

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE

13 November 2025

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor G Rhind (Chair), Councillor M Mulgrew (Vice-Chair)
Councillors J Carroll, S Harrison, A Haynes, L Mulgrew, D Pegg and
D Shepherd

Conservative Group

Councillors J Lowe, J Patten and P Watson (substitute for Councillor M Ford)

Liberal Democrats

Councillor J Davies

HCS/44 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor M Ford (Conservative Group).

HCS/45 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 September 2025 were received and approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

HCS/46 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

HCS/47 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Public had been received.

HCS/48 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/49 **COUNCIL PLAN 2024-28 PERFORMANCE REPORT -2025-2026
QUARTER 2 (01 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2025)**

The Executive Director – Place and Prosperity presented the report and sought approval of the recommendations.

Members considered the report and supported the Officer's recommendations.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee noted progress against the performance targets set out in the Council Plan 2025-2026 Performance Dashboard in Appendix A of the report.

1.2 The Committee noted the Council Performance Report: Reporting by Exception and approved the proposed actions highlighted in Appendix B of the report.

HCS/50 **HOUSING SERVICE TRANSFORMATION PLAN**

The Executive Director – Place and Prosperity presented the report and sought approval of the recommendations.

Councillor J Carroll sought clarification on the figures provided within report, commenting that the information needs to be more explicit by way of explanation.

Members considered the report and supported the Officer's recommendations.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee noted the progress against the actions identified in the updated Housing Services Transformation Plan (HSTP) at Appendix 1 of the report.

1.2 The Committee noted the action plan developed to address the Regulator for Social Housings (RSH) and the progress against those actions.

HCS/51 **HIRE OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES POLICY**

The Executive Director – Environment and Communities presented the report and sought approval of the recommendations.

Members considered the report and supported the Officer's recommendations.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee adopted The Hire of Parks and Open Spaces Policy at Appendix 1 of the report.

HCS/52 **LEISURE CENTRE AND OFFICE PROJECT**

The Executive Director – Resources and Transformation and The External Project Co-ordinator presented the report and sought approval of the recommendations.

Councillor J Patten raised concern around the decision for new office space was rushed given the pending Local Government Review and sought clarification on the percentage of staff working within the Civic Offices at any one time and how the space required had been calculated.

The Executive Director – Resources and Transformation confirmed that office space design had considered the pending Local Government Review allowing for flexibility on usage.

The External Project Co-ordinator confirmed that the space required had been determined by swipe data collected over a period time and over various times of the day and days.

Councillor P Watson reiterated the concerns raised by Councillor J Patten relating to the new Civic Offices.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee:

- a) Approved the concept site plan and building layout for the new leisure centre and office development at Cadley Park, attached to the report as Appendix A, as the basis for public consultation and submission of a planning application.**
- b) Delegated power to the Executive Director – Resources and Transformation (S151 Officer) in consultation with the Chair of Housing and Community Services Committee to agree any design refinements arising from consultation, technical surveys or Planning feedback, provided these remain within the approved scope and budget.**

HCS/53 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Executive Director – Place and Prosperity presented the report and sought approval of the recommendations.

Members considered the report and supported the Officer's recommendations.

RESOLVED:

1.1 *The Committee noted the Housing and Community Services Committee Work Programme.*

HCS/54

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it would be likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

EXEMPT MINUTES

The Committee received the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2025.

EXEMPT QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11

The Committee was informed that no exempt questions had been received.

The meeting terminated at 18:20 hours.

COUNCILLOR G RHIND

CHAIR