



FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL



Report Full Council

25 April 2025

Election of Working Groups and representatives to External Bodies 2025/26

- 1 Councillors have identified preferences for the Working Groups for 2025/26 in accordance with Standing Order 15. These are attached at Annex 1, in order of preference for each Working Group as indicated by each councillor.
- 2 Some councillors expressed a preference for only the Working Groups for which they were interested, some have expressed an interest in maintaining the groups they were on in 2024/25 whilst others have given a priority listing for all the Working Groups. This does not mean they are expected to serve on every Working Group and may wish not to take up a provisional allocation as the workload would be high.
- 3 Standing Order 15.1 f states that the overall membership of the Working Groups will reflect as closely as possible the political make-up of the Council with the intention that as broad a range of councillors as possible is represented. By convention, the Mayor is not appointed to Working Groups and can attend any Group ex-officio.
- 4 If the recommendation from Strategy & Resources to create a Community & Well-being Working Groups is agreed, there are four Working Groups plus three Standing Task Groups (HR Panel, Younger People Panel and Services to Farnham Awards Group) and the Planning and Licensing Consultative Group. Standing Order 15 f suggests (not mandatory) how places are to be allocated to ensure that those who are not members of the majority group are fairly represented. Council agreed during the year to reinstate the sixth member of each Working groups to facilitate quorate meetings. As such, with currently 2 out of 16 councillors, those who are not part of the majority group should have as a priority [at least] 12.5% of the available places or three places between the four Working Groups and representation on the Panels and Task Groups where possible. In practice, the Council has normally chosen councillors willing to serve rather than managing places proportionately. If a Task Group has more councillors wishing to serve than places available one place will be prioritised for a councillor not part of the majority group.
- 5 Councillors are invited to opt for or nominate for the remaining places, or withdraw if this is appropriate where there are more places than candidates. If there are more candidates than places available an election will take place for the vacant places only.
- 6 If a councillor wishes to fill a vacancy, this will still be considered by Council so that any further late additions may also be considered. In determining vacancies, the intention is usually to avoid overloading individual councillors with too many groups, and allow for as many councillors as possible to be part of Task Groups or Working Groups.

- 7 As a reminder, Lead Members of the Environment Community & Wellbeing and Culture and Business Working Groups are also Members of Strategy & Resources ex officio if not previously appointed.

Working Groups

- 8 In relation to Working Groups the following expressions of interest were received.
- Community & Wellbeing Working Group** – Seven preferences for six places. The first six highest preferences (Cllrs Earwaker, Jackman, Mauluka, Brown, Woodhouse and Laughton) would be deemed elected unless anyone withdrew. Cllr White not elected.
- Culture & Business Working Group.** There are nine preferences for six places. The six highest preferences are deemed elected. (Cllr Alan Earwaker, Cllr Andrew Laughton Cllr Michaela Martin, Cllr Brodie Mauluka, Cllr Kika Mirylees and Cllr Graham White) Cllrs Brown, Jackman, and Woodhouse are not elected.
- Environment Working Group** – There are six preferences for six places. All are deemed elected (Cllrs Brown, Earwaker, Jackman, Merryweather, White and Woodhouse.)

Recommendation: It is recommended that

- 1) **Council endorse the proposed membership of the Community & Wellbeing Working Group, the Culture and Business Working Group and the Environment Working Group**
- 2) **Council be adjourned so that the three Lead Members can be elected to confirm who will be on Strategy & Resources ex-officio.**

9 Strategy & Resources

Seven councillors expressed an interest for the six places on the Strategy & Resources Working Group, three of whom (Cllrs Beaman, Fairclough, Hesse, Martin, and White) put the Working Group as a first preference. In accordance with Standing orders, Cllr Brown as the non-majority group councillor representative would be deemed appointed along with the five 1st preferences. However if any of the councillors were appointed as a Working Group Lead Member he or she would be appointed ex officio as Lead member and the next highest preference would then be elected (eg Cllr Laughton) until all places were filled.

- 10 **Planning & Licensing Consultative Group** – Seven councillors have expressed a preference for the eight places available. These are Cllr Merryweather (Badshot Lea and Moor Park), Cllr Earwaker (Castle), Cllr Beaman and Cllr White (North West), Cllr Mauluka (Shortheath and Firgrove), Cllr Laughton (Weybourne) and Cllr Woodhouse (Wrecclesham & Rowledge)..

This means there are vacancies for The Bourne and Hale & Heath End). The aim is, if possible, to have one councillor from each ward. Council may wish to appoint the seven councillors who have expressed a preference to be on the Consultative Group or elect one councillor per ward. In any event, all councillors are requested to review applications in their own wards and feed in to the fortnightly meetings.

Panels

- 11 **HR Panel** – There are seven preferences for six places. These are Cllrs Beaman, Brown, Jackman, Laughton, Ward, White, Woodhouse. (The HR Panel has previously requested that the panel (as far as possible) retains consistency during the life of the Council. However in terms of preferences, Cllrs Beaman Brown and Ward made the Panel their first preference and would be deemed elected, and there would be a vote for the remaining three places from the four councillors who made the HR Panel their second preference (Cllrs Jackman, Laughton, White & Woodhouse).
- 12 **Services to Farnham Awards Panel.** The Panel meets to agree awards and to review nominations to external Trusts (such as the Dempster Trust, the Isabella Schroder Trust, and

the Farnham Parochial Charity) as and when vacancies occur for which the Council is to make appointments. It also considers nominations for other awards (such as national honours and names to be added to the Notable names of Farnham.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are ex-officio members and there are places for two other councillors (normally). There is also provision for an additional independent community representative.

Preferences have been received from four councillors. Cllrs Jackman and Mirylees made the Panel their first preference and would be deemed elected. Cllrs Brown, Laughton, and Woodhouse. Cllrs Woodhouse and Brown would not be elected.

Younger People Panel

The Younger People Panel meets in two modes, one with just councillors, and one with a wider group of organisations who support younger people.

There are seven members for six places with Cllrs Earwaker, Laughton, Mauluka, Woodhouse and White making it their first preference and Cllr Brown his second preference. As such these would be deemed to be appointed with Cllr Jackman not being elected..

Task Groups

- 13 All Task Groups cease at the end of a Council year. Council needs to confirm if the Task Groups are to be reconvened. At Strategy & Resources, along with the additional Community and Well-being Working Group it was agreed to make the Task Groups more streamlined and be more clearly linked to the work of the appropriate Working Group. It was also agreed that the Infrastructure Planning Group, Neighbourhood Plan and CIL activities would be grouped together and include the Farnham Infrastructure Programme as it was at implementation stage. As usual, any relevant matters would be discussed at the next appropriate Working Group, avoiding the need for additional Task Group meetings unless detailed discussion were required.

Continuing Task Groups need a formal resolution to be re-established.

It is recommended that the following Task Groups be re-established as there is work to be done:

- **Allotments Advisory Group**
- **Assets Task Group**
- **Infrastructure Task Group (including the Neighbourhood Plan, Farnham Infrastructure Programme and Community Infrastructure Levy**
- **Literary Festival Advisory Group (with external involvement)**
- **Local Government Reorganisation Task Group**
- **World Craft Town Advisory Group (with external involvement)**

Subject to Council's decision on Task Groups, the appointment to Task Groups will need to be agreed. In accordance with Standing Order 15 (f) membership of task groups does not need to conform to the political make-up of the council although in practice there should always be a space for the non-majority group on each Task Group. Other people outside the Council can be appointed to or co-opted onto Task Groups.

- 14 Subject to the decision on paragraph 13:

- **The Assets Task Group** has seven councillors for five places. There are five first preferences and one second preferences meaning Cllrs Fairclough, Jackman, Mirylees and Woodhouse would be deemed elected. Cllr White and Cllr Brown who made it their second preference and Cllr Martin (third) would not be elected.
- **Literary Festival Advisory Group.** There are five councillors for three places. Cllrs Laughton, and Mirylees included this in their top two priority preferences and as such are deemed appointed with Cllrs Jackman deemed appointed with his third preference. Cllrs

Brown and Woodhouse would not be elected. The Group is supplemented by external organisations.

- **The Infrastructure Planning (including Neighbourhood Plan, CIL and Farnham Infrastructure Programme) Task Group** has three first priority preferences for the five places (Cllrs Beaman, Martin, and White) with Cllr Merryweather and Cllr Hesse making it their second preference. All would be deemed elected with the Cllr Fairclough, Woodhouse (third preference), Cllr Jackman (fourth) and Brown (fifth preference) not elected.
- **The Local Government Reorganisation Task Group.** There are eight councillors interested in the six places available. Cllrs Merryweather, Beaman, Martin and Woodhouse have it as a first or second preference and would be deemed elected. Cllrs Brown, Mirylees and White have it as a third preference and there needs to be an election to appoint two of the three. Cllr Jackman as a fifth preference would not be elected.
- **The Allotment Advisory Group.** There are three councillors interested in the two places available. Cllr Brown and Cllr Jackman would be deemed elected and Cllr Woodhouse not elected.
- **World Craft Town Advisory Group.** There are six councillors interested in the two places available. Cllr Mauluka and Laughton have it as their first and second preference and Cllr Woodhouse has it as a third preference and these would be deemed elected. Cllr Mirylees has it as a fourth preference and Cllrs Brown and Jackman have it as a sixth preference and would not be elected.

Annex I has the proposals for each Task Group for consideration by Council.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- 1) the candidates for the **Strategy & Resources Working Group** be appointed as set out in Annex I along with any additional councillors to fill the remaining vacancies as set out in paragraph 8 above;
- 2) Council determine if the councillors willing to be on the **Planning and Licensing Consultative Group** be appointed or whether one councillor per ward is appointed;
- 3) Council determines the membership of **Task Groups, Panels and Advisory Groups** as set out above and in Annex I.

**OPTIONS FOR WORKING GROUPS
PANELS AND TASK GROUPS 2025-2026**

Working Group	Membership 2024-25	Preferences
Strategy & Resources Working Group (6 members plus Lead Members from working groups not already appointed to this Working Group) Proposed meeting time Mondays at 2pm	Cllr David Beaman Cllr Tony Fairclough Cllr Andrew Laughton Cllr Michaela Martin Cllr George Murray Cllr Graham White *Cllr Mat Brown *Cllr Kika Mirylees (Lead Member - ex officio)	Cllr David Beaman 1 Cllr Tony Fairclough 1 Cllr George Hesse 1 Cllr Michaela Martin 1 Cllr Graham White 1 Cllr Andrew Laughton 2 Cllr Mat Brown 3 Cllr Alan Earwaker 4 Cllr Tim Woodhouse 4
Community & Wellbeing Working Group* (6 members) Proposed meeting time Thursdays at 4pm	NB NEW WORKING GROUP for 2025/26	Cllr Alan Earwaker 1 Cllr Chris Jackman 1 Cllr Brodie Mauluka 1 Cllr Mat Brown 2 Cllr Tim Woodhouse 2 Cllr Andrew Laughton 3 Cllr Graham White 4
Culture & Business Working Group (6 members) Proposed meeting time Thursdays at 10.00am	Cllr Kika Mirylees (Lead Member) Cllr Sally Dickson Cllr Alan Earwaker Cllr Andrew Laughton Cllr Michaela Martin Cllr Graham White	Cllr Andrew Laughton 1 Cllr Kika Mirylees 1 Cllr Alan Earwaker 2 Cllr Michaela Martin 2 Cllr Brodie Mauluka 2 Cllr Graham White 2 Cllr Tim Woodhouse 3 Cllr Chris Jackman 3 Cllr Mat Brown 4
Environment Working Group (6 members) Proposed meeting time Thursdays at 4pm	Cllr Mat Brown (Lead Member) Cllr Alan Earwaker Cllr George Hesse Cllr Chris Jackman Cllr Mark Merryweather Cllr Tim Woodhouse	Cllr Mat Brown 1 Cllr Mark Merryweather Cllr Tim Woodhouse 1 Cllr Chris Jackman 2 Cllr Alan Earwaker 3 Cllr Graham White 3

<p>Planning & Licensing Consultative Group (8 members – to include one from each ward)</p> <p>All councillors are requested to review application in their own ward and advise of any issues/concerns</p> <p>Meets alternate Mondays at 9.30am</p> <p>Not yet represented Hale & Heath End, The Bourne.</p>	<p>Cllr Andrew Laughton Cllr David Beaman Cllr Tony Fairclough Cllr George Hesse Cllr Brodie Mauluka Cllr Mark Merryweather Cllr George Murray) Cllr Graham White Cllr Tim Woodhouse (</p>	<p>Cllr David Beaman Cllr Alan Earwaker Cllr Andrew Laughton Cllr Brodie Mauluka Cllr Mark Merryweather Cllr Graham White Cllr Tim Woodhouse</p> <p>Councillors decline: Cllr Mat Brown; Cllr Sally Dickson, Cllr Tony Fairclough; Cllr George Hesse; Cllr Chris Jackman; Cllr Michaela Martin; Cllr John Ward</p>
---	--	---

STANDING PANELS 2025/26

Standing Panels continue

Standing Panels	Membership 2024/25	Preference for 2025/26
HR Panel (Task Group of but may go direct to Council) (6 Members) <i>The preference is that the Panel remain as consistent as possible for the four-year term of the Council</i>	Cllr Mat Brown Cllr Chris Jackman Cllr Andrew Laughton Cllr Graham White Cllr John Ward Cllr Tim Woodhouse	Cllr David Beaman 1 Cllr Mat Brown 1 Cllr John Ward 1 Cllr Chris Jackman 2 Cllr Andrew Laughton 2 Cllr Graham White 2 Cllr Tim Woodhouse 2
Services to Farnham Awards Panel (Task Group of Council) (Normally 5 members) <i>Meets twice a year or as required</i>	Mayor Deputy Mayor Cllr Chris Jackman Cllr Tim Woodhouse *Tindle Newspaper representative if required *Community Representative (tbc))	Cllr Chris Jackman 1 Cllr Kika Mirylees 1 Cllr Tim Woodhouse 2 Cllr Mat Brown 3
Younger People Panel (Task Group of Community& Wellbeing) (6 members) With additional wider meetings comprising partner organisations.	Cllr Mat Brown Cllr Alan Earwaker Cllr Chris Jackman Cllr Andrew Laughton George Murray Cllr Graham White Cllr Tim Woodhouse	Cllr Alan Earwaker 1 Cllr Andrew Laughton 1 Cllr Brodie Mauluka 1 Cllr Tim Woodhouse 1 Cllr Graham White 1 Cllr Mat Brown 2 Cllr Chris Jackman 3
Liaison Councillors for Younger People Panel (expected to serve on the Panel)		Preference for 2025/26
40 Degreez	Cllr Alan Earwaker Reserve – Cllr Andrew Laughton	Cllr Alan Earwaker 1 Cllr Andrew Laughton 1 Cllr Brodie Mauluka 1
Hale Community Centre	Cllr Graham White	Cllr Graham White 1 Cllr Tony Fairclough 1 Cllr Andrew Laughton 2
Jubilee Hub	Cllr George Murray	

TASK GROUPS 2025/26

The Task Groups will report to their parent Working Groups and the Lead Member is proposed to be the chair (ex-officio) of Task Groups unless another arrangement is made by the Task Group.

Task Groups	Membership 2023/24	Preferences for 2025/26
Allotments Advisory Group (Task Group of Environment WG) Meets 2 or 3 times a year (2 members with Allotment site reps)	Cllr Mat Brown Cllr Chris Jackman	Cllr Mat Brown 1 Cllr Chris Jackman 2 Cllr Tim Woodhouse 3=
Assets Task Group (Task Group of Strategy and Resources) Meets as required (5 members)	Cllr Graham White Cllr Mat Brown Cllr Sally Dickson Cllr Tony Fairclough Cllr Tim Woodhouse	Cllr Tim Woodhouse 1 Cllr Tony Fairclough 1 Cllr George Hesse 1 Cllr Chris Jackman 1 Cllr Kika Mirylees 1 Cllr Mat Brown 2 Cllr Graham White 2 Cllr Michaela Martin 3
Literary Festival Advisory Group (Task /Advisory Group of Culture & Business) (3 members with partner organisation representatives)	Cllr Kika Mirylees Cllr Mark Merryweather Cllr Andrew Laughton	Cllr Andrew Laughton 2 Cllr Kika Mirylees 2 Cllr Chris Jackman 3 Cllr Mat Brown 4 Cllr Tim Woodhouse 4
Local Government Reorganisation Task Group (Task Group of Strategy and Resources) Meets as required (6 members)	Cllr Graham White Cllr Matthew Brown, Cllr Alan Earwaker, Cllr George Hesse, Cllr Kika Mirylees Cllr George Murray Reserve: Cllr Andrew Laughton	Cllr Mark Merryweather 1 Cllr George Beaman 2 Cllr Michaela Martin 2 Cllr Tim Woodhouse 2 Cllr Mat Brown 3 Cllr Kika Mirylees 3 Cllr Graham White 3 Cllr Chris Jackman 5
Infrastructure Task Group including Neighbourhood Plan/ Farnham Infrastructure Programme and Community Infrastructure Levy * (Task Group of Strategy and Resources) (5 members) NB 7 agreed for 2024/25	Cllr David Beaman Cllr Alan Earwaker Cllr Tony Fairclough Cllr George Hesse Cllr Michaela Martin Cllr Mark Merryweather Cllr George Murray	Cllr David Beaman 1 Cllr Michaela Martin 1 Cllr Graham White 1 Cllr George Hesse 2 Cllr Mark Merryweather 2 Cllr Tony Fairclough 3 Cllr Tim Woodhouse 3= Cllr Chris Jackman 4 Cllr Mat Brown 5
World Craft Town Advisory Group (Task/advisory Group of Culture & Business WG) 3 Members with representatives of other relevant partner organisations	Cllr Kika Mirylees Cllr George Hesse	Cllr Brodie Mauluka 1 Cllr Andrew Laughton 2 Cllr Tim Woodhouse 3= Cllr Kika Mirylees 4 Cllr Mat Brown 6 Cllr Chris Jackman 6

OUTSIDE BODIES LIAISON PREFERENCES FOR REPRESENTATIVES 2025-26

Strategy & Resources Liaison Councillors

	2024/25 representative	Willing to be FTC liaison 2025-26 and report back to Council or Working Group
Waverley Towns and Parishes Meetings	Mayor/Leader	Mayor/Leader
Surrey Association of Local Councils (2 representatives)	Mayor/Leader	Mayor/Leader

Culture & Business Liaison councillors

Farnham/Andernach Friendship Association	Cllr Sally Dickson Cllr Chris Jackman Cllr Brodie Mauluka	Cllr Brodie Mauluka Cllr Tim Woodhouse
Farnham Business Improvement District Board	Cllr George Murray Reserve - Cllr Andrew Laughton 6+	Cllr Tony Fairclough Cllr George Hesse Cllr Andrew Laughton Cllr Michaela Martin
Farnham Craft Town Advisory Group	Cllr George Hesse Cllr Kika Mirylees	Cllr Andrew Laughton Cllr Michaela Martin Cllr Kika Mirylees
Farnham Forum	Cllr Graham White	Cllr Mat Brown Cllr Graham White
Farnham Maltings Association	Cllr Graham White Reserve – Cllr Sally Dickson	Cllr Graham White
Farnham Public Art Trust	Cllr Sally Dickson Reserve – Cllr John Ward	Cllr John Ward
Farnham Sports Council	Cllr Tim Woodhouse Reserve – Cllr George Murray	Cllr Mat Brown Cllr Tim Woodhouse
New Ashgate Gallery	Cllr Sally Dickson	Cllr Michaela Martin

Community & Wellbeing Liaison councillors

40 Degreez	Cllr Alan Earwaker	Cllr Mat Brown Cllr Alan Earwaker
Farnham Connects	Cllr Alan Earwaker	Cllr Alan Earwaker
Brightwells Gostrey Centre	Cllr Alan Earwaker	Cllr Alan Earwaker
Brightwells Yard CLG	Cllr Graham White Reserve – Cllr George Hesse	Cllr Graham White
Creative Response	Cllr Alan Earwaker	Cllr Alan Earwaker
Farnham Support Fund	Cllr Alan Earwaker	Cllr Alan Earwaker
Hale Community Centre	Cllr Tony Fairclough Reserve – Cllr Sally Dickson	Cllr Tony Fairclough
Jubilee Hub, Wrecclesham	Cllr George Murray	

Health liaison	Cllr Mark Merryweather Reserve - Cllr John Ward	Cllr Mark Merryweather
Wey Valley Community Rail Partnership	Cllr David Beaman	Cllr David Beaman
Wrecclesham Community Centre	Cllr Graham White Reserve – Cllr John Ward	Cllr Graham White

Environment Liaison councillors

Blackwater Valley Recreation and Countryside Management Committee/Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership	Cllr Sally Dickson Reserve – Cllr Chris Jackman	Cllr Chris Jackman
Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee	Cllr George Hesse Reserve - Cllr Andrew Laughton	Cllr Andrew Laughton
Farnham Allotment Liaison Group (2) plus site reps	Cllr Chris Jackman Cllr Mat Brown	Cllr Mat Brown Cllr Chris Jackman Cllr Tim Woodhouse
Farnham Biodiversity Partnership	Cllr Tim Woodhouse	
Farnham In Bloom Community Group	Cllr George Hesse Cllr Brodie Mauluka	Cllr Mat Brown
Farnham River Liaison Eg Rivers Management, Water Rangers, South East Rivers Trust, Wey Landscape Partnership etc	Cllr Alan Earwaker Reserve – Cllr George Murray	Cllr Mat Brown Cllr Alan Earwaker
Plastic Free Farnham	Cllr George Murray	
Runfold Quarry Community Liaison Group (Suez)	Cllr Andrew Laughton Reserve - Cllr Mark Merryweather	Cllr Michaela Martin Reserve - Cllr Mark Merryweather
Waverley Borough Council Farnham Air Quality Working Group	Cllr Andrew Laughton	Cllr Graham White

Recreation Ground Committee Liaison Councillors

Badshot Lea Recreation Ground	Cllr Chris Jackman	Cllr Chris Jackman
Bourne Recreation Ground	Cllr George Murray Reserve – Cllr Tim Woodhouse	Cllr Tim Woodhouse
Hale Recreation Ground	Cllr Tony Fairclough	
Wrecclesham Recreation Ground Committee	Lead – Cllr Tim Woodhouse Reserve – Cllr John Ward	Cllr Tim Woodhouse

Council is asked to advise:

- 1) If any group no longer exists or if a liaison councillor is not required.
- 2) If any group should be added where there is synergy with FTC and the organisation.