Total Energies	dd1019	97.90	97.90		500			gas 31/7-31/8/25
13/10/2025	Fleet Town Council	DD	4,162.33			516		4,162.33	L&G Pension Oct 25
14/10/2025	BACS P/L Pymnt Page 2781	BACS Pymnt	3,341.88	3,341.88		500			BACS P/L Pymnt Page 2781
14/10/2025	Payment Sense Ltd	dd1020	140.78	140.78		500			card charges 1/9-30/9/25
14/10/2025	Payment Sense Ltd	dd1021	26.93	26.93		500			card charges 1/9-30/9/25
15/10/2025	Xero (UK) Ltd	dd1022	19.20	19.20		500			accounts sub 13/10-12/11/25
15/10/2025	HSBC	dd1023	2,403.75	2,403.75		500			Purchase Ledger DDR Payment
15/10/2025	HSBC	dd1024	113.52	113.52		500			bank charges 1/8-31/8/25
16/10/2025	NPower - Direct Debits	dd1025	28.15	28.15		500			elec 1/8-31/8/25
16/10/2025	NPower - Direct Debits	dd1026	39.61	39.61		500			elec 1/8-31/8/25
16/10/2025	Castle Water Limited	dd1027	81.24	81.24		500			water 1/9-30/9/25
16/10/2025	NPower - Direct Debits	dd1028	89.22	89.22		500			elec 1/8-31/8/25
16/10/2025	Global Payments - Direct Debit	dd1029	897.43	897.43		500			card charges 30/8-30/9/25
16/10/2025	NPower - Direct Debits	dd1030	159.22	159.22		500			elec 1/8-31/8/25
16/10/2025	Castle Water Limited	dd1031	121.14	121.14		500			water 1/9-30/9/25
16/10/2025	NPower - Direct Debits	dd1032	35.86	35.86		500			elec 1/8-31/8/25
17/10/2025	Castle Water Limited	dd1033	29.25	29.25		500			water 1/9-30/9/25
17/10/2025	Castle Water Limited	dd1034	31.84	31.84		500			water 1/9-30/9/25
20/10/2025	Fleet Town Council	BACS	31,692.27			520		31,692.27	Payroll Oct 25
21/10/2025	Castle Water Limited	dd1035	191.22	191.22		500			water 1/9-30/9/25
21/10/2025	HSBC Savings Account	Trnsfr 1	200,000.00			212		200,000.00	Current to Savings Transfer
22/10/2025	Fleet Town Council	BACS	30.00			1500	201	30.00	CPR AFCC Sept 25
22/10/2025	Croner Group Ltd	dd1036	408.98	408.98		500			HR and H&S Oct 25
23/10/2025	BACS P/L Pymnt Page 2789	BACS Pymnt	18,179.60	18,179.60		500			BACS P/L Pymnt Page 2789
	Subtotal Carried Forward:		316,334.33	80,449.73	0.00			235,884.60	

Bank Current/Deposit Account

Payments made between 01/10/2025 and 31/10/2025

						Nominal Ledger Analysis			
Date	Payee Name	Reference	£ Total Amnt	£ Creditors	£ VAT	A/c	Centre	£ Amount	Transaction Details
23/10/2025	Fleet Town Council	DD	10,985.63			515		10,985.63	Inland Rev Sept 25
23/10/2025	All Service 4 U Ltd	dd1040	9.00	9.00		500			Purchase Ledger DDR Payment
24/10/2025	Payment Sense Ltd	dd1037	113.94	113.94		500			card charges 1/9-30/9/25
24/10/2025	Payment Sense Ltd	dd1038	17.88	17.88		500			card charges 1/10-31/1025
24/10/2025	BOC Ltd	dd1039	82.66	82.66		500			bar gas
24/10/2025	HSBC Savings Account	Trsnfr 2	200,000.00			212		200,000.00	Trasnfer Current to Savings
27/10/2025	Fleet Town Council	BACS	2,500.00			1053	110	2,500.00	Citizens advice grant
28/10/2025	BACS P/L Pymnt Page 2793	BACS Pymnt	12,806.56	12,806.56		500			BACS P/L Pymnt Page 2793
29/10/2025	HSBC	dd1041	51.64	51.64		500			bank charges 8/9-7/10/25
30/10/2025	Focus 4 U Ltd	dd1042	56.40	56.40		500			Broadband Nov 25
30/10/2025	Global Payments - Direct Debit	dd1043	55.26	55.26		500			card chargesw 1/9-30/9/25
	Total Payments:		543,013.30	93,643.07	0.00			449,370.23	

Purchase Ledger for Month No 7 **Order by Supplier A/c**

								Nominal Ledger Analysis			
Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Ref No	Supplier A/c Name	Supplier A/c Code	Net Value	VAT	Invoice Total	A/C	Centre	Amount	Analysis Description
14/10/2025	19970121		1997 GROUP	1997GROUP	2,230.87	446.17	2,677.04	4656	150	2,230.87	stage hire
27/10/2025	L4L-20002		ALL SERVICE 4 U	ALLSERVICE	7.50	1.50	9.00	4460	205	7.50	smart lock sep 25
27/10/2025	L4L-20003		ALL SERVICE 4 U	ALLSERVICE	7.50	1.50	9.00	4460	205	7.50	smart lock oct 25
21/10/2025	84024145		BASINGDEAN	BASINGDEAN	180.00	0.00	180.00	4481	204	180.00	annl fee licensing rnl 21/10/2
03/10/2025	HC-01		BEN DONALDSON	BENDONALD	150.00	0.00	150.00	629	0	150.00	sound engineer
01/10/2025	BFF1668/005(7850		BFF	BFF	101,020.44	20,204.09	121,224.53	4559	160	101,020.44	har theatre refurb
26/08/2025	0575658		BOOKER	BOOKER	323.08	50.24	373.32	4752	155	134.73	bar supplies/motv supplies
								4700	201	188.35	bar supplies/motv supplies
31/10/2025	1339		BRANDPEST	BRAND	148.33	29.67	178.00	4187	204	148.33	pest control and mite treatmen
02/10/2025	10007770415		CASTLE WATER DD	CASTLEWADD	75.44	5.80	81.24	4115	310	75.44	water 1/9-30/9/25
02/10/2025	10007792419		CASTLE WATER DD	CASTLEWADD	109.34	11.80	121.14	4115	205	109.34	water 1/9-30/9/25
03/10/2025	10007836154		CASTLE WATER DD	CASTLEWADD	29.25	0.00	29.25	4115	350	29.25	water 1/9-30/9/25
03/10/2025	10007847098		CASTLE WATER DD	CASTLEWADD	29.25	2.59	31.84	4115	208	29.25	water 1/9-30/9/25
07/10/2025	10007930312		CASTLE WATER DD	CASTLEWADD	90.23	8.87	99.10	4115	320	90.23	water 1/9-30/9/25
07/10/2025	10007935832		CASTLE WATER DD	CASTLEWADD	567.50	58.06	625.56	4115	204	567.50	water 1/9-30/9/25
01/10/2025	Z002521		CBS	CBS	742.67	148.53	891.20	4170	204	742.67	maint contract oct 25
24/10/2025	Z002567		CBS	CBS	1,872.63	374.52	2,247.15	4172	205	1,872.63	repair boiler
24/10/2025	Z002568		CBS	CBS	174.22	34.84	209.06	4172	205	174.22	repair toilet
05/10/2025	P807634		CHAMBERS	CHAMBERS	390.10	78.02	468.12	4155	204	390.10	skip hire
31/10/2025	3290		CHARTERHOUSE TREE CA	CHARTERHOU	750.00	150.00	900.00	4250	208	750.00	remove 16 opm nests
08/10/2025	11165198		CHUBB FIRE	CHUBB	919.74	183.95	1,103.69	4170	205	919.74	fire contract 23/12-22/12/26
08/10/2025	11167995		CHUBB FIRE	CHUBB	177.26	35.45	212.71	4170	205	177.26	fire contract - 31/10/26
01/10/2025	INV-D-09119		CLOUDY IT	CLOUDYIT	693.00	138.60	831.60	4486	101	128.80	IT and microsft Oct 25
								4484	101	378.20	IT and microsft Oct 25
								4440	101	186.00	IT and microsft Oct 25
08/10/2025	INV0105276		THE COLUMBARIA	COLUMBARIA	242.00	48.40	290.40	4935	350	242.00	sanctum plaque
17/10/2025	INV0105441		THE COLUMBARIA	COLUMBARIA	245.00	49.00	294.00	4935	350	245.00	posy on a spiral
20/10/2025	INV0105485		THE COLUMBARIA	COLUMBARIA	157.50	31.50	189.00	4935	350	157.50	posy on a spiral

Purchase Ledger for Month No 7 **Order by Supplier A/c**

								Nominal Ledger Analysis			
Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Ref No	Supplier A/c Name	Supplier A/c Code	Net Value	VAT	Invoice Total	A/C	Centre	Amount	Analysis Description
14/10/2025	908409808		MOLSON COORS	COORS	1,213.30	242.66	1,455.96	4700	201	1,213.30	bar supplies
30/10/2025	SI-43665		CREST LIFTS	CREST	622.86	124.57	747.43	4172	204	622.86	maint contract 18/10-18/1
19/10/2025	C001104845		CRONER	CRONER	344.01	64.97	408.98	4551	101	189.21	HR and H&S Oct 25
								4187	101	154.80	HR and H&S Oct 25
29/10/2025	INV-2025-10-		FESTIVE LIGHTING	FESTIVELIG	660.00	132.00	792.00	4655	150	660.00	xmas lights install
04/10/2025	25/14		FLEETJAZZ	FLTJAZ	720.00	0.00	720.00	625	0	720.00	jazz club oct
18/10/2025	25/15		FLEETJAZZ	FLTJAZ	1,093.67	0.00	1,093.67	622	0	720.00	jazz ep nov and sept
								624	0	373.67	jazz ep nov and sept
16/10/2025	10938243		FOCUS	FOCUS	47.00	9.40	56.40	4487	205	47.00	Broadband Nov 25
22/10/2025	OCTEXPGW		GEORGE WOODS	GEORGEW	35.55	0.00	35.55	4537	105	35.55	expense
30/09/2025	30SEP2025		GLOBAL PAYMENTS DD	GLOBALDD	897.43	0.00	897.43	4422	201	897.43	card charges 30/8-30/9/25
16/10/2025	10143		GOING LIVE ENTERTAIN	GOINGLIVE	2,537.23	0.00	2,537.23	630	0	2,537.23	cheesy bingo oct 25
21/10/2025	31828		GREENHOUSE G LTD	GREENHOUSE	2,035.00	0.00	2,035.00	4430	105	2,035.00	newsletter
23/10/2025	31829		GREENHOUSE G LTD	GREENHOUSE	595.00	0.00	595.00	4430	105	595.00	a4 prints
13/10/2025	58331766		HCC	HCC	128.82	25.76	154.58	4152	204	128.82	toilet roll/hand towels
27/10/2025	58332943		HCC	HCC	272.64	54.53	327.17	4152	204	226.10	toilet roll
								4400	101	46.54	stationery
30/10/2025	3612032184		HCC	HCC	195.48	39.10	234.58	4206	301	195.48	maint charge lighting 1/4-30/9
01/10/2025	INV-54577		HOGS BACK	HOGSBACK	325.10	65.02	390.12	4700	201	325.10	bar supplies
15/10/2025	INV-55069		HOGS BACK	HOGSBACK	231.86	46.37	278.23	4700	201	231.86	bar supplies
07/10/2025	7OCT25		HSBC	HSBC	51.64	0.00	51.64	4420	101	51.64	bank charges 8/9-7/10/25
27/10/2025	12905143		HSBC	HSBC	114.80	0.00	114.80	4420	101	114.80	bank charges 1/9-30/9/25
29/10/2025	3029669		IBSOFFICE	IBSOFFICE	412.48	82.50	494.98	4400	101	412.48	printer costs 28/7-27/10
01/10/2025	20122		INSTITUTEOFCEMET	ICCM	90.00	18.00	108.00	4030	101	90.00	sian training gardens of rem
07/10/2025	INV-01653	4991	INFINITY	INFINITY	661.32	132.26	793.58	4230	315	661.32	rotator repairs
09/10/2025	INV-3920		KRAKEN	KRAKEN	200.00	40.00	240.00	4295	150	200.00	signs - xmas festival 25
17/10/2025	136		LCE PROMOTIONS	LCEPROM	500.00	100.00	600.00	670	0	500.00	deposit luke combs
15/10/2025	147214		LONDON CATERING	LONDONCAT	119.26	23.85	143.11	4152	204	119.26	cleaning supplies
07/10/2025	71025		MICK AVORY	MICK AVORY	290.43	58.09	348.52	629	0	290.43	kast off kinks depo

Purchase Ledger for Month No 7 **Order by Supplier A/c**

								Nominal Ledger Analysis			
Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Ref No	Supplier A/c Name	Supplier A/c Code	Net Value	VAT	Invoice Total	A/C	Centre	Amount	Analysis Description
07/10/2025	71025 2		MICK AVORY	MICK AVORY	1,441.33	0.00	1,441.33	629	0	1,441.33	kast off kinks balance
07/10/2025	3512		MILLERS ARK ANIMALS	MILLERSARK	700.00	19.00	719.00	4656	150	700.00	xmas animals
30/10/2025	37097		MK SURVEYS	MKSURVEYS	38,390.00	7,678.00	46,068.00	4559	160	38,390.00	Building suveys
01/10/2025	432383CR		MORR CO	MORRCO	-970.50	-194.10	-1,164.60	4555	160	-970.50	partial refund prof fees
25/09/2025	19794 2		NIGEL JEFFRIES	NIGELJEFFR	20.00	4.00	24.00	4155	325	20.00	correction insulation removal
21/10/2025	19934		NIGEL JEFFRIES	NIGELJEFFR	360.00	72.00	432.00	4202	315	360.00	chilean wine palm
16/10/2025	IN14092852		NPOWER	NPOWER	2,388.17	477.63	2,865.80	4122	204	2,388.17	elec 1/9-30/9/25
16/10/2025	IN14172254		NPOWER	NPOWER	23.40	4.68	28.08	4122	310	23.40	elec 1/9-30/9/25
16/10/2025	IN14192429		NPOWER DD	NPOWERDD	100.20	5.01	105.21	4122	310	100.20	elec 1/9-30/9/25
16/10/2025	IN14192432		NPOWER DD	NPOWERDD	40.49	2.02	42.51	4122	315	40.49	elec 1/9-30/9/25
16/10/2025	IN14192472		NPOWER DD	NPOWERDD	37.32	1.86	39.18	4122	208	37.32	elec 1/9-30/9/25
16/10/2025	IN14192473		NPOWER DD	NPOWERDD	120.38	6.02	126.40	4122	205	120.38	elec 1/9-30/9/25
16/10/2025	IN14208913		NPOWER DD	NPOWERDD	69.04	3.45	72.49	4122	320	69.04	elec 1/9-30/9/25
17/10/2025	4103		NPTREEMANAGE	NPTREE	210.00	42.00	252.00	4250	310	210.00	t95 priority 1 tree
17/10/2025	4104		NPTREEMANAGE	NPTREE	210.00	42.00	252.00	4250	315	210.00	p1 silver birch
22/10/2025	4108		NPTREEMANAGE	NPTREE	420.00	84.00	504.00	4250	320	420.00	priority 1 tree
23/10/2025	4112		NPTREEMANAGE	NPTREE	180.00	36.00	216.00	4250	208	180.00	complete priority 1 tree works
28/10/2025	4119		NPTREEMANAGE	NPTREE	430.00	86.00	516.00	4250	315	430.00	lift oaks
31/10/2025	4129		NPTREEMANAGE	NPTREE	250.00	50.00	300.00	4250	350	250.00	remove pine limb
17/10/2025	131720		OFFICE FURNITURE DIR	OFFICEFD	2,372.01	474.40	2,846.41	4185	120	2,372.01	office chairs and mats
10/10/2025	30SEP25		PAYMENTSENSE	PAYMENTSEN	167.71	0.00	167.71	4422	201	167.71	card charges 1/9-30/9/25
31/10/2025	31OCT2025		PAYMENTSENSE	PAYMENTSEN	353.03	0.00	353.03	4422	201	353.03	card charges 1/10-31/10/25
10/10/2025	6270137		PAYMENTSENSE	PAYMENTSEN	14.90	2.98	17.88	4422	201	14.90	card charges 1/10-31/1025
10/10/2025	6270138		PAYMENTSENSE	PAYMENTSEN	94.95	18.99	113.94	4422	201	94.95	card charges 1/9-30/9/25
15/10/2025	INV0635		PHILSDRAINAGE	PHILSDRAIN	380.00	0.00	380.00	4172	310	380.00	drain work
31/10/2025	002217		CHCLEANING	PRIMA	2,868.95	573.79	3,442.74	4150	204	2,868.95	cleaning 1/10-31/10/25
31/10/2025	002218		CHCLEANING	PRIMA	694.05	138.81	832.86	4150	205	694.05	cleaning 1/10-31/10/25
31/10/2025	002219		CHCLEANING	PRIMA	424.05	84.81	508.86	4150	204	424.05	cleaning 1/10-31/10/25
31/10/2025	002220		CHCLEANING	PRIMA	127.05	25.41	152.46	4150	315	127.05	cleaning 1/10-31/10/25

Purchase Ledger for Month No 7 **Order by Supplier A/c**

								Nominal Ledger Analysis			
Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Ref No	Supplier A/c Name	Supplier A/c Code	Net Value	VAT	Invoice Total	A/C	Centre	Amount	Analysis Description
31/10/2025	002221		CHCLEANING	PRIMA	64.05	12.81	76.86	4150	310	64.05	cleaning 1/10-31/10/25
31/10/2025	002222		CHCLEANING	PRIMA	127.05	25.41	152.46	4150	320	127.05	cleaning 1/10-31/10/25
31/10/2025	002223		CHCLEANING	PRIMA	141.75	28.35	170.10	4150	208	141.75	cleaning 1/10-31/10/25
03/10/2025	03/10/25		PRINCESTONES	PRINCESTON	540.00	0.00	540.00	4942	350	540.00	laid down 27 unsafe memorials
23/10/2025	23/10/25		PRINCESTONES	PRINCESTON	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	4942	350	1,000.00	stake unsafe memorials x50
01/10/2025	76314		REDSHANK IT SERVICES	REDSHANK	75.00	15.00	90.00	4400	204	75.00	toner cartridge
17/10/2025	RAM3452024		ROCKARTIST	ROCKARTIST	4,880.00	120.00	5,000.00	615	0	4,880.00	bad manners balance
06/10/2025	GB-01171243		SAGE	SAGE	44.50	8.90	53.40	4550	101	44.50	payroll 6/10-5/11/25
07/10/2025	BOBEXPOCT25		BOB SCHOFIELD	SCHOFIELD	43.20	0.00	43.20	4537	105	43.20	halc agm visit
01/10/2025	INV-18529		SG POS	SGPOS	70.00	14.00	84.00	4728	201	70.00	web services oct 25
09/10/2025	MEM255943-1		SLCC	SLCC	480.00	0.00	480.00	4460	101	480.00	membership fee rita tong
31/10/2025	INV-15659		THE ENERGY AUDITING	TEAM	176.00	35.20	211.20	4172	204	176.00	DEC 2025
10/10/2025	391891472/25		TOTAL ENERGIES DD	TOTENGDD	119.01	5.95	124.96	4120	205	119.01	gas 31/8-30/9/25
10/10/2025	391891527/25		TOTAL ENERGIES DD	TOTENGDD	696.41	139.28	835.69	4120	204	696.41	gas 31/8-30/9/25
10/10/2025	391891593/25		TOTAL ENERGIES DD	TOTENGDD	52.43	2.62	55.05	4120	208	52.43	gas 31/8-30/9/25
16/10/2025	90044426		VIMTO	VIMTO	283.42	56.68	340.10	4700	201	283.42	bar supplies
19/10/2025	446188-021		VIRGIN MEDIA	VIRGIN	181.83	36.37	218.20	4487	204	181.83	broadband 16/10-15/11/25
13/10/2025	INV-25992245		XERO	XERO	16.00	3.20	19.20	4481	101	16.00	accounts sub 13/10-12/11/25
				TOTAL INVOICES	186,634.91	33,594.71	220,229.62			186,634.91	

Fleet TOWN COUNCIL

8. ANCELLS FARM PRE SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ancells Farm Community Pre-School has operated from Ancells Farm Community Centre for over 30 years. The pre-school provides Ofsted-rated "Good" early years education and community support for local families, including those with additional needs.

Following the introduction of the Hallmaster booking system, inconsistencies were identified between the pre-school's room usage and its historic charges. The pre-school is now seeking financial support from the Council to help cover the full cost of room hire and to replace one of its ageing sheds, which it owns.

This report outlines the background, financial implications, and legal considerations, including potential obligations under Martyn's Law. Members are asked to consider whether the Council wishes to provide financial or in-kind assistance and, if so, on what basis.

1. PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL

To consider a request from Ancells Farm Community Pre-School for financial support towards:

1. The replacement of a storage shed (owned by the pre-school), and
2. The cost of hiring rooms within Ancells Farm Community Centre.

2. BACKGROUND

Ancells Farm Community Pre-School has been based at Ancells Farm Community Centre for more than 30 years. It is a well-established, not-for-profit community organisation offering early years education to children aged 2–5 years (and planning to expand to younger age groups under new government funding).

The pre-school is registered with Ofsted (rated *Good*) and is recognised for its contribution to the local community, particularly its inclusive support for children with additional needs.

3. CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

The pre-school hires the following spaces within Ancells Farm Community Centre:

Room	Days Used	Typical Hours	Weekly Cost (at full rate, incl. VAT)
Crèche (Room 3)	Mon–Fri	08:00–15:00	£357.00
Half Main Hall (Room 2)	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri	08:15–15:00	£254.04
Total Weekly Hire			**£611.04**

Although numbers are smaller on Thursdays at the moment, this could change at any time should new clients sign up. Therefore, officers recommend treating all weekdays consistently when assessing hire costs.

The pre-school accesses the building shortly after 08:00 each day for setup before children arrive at 08:30.

Estimated Annual Cost
At £611.04 per week for **39 weeks**, the **annual cost of hire** would be approximately **£23,830.56 (including VAT)**. This represents the full charge if all rooms are booked and paid for at standard Council rates throughout the academic year.

For reference, the Preschool has paid the following amounts in previous years:

- 2024/25 - £10,320
- 2023/24 - £8,864
- 2022/23 - £9,441
- 2021/22 - £8,667

The Preschool currently has eleven children registered this term. This number will increase to fifteen in January and may rise to twenty by the end of next term.

All children were residents of Fleet or Ancells Farm at the time of registration. Two families have since moved out of the area; however, the grandparents of these children still live in Ancells Farm and regularly support with drop-off and pick-up.

4. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

The pre-school has requested:

- A **grant or grant in kind** to help offset room hire costs, particularly during quieter terms when income is lower; and

- Support towards the **replacement of its existing storage shed**, which is over 14 years old, damaged, and affected by vermin ingress.

The shed is owned by the pre-school and used to store large outdoor play equipment. They would like to replace it with a larger, multipurpose structure that could also provide a sheltered outdoor area for children.

The pre-school believes this support is essential for its sustainability, especially as it prepares to expand provision for younger children under new funding rules.

Budget Allocation: There is currently no budget allocation for the pre-school. Should a Grant Aid in Kind be awarded to the pre-school For Hall Hire, it would be treated in the same way that Fleet Phoenix is treated (i.e. Dr Grant Aid in Kind and Cr Hall Hire which gives a cost neutral cash position).

Any support for the replacement of the shed would require a cash contribution. The Council has fully spent its grants budget for the 2025/26 financial year so should the Council support this request; it would have to be funded from reserves.

5. PREMISES AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

a. Use of Rooms and Hire Policy

The pre-school has previously been undercharged and has not always booked rooms for the full period of use. The introduction of Hallmaster highlighted this inconsistency. Officers have advised that all rooms used must be properly booked and charged to ensure fairness, compliance, and to prevent double bookings.

b. Shed Ownership

All sheds in the pre-school garden are confirmed to be the property and responsibility of the pre-school. The Council holds no obligation for their replacement or maintenance, although it may choose to offer financial assistance on a discretionary basis.

c. Martyn's Law (Protect Duty)
The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 (Royal Assent 3 April 2025) is now law. The Act places legal duties on the *responsible person* for publicly accessible premises to take **reasonably practicable steps** to reduce the risk of physical harm from acts of terrorism.

As the operator of Ancells Farm Community Centre, Fleet Town Council is the responsible person for the site. Under the enhanced tier (premises that host groups of children and other vulnerable users), this includes duties such as:

- Conducting a **risk assessment** to identify vulnerabilities to acts of terrorism.
- Implementing **proportionate physical and procedural security measures**, including access control, barriers, and monitoring systems.
- Ensuring staff and regular hirers (such as the pre-school) are aware of procedures for **evacuation, lockdown, or other security incidents**.
- Maintaining records to demonstrate **compliance** with the Act and associated guidance.

Given that Ancells Farm Community Centre is used by children, the pre-school, and other groups, compliance may require enhancements to perimeter security (for example, the current fencing may not meet "reasonably practicable" standards).

Officers recommend that any decision regarding continued occupation of the Centre by the pre-school takes into account the Council's obligations under this Act, and that funding or grant aid could be linked to implementation of necessary security measures.

d. Equality and Community Impact
The pre-school provides an important community function by offering affordable childcare and early years education locally. Its long-standing presence contributes to the Council's aims of supporting families and promoting community wellbeing.

6. FINANCIAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Council's **Community Grant Aid Policy** allows for both direct grants and *grant aid in kind* (such as reduced hire fees).

The pre-school's total weekly hire cost, based on full Council rates and VAT, is **£611.04**.
Operating for **39 weeks per academic year**, the **annual hire cost** would therefore be approximately **£23,830.56 (including VAT)**.

If Members wished to provide assistance, the financial effect could be summarised as follows:

Level of Support	Approximate Value of Grant (per academic year)	Remaining Hire Income to Council
25% reduction	£5,957.64	£17,872.92
50% reduction	£11,915.28	£11,915.28
100% reduction (full waiver)	£23,830.56	£0.00

Any **grant aid in kind** (fee reduction) should be clearly recorded as a grant for transparency and consistency with the Council's accounting practices.

The Council currently provides **free accommodation to Fleet Phoenix**, a children's charity based at The Harlington. And the Council used to charge the **Fleet Baptist Preschool** at the rate of either £6.75 per hour or £4.75 per hour dependant on day of the week, making a charge on average of £4,575 per year. Members may consider these precedents when assessing whether similar support for a long-established community pre-school aligns with the Council's strategic objectives.

However, reducing hire fees for one pre-school could potentially create a **precedent** for similar requests from other early years providers in the town, which could be viewed as conferring an **unfair commercial advantage**.

If Members wished to provide support, this could be for a defined period (e.g. one academic year), after which the arrangement would be reviewed.

Potential Implications of Not Providing Support

- If no financial support is provided, there is a **real possibility that the pre-school may not be able to continue hiring the rooms for the full period it currently occupies**, given their limited income and the full hire rates.
- Termination of the pre-school's booking could lead to **negative publicity** for the Council, given the long-standing community benefit the pre-school provides.
- Additionally, any lost income from the pre-school would **not easily be offset** by new hires, as it would be challenging to fill the same time slots with alternative bookings in the short term.
- This creates a **dual risk**: reduced income and potential reputational impact.

6. OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Option 1 – Decline financial support

- Maintains consistency with other fee-paying hirers.
- Pre-school continues to pay full hire fees and fund its own shed replacement.
- **Risk:** Pre-school may not be able to afford the full hire costs, potentially requiring termination of their bookings.

Option 2 – Offer Grant Aid in Kind (partial fee waiver)

- Council could agree to reduce hire charges for a fixed period (e.g., 12 months) while the pre-school adjusts to full rates or explores external funding.
- The value of the concession would be recorded as a grant in kind.

Option 3 – Offer a Cash Grant

- Provide a one-off grant towards the shed replacement or annual hire costs, subject to submission of quotes and evidence of community benefit.

Option 4 – Conditional Support

- Any grant or fee reduction could be made conditional upon:
    - Correct and full use of the Hallmaster booking system;
    - Continued Ofsted registration and community focus;
    - Review of perimeter fencing and compliance with the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025.

Option 5 – Non-Commercial Rent / Reduced Rent

- The Council could offer a **formal lease at a non-commercial rent** (for example, a peppercorn or below-market rate).
- This approach was used for Fleet Baptist pre-school and represents a legally compliant way of providing ongoing support while maintaining a contractual relationship.
- This would reduce annual income to the Council but formalises occupation and ensures clarity for both parties.
- Conditions could include security compliance, proper booking of rooms, and ongoing community benefit.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to consider:

1. Whether Fleet Town Council wishes to provide any form of financial or in-kind support to Ancells Farm Community Pre-School;
2. If so, what form that support should take (cash grant, grant in kind, or both);
3. That any support be time-limited and formally recorded as a grant with appropriate conditions; and
4. That officers be authorised to review perimeter security at Ancells Farm Community Centre in light of the forthcoming Martyn's Law obligations.

Fleet TOWN COUNCIL

9. DRAFT BUDGET 2026/27

The 2026/27 draft budget compares the current 2025/26 budget and the expected year end position for 2025/26 based on six months of actual operational costs.

Assumptions

- **Interest Income** – The current Bank of England base rate is 4%. Interest rates are predicted to continue to fall. The budget has assumed a conservative 3% return from our CCLA investments and 2% from Nationwide. It should be noted by Members that our reserves (upon which we earn interest income) are forecasted to drop from £3.7 million to £1.2 million as a result of the Harlington renovation project and therefore income from interest will drop significantly in future budgets.
- **Staffing Costs** – 4% has been applied to the staff salary budget. The Low Pay Commission has recommended an increase to the National Living Wage; from April 2026 the NLW is expected to rise from £12.21 to approximately £12.71 per hour.
- **Grounds Maintenance Contract** – the core contract was renegotiated in 2025/26 and the budget reflects the new contract price and the new split among cost centres. The contract allows for increases to be based on RPI. The October RPI was 4.3% so 4.5% has been used for the budget.
- **Water & Sewerage Costs** – The water & sewerage regulator OfWat has predicted significant increases in water and sewerage services – at least 23% in 2025. The budget has applied a 16.2% increase as some cost centres already had an adequate budget based on actual usage.
- **Gas and Electricity Costs** – The electricity and gas regulator OfGem has predicted an increase in the price cap but overall prices should not increase above inflation. However, the 2026/27 budget is above inflation as the base budget has been below actuals and needed to be adjusted to reflect this.
- **Insurance** – includes additional insurance to cover premises to be used during renovation period.
- **Cleaning** – as cleaning is a predominately minimum wage sector, the budget has been increased by 4% to reflect the National Living Wage increase. It also includes additional cleaning costs to cover premises to be used during renovation period.
- **Music on the Views** – as agreed at Full Council last month (see minutes for FC November Item 14), £4k has been added to the budget to cover the costs of insurance, first aid, security and a safety officer. Also requested was a phased budget of costs which is included in this agenda pack.
- **Harlington Development** – based on the recent resident consultation results, Option A has been built into the budget using the latest architect's costings. The reduced S106 monies have also been used.
- **Harlington Events** – Q4 income and costs have been reduced to reflect change in venue and lower capacity.
- **Hart Shopping Centre Unit** – Fit out costs of £50k have been budgeted. These costs are to be funded from repurposing the Pension Liability EMR. Operational costs are based on some information provided by unit owners and estimates based on The Harlington.
- **Ancells Farm Community Centre Kitchen –** the kitchen at Ancells Farm Community Centre has been identified as end of life and an amount has been budgeted for updating it**.**
- **Tax Base –** Hart District Council have advised a provisional tax base figure for 2026/27 which has been used in calculating the increase in Band D in the Statement of Variation. As this is only a provisional figure, Members should be aware that it could go up or down when the actual figure is calculated.

The proposed draft budget recommends a precept of £1,507,794 for 2026/27, which represents a Band D increase of £5.54 per annum (4.22%).

Reserves

- Best practice recommends that the General Reserve by held at 40-60% of Precept. Given the Council's proposed precept of £1.5m, the General Reserve should be between £600k and £900k. The Council's General Reserve is forecasted to be £526k at the end of 2026/27 which is 35% of the proposed precept. Members may wish to consider the adequacy of the General Reserve.
- The Play Equipment Reserve is inadequate for the number of playgrounds the Council is responsible for maintaining. Three playgrounds have been identified as requiring immediate attention (both playgrounds at Edenbrook and The Views playground). However, Officers have identified that Basingbourne is also approaching the end of its useful life and will require investment in the medium term. While S106 monies are available for establishing new playgrounds, there is no funding for the maintenance or replacement of existing playgrounds. Therefore, the Council is advised to start building up funds for playgrounds.
- Relating to the above, Officers would request that any unspent playground maintenance budget (if applicable) be transferred to the Play Equipment Reserve at year end.
- Fleet Town Council owns and operates four pavilions (Ancells, Oakley, Basingbourne, and Calthorpe) and two community centres (Ancells and The Harlington). While there is an annual operational maintenance budget for day-to-day repairs and servicing, there is currently no long-term Earmarked Reserve (EMR) to cover *major* works—such as replacing kitchens, roof repairs, heating systems, or other significant refurbishments (refer to list of identified maintenance and capital projects). Members need to decide whether to establish an EMR for Building Maintenance, with an agreed annual contribution; or continue to operate on an ad-hoc basis when major works arise.
- All other reserves appear to be at reasonable levels for their established purpose.

RECOMMENDATION

To consider the information provided in this report in setting the 2026/27 precept for Fleet Town Council.

Fleet Town Council Town Council
Statement of Variation 2026/27

	£		2027/28	2028/29
Base Budget (net) i.e. Precept 2025/26	1,435,992		1,507,794	1,580,527
Add 4% Inflationary increase & minor adjustments	57,022	Add inflation at 3%	45,234	47,416
Add 2nd 1/2 Year PWLB Loan Repayment - Parks	28,500	Ancells - Toilets	10,000	
Less Pension Liability	-10,000	Ancells - Fencing	15,000	
Add Ancells Kitchen Replacement	14,000	Ancells - Bin Store	2,500	
Less Staff IT Replacement	-12,000	Ancells - Table / Chair Replacement		5,000
Less Decrease in Utility Costs	-10,470	Ancells - Heating System		5,000
Add Loss of Fleet Preschool Income	4,750	Ancells - Guttering		5,000
Estimated Budget Requirement 2026/27	1,507,794		1,580,527	1,642,943
Total increase required	71,802		72,734	62,416
% increase in cash terms	5.00%		4.82%	3.95%
Tax base 2025/26 (Band D Equivalent figure)	10939.3			
Precept per Band D property	£131.27			
Tax base 2026/27 (Band D Equivalent figure)	11021.5		11021.5	11021.5
Precept per Band D property	£136.80		£ 143.40	£ 149.07
Increase per Band D Property	£5.54		£6.60	£5.66
% Increase per Band D Property	4.22%		4.82%	3.95%

Fleet Town Council

Income		2026/27 Proposed Budget	2025/26 Current Budget	2025/26 Forecast	Variance	Comments
1000	Hall Hire	113,400	126,000	122,379	- 12,600	Loss of income due to move to M&Co
1002	POINT Hall Hire	26,767	19,540	19,540	7,227	Offset by increased Grant cost
1031	HCC Library	13,500	13,500	15,147	-	
1036	Fleet Baptist Preschool	-	4,750	1,420	- 4,750	School closed down July 2025
1050	Outdoor Space Hire	1,900	1,900	4,057	-	
1053	Grant Money & Funding	3,300	3,300	7,354	-	
1057	Fleet Football Club Rent	5,000	5,000	7,000	-	
1059	Refreshment Kiosk	6,500	6,500	5,668	-	
1060	Pitch Hire	8,400	8,400	6,220	-	
1064	Tennis Membership Card	8,000	8,000	6,633	-	
1065	Tennis Hire	2,000	2,000	4,682	-	
1100	Interment Fees	21,840	21,000	19,899	840	
1110	Scattering of Ashes	100	100	100	-	
1120	Sales of Exclusive Rights	29,100	28,000	23,430	1,100	
1121	Transfer of Exclusive Rights	2,000	2,000	1,490	-	
1130	Memorial Cemetery Fees	7,000	7,000	7,499	-	
1132	Memorial Kerbstones	2,500	2,500	3,278	-	
1133	Memorial Sanctums	8,100	8,100	19,102	-	
1134	GOR Planted Area	1,000	1,000	681	-	
1137	GOR Ashes Digging	1,000	1,000	640	-	
1140	Bench Contribution	-	-	-	-	
1420	Bar Sales	117,062	147,500	147,500	- 30,438	Loss of income due to move to M&Co
1431	Confectionery	3,500	2,800	2,694	700	
1432	Ices	2,800	2,500	2,506	300	
1433	Snacks	3,500	3,000	2,376	500	
1435	Box Office Charges	12,961	16,300	16,351	- 3,339	Loss of income due to move to M&Co
1450	Ticket Sales	199,401	261,200	275,906	- 61,799	Loss of income due to move to M&Co
1500	Miscellaneous Income	8,384,000	-	5,190	8,384,000	£350k PWLB Loan Parks; £8 mill for Harlington
1550	Insurance Funds Received	-	-	-	-	
1870	Interest Income	83,000	83,000	148,093	-	CCLA £2.5 million @ 3% = £75k; Nationwide £402k @ 2% = £8k (I have allowed drop in CCLA for Phase 2-4 costs)
1900	Precept - Operational	1,029,390	980,370	980,370	49,020	0.05000153
1902	Precept - New Harlington	478,404	455,622	455,622	22,782	47840310.0%
	Total Income	*10,975,425*	*2,221,882*	*2,314,127*	8,753,543	

Expenses

4000	Salaries	531,755	518,595	511,595	-	13,160	4% increase as mid point between RPI 4.44% and June 2025 CPI 3.6%
4001	Employer's National Insurance	67,760	65,035	64,640	-	2,725	
4002	Employer's Pension	28,055	27,970	26,764	-	85	
4011	Staff Recruitment	1,500	650	624	-	850	
4012	Pension Liability	-	10,000	10,000		10,000	Employee retired so liability has crystalized
4030	Training	5,600	3,300	2,874	-	2,300	
4041	Mileage / Travel / Sustenance	2,200	2,200	1,447		-	
4110	Rates	32,865	20,895	19,540	-	11,970	3% per District cap level
4115	Water & Sewerage	11,875	10,220	16,251	-	1,655	
4120	Gas	36,310	47,960	48,164		11,650	
4122	Electricity	57,300	70,370	70,220		13,070	
4130	Insurance	32,716	21,460	17,941	-	11,256	
4150	Cleaning	79,235	56,965	51,089	-	22,270	
4151	Cleaning - Equipment	3,250	500	500	-	2,750	
4152	Cleaning - Supplies	7,900	8,000	8,217		100	
4155	Refuse Collection	5,425	4,125	9,029	-	1,300	
4156	Recycling	800	950	950		150	
4169	Street & Park Furniture	500	500	250		-	
4170	Building Maintenance	106,665	36,750	39,678	-	69,915	£50k M&Co fitout; £14k AFCC new kitchen
4172	Building Compliance	11,500	6,000	10,735	-	5,500	
4175	Equipment Maintenance	1,750	2,550	2,413		800	
4176	Action Day	400	500	500		100	
4180	Equipment Hire	-	-	9,192		-	
4182	Technical Equipment Sundries	750	750	750		-	
4183	Technical Equipment Hire	1,000	500	500	-	500	
4185	Equipment	12,000	11,200	12,981	-	800	
4187	Health & Safety	7,810	6,510	11,239	-	1,300	
4188	Fire & Interuder Monitoring	405	575	575		170	
4200	Grounds Maintenance	183,720	184,800	180,346		1,080	New contract so reset base. Contract increase RPI - June RPI 4.44% so using 4.5%
4201	Ground Work (Badgers)	4,000	4,000	4,000		-	
4202	Additional Grounds Works	12,900	12,900	20,488		-	
4203	General Upkeep	100	100	198		-	
4205	CCTV	10,650	7,250	7,250	-	3,400	
4206	Lamppost Maintenance	700	700	700		-	
4207	Fire & Intruder Systems	5,000	2,500	3,200	-	2,500	
4208	Speedwatch & SIDS	1,100	1,100	1,100		-	
4210	Floral Displays	21,500	20,300	20,440	-	1,200	Based on most recent quote
4220	Friends Group Support	440	440	440		-	
4222	Friends Group Get Together	-	-	-		-	
4225	South & South East in Bloom	700	700	645		-	
4230	Playground Maintenance	28,585	27,500	27,500	-	1,085	

4235	Play Equipment	358,000	66,500	66,500	-	291,500	£150k The Views Playpark; £200k Edenbrook Playparks
4241	Grant - Fleet Phoenix	15,834	12,000	15,834	-	3,834	
4242	Grant - Sashas Project	10,933	7,540	10,933	-	3,393	
4250	Tree Surgery	26,310	24,850	27,635	-	1,460	
4280	Ancells Car park	10,000	7,500	7,500	-	2,500	
4290	MOTV Events Cost	-	-	1,757		-	
4295	Christmas Festival Costs	3,000	3,000	4,300		-	
4400	Stationery & Consumables	3,140	2,800	3,302	-	340	
4401	Document Management	-	-	-		-	
4420	Bank Charges	2,500	2,500	2,983		-	
4422	Bank & Card Transactions	15,000	14,000	13,998	-	1,000	
4430	Promotion/Publicity/Vision	11,077	10,500	10,633	-	577	£500 Annual Residents Meeting Costs
4432	Marketing	20,000	20,000	22,299		-	
4433	Marketing Support	10,000	10,000	10,457		-	
4435	Website	1,100	1,100	1,528		-	
4440	Telephone & Broadband	3,480	15,300	10,752		11,820	Move to VOIP
4445	Mobile Phones	1,246	1,190	975	-	56	
4455	Postage	500	500	462		-	
4460	Subscriptions	4,430	3,600	4,358	-	830	
4480	Computer Maintenance	1,500	1,500	2,280		-	
4481	Software / Licenses	8,500	8,500	6,008		-	
4484	Computer Support	12,000	5,100	4,546	-	6,900	Offset by decrease in Email exchange
4485	Computer Storage	-	-	-		-	
4486	Email Exchange	-	5,340	5,029		5,340	
4487	Wi-Fi	2,700	2,700	2,826		-	
4490	Sales System Costs	16,600	14,000	14,000	-	2,600	
4530	Councillor Development	500	500	500		-	
4535	Chairmans Expense Allowance	1,200	1,200	1,200		-	
4537	Members Expense Allowance	800	800	800		-	
4538	Community Support	1,500	1,500	1,309		-	
4540	Elections	5,000	5,000	5,000		-	
4550	Payroll Services	840	840	548		-	
4551	HR Services & Staff Welfare	3,300	3,300	2,273		-	
4555	Legal Fees & Costs	2,000	2,000	6,072		-	
4559	Professional Fees	10,837,600	-	904,698	-	10,837,600	
4560	Accountancy Fees	-	900	-		900	
4561	VAT Consultancy Fees	-	250	-		250	
4562	Design Consultancy Fees	-	-	-		-	
4565	Survey & Consultation	-	-	1,054		-	
4580	Audit Fees	4,120	4,120	4,120		-	
4590	Repairs & Renewals	7,000	7,000	7,000		-	
4651	LTA Registration - Membership	500	500	500		-	
4653	Tennis Software	950	950	941		-	

4655	Town Centre Christmas Decorations	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	
4656	Christmas Gurkha Square	5,125	4,100	4,100	- 1,025	
4657	Christmas Day Lunch	2,200	2,200	2,200	-	
4660	Remembrance Day	3,500	3,450	3,450	- 50	
4661	Gurkha Square Market	-	-	-	-	
4700	Bar Purchases	46,825	59,000	59,000	12,175	Move to M&Co
4710	Bar Consumables	1,500	1,500	1,729	-	
4715	Stocktaking	500	500	500	-	
4720	Performance Costs	135,593	165,000	173,550	29,407	Move to M&Co
4728	Till App	1,200	1,200	990	-	
4740	Licenses	9,170	9,170	9,315	-	
4745	Uniforms	800	500	500	- 300	
4752	Hospitality	500	500	721	-	
4761	Confectionery	2,000	1,650	1,650	- 350	
4762	Ices	1,200	1,000	1,000	- 200	
4763	Snacks	1,600	1,350	1,350	- 250	
4800	Fleet Connect	16,302	13,415	13,415	- 2,887	Bus replacement EMR
4810	Basingstoke Canal	18,309	15,600	18,309	- 2,709	Actual grant paid for last few years
4832	Climate Change	3,500	5,800	5,800	2,300	
4855	Community Grants	3,700	3,700	3,700	-	
4890	Earmarked New Harlington	-	441,722	-	441,722	
4935	GOR Memorial Inscriptions	2,000	2,000	4,283	-	
4936	GOR Ashes Digging	1,000	1,000	1,010	-	
4942	H&S Memorial Repairs	-	325	1,567	325	
4944	H&S Memorial Inspections	-	1,000	208	1,000	
4997	PWLB Loan Repayments	727,916	-	5,801	- 727,916	
		-	-	-	-	
	Total Expenses	*13,724,321*	*2,221,882*	*2,736,023*	- 11,502,439	
Other						
6000	Transfers to Reserves	4,000	-	3,135	- 4,000	Skatepark replacement and maintenance EMR
6001	Transfers from Reserves	- 2,752,896	-	- 466,007	2,752,896	
	Total Other	- *2,748,896*	-	- *462,872*	2,748,896	
	Net Income / Expenditure	**0**	**-**	**40,976**	**0**	

Fleet Town Council
Revised Estimates 2025/26 and Budget 2026/27

		Balance b/f 1 April 2025 £	Deficit/Surplus from Revenue a/c £	Transfer from Revenue a/c £	Transfer to Revenue a/c £	Transfers between Reserves/ Bal. Sheet £	Balance c/f 31 March 2026 £	
BUDGET 2025/26 - Reserves to March 31 2026								
	Reserves							
	Unallocated Reserves							
1	Revenue Reserve	570,729					**570,729**	
	Sub-total unallocated reserves	570,729					**570,729**	
	Earmarked Reserves							
2	Pension Obligation	50,000		10,000			**60,000**	
3	Memorial Testing	6,075		1,325			**7,400**	
4	CP Tennis Sinking	65,563		7,000			**72,563**	Unsure how much needs to be set aside for this?
5	S106 Sensory Garden	10,981					**10,981**	
6	Sale of Assets	140					**140**	
7	Cemetery Works - Badgers	7,000					**7,000**	An amount now included in operational budget so this should be sufficient
8	Play Equipment	92,517		38,000			**130,517**	This reserve is inadequate for the number of playgrounds FTC maintain
9	Harlington Development	3,207,505					**3,207,505**	
10	Elections	11,250		5,000			**16,250**	Elections to be held in 2025 - will be able to determine how much needs to be set aside once held.
11	Edenbrook Commuted Sum	116,160					**116,160**	£200k is the estimated amount to renew both playgrounds.
12	Music on the Views	7,032					**7,032**	
13	Christmas Day Lunch	5,139					**5,139**	
14	Ancells Bus	2,178					**2,178**	
16	Christmas Festival	6,956					**6,956**	
		3,588,497					**3,649,822**	
	Balances	**4,159,226**	**0**	**61,325**	**0**	**0**	**4,220,551**	

		Balance b/f 1 April 2024 £	Deficit/Surplus from Revenue a/c £	Transfer from Revenue a/c £	Transfer to Revenue a/c £	Transfers between Reserves/ Bal. Sheet £	Balance c/f 31 March 2025 £
REVISED ESTIMATE 2025/26 - Projection of Reserves to March 31 2026							
	Reserves						
	Unallocated Reserves						
1	Revenue Reserve	570,729	40,976			-85,000	**526,705**
	Sub-total unallocated reserves	570,729					**526,705**
	Earmarked Reserves						
2	Pension Obligation	50,000		10,000	-8,100		**51,900**
3	Memorial Testing	6,075		1,325	-2,200		**5,200**
4	CP Tennis Sinking	65,563		7,000			**72,563**
5	S106 Sensory Garden	10,981					**10,981**
6	Sale of Assets	140					**140**
7	Cemetery Works - Badgers	7,000					**7,000**
8	Play Equipment	92,517		38,000			**130,517**
9	Harlington Development	3,207,505			-461,500	85,000	**2,831,005**
10	Elections	11,250		5,000			**16,250**
11	Edenbrook Commuted Sum	116,160		0			**116,160**
12	Music on the Views	7,032			-2,734		**4,298**

13	Christmas Day Lunch	5,139					5,139
14	Ancells Bus	2,178					2,178
15	Christmas Festival	6,956					6,956
16	VE80 Day	0		62	-62		0
		3,588,497					3,260,288
	Balances	**4,159,226**	**40,976**	**61,387**	**-474,596**	**0**	**3,786,993**

		Balance b/f 1 April 2025 £	Deficit/Surplus from Revenue a/c £	Transfer from Revenue a/c £	Transfer to Revenue a/c £	Transfers between Reserves/ Bal. Sheet £	Balance c/f 31 March 2026 £	
BUDGET 2026/27 - Reserves to March 31 2027								
	Reserves							
	Unallocated Reserves							
1	Revenue Reserve	526,705					526,705	
	Sub-total unallocated reserves	526,705					526,705	
	Earmarked Reserves							
2	Pension Obligation	51,900				-51,900	0	Liability has crystalized - reallocate to Mall fitout
3	Memorial Testing	5,200					5,200	
4	CP Tennis Sinking	72,563		7,000			79,563	Unsure how much needs to be set aside for this?
5	S106 Sensory Garden	10,981					10,981	
6	Sale of Assets	140					140	
7	Cemetery Works - Badgers	7,000					7,000	An amount now included in operational budget so this should be sufficient
8	Play Equipment	130,517		14,000			144,517	This reserve is inadequate for the number of playgrounds FTC maintain
9	Harlington Development	2,831,005			-2,702,896		128,109	
10	Elections	16,250		5,000			21,250	Elections to be held in May 2026 - will be able to determine how much needs to be set aside once held.
11	Edenbrook Commuted Sum	116,160					116,160	£200k is the estimated amount to renew both playgrounds.
12	Music on the Views	4,298					4,298	
13	Christmas Day Lunch	5,139					5,139	
14	Ancells Bus	2,178					2,178	
15	Christmas Festival	6,956					6,956	
16	VE80 Day	0					0	
17	Community Transport Replacement Bus	0		2,887			2,887	
18	Mall Unit Fitout	0			-50,000	51,900	1,900	
		3,260,288					536,279	
	Balances	**3,786,993**	**0**	**28,887**	**-2,752,896**	**0**	**1,062,984**	

AREA	SHORT Term - within 3 years	MEDIUM Term - 3-5 years	LONG Term - 5-10 years	OPERATIONAL - Over 10 years	DETAILS	POTENTIAL FUNDING	COMMENTS
ANCELLS COMMUNITY CENTRE							
Decoration and tidying up			£20,000		Keeping building presentable (5 yearly)		
Table/chair replacement	£5,000				Replacement of broken/unsafe furniture	Grant	
Re-fitting toilets	£10,000						
Heating/air handling system	£5,000						
Guttering replacement	£5,000						
New doors		£5,000			Replace all internal doors as warped (6)		
New kitchen	£20,000						
Fencing around garden	£15,000				Martyn's Law has any building with children as enhanced tier. This requires preventing access which includes the garden area.		
Bin Store Roof	£2,500				Rubbish is being tossed over wall resulting in excess weight charges. Also highlighted as fire risk in FRA.		
Internal digital locks		£3,000			Stop access to rooms not hired (5 doors)		
Digital display board	£2,000				To promote activities in Centre		Intend to fund from Equipment budget either in current year or 2026/27
OAKLEY PARK							
Play Equipment - additional			£100,000		Play provision for ages under 8s		
Pavilion Replacement				£170,000	To fully replace the current building		
Pavilion refurbishment	£25,000				Painting toilets in pavilion		
Repairs to footpaths			£10,000		Repair damaged paths / footpaths through woodland		
EDENBROOK PARK							
Play Equipment - replacement	£200,000				Wooden play equipment in poor condition	PWLB Loan & £160k in EMR	Intended to commence in 2025/26
CALTHORPE PARK							
MUGA			£150,000		Provision for ages 13-17	S106/grant funding	
Drainage of the football Field and leveling pitches		£150,000			Install new drainage across football pitches		Funding maybe availabel from the FA - due to landfill issues specialialist advice required on type of drainage required.
The tennis courts		£40,000			Providing tennis court Lighting		Less if only two courts are illuminated (5 & 6)

CCTV coverage near tennis courts							
Multi-Use pavilion with carparking							
THE VIEWS							
Repairs to retaining wall	£14,000				Repairs to failing retaining wall		Actual quote obtained. Included in 2026/27 budget
Repairs to gates/ fences		£10,000			Repairs to misalighted gates and fences and improved park security		
Skateboard Park	£250,000				Replace skatepark	PWLB Loan	In progress
Play park Replacement	£150,000				Dated play equipment	PWLB Loan	Intended to commence in 2025/26
Install additional electrical supply							
ANCELLS FARM PARK							
Drainage to football Field		£30,000			Install new drainage across football pitches	Grant funding?	Funding from the FA?
Surfacing around play equipment	£60,000				Becomes a mud bath when wet weather	PWLB Loan	Council agreement to get loan but waiting for information on estimated useful life of equipment to ensure worth doing
Play park Replacement		£200,000			Timber is old and failing. Repairs are being made but funding options need to be considered now.	PWLB Loan	
Pavilion Replacement				£380,000			
Replace / increase Bolloards or anti vehicle solution	£7,000				Options to either chance wooden bollards to concrete. Or option to create an antivehicle mound		
BASINGBOURNE PARK							
Drainage to football Field			£30,000		Install new drainage across football pitches	FA/Grant	Funding from the FA
Play Areas			£200,000		Under 8 Play Area		
Pavilion Replacement				£360,000	To fully replace the current building		
Pavilion Refurbishment		£25,000					
Improve paths		£10,000					
CEMETERY							
Cemetery Road		£50,000			Repair road surface and parking enforcement		
Renew remianing to all other areas.		£30,000			Many paths are now very uneven and accessibility is extremely difficult for some people.		

TOWN CENTRE, GENERAL AREAS GREEN SPACES							
Park bins, park furniture, bollards and noticeboards		£15,000					Replacements
Repair to Leawood Rd Amenity Path		£10,000			Improve access path across amenity land, Possibile wet bour to allow access through woodland to play area		
Outside Depot/ Storage area		£50,000			Container and compound for storage of outside equipment etc.		Most convenient location would be Calthorpe Park. Other location for consideration - the rear of the cemetery.
Outdoor Sound System for Gurkha Square		£30,000			To have a permanent cound installation for community events		Cost is in the power supply not the equipment
GENERAL MANAGEMENT COSTS							
	£770,500	£658,000	£510,000	£910,000			

V2 - MOV Budget and Phasing

Item	Description	2026 - Budget	2026 (required by 31.03.25	2026 (required after 01.04.26	Actuals 2025	Actuals 2024	Comments
INCOME							
FTC	**Carried over**	£3,097.42	£3,097.42		£7,032.48	£2,034.00	
Tickets	Based on tickets sold and after deductions	£16,000.00		£16,000.00	£13,992.37	£11,900.40	
VIP pitches	New - area set aside for "bring your own Gazebo"	£500.00		£500.00			
FTC	Grant £4,000 be added to the 2026/27 budget to cover the costs of the Safety Officer, First Aid, SIA Security, and Event Cancellation Insurance.	£4,000.00	£1,100.00	£2,900.00			
KJM	Sponsorship				£0.00	£1,000.00	
HDC	Sponsorship				£0.00	£1,000.00	
HDC Climate Change	Sponsorship of wristbands and recycling				£0.00	£500.00	
HCC	Councillor Grants				£0.00	£2,575.00	
Fleet BID	Sponsorship				£3,000.00	£4,000.00	2026 - Uncertainty - Not aplied for yet?
Kirk Rice	Sponsorship				£1,000.00	£1,000.00	2026 - Not applied for yet
Church Crookham PC	Sponsorship				£1,000.00	£1,000.00	2026 - Not applied for yet
Stallholders	8 hot food stalls + others	£1,150.00		£1,150.00	£1,065.00	£983.11	
TOTAL INCOME		**£24,747.42**	**£4,197.42**	**£20,550.00**	**£20,057.37**	**£23,958.51**	
EXPENDITURE							
Insurance	Bad weather insurance and cancellation	£1,100.00	£1,100.00		£1,039.40	£1,034.40	
Safety Officer	Steve Douglas	£400.00		£400.00	£350.00	£350.00	
	Logo Design				£0.00	£300.00	
Marketing & Signs	Advertising / Marketing	£1,200.00	£1,200.00		£986.37	£619.18	Not all wil be spent up front but a large proportion will be
Stage Deposit	Deposit Eurohire Hire for one day + set up		£2,125.00			£1,565.35	
Stage	Eurohire Hire for one day + set up	£8,500.00		£6,375.00	£7,740.00	£4,696.05	total alloownce for 2026 - £8500
Beer Tent	3 tents + 1 for Green Room + 1 for instruments. 1 x 6m beer tent and I x 3m Info Tent					£0.00	
Rushmoor Rotary	For refreshments for volunteers (burger/bacon roll)	£120.00		£120.00	£105.00	£130.00	
Loos Hire	LoosForDos (Remainder) ex Vat			£1,150.00	£1,106.50	£515.87	
Loos Hire	LoosForDos (Deposit) ex Vat	£1,500.00	£350.00		£276.63	£515.87	total alloownce for 2026 - £1500
Loos Hire	Additional loo hire (6 man urinal block)				£125.00		
First Aid	SJA	£350.00		£350.00	£300.30	£286.00	
Security	Luna Safety Group	£2,150.00		£2,150.00	£1,960.00	£887.80	
Performers	Musicians	£12,000.00	£2,500.00	£9,500.00	£8,550.00	£7,931.23	
Performanc PRS					£0.00	£0.00	Keeping fingers crossed
Radio Hire	We have radios					£0.00	
Backstage Refreshments	Backstage refreshments	£300.00		£300.00	£254.69	£130.00	
Heras fencing	Natta				£0.00	£0.00	
Lions Equipment	Fleet Lions	£60.00		£60.00	£50.00	£25.00	
Litter Picking	Litter picking	£330.00		£330.00	£300.30	£308.25	
Water provision	Hosepipe, standpipe delivery etc.				£0.00	£326.23	
Waste Collection	Waste collection by Biffa /Shorts??	£165.00	£165.00		£150.00	£480.00	Shorts??
Gazebo erection	Saturday Market gazebo set up and take down				£0.00	£200.00	
Wristbands & Lanyards	Wristbands and lanyards	£130.00		£130.00	£117.22	£120.35	
Recycle Bags	200 black and 200 recycling clear	£30.00		£30.00	£27.54		
Staffing	2 front of house + 1 hospitality - minimum wage	£400.00		£400.00	£363.25		
Sue Expenses	Chain to secure loos					£28.62	
Parking	car park provision	£165.00		£165.00	£150.00	£80.00	
Website	website name purchases					£40.46	
Ben Crane CC	Cable ties	£15.00		£15.00	£0.00	£12.17	
Ben Crane CC	Water container					£64.98	
Ben Crane CC	Line Marking	£50.00		£50.00	£40.23	£14.60	
Charlotte Benham CC					£0.00	£30.60	
Contingency		£500.00		£500.00	£0.00		
					£0.00	£59.96	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**£29,465.00**	**£7,440.00**	**£22,025.00**	**£23,992.43**	**£20,752.97**	
INCOME - EXPENDITURE		**-£4,717.58**	**-£3,242.58**	**-£1,475.00**	**-£3,935.06**	**£3,205.54**	

Fleet TOWN COUNCIL

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION FOR HAMPSHIRE

1. PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL

To note and consider the Government's consultation on proposals for local government reorganisation in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

2. BACKGROUND

The Government has launched a public consultation on proposals for local government reorganisation in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The consultation is open until **11 January 2026** and can be accessed at: https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/hampshire-isle-of-wight-portsmouth-southampton/

The consultation seeks views on the following proposals:

1. **Four-Unitary Model**
   Submitted by Hampshire County Council and East Hampshire District Council, this proposal would establish three new unitary councils on the Hampshire mainland, with the Isle of Wight remaining as an independent unitary authority.

   The full business case for this proposal is available via the consultation website.

2. **Five-Unitary Model**
   Submitted jointly by 11 existing councils (Portsmouth, Southampton, Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh, Fareham, Hart, Havant, New Forest, Rushmoor, Test Valley, and Winchester), this proposal would create four new unitary councils on the Hampshire mainland, again with the Isle of Wight remaining independent.

   The joint business case indicates that this model would best deliver local services close to communities, drive economic growth, and achieve estimated annual savings of at least £63.9 million.

   The main difference among the three variations of this model is which new unitary area would include the New Forest.

   Hart District Council has confirmed that virtual partner meetings are being arranged for early December to discuss the proposals and provide an opportunity to raise questions.

   The list of questions included in the consultation are in Appendix 1.

   Summary Slides provided by Hart District Council on the five unitary model is attached as Appendix 2.

3. NEXT STEPS

Following the consultation, the Secretary of State will assess the merits of all proposals and consider consultation responses, along with any other relevant evidence, before deciding whether to proceed.

The Secretary of State may choose to:

- Implement one of the proposals (with or without modification),
- Decide not to implement any proposal, or

- Seek advice from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England before reaching a conclusion.

Any changes would require Parliamentary approval. If implemented, new unitary councils would be expected to take on full responsibilities from April 2028, with transitional arrangements in place during 2027–28 to support a smooth changeover.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Fleet Town Council:

1. Notes the Government consultation on local government reorganisation in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight; and
2. Considers whether to submit a Council response to the consultation before the closing date of **11 January 2026**.

Appendix 1 – Consultation Questions

Question 1
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?

Question 2
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

Question 3
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?

Question 4
To what extent do you agree or disagree that this proposal will put local government in the area as a whole on a firmer footing, particularly given that some councils in the area are in in receipt of Exceptional Financial Support?

As of 19 November 2025 within the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton area Southampton City Council had received in-principle Exceptional Financial Support to support their 2025/26 budget. This council will not necessarily be in receipt of Exceptional Financial Support in future financial years.

Question 5
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?

Question 6
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?

Question 7
To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements, for example, the establishment of a strategic authority?

Question 8
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?

Question 9
If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-8 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on this proposal

Where a proposal includes a request that the Secretary of State modifies a proposal to achieve boundary change, you will be asked an additional question:

Question 10
This proposal is accompanied by a request that the Secretary of State considers boundary changes. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal sets out a strong public services and financial sustainability justification for boundary change?

Question 11
If you would like to, please use this free text box to explain your answer to question 10.
For each question, you can provide the following answers:

- strongly agree
- agree

- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree
- don’t know

You will also be invited to explain your answers to questions 1 to 8 using a free text box at question 9. If a question on boundary change is included at question 10, you will be invited to explain your answer in a free text box at question 11.

Joint proposal for local government reorganisation from 11 councils in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

To cover

1. Process followed
2. Three variations in joint submission from the 11 councils
3. Key arguments
4. Government criteria
5. Financial overview
6. Service design opportunities
7. Implementation and next steps
8. Key decision points
9. Questions and discussion

Options appraisal and proposal development timeline

February-March 2025
Mobilisation & Stakeholder Engagement

- All 15 councils and key partners establish collaborative way of working
- Shared guiding principles and consistent approach agreed
- Initial longlist of 12 options for LGR identified

March-April 2025
Data Collection & Initial Analysis

- Standardised data collected from all councils (financial and service)
- High-level analysis aligns with government criteria (focus on C1-3 at this stage for initial shortlisting)
- Leaders' session to recommend reducing options from 12 to 8 based on the outcomes of the high-level analysis which highlighted significant imbalances which were removed

April-May 2025
Detailed Options Appraisal

- 8 shortlisted options fully assessed using 44 metrics (recommended by councils) aligned to government criteria and guiding principles
- Comparative, data-led assessment using dashboards for each option
- High, Medium and Low assessment based on percentiles driven by unitary averages

May-June 2025
Appraisal Outcome & Refinement

- Four new mainland unitary councils emerges as most balanced
- HCC/EHBC withdraw due to outcome (Gosport withdrew because of lack of support for LGR)
- Three variations of the four-mainland unitary model developed (two with no boundary changes and one with – Options H(1), I(2) and BC(3)

June-August 2025
Boundary Change Analysis & Resident Engagement

- Boundary change options (BC1, 2 and 3) assessed for additional benefits using the same metrics against the government criteria
- Targeted and local resident engagement and survey
- Final boundary change option (Option 3) recommended due to appraisal outcome and resident feedback

July-August 2025
Final Proposal Development

- Full proposal drafted, including the three options for submission to government
- Detailed implementation plan and financial modelling completed
- Ongoing engagement with partner organisations, MPs, and communities

September 2025
Submission & Next Steps

- Council Governance meetings arranged for formal approval and agreement on the option that each council supports and submission to Government
- Proposal submitted to government

Outline of the three option variations of the four new mainland and Isle of Wight unitary model

Option 1

Option 2

Option 1A

North Hampshire: Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor	**407,465**	**North Hampshire:** Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor	**407,465**	**North Hampshire:** Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor	**407,465**
Mid Hampshire: East Hampshire, New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester	**598,823**	**Mid Hampshire:** East Hampshire, Test Valley, Winchester	**417,159**	**Mid Hampshire:** East Hampshire, New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester	**484,546**
South West Hampshire: Eastleigh, Southampton	**423,221**	**South West Hampshire:** Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton	**604,885**	**South West Hampshire:** Eastleigh, New Forest*, Southampton, Test Valley*	**510,102**
South East Hampshire: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth	**554,741**	**South East Hampshire:** Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth	**554,741**	**South East Hampshire:** East Hampshire*, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth, Winchester*	**582,137**
Isle of Wight	**146,351**	**Isle of Wight**	**146,351**	**Isle of Wight**	**146,351**

East Hampshire*: Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle
New Forest*: Totton & Eling, Marchwood, Hythe & Dibden and Fawley
Test Valley*: Valley Park, Nursling & Rownhams and Chilworth
Winchester*: Newlands

Proposal summary

Close enough to be local, big enough to stay strong

A shared vision for the future of local government that will deliver the best outcomes for the people of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Local identity: Each unitary reflects the unique and diverse geographies and communities within the county, allowing each part of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to play to its strengths and recognise its residents unique needs.

Financial sustainability: Our model reduces duplication, achieves savings, and is large enough to be financially resilient with an average population of ~500,000 for thew new unitaries. All three variations payback in 2.3-3.1 years and deliver annual savings of between £63.9m and 91.8m.

Service quality: Services will be high quality, locally tailored, and innovate through a focus on prevention and transformation. Place-based, right-sized organisations have a proven track record of improving outcomes.

Economic growth: Each new unitary aligns with a distinct economic area, supporting targeted growth and strategic planning. Our model provides balanced voices and avoids dominance of a single council under an MCA.

Community engagement: Our proposed structure enables stronger local representation and neighbourhood empowerment through a place-based approach that provides communities with a voice.

Collaboration: Our proposal is the result of extensive joint working between 11 of the 15 councils in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, public engagement and key stakeholders who understand local issues.

The Isle of Wight's distinct island features and needs support its ongoing independence as as an island unitary authority. Merging with mainland units would duplicate services without cost savings and reduce local accountability. The island remains financially stable and will collaborate with the new mainland unitaries.

How our four new mainland unitary and Isle of Wight model fully meets the government criteria

Criteria 1: Single Tier of Local Government	Criteria 2: Right Size for Efficiencies, Capacity, and Financial Resilience	Criteria 3: High Quality and Sustainable Public Services
• **Balanced configuration:** Our model creates four new unitary councils with an equal voice on the mainland (anchored around Southampton, Portsmouth, Winchester, and Basingstoke) plus the Isle of Wight as an independent unitary. This ensures a single tier of local government for the whole area, removing the inefficiencies and confusion of the two-tier system, and without loss of the established relationships and successes built by existing unitary authorities • **Tailored governance:** Each unitary is designed around established local economic anchors, enabling strong local leadership and strategies that reflect the unique needs of each area. • **Economic and infrastructure focus:** Our model represents real travel-to-work geographies and community identities, allowing community focused economic development, infrastructure, housing, and transport planning.	• **Financial sustainability:** Our model reduces duplication, centralises back-office functions, and empowers each authority to manage its budget based on local needs. This improves financial resilience and enables significant savings. Annual net financial benefit by Year 4 is £63.9 million (Base) and £91.8 million (High) for all options. • **Efficiency and capacity:** By bringing together capital and revenue planning and enhancing transformation teams, our model achieves savings through service redesign and transformation tailored to local needs. • **Population balance:** The four new unitaries are designed to have balanced populations (average ~500,000), enabling both economic savings through efficiencies and scale, whilst still being local enough to pursue community specific issues and opportunities.	• **Local connections:** Our model prioritises place-based governance, co-producing services with local partners and maintaining and growing existing local relationships, which is especially important for services like adult social care and children's services. • **Service transformation:** Our proposal is built on creating genuinely new unitaries with a comprehensive approach to service design, focusing on high-quality, sustainable, and locally tailored services. • **Prevention and innovation:** Our model emphases the opportunity to innovate and develop services, with a focus on prevention, early intervention, and data-driven decision-making, aligning with NHS and public sector reform agendas.

How our four new mainland unitary and Isle of Wight model fully meets the government criteria

Criteria 4: Collaboration and Local Engagement	Criteria 5: Support for Devolution Arrangements	Criteria 6: Stronger Community Engagement and Neighbourhood Empowerment
• **Extensive collaboration:** Our proposal is the result of six months of extensive joint working among 11 of the 15 councils in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, with regular engagement of Council Leaders, officers, service delivery directors and key stakeholders. • **Informed by local views:** Our model is shaped by public surveys, workshops with businesses and partners, and engagement with MPs and community groups. • **Community identity:** The model recognises and understands the unique character, geographies and needs of each area, aligning governance with local identities and travel-to-work patterns in a way that allows each part of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to play to its strengths.	• **Strategic planning:** Our model enables a Combined/Strategic Authority with five well-balanced unitaries (four mainland, one Isle of Wight) as constituent authorities, supporting strategic planning for over 2.1 million people. • **Effective decision-making:** The balanced structure avoids dominance by any single authority and supports consensus-building, drawing on lessons from elsewhere in the Country. • **Balanced representation:** Populations of the new unitaries are between 400,000 and 600,000, ensuring fair representation and a voice for each part of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight under a future Combined/Strategic Authority.	• **Enhanced local representation:** Our model enables more tailored and representative governance, with councillor ratios optimised for effective representation of local communities. • **Neighbourhood empowerment:** At the heart of our model is a place-based approach enabling enhanced neighbourhood engagement and co-designed governance arrangements, delivering decision-making at the level closest to individuals and communities. Residents will have a voice for their issues and a say in how their community operates. • **Improved service delivery:** Aligning governance structures with local needs and engaging stakeholders in decision-making allows for more customised and effective services. Our model supports innovative thinking that can tailor solutions and delivery to the varied geographies and needs of Hampshire and Isle of Wight residents.

Financial overview

Base

Summary	Option 1 & 2
Recurring Savings from Year 3	£81.8m
Recurring Disaggregation Costs from Year 1	£17.9m
Cumulative benefit / (cost) after 5 years	**£254.1m**
One-off Implementation Cost by Year 3	(£128.2m)
Net impact after 5 years (2032/33)	**£125.9m**
Payback period	3.0 years
Annual recurring benefit / (cost) post transformation	**£63.9m**

Summary	Option 1 a
Recurring Savings from Year 3	£81.8m
Recurring Disaggregation Costs from Year 1	£17.9m
Cumulative benefit / (cost) after 5 years	**£254.1m**
One-off Implementation Cost by Year 3	(£133m)
Net impact after 5 years (2032/33)	**£121.1m**
Payback period	3.1 years
Annual recurring benefit / (cost) post transformation	**£63.9m**

High

Summary	Option 1 & 2
Recurring Savings from Year 3	£111.5m
Recurring Disaggregation Costs from Year 1	£19.7m
Cumulative benefit / (cost) after 5 years	**£370m**
One-off Implementation Cost by Year 3	(£155.5m)
Net impact after 5 years (2032/33)	**£214.5m**
Payback period	2.2 years
Annual recurring benefit / (cost) post transformation	**£91.8m**

Summary	Option 1a
Recurring Savings from Year 3	£111.5m
Recurring Disaggregation Costs from Year 1	£19.7m
Cumulative benefit / (cost) after 5 years	**£370m**
One-off Implementation Cost by Year 3	(£160.3m)
Net impact after 5 years (2032/33)	**£209.8m**
Payback period	2.2 years
Annual recurring benefit / (cost) post transformation	**£91.8m**

Financial overview

The financial case demonstrates that all three options are viable, deliver substantial savings, have a short payback period, and provide a strong platform for long-term financial sustainability and service transformation.

- **Major Savings:** The reorganisation is projected to deliver **annual recurring savings of £81.8 million** (base case) to **£111.5 million** (stretch case) by Year 3, after transformation. These savings come from reducing duplication, streamlining management, centralising back-office functions, and transforming service delivery.
- **Payback Period:** The upfront implementation costs are estimated at **£128.2 million** (Options 1 & 2) and **£133.0 million** (Option 3, due to boundary changes). The payback period is **3.0 years** for Options 1 & 2, and **3.1 years** for Option 3 (base case). In the stretch case, payback is **2.3 years** for all options.
- **Net Financial Benefit:** By Year 4, the reorganisation delivers a **net financial benefit of £63.9 million per year** (base case) or **£91.8 million per year** (stretch case), supporting long-term resilience and the ability to reinvest in services.
- **Implementation & Disaggregation Costs:**
    - **Implementation costs** cover programme delivery, staff restructuring, IT, estates, and transition teams.
    - **Disaggregation costs** (e.g. splitting county services) are estimated at **£17.9 million per year** (base and stretch case), mainly for adult social care.
    - **Option 3** incurs slightly higher one-off costs due to the complexity of boundary changes but achieves similar long-term savings.
- **Council Tax Harmonisation:** The financial case does **not** assume council tax harmonisation in its payback analysis, but harmonisation could generate an additional **£128 million over 10 years**.
- **Financial Sustainability:** The new structure is designed to be resilient against service pressures, with balanced populations (400,000–600,000 per unitary), a fair tax base, and the scale to withstand financial shocks.
- **No Impact on Existing Budget Gaps:** The analysis assumes existing councils will manage their own budget gaps prior to reorganisation. Any residual gaps will be addressed by the recurring savings from the new structure.

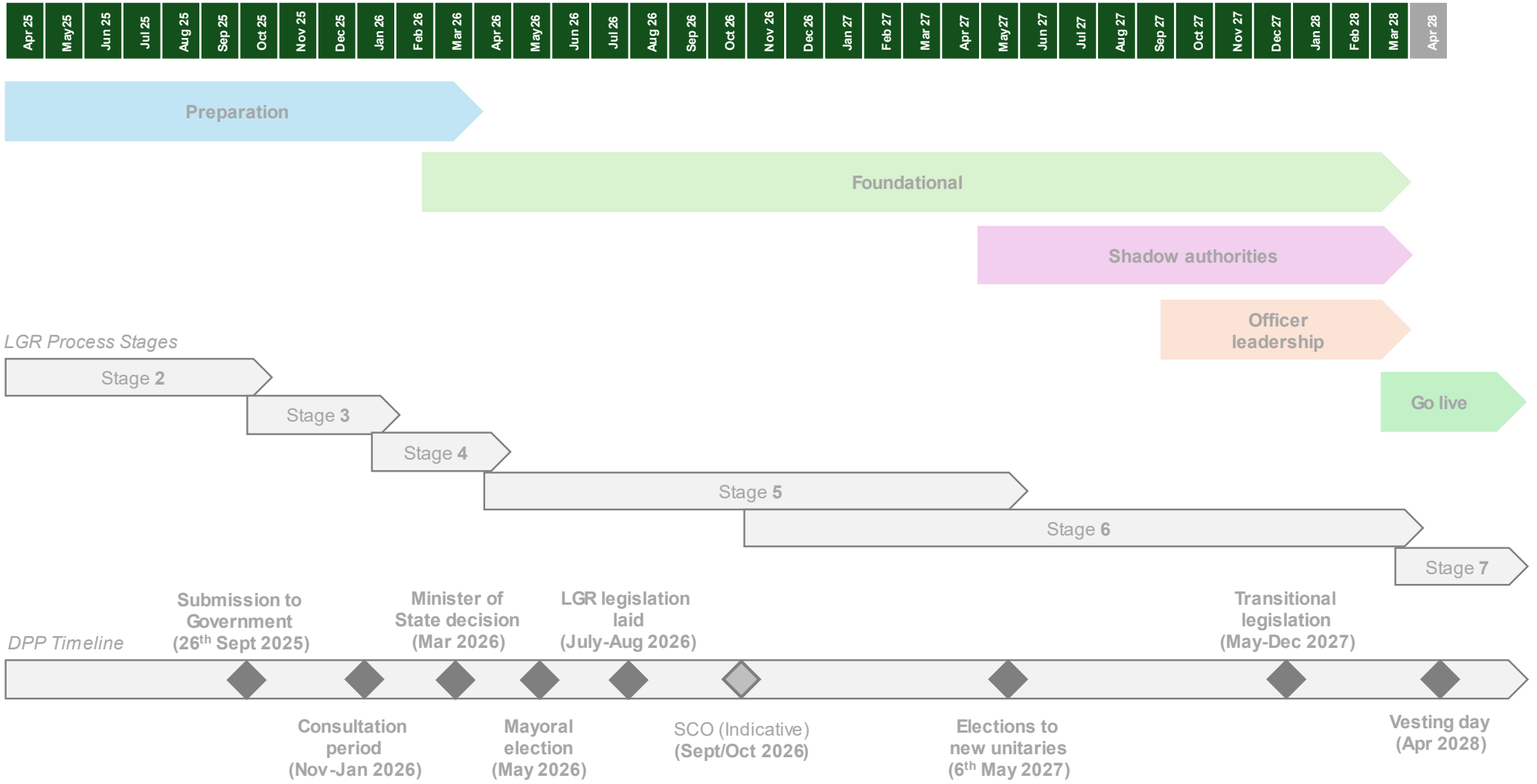
Service design opportunities enabled by our four new mainland + IoW model

Service Area	Key Opportunities	Service Area	Key Opportunities
Adult Social Care	• Neighbourhood-based, locally tailored delivery • Integrated with NHS/voluntary sector • Data-driven targeting • Flexible, place-based commissioning	**Waste Management**	• Joint procurement and shared resources • Tailored urban/rural services • Investment in new facilities and digital • Cross-boundary collaboration
Children's Services	• Localised support and prevention • Stronger collaboration with schools and partners • Tailored SEND/safeguarding • Empowered local teams	**Customer & Digital**	• Enhanced digital infrastructure • Digital self-service and streamlined journeys • Real-time data for service improvement • Digital skills for staff/residents
Education	• Inclusive, high-quality education through local partnerships • Data-driven gap analysis • Targeted investment in early years and digital • Stronger links with employers	**Highways & Transport**	• Area-focused transport/infrastructure plans • Aligns with economic growth/housing • Investment in sustainable, resilient networks • Integrated local/regional connectivity
Economic Growth, Strategic Planning & Planning	• Aligns economic development with local geographies • Targeted regeneration and infrastructure • Supports business clusters and skills • Strategic partnerships for housing/transport/environment	**Housing & Homelessness**	• Place-focused commissioning and delivery • Tailored to local geographies/needs • Pooled resources for affordable housing • Scaled-up best practice in prevention

What our proposal does and does not provide

Government Criteria	What our model provides	What our model does not provide
Criteria 1: Single Tier of Local Government	Opportunities to **fundamentally transform council processes, relationships and governance**	**Business as usual** with existing upper tier and unitary authorities in a larger footprint
	Four new balanced mainland authorities, **each with an economic anchor**	Expansive, unfocused geographies with **distant or competing economic hubs**
Criteria 2: Right Size for Efficiencies, Capacity, and Financial Resilience	Empowered authorities with **reduced duplication and centralised back-office functions**	**Large, unwieldy operations** with functions removed from front-line service delivery and local needs
	Annual financial benefits and **improved financial resilience calculated through a robust financial model**	Financial methodology which is **underpinned by a weak assumptions base**
Criteria 3: High Quality and Sustainable Public Services	Opportunities for **innovative prevention focused services**	Expansion of **existing unsustainable service models**
	High-quality, sustainable, and locally tailored services working closely through partnership working	**Centralised provision of care** across diverse communities with differing needs
Criteria 4: Collaboration and Local Engagement	A **bottom up, collaborative approach** between the majority of existing councils and service providers.	A **top-down approach** that is too big to tailors its approach to local needs
	A proposal **shaped by the views of local residents** and their representatives	
Criteria 5: Support for Devolution Arrangements	Four new mainland unitary authorities and the Isle of Wight with an **equal voice collaborating as partners** under a Combined/Strategic Authority	Large, unbalanced unitaries **overshadowed by a dominant voice** in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight region
Criteria 6: Stronger Community Engagement and Neighbourhood Empowerment	A **place-based approach** enabling enhanced neighbourhood engagement and **co-designed governance arrangements**.	**Distant, unrepresentative councils** that cover diverse and divergent communities
	Tailored solutions and delivery to the varied geographies and needs of Hampshire and Isle of Wigth residents by listening directly to them.	Catch-all approaches that **can't adapt to local needs and communities**

Implementation and next steps



Key decision points

- Government will carry out consultation on proposals – 19th November- 11th January 2026
- Government decision – expected March 2026
- Structural change order through parliament – likely autumn 2026
- Elections to shadow unitary authorities – May 2027
- New unitaries replace existing councils – 1 April 2028

Questions and discussions

Do the Numbers Limited

22nd November 2025

Rita Tong, Executive Officer
Fleet Town Council

Dear Rita,

Subject: Review of Voting for Harlington Renovation Options

As requested, I have reviewed the results of your online and paper survey of residents for the three options to renovate the Harlington.

The number of valid votes by residents of Fleet was as follows

Option A	976	51%
Option B	325	17%
Option C	608	32%

I can confirm that the postcode attached to each vote cast has been checked against the boundary map.

I can confirm that duplicate votes online were prevented by the SurveyMonkey IP software.

I can confirm that all votes were checked against postcodes and no irregular patterns (multiple votes from one address for example) were detected.

Where residents had given their address rather than their full postcode, that was used to validate the address.

A breakdown of the votes cast is shown in the table below.

	All options	*Option A*	*Option B*	*Option C*	*No option chosen*
Total votes	2,044	1047	363	634	
Valid resident votes	1,909	976	325	608	4
Out of parish votes	135	71	38	26	2
Electronic votes	1,788	935	300	553	
Paper votes	256	112	63	81	6
Additional online comments	1,411	720	219	472	

The electorate of Fleet Town Council is 18,661

The population of Fleet is 44,822 (including children)

The turnout against electorate was therefore 10% which is statistically significant

On the electronic voting system, 1411 comments were made by residents which are summarised as follows

eleanorgreene@dothenumbers.uk

Overall Summary of Comments Made

Option A

- Seen as a more affordable choice during the cost of living crisis.
- Some believe that option A provides sufficient updates without increasing council tax.
- Several residents believe that Fleet is already paying enough council tax.

Option B

- A balance between upgrades and cost, appealing to those who want improvements without excessive spending.
- A sensible improvement that is affordable to residents.
- Some residents support Option B but also desire the "Changing Places" facility.

Option C

- Provides a long-term solution and offers many more facilities for a small increase.
- Residents believe that Option C will expand the use of the Harlington.
- Stakeholders see option C as a future-proof solution and good community facility.

Detailed review of comments made by supporters of specific options

Key points raised by those who chose A

- The most affordable choice, aligning with current economic limitations
- Prudent Investment - necessary upgrades without overextending finances
- Includes all essential renovations needed to modernise the venue and serve community needs effectively, without unnecessary luxury features
- Concern About Rising Costs and Tax Impact
- Preference for Simplicity and Practicality - value functional updates over elaborate or vanity projects
- Future-Proofing Without Excessive Spending

Key points raised by those who chose B

- Balance of Cost and Improvements: best compromise between upgrading the facility and maintaining affordability
- Enhanced Accessibility and Facilities - better accessibility, a more modern design, improved entry, vital updates for the community
- Good Value and Future-Proofing - practical investment that addresses current needs and ensures the building remains relevant and functional for future use
- Minimal Impact on Household Budgets - modest increase in Council Tax is acceptable, especially compared to option C
- Sufficient Modernisation without over-spending or including unnecessary extras
- Perceived as Practical and Realistic - sensible, balanced improvement plan that can be delivered effectively within budget constraints, and can be completed within a reasonable timeframe

- Prefer Option B over the more ambitious C mainly because it avoids excessive costs and potential budget overruns, aligning with financial prudence during challenging economic times

Key points raised by those who supported Option C

- Comprehensive and Future-Proof Improvements - making the Harlington a more attractive and functional community asset for many years to come
- Enhanced Facilities and Community Benefits- more hireable spaces, better accessibility, modernised internal and external facilities, including features like changing places and improved auditorium space, which are seen as crucial for community needs and inclusivity
- Economic Growth and Town Prosperity - attract more visitors and footfall
- Best way to future-proof the facility for decades and potentially generate additional income, helping to offset the costs
- Inclusion and Support for Complex Disabilities
- Aesthetic and Modernisation Goals
- Perception of High Value and Community Necessity
- Willingness to Invest for Long-Term Gains - enhanced facilities that serve multiple generations.

Concerns raised by all groups

- Many residents feel that council tax is already excessive
- Affordability During Cost of Living Crisis
- Uncertainty About Long-Term Spending
- Unequal Contributions - why are Church Crookham and Elvetham not contributing
- only Fleet residents are bearing the costs, especially since not all benefit equally
- Belief that the existing funds should suffice
- Suspicion that funds spent on the project could have been misused or that previous plans have lacked support
- Concerns About Over-Spending: cost overruns, more expensive than initially projected without guaranteed benefits.

If either you or your members have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Eleanor S Greene

eleanorgreene@dothenumbers.uk