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Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

# Agenda

## Extraordinary Full Council meeting of Wednesday, 23 September 2026

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# *Portsmouth City Council*

AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held at the Council Chamber - The Guildhall, Portsmouth on Wednesday, 23 September 2026 at 5.30 pm and all members of the council are hereby summoned to attend to consider and resolve upon the following business detailed from agenda item 1 onwards.

**Public Attendance**

Please note that seating for members of the public is limited to a maximum of **90 persons**. Admission will be on a **first come, first served basis**. Once the available capacity has been reached, no further admission will be possible.

The Council is unable to reserve seats or guarantee entry.

# *Agenda*

**1 Declaration of Members' Interests**

**2 Apologies for Absence**

**3 To receive such communications as the Lord Mayor may desire to lay before the Council**

**4 Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24.**

**Deputations by members of the public may be made on any item where a decision is going to be taken. The request should be made in writing to the contact officer (james.harris@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) by 12 noon of the working day before the meeting (so Tuesday 22 September 2026 for this meeting), and must include the purpose of the deputation (for example, for or against the recommendations). Email requests are accepted. Please note that the total time for those in favour and against an item for decision will be 12 minutes respectively. If more than two people wish to speak for or against an item, the time allocated to each will be reduced proportionately, unless they agree otherwise amongst themselves how to apportion the 12 minutes.**

**Notices of Motion: Process information**

In accordance with Standing Orders, all Notices of Motions on the agenda will, subject to the 6 month rule, automatically be dealt with at this meeting, thereby dispensing with a three-minute presentation from the proposer and subsequent vote to enable its consideration.

## 5 Notices of Motion

### (a) Small Boat Disembarkation at Eastney, 6 September 2026

Proposed by: Councillor George Madgwick
Seconded by: Councillor Joe Standen

**Council notes:**

i. That on the evening of Sunday 6 September 2026, approximately 140 people rescued from a small boat which had crossed from the Baie de Seine, Normandy, were brought ashore by RNLI lifeboats from Bembridge and Yarmouth at the RNLI Portsmouth Lifeboat Station, Ferry Road, Eastney.

ii. That Eastney Point is a narrow shingle spit served by a single access road, immediately adjacent to residential properties, a marina and the Hayling Ferry landing, with no reception, welfare, medical or vehicle marshalling facilities whatsoever.

iii. That Associated British Ports has publicly confirmed it declined a request to land those rescued at the Port of Southampton because the port had no suitable reception facilities available, stating that it would have assisted had there been a safety-of-life-at-sea situation in which Southampton was the closest suitable port, or had a formal direction been issued, and that neither applied.[1]

iv. That it has been reported that the King's Harbour Master Portsmouth also refused the lifeboats permission to enter Portsmouth Harbour or its approaches, and that RNLI coxswains were warned of criminal prosecution should they fail to comply — an account which, at the date of this motion, the King's Harbour Master has not confirmed.[2]

v. That the decision to disembark at Eastney was therefore taken only after two better-equipped locations had been ruled out and appears to have been taken by UK Border Force, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Home Office.

vi. That Portsmouth City Council — owner and operator of Portsmouth International Port, a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the local highway authority, and a responsible authority under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 — was not consulted prior to the decision.

vii. That the consequences included residents of Eastney Point reportedly being unable to reach their homes overnight, a dispersal order imposed across a residential area, a major diversion of Constabulary resources, and disruption to the Hayling Ferry and the surrounding highway network.

viii. That Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary has stated that a number of police, Coastguard and Border Force vehicles were damaged, that a handful of officers were treated at the scene for injuries none of which were serious, and that no member of the emergency services or the public was seriously injured.

ix. That the gathering at Eastney was not a pre-arranged demonstration. The landing site was not known in advance, having been settled only after two other ports declined to receive the lifeboats. Those present through the early evening were overwhelmingly people living in the immediately adjacent streets, including families, women and children, and were gathered from approximately 4pm. An element from outside the city arrived some four hours later. The subsequent conflation of these two groups, and of Eastney with the pre-arranged blockade of the Port of Dover the previous day, has been unjust to the residents of this city.

x. That the Prime Minister has since described the events of that weekend in terms of a politics of poison seeping into our streets, and the Minister of State for Policing and Crime has condemned those behind the disorder for promoting racism and thuggery.

xi. That the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight described the demonstration as largely peaceful, and, when invited to endorse the Government's characterisation of those present, declined to do so.

xii. That this Council is not aware of either Member of Parliament for this city having attended the scene at any point during the operation, on the evening of Sunday 6 September or in the early hours of Monday 7 September.

xiii. That the Member of Parliament for Portsmouth North, asked on national television what her message was to the home affairs spokesman of the political party which received the largest share of the vote in this city at the elections of 7 May

2026, replied that he should get out of her city.[3]

xiv. That Portsmouth is the home of the Royal Navy and hosts HMNB Portsmouth, and that the security and operational integrity of the Dockyard Port is a matter of national significance.

**Council believes:**

i. That the emergency services acted with professionalism in circumstances not of their making, and this Council places its thanks to them on record.

ii. That this Council condemns any criminal violence or damage directed at police officers or emergency services personnel.

iii. That the great majority of Portsmouth residents who hold concerns about small boat arrivals are law-abiding people with entirely legitimate concerns, that they took no part in any disorder, and that they are neither racists nor thugs.

iv. That characterisations offered at the highest levels of government have drawn no distinction between any individual who may have broken the law and the many thousands of Portsmouth residents who share these concerns and have broken none, and that such language corrodes public trust at precisely the moment it is most needed.

v. That the anger seen in this city on 6 September did not arise from nowhere, but follows years of failure by successive governments to secure the United Kingdom's borders, and that a government which fails in that duty cannot then disown the public reaction to its failure.

vi. That Portsmouth is not a suitable disembarkation point for small boat arrivals and must not be permitted to become one, and that residents were failed by a chain of decisions taken remotely and without reference to this city or its council.

vii. That the cost of failure in border security should not fall on Portsmouth's residents, its emergency services or its council taxpayers.

**Council resolves:**

**A. That the Chief Executive, together with the Leaders of all political groups on this Council, be invited to write jointly to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, the Chief Constable, and the Chief Fire Officer of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue**

**Service to:**

i. Record this Council's thanks to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, and South Central Ambulance Service, for their handling of an operation this city did not choose, at a location it did not select, at no notice.

ii. Recognise that the operation was concluded without serious injury to any police officer, any member of the emergency services or any member of the public, and that the area was cleared by the early hours of Monday morning.

iii. Invite the Constabulary to place on the public record its own account of the events of 6 September: the number of officers injured and the circumstances in which each injury was sustained; the force's assessment of the size and composition of the crowd at intervals through the evening; the time at which the dispersal order was authorised; and whether the force endorses accounts given publicly on its behalf by others.

iv. Convey this Council's view that the burden placed on these services that night arose from decisions taken by the Home Office, and support the Commissioner in seeking full reimbursement of policing costs through the special grant arrangements available to the Home Office.

**B. That the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council be invited to jointly write to the Home Secretary to:**

i. State that this Council does not consider Portsmouth an appropriate location for the disembarkation of small boat arrivals and does not wish to see such landings repeated in the city.

ii. Seek answers on the record as to why Eastney was selected, given the logistical difficulties that were foreseeable at a site on a narrow shingle spit served by a single access road, adjoining residential streets, and equipped with no reception, welfare or vehicle marshalling facilities.

iii. Seek a binding commitment that this Council will be consulted in advance of any future disembarkation in Portsmouth, and that no residential location, and no location served by a single access road, will be used.

iv. Seek full reimbursement of all costs falling on this Council.

v. Seek written assurance that the security and operational integrity of HMNB Portsmouth and the Dockyard Port of Portsmouth will not be compromised by small boat activity in

the Solent.

vi. Ask the Home Secretary to make clear that the Government's condemnation of criminal disorder is not directed at, and should not be understood to extend to, the many law-abiding residents of this city who hold legitimate concerns about small boat arrivals.

**C. That the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council be requested to jointly write to Amanda Martin MP and Stephen Morgan MP to:**

i. Invite them to state publicly that they do not regard Portsmouth residents who hold concerns about small boat arrivals as racists or thugs, and to distance themselves from language which fails to draw that distinction.

ii. Ask them, as this city's representatives in the governing party — and in the case of Mr Morgan, as a serving Minister of the Crown — to press the Home Office for each of the commitments set out above, and for effective action to prevent these crossings.

iii. Ask them to support this Council's claim for full reimbursement.

**D. Copies**

i. That copies of all correspondence be sent to the Port Director of Portsmouth International Port, the King's Harbour Master Portsmouth, and the Members of Parliament for Havant, Gosport, Fareham and Waterlooville, and the Isle of Wight.

*Other references*

- https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/police-injured-vehicles-damaged-portsmouth-protest-5Hjdh6L_2/ — Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner Donna Jones describing the protest as largely peaceful. Supports paragraph xi.
- https://londonlovesbusiness.com/investigation-launched-as-police-injured-during-an-all-night-standoff-as-migrant-crisis-hit-portsmouth/ — carries Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner Donna Jones' fuller answer when asked whether she agreed with the government's "thuggish" description, plus the Constabulary's own statement on damage and injuries. Supports paragraphs viii and xi.

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- [1] https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/politics/rnli-boat-denied-entry-to-ports-and-threatened-with-legal-action-8973952 — *The News* (Portsmouth), 7 September 2026.
- https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/politics/rnli-update-8991381 — *The News*, Lottie Keen, published 8 September 2026, updated 9 September.
- https://uk.news.yahoo.com/southampton-port-issues-statement-refusing-094300394.html — Yahoo News UK syndication

- [2] https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/politics/rnli-update-8991381 — This is the RNLI speaking in its own voice: disappointed with the nature of the communication from both ports, and working with the relevant parties to understand the decision to deny access. Also

records that *The News* approached the King's Harbour Master for comment, and notes the boats landed at Eastney Ferry Port in Langstone Harbour under the Langstone Harbour Board.

- https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/politics/rnli-boat-denied-entry-to-ports-and-threatened-with-legal-action-8973952 — the original 7 September report, which is the source of the VHF broadcast account and the prosecution-threat allegation.
- https://londonlovesbusiness.com/port-authorities-refuse-lifeboat-landings-amid-fears-of-migrant-protests/ — secondary coverage of both refusals.

- [3] https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/portsmouth-mp-tells-zia-yusuf-get-out-my-city-5Hjdh6m_2/ — LBC's own write-up of its own programme. *Tonight with Andrew Marr*, 7 September 2026. Primary source carrying the full quote.
- https://uk.headtopics.com/news/zia-yusuf-told-to-get-out-my-city-by-portsmouth-mp-87506175 — aggregator copy, useful only as a backup if the LBC page moves.

Natalie Brahma-Pearl
Chief Executive

Members of the public are permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting nor records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.

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This meeting is webcast (videoed), viewable via the Council's Democratic Services YouTube account at Portsmouth City Council - Democratic Services - YouTube

If any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the Senior Local Democracy Officer at James.Harris@portsmouthcc.gov.uk.

Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
PORTSMOUTH
15 September 2026

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