

Agenda Item No:

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny (Resources)

Date of Meeting: 6 September 2011

Report Title: Monitoring the Implementation of Cabinet Decisions

Report By: Katrina Silverson
Scrutiny and Electoral Services Officer

Purpose of Report

To provide members with detailed information on Cabinet decisions taken since the last O&S meeting that fall within the remit of this Committee

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That members note the report and consider any items that they would like to bring before the Committee**

Reasons for Recommendations

To inform members of decisions taken by Cabinet since their last meeting on 6 June 2011.

Background

Cabinet Meeting held on 13 June 2011

6. CORPORATE PLAN 2011/12 – 2013/14 PART III: REPORT BACK ON 2010/11 AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS 2011/12

Decision:

- (1) the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Staff and Management Forum be noted and considered for inclusion in the final version;
- (2) the Corporate Plan 2011/12 - 2013/14 Part III be approved for publication (the 28th February Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to approve Part III) with the substitution of 30 for 15 as the target for 2012 for the number of long term empty properties returned to use.

Responsible Officer: Jane Hartnell, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Performance

Lead Member: Councillor Jeremy Birch

The reasons for this decision were:

The Council's Corporate Plan was one of the key documents by which the Council was held to account for its performance, therefore honest and transparent reporting back of how well we performed against targets in the previous year was essential. Local people and staff also needed to be aware of the targets and standards we had set ourselves, and where any of these targets had changed from previous years we needed to be clear about the reasons why.

8 CABINET APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Decision:

- (1) members be appointed to Committees, Working Groups and Partnerships as listed in appendix A;
- (2) Chairs and Vice Chairs of Museums Committee, Traffic Management Committee and the Working Arrangements Group be appointed, as listed in appendix A;
- (3) the Hastings Country Park Management Forum be advised that their Constitution should be amended in relation to the Chair of the meeting to delete "The Cabinet member with responsibility for the Country Park will be the Chair of the Forum" and to substitute "Cabinet shall appoint the Chair of the Forum.";

- (4) the Chair of Museums Committee appointed by Cabinet be appointed from the elected members sitting on the Committee; and
- (5) Councillor Kramer be nominated to serve on the Hastings Academy Local Advisory Body and Councillor Forward be nominated to serve on the St Leonards Academy Local Advisory Body.

Responsible Officer: Jayne Butters, Borough Solicitor

Lead Member: Councillor Jeremy Birch

The reasons for this decision were:

Members were required to serve on the Committees, Working Groups and Partnerships to which Cabinet appoints. Chairs and Vice-Chairs were required for the Committees that report to Cabinet.

Cabinet Meeting held on 11 July 2011

16. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE PAYMENT OF HOUSING BENEFITS

Decision:

- (1) the Overview and Scrutiny report and the Management response be approved; and
- (2) the Scrutiny Review Team be thanked for their report and the work undertaken.

Responsible Officer: Neil Dart, Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director Corporate Resources

Lead Member: Councillor Jeremy Birch

The reason for this decision was:

The findings of the review team were fully supported.

20. ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Decision:

- (1) the Council continue to support and participate in the Laser Energy Buying Group's new flexible procurement framework for the period October 2012 to September 2016; and

(2) the Chief Executive, or his nominee, be delegated authority to finalise the tripartite agreements associated with the framework.

Responsible Officer: Tom Davies, Chief Auditor

Lead Member: Councillor Jeremy Birch

The reasons for this decision were:

The Laser Energy Buying Group was a government approved public sector buying agency (a trading arm of Kent County Council), providing an energy procurement service to some 130 member authorities in the South East of England, with a successful track record of purchasing performance for the period April 2009 to February 2011.

They had requested that they needed an indication of commitment as they were unable to undertake any purchases until the contracts were in place which could take some time in terms of drafting the documentation based on each authority's individual requirements.

21. FINAL ACCOUNTS

Decision:

- (1) Cabinet note the outturn position on the General Fund for 2010-11; and
- (2) the 2010-11 outturn position, along with the revised estimates for 2011-12 be taken into account when preparing the 2012-13 budget.

Responsible Officer: Peter Grace, Head of Financial Services

Lead Member: Councillor Jeremy Birch

The reason for this decision was:

Compliance with statutory requirements and good practice. The Council was accountable for the use of public money and continuously sought to improve Value for Money.

The outturn position informed the budget setting process for the next financial year. Where there were under or overspends the reasons behind these were investigated with a view to reallocating resources to meet priorities.

22. NON DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF: CHARITIES, COMMUNITY AMATEUR SPORTS CLUBS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Decision:

- (1) 20% discretionary relief be granted, in addition to the 80% mandatory relief, for charities in respect of the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 for 91 of the 93 cases as listed in Appendix A to the report;

The application from Narconon London be refused on the grounds that no evidence had been supplied on the extent to which services were supplied to the local community;

The application from Hastings Trust (Railway Arch 2) be considered at such time as the predominant occupiers are determined;

(2) 20% discretionary relief be granted, in addition to the 80% mandatory relief, for CASCs in respect of the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 for the 8 cases as listed in Appendix B to the report;

(3) 20% discretionary relief be granted to 14 out of 15 Other Organisations listed in Appendix C to the report for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012;

The application from the World Squash Federation be refused on the grounds that a service is not provided directly to the local community;

(4) the applications received from Sussex Coast College Hastings be refused for reasons detailed in the report;

(5) future decisions be delegated to the Chief Executive (or nominee) in accordance with the guidance set out in the report; and

(6) a fundamental review of discretionary rate relief be undertaken during the current year in the light of the Council's Corporate priorities and availability of funding.

Responsible Officer: Peter Grace, Head of Financial Services

Lead Member: Councillor Jeremy Birch

The reasons for this decision were:

To comply with statutory legislation in respect of mandatory relief.

To provide financial assistance via our discretionary powers to organisations making a positive contribution towards the Council's priorities.

To undertake a detailed review to ensure the council's limited financial resources are effectively targeted towards meeting corporate priorities.

Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes

Supporting Documents

Cabinet Minutes: 13 June and 11 July 2011.

Officer to Contact

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