

**Agenda Item No:** 7

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

**Date of Meeting:** 31 May 2012

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

**Report By:** Mark Horan  
Policy and Partnerships 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 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012

## **Cabinet (Budget), 20 February 2012**

### **96. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2012/13 – 2014/15**

#### **Decision:**

- (1) the content of the Part I and Part II documents appended to the report to Cabinet form the basis of the Council's Corporate Plan 2012/13 - 2014/15, subject to the proviso that any significant amendment made to the Council's draft Budget be reflected in the final Corporate Plan text;
- (2) the Director of Corporate Resources be delegated authority, after consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition, to make further revisions as is considered necessary to the attached plan prior to publication to reflect decisions made on the Council's Budget, and to improve the design, layout and to use non-technical, user-friendly language;
- (3) Part III of the Corporate Plan be produced to include a retrospective year-end report on performance and the actual Performance Indicator information for 2011/12; that this information be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in May, prior to consideration by the Cabinet in June 2012; and that the Council be asked to delegate authority to the Cabinet meeting on 11th June 2011 to agree Part III; and
- (4) all who submitted views as part of the consultation process be thanked for their contributions.

**Responsible Officer: Jane Hartnell, Head of Corporate Services**

**Lead Member: Cllr Jay Kramer**

#### **The reasons for these decisions were:**

The Council needed to approve the Corporate Plan as it was a statement of Hastings Borough Council's strategic direction over the three years to the end of 2014/15. It set out how we will ensure that we successfully address our priorities, meet the needs of our communities, and ensure we had a strong dedicated and motivated workforce to deliver our strategic priorities and the long-term goals of the Hastings and St Leonards Sustainable Community Strategy. Good practice required the Council to refresh its rolling 3 year plan each year alongside its Budget.

### **97. REVENUE BUDGETS 2011/12 (REVISED) AND 2012/13, PLUS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12 TO 2014/15**

#### **Decision:**

- (1) the revised Revenue budget for 2011-12 be approved as set out in Appendix A to the report;
- (2) the draft 2012/13 Revenue budget be approved as set out in Appendix A to the report;
- (3) a policy of no overall increase in off street car parking charges be approved in 2012/13;
- (4) the transfer of the successful VAT claim monies to the Redundancy Reserve be approved;

- (5) the Capital Programme 2011/12 (revised) to 2014/15 be approved as set out in Appendix P to the report;
- (6) proposed expenditure from the Renewal and Repairs Reserve, Area Based Grants Reserve and Information Technology Reserve be approved as set out in Appendices to the report J, F and I respectively and those items from other reserves shown in Appendix H to the report proceed without further reference to Cabinet or Council;
- (7) the revised Land and Property Disposal Programme be approved as set out in Appendix L to the report and disposals be brought forward if market conditions make it sensible to do so;
- (8) schemes marked with an asterisk in the Capital Programme proceed without further reference to Cabinet or Council;
- (9) the Council continue to lobby Government to provide additional funding following the cessation of Transitional Grant after 2012/13;
- (10) work on Priority Income and Efficiency Reviews (PIER) commence as soon as possible, to include a mid-year review to all members in the light of the severe government grant reductions;
- (11) the inclusion of £5,475 within the budget for the purposes of rejoining the East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for a period of one year be approved. The sum to be met from the contingency budget;
- (12) It be noted that on 9 January 2012 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2012/13 for the whole Council area as 29,614 [Item T in the formula is Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")];
- (13) the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2012/13 be calculated as £6,984,455;
- (14) the following amounts be calculated for the year 2012/13 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
  - (a) 97,718,151 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils;
  - (b) 90,733,696 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;
  - (c) 6,984,455 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 13(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 13(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act);
  - (d) 235.85 Being the amount at 13(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T ((11) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;
  - (e) £0 Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;

(f) 235.85 Being the amount at 13(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 13(e) above by Item T ((11) (a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates;

(15) it be noted that the County Council, the Police Authority and the Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below;

(16) the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2012/13 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings; and

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Hastings Borough Council	157.23	183.44	209.64	235.85	288.26	340.67	393.08	471.70
East Sussex County Council	772.20	900.90	1,029.60	1,158.30	1,415.70	1,673.10	1,930.50	2,316.60
East Sussex Fire and Rescue	54.57	63.67	72.76	81.86	100.05	118.24	136.43	163.72
Sussex Police	92.28	107.66	123.04	138.42	169.18	199.94	230.70	276.84
<b>Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements</b>	<b>1,076.28</b>	<b>1,255.67</b>	<b>1,435.04</b>	<b>1,614.43</b>	<b>1,973.19</b>	<b>2,331.95</b>	<b>2,690.71</b>	<b>3,228.86</b>

(17) the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2012/13 is not excessive as determined in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992. To be deemed excessive the Borough's Council Tax would need to be increased by more than 3.5% in 2012/13.

**Responsible Officer: Peter Grace, Head of Finance**

**Lead Member: Cllr Jeremy Birch**

The reasons for these recommendations being:

1. The Council agreed a budget last year which effectively addressed the implications of losing a further £1.7m of government grant in 2012/13. Formula Grant will reduce from an adjusted figure of £7.8m in 2011/12 to £6.8m in 2012/13 and Transition Grant reduces from £2.8m in 2011/12 to £2.1m in 2012/13. The effect is a combined reduction in government support of 16% in one year.
2. The major reductions in funding in 2012/13 are surpassed by those in 2013/14 and beyond and this will impact very heavily upon the Council's ability to provide services and grants across all areas of existing activity. To ensure key corporate

priorities are achieved it remains imperative that the limited resources available are properly targeted.

3. The Council needs to be in a position to match its available resources to its priorities across the medium term and to maintain sufficient reserves and capacity to deal with potentially large and unexpected events and losses as well e.g. Pier fire, potentially large income reductions and increased demand for services as a result of economic downturn; and
4. The total removal of the Transition Grant in 2013/14 and further reductions in grant funding have major implications for the Council and as such work needs to commence as soon as possible on identifying savings in order to produce a balanced budget in 2013/14.

## **98. TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2012/13 INCLUDING QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORTS FOR 2011/12**

### **Decision:**

that the Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investment Strategy (2012/13) be approved.

**Responsible Officer: Peter Grace, Head of Finance**

**Lead Member: Cllr Jeremy Birch**

The reasons for this recommendation were:

The Council seeks to minimise the costs of borrowing and maximise investment income whilst ensuring the security of its investments. The sums involved are large and the assumptions made play an important part in determining the annual budget. Compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice (revised 2011) represents best practice and ensures compliance with statutory requirements.

### **Cabinet meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012**

## **111. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT: MANAGEMENT RESPONSE**

### **Decision:**

- (1) the Scrutiny Review Team be thanked for their report; and
- (2) the recommendations in the report be agreed, as follows: -
  - (a) that the concept and principles of SROI analysis are supported to complement the Council's current commitments to 'openness and transparency' and best use of Council funds outlined in Priority Six of the current Corporate Plan;
  - (b) that the SROI principles and the 'Impact Map' are cascaded to all Members, Directors and Heads of Service to raise awareness of the concept and the toolkit; and
  - (c) that the learning and outcomes of this review be forwarded to the team reviewing the council's support to voluntary and community organisations for their consideration as part of their work.

**Responsible Officer: Jane Hartnell, Head of Corporate Services**

**Lead Member: Councillor Jay Kramer**

The reason for these decisions was:

To acknowledge the work of the Scrutiny Review Team and the proposals to further test the appropriateness of using Social Return on Investment analysis.

**Cabinet meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**101. PAY POLICY**

**Decision:**

That the pay policy statement in the appendix to the report is adopted for the financial year 2012-13 and each subsequent financial year (until it is amended by Council).

**Responsible Officer: Jane Hartnell, Head of Corporate Services**

**Lead Member: Councillor Jay Kramer**

The reasons for this recommendation were:

The Pay Policy Statement had been drafted in order to comply with section 38 of the Localism Act and had been discussed previously at Cabinet Agenda Planning.

Further comments and suggestions had been made since that meeting and the Appendix to the report was a new, shorter version which took on board those comments accordingly.

**102. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

**Decision:**

That the sections of the revised Constitution be agreed as appended to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources and take effect from 1st April 2012.

**Responsible Officer: Jane Hartnell, Head of Corporate Services**

**Lead Member: Councillor Jay Kramer**

The reason for this recommendation was:

Cabinet agreed the Senior Management Restructure on 16 November 2011. Certain aspects of the restructure required amendment to the Constitution before they could take effect. Further, the enactment of the Localism Act 2011 affected certain parts of the Constitution and some of these changes were expected to take effect from April.

**103. APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER**

**Decision:**

That Jane Hartnell becomes the Monitoring Officer with effect from 1 April 2012.

**Responsible Officer: Neil Dart, Director of Corporate Resources**

**Lead Member: Councillor Jay Kramer**

The reason for this recommendation was:

The Council had to appoint a Monitoring Officer.

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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	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Yes
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	Yes
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	Yes
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	Yes

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**Background Information**

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**Officer to Contact**

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