

**Agenda Item No:**

**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny (Resources)

**Date of Meeting:** 21 November 2011

**Report Title:** Monitoring the Implementation of Cabinet Decisions

**Report By:** Katrina Silverson  
Scrutiny and Electoral Services Officer

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### **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

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### **Recommendation(s)**

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

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### **Reasons for Recommendations**

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

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## Background

### Cabinet Meeting held on 5 September 2011

#### 25. VARIOUS LAND DISPOSALS

**Decision:**

- (1) no further action be taken in respect of land adjoining 123 Ghyllside Avenue;
- (2) land adjoining 115 Ghyllside Avenue be disposed of;
- (3) land off Parkstone Road be disposed of once a Tree Preservation Order has been put in place; and
- (4) land south of 77 St Helens Park Road and land at junction of Hillside Road & St Helens Avenue be disposed of to the St Helens Wood Preservation Society at the price they have offered.

**Responsible Officer: Peter Grace, Head of Financial Services**

**Lead Member: Councillor Jeremy Birch**

The reason for this decision was:

The Council seeks to regularly review the reasons for holding land and property assets in order to maximise available resources for Council priorities. This report to Cabinet sought to ensure that the responses to the consultation were fully and properly considered in accordance with statutory provision in coming to a decision.

#### 26. FUTURE CITIES EXTENSION BID

**Decision:**

- (1) the submission of a bid for extension funding up to EURO 200,000 (£175,737) as UK partner of the Future Cities Project to the European Interreg IVB funding programme be approved;
- (2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be delegated authority to undertake amendments and final sign-off of the Future Cities bid.

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

**Lead Member: Councillor Jeremy Birch**

The reason for this decision was:

To seek external funding to continue to support the Council's work to deliver on its Corporate Priority "Tackling Climate Change and making Hastings more Environmentally Sustainable"

## **29. REVIEW OF CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12 TO 2013/14**

### **Decision:**

- (1) the East Hill Café scheme and the Purchase of the Drill Hall site (West Marina) be deleted from the programme;
- (2) the inclusion of the Malvern Way Public House regeneration scheme be included within the programme (Provision for spending up to £200,000) to be partly funded from the New Homes Bonus (£150,000) and the reallocation of £50,000 received as recoverable housing grants;
- (3) additional resources for the Contact centre (Budget £215,000 from £35,000) be approved.

**Responsible Officer: Peter Grace, Head of Financial Services**

**Lead Member: Councillor Jeremy Birch**

The reason for this decision was:

Since determining the programme in February 2011 the results of bids for external funding had been received. Some had been successful and others not. The receipt of the New Homes bonus from the government also provided an additional resource that was not fully allocated in the budget process

## **32. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA)**

### **Decision:**

that the revised Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Corporate Policy and Procedures (June 2011) be adopted.

**Responsible Officer: Jayne Butters, Borough Solicitor**

**Lead Member: Councillor Jay Kramer**

The reason for this decision was:

The revised Code of Guidance entitled "Covert Surveillance and Property Interference" issued by the Home Office last year advised that "elected members of a local authority should review the authority's use of the 2000 Act and set the policy at least once a year, they should also consider internal reports on the use of the 2000 Act on at least a quarterly basis to ensure that it is being used consistently with the Council's policy and that the policy remains fit for purpose". The guidance was issued pursuant to section 71 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

### **33. APPOINTMENT TO 1066 ENTERPRISE BOARD**

#### **Decision:**

that Councillor Lock be appointed to the Ten Sixty Six Enterprise Board for the period until June 2012 to take the place vacated by Councillor Pragnell.

**Responsible Officer: Jayne Butters, Borough Solicitor**

**Lead Member: Councillor Jay Kramer**

The reason for this decision was:

To maintain the Council's representation on the Ten Sixty Six Enterprise Board.

### **Cabinet Meeting held on 3 October 2011**

### **41. LOCAL AUTHORITY MORTGAGE SCHEME**

#### **Decision:**

(1) the Council adopts the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme in accordance with the outline provided within the report;

(2) the following local criteria that officers should seek to have incorporated in the final agreement be approved:

- a) all post codes in Hastings Borough Council's area of coverage should be included;
- b) the initial deposit and indemnity limit should be £1million to be funded through prudential borrowing; and
- c) the maximum loan value initially be set at £150,000 (20% guarantee would be £30,000);

3. Eversheds (solicitors) be commissioned to provide an acceptable opinion letter as required by the lender; and

4. the finalisation of the documentation and any ancillary matters be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources.

**Responsible Officer: Peter Grace, Head of Financial Services**

**Lead Member: Councillor Jeremy Birch**

The reasons for this decision were:

Due to the present 'credit crunch' the building societies and banks had become very risk averse and as a consequence had reduced the amount of lending they do to each other and to home buyers. Many mortgage applicants who previously would have been seen as being a good credit risk no longer are in the present climate.

Under the scheme if a potential buyer met the strict credit criteria applied by the lender, and met the criteria set out by the Council to qualify for a mortgage under the scheme, the Council would provide a top-up guarantee to the value of the difference between the typical loan to value (i.e. 75%) and a 95% loan to value mortgage. The potential buyer would thereby obtain a 95% mortgage on the same terms as a 75% mortgage, but without the need to provide the substantial deposit usually required.

A maximum loan value was sought in order to ensure the maximum number of first time buyers were assisted within the limited resources available.

The major lender required an opinion that could be provided by a private firm of solicitors or by a senior officer of the Council. If the latter this would be a personal liability on the individual for which the Council could indemnify but this was not considered an acceptable requirement.

#### **46. CONSULTATION ON LOCALISATION OF COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT**

**Decision:**

that the proposed response to the Department for Communities and Local Government on the consultation document 'Localising support for Council Tax in England' be approved.

**Responsible Officer: Peter Grace, Head of Financial Services**

**Lead Member: Councillor Jeremy Birch**

The reasons for this decision were:

1. To keep members informed of proposed changes.
2. To ensure we meet the deadline of 14th October 2011 for the response to the consultation document.

**Cabinet Meeting held on 31 October 2011**

### **53. DRAFT ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY FOR HASTINGS AND ST LEONARDS**

#### **Decision:**

- (1) the consultation feedback be welcomed and those who had contributed to the revision of the Strategy be thanked;
- (2) the Chief Executive, or his nominee be delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to make further revisions as necessary to respond to feedback received by the close of the consultation period;
- (3) the draft Hastings and St Leonards Anti Poverty Strategy be adopted by Hastings Borough Council, and the Council commits to the Pledges within it;
- (4) the Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) be recommended to adopt the Strategy and Partners are invited to commit to the Pledges; and
- (5) an accompanying Action Plan be developed with LSP Partners to support implementation of the Strategy.

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

**Lead Member: Councillor Jay Kramer**

The reason for this decision was:

One of the Council's Programme for the Year Commitments was to develop an Anti Poverty Strategy for Hastings and St Leonards. The submitted draft Strategy set out how, together with partners on the Local Strategic Partnership, we would co-ordinate activity and target our collective resources to meeting the needs of the poorest people and communities in our town.

### **59. APPOINTMENT TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

#### **Decision:**

that Councillor Birch be appointed a member to the Health and Wellbeing Board for East Sussex as an invited observer with speaking rights for one year.

**Responsible Officer: Jayne Butters, Borough Solicitor**

**Lead Member: Councillor Jay Kramer**

The reason for this decision was:

To ensure this Council's involvement in the Health and Wellbeing Board for East Sussex during this first year of its shadow arrangements.  
To undertake a detailed review to ensure the council's limited financial resources are effectively targeted towards meeting corporate priorities.

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**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

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**Area(s) Affected**

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

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**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

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**Supporting Documents**

Cabinet Minutes: 5 September and 3 and 31 October 2011.

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**Officer to Contact**

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