



**GOSPORT**  
Borough Council

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**5 March 2024**

## **S U M M O N S**

**MEETING:** Policy and Organisation Board  
**DATE:** 13 March 2024  
**TIME:** 6.00 pm  
**PLACE:** Council Chamber  
**Democratic Services contact:** Lisa Young

PETER BAULF  
BOROUGH SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

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### **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

The Mayor, (ex-Officio)  
Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board,

Councillor Chegwyn (Chairman)

Councillor Burgess  
Councillor Hutchison  
Councillor Hylands

Councillor Pepper  
Councillor Raffaelli  
Councillor Mrs Cully

## **FIRE PRECAUTIONS**

(To be read by the Chairman if members of the public are present)

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

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

- If you are in a wheelchair or have difficulty in walking and require access to the Committee Room on the First Floor of the Town Hall for this meeting, assistance can be provided by Town Hall staff on request.

If you require any of the services detailed above please ring the Direct Line for the Democratic Services Officer listed on the Summons (first page).

### **NOTE:**

- i. Councillors are requested to note that, if any Councillor who is not a Member of the Board wishes to speak at the Board meeting, then the Borough Solicitor is required to receive not less than 24 hours prior notice in writing or electronically and such notice shall indicate the agenda item or items on which the member wishes to speak.
- ii. Please note that mobile phones should be switched off or switched to silent for the duration of the meeting.
- iii. This meeting may be filmed or otherwise recorded. By attending this meeting, you are consenting to any broadcast of your image and being recorded.

## **AGENDA**

1. **Apologies for non-attendance**

2. **Declarations of interest**

All Members are required to disclose at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter, any disclosable pecuniary interest or personal interest in any item(s) being considered at this meeting.

3. **Minutes of the meeting of the board held on 23 January 2024**  
(Pages 7 - 10)

To sign as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2024.

4. **Deputations - Standing Order 3.4**

*(NOTE: The Board is required to receive a deputation(s) on a matter which is before the meeting of the Board provided that notice of the intended deputation and its object shall have been received by the Borough Solicitor by 12 noon on Monday 11 March 2024. The total time for deputations in favour and against a proposal shall not exceed 10 minutes).*

5. **Public Questions - Standing order 3.5**

*(NOTE: The Board is required to allow a total of 15 minutes for questions from Members of the public on matters within the terms of reference of the Board provided that notice of such Question(s) shall have been submitted to the Borough Solicitor by 12 noon on Monday 11 March 2024).*

6. **EY - Audit Results Report 2021/22 and Auditors Annual Report 2021/22** (Pages 11 - 96)

This report sets out the findings to date from the 2021/22 external audit, which is well progressed. It includes the messages arising from our audit of your financial statements and the arrangements you have put in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of your resources.

Our report includes only matters of governance interest that have

come to our attention in performing the audit under the requirements of the National Audit Office's Code of Audit Practice and International Standards of Auditing (ISAs).

This is an important report that is a requirement of ISA 260 and must be presented to you in your role as those charged with governance, before you approve the financial statements.

7. **EY - 2022/23 VFM Reporting** (Pages 97 - 128)

This report sets out the findings to date from the 2022/23 external audit, specifically, the messages arising from our audit of the arrangements you have put in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of your resources.

Our report includes only matters of governance interest that have come to our attention in performing the audit under the requirements of the National Audit Office's Code of Audit Practice and International Standards of Auditing (ISAs).

8. **Briefing on the Council's Biodiversity Duty** (Pages 129 - 138)

To advise Members on how the Biodiversity Duty has been considered by the Council and what actions are proposed.

9. **Local Development Scheme for the emerging Gosport Borough Local Plan 2040** (Pages 139 - 180)

The Council is required by legislation to prepare a Local Plan for its area. The timetable for the preparation of a Local Plan must be published in a Local Development Scheme (LDS). This report seeks approval to publish the latest version of the LDS.

10. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY & MRP POLICY 2024/25** (Pages 181 - 196)

This report outlines the Council's policy for charging unfinanced capital expenditure to revenue (MRP) together with the expected treasury operations for this period. It fulfils a key legislative requirement.

11. **Digital Strategy - Project delivery plan** (Pages 197 - 286)

In 2022, the Council received £1,005,740 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to deliver digital inclusion projects and maximise the benefits of digital technologies. As part of the digital strategy, digital interventions are proposed to be delivered against

the three Government set priorities of Communities & Place, Supporting Local Business, and People & Skills.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023, the Policy & Organisation Board approved the over-arching project programme followed by approval of the proposed project plans & delivery timetable for Years One, Two and Three, in part, on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023. This report sets out the remaining Year Three proposed project plans.

12. **Any other items**