

HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
STRATEGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Strategy Committee,
held at the Fleur-De-Lys Meeting Room, Market Street, Hailsham
On Monday 16th March 2026 at 7.00 p.m.

StC/25/06/
37

Public Forum
None presented

38 **Present:** Cllrs; C. Bryant (Chair), D. Chapman, P. Holbrook, M. Laxton, C. Mitchell, K. Nicholls, G. White

39 **Officers Present:** J. Harrison (Town Clerk), K. Giddings (Corporate Services Manager)

40 **Apologies For Absence:** received and accepted from Cllr A. M. Ricketts

41 **Declarations of Interest:**
None given

42 **Confirmation of Minutes**
RESOLVED unanimously to accept the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategy Committee held on Monday the 19th January 2026 as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

43 **Strategic Plan Updates and Changes**

The Committee discussed the Strategic Plan and noted there is a public version which is an abbreviated version, for ease of reference.

C. Mitchell stated that the Plan does not have sufficient SMART targets – the targets are too broad. The Committee agreed to delegate the Senior Management Team and Officers to put timelines into the Plan. Some timelines can be noted as “ongoing” if there is not a specific date.

It was agreed the Plan needs to be numbered, for ease of reference

Some of the wording is incorrect, with spelling mistakes throughout the plan, so this will need to be corrected

Members agreed there needs to be more detailed timelines recorded, rather than stating a year, for example “summer 2026” rather than just “2026”.

Members discussed the external and internal communications section and suggested that some more modern and up to date communication could be implemented, with more forward looking communication and light hearted posts, alongside the traditional press

releases.

The Committee made the following changes and updates to the Strategic Plan:

- On page 2 of the Plan: “Deliver effective Corporate Governance of HTC”, it was noted there is no system in place for a centralised HR system. It was therefore agreed to change the sentence “used a centralised record system for recording contract dates and renewal dates” to:
“To purchase a centralised data management system”
- Under “Post Office and Banking Hub” – “Continues liaison with Cash Access UK Ltd, it was agreed to add to the paragraph:
“site identified, waiting for permanent premises”
- Under “Youth Service”, it was noted the years and timings are not clearly defined and need to be more specific. The format is unclear and needs to be changed
- Under “Communities” – it was agreed to remove the list of events and to insert:
“To run the Council’s events”. Agreed to move the list of events to the next column
- Under “Partnership Working”, next to “MASHH Committee Highways” it was agreed to add:
“to hold meetings twice a year”
- Under “Adverts in Our Hailsham resident’s newsletter”, the word “online” to be inserted
- In the “Assets Management” section, paragraph “Improved facilities management to maximise cost effectiveness and use for benefit of the community” it was agreed to add in the sentence:
“to ensure all Council facilities are in use or being rented”
To also insert the sentence: “find profit generating assets for the Council” and to insert the sentence:
“The Town Council to optimise its income through the acquisition of assets if necessary”
- Under “improvements implemented increase bookings and income for JWC” it was agreed to add in the sentence “maximise capacity to aim for 100 % bookings”

43.1 **RESOLVED** that all the amendments agreed and noted at the current meeting will be updated to the Strategic Plan and put on the agenda for discussion at the next Strategy Committee meeting on 20th April 2026

The Plan will then be presented at the Town Council’s Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday 13th May 2026

Proposer M. Laxton, Seconder C. Mitchell

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20 pm