

City of Larkhaven

Full Council: minutes

Thursday 24 September 2026, 18:00 to 21:12

Council Chamber, City Hall, 1 Quay Square, Larkhaven LK1 1AA

Present: Councillor Margaret Ellison (Chair of the Council), the Mayor (Helena Marsh), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kwame Asante) and 42 other councillors. 44 of the 48 councillors were present.

Apologies: Councillors Hemant Desai, Isla MacPherson, Amelia Thorne and Anneliese Vogt.

Officers: Dr Ines Carvalho (Chief Executive), Robert Kingsley (Director of Finance and Resources), Joanna Pearce (Director of Place), Fatima Haddad (Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer), Owen Pryce (Head of Democratic Services).

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Hemant Desai, Isla MacPherson, Amelia Thorne and Anneliese Vogt.

2. Declarations of interest

Councillor Bethan Hughes declared an other registrable interest in item 12.2 as a trustee of a furniture reuse charity. She left the chamber for that item and took no part in the debate or vote.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2026 are confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Agreed unanimously.

4. Announcements

The Chair congratulated the 300 people who became British citizens at City Hall on 9 September 2026.

The Mayor announced that Riverside Park would reopen on Saturday 3 October 2026 after its £2.4 million restoration.

The Chief Executive reported that Harbour Bridge would close to all traffic from 06:00 on Saturday 24 October to 06:00 on Monday 26 October 2026 so that its bearings could be replaced, and that full details would be published nearer the time.

5. Public questions

Four questions were asked and answered.

- 1 Ms Anika Larsen (Eastcliff) asked when tram Line 3 would open. The Deputy Mayor confirmed that Line 3 would open to passengers on Saturday 21 November 2026, with an open day at Saltmarsh depot the same day.
- 2 Mr Desmond Achterberg (Quayside) asked how people on foot and on bikes would cross the harbour while Harbour Bridge was closed. The Deputy Mayor replied that a free temporary ferry would run every 15 minutes from 07:00 to 21:00.

- 3 Mrs Halima Yusuf (Saltmarsh) asked what help there would be for people sleeping rough this winter. The Mayor replied that the winter shelter would open on 1 November 2026, a month earlier than usual.
- 4 Mr Alasdair Reid (Old Town) asked whether Central Library would open on Sundays. The Mayor confirmed that Sunday opening, from 11:00 to 16:00, would start on 11 October 2026.

6. Petition: safer crossings on Quay Road

Ms Ruth Aldous, the lead petitioner, presented the petition.

Resolved: that the petition is referred to the Transport and Environment Committee on 8 October 2026.

Agreed unanimously.

7. Weekly food waste collections (Report C/26/38)

The Deputy Mayor introduced the report. Councillors asked about arrangements for flats and the cost of caddy liners.

Resolved:

- (a) to approve capital spending of £3.6 million;
- (b) to introduce weekly food waste collections for all households from Monday 4 January 2027;
- (c) to deliver free caddies to every household during December 2026.

Agreed (31 for, 12 against, 2 abstentions).

8. Medium-term financial strategy (Report C/26/39)

The Director of Finance and Resources presented the report.

Resolved: to note the forecast budget gap of £20.2 million for 2027/28 and to agree the budget timetable set out in the report.

Agreed (33 for, 9 against, 3 abstentions).

9. Treasury management mid-year review (Report C/26/40)

Resolved: to note the report.

Agreed unanimously.

10. Changes to committee memberships (Report C/26/41)

Resolved: to appoint Councillor Sinéad Gallagher to the Planning Committee in place of Councillor Rhys Pritchard.

Agreed unanimously.

11. Questions from councillors to the Mayor

The Mayor answered six questions, about the Harbour Bridge closure, the cost of temporary accommodation, the Old Customs House, street cleaning in Fennick, the Winter Market and tram fares.

12. Motions

12.1 School streets. The motion was moved by Councillor Freya Lindqvist and seconded by Councillor Declan Moffatt.

Resolved: that the motion is agreed.

Agreed (34 for, 8 against, 3 abstentions).

12.2 Bulky waste charges. The motion was moved by Councillor François Lemaire and seconded by Councillor Eilidh Fraser. The Deputy Mayor said that the change would cost around £180,000 a year, and that reported fly-tipping is cleared within 3 working days.

The motion was lost (12 for, 31 against, 1 abstention).

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 29 October 2026 at 18:00.

The meeting closed at 21:12.

Chair: _____ Date: _____

Larkhaven is a fictional city. This document was created for a demonstration website.