



Council Meeting

19 April 2017

HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Hastings Borough Council to be held at the Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3UY, on Wednesday, 19th April, 2017 at 6.00 pm at which meeting the business specified below is proposed to be transacted.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Legal Officer

Aquila House
Breeds Place
Hastings

7 April 2017

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 15 February 2017 and the Budget Council meeting held on 22 February 2017
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Announcements from the Mayor and Leader
5. Questions (if any) from: -
 - a) Members of the public under Rule 11
 - b) Councillors under Rule 12
6. Motion (Rule 14)
Councillor Street to propose, seconded by Councillor Forward, that:

“This council notes that the Government’s promise to maintain school funding per pupil in cash terms during this Parliament will lead to real-terms cuts in school budgets. The impact of inflation and extra costs

such as higher employer National Insurance and pension contributions means that the actual value of funding per pupil in real terms will fall by as much as 8 per cent or more. The National Audit Office has said that, as a result, schools will have to make £3 billion in cuts by 2020. The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee agrees.

According to calculations published recently, in East Sussex this would mean budget cuts totalling £22 million, an average of £311 per pupil, the equivalent of 590 teachers. In Hastings, it would mean cuts averaging £360,000 for each secondary, equivalent to £389 per pupil or the loss of 10 teachers and £90,000 for each primary, equivalent to £248 per pupil or 3 teachers.

The council calls on the Government to put extra money into education to protect schools and colleges against real terms cuts per pupil and compensate them for additional costs created by Government policy such as increased employer National Insurance and pension contributions. We further call on the Government to conduct an urgent, independent, objective, comprehensive and transparent assessment of the resources needed by our schools and colleges that is unconstrained by the current inadequate funding envelope.

The council instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Amber Rudd MP to express these views and also to share them with other interested parties to include local media, schools, teachers' associations and school governors."

7. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Webb to propose that:

"This council condemns the closure of St Leonards Crown Post Office and the decision of the Post Office to downgrade the status and service of the St Leonards Crown Post Office by attempting to franchise it into retail business. We are also concerned that for branches where the Post Office cannot find a franchise partner, it is now seeking to introduce the scaled back Post Office Locals service in its place. The council notes the opposition to these proposals by the residents of St Leonards and Hastings and believes that this proposal would lead to:

- The downgrading of vital services to the community.
- The loss of dedicated highly skilled knowledgeable workers.
- A detrimental impact on local businesses and the local economy in St Leonards.

We call upon the Leader of the Council to:

- Instigate the scrutiny committee to approach the Post Office for

full details as to the reasons for the closure of the St Leonards Crown Post Office with a view to developing a proposal to keep the current Crown Office open.

- Write to Margot James, Government Minister BEIS with responsibility for Post Offices, to raise our concerns about the potential franchise of the St Leonards Crown Post Office.
- Write to the Chief Executive of the Post Office, Paula Vennells, requesting that the Post Office reverse its decision, by protecting and investing in our cherished St Leonards Crown Post Office.

The terms of this motion will be sent to the local press.”

8. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Edwards to propose, seconded by Councillor Clarke, that:

“The council notes the absence of any public conveniences in the immediate town centre where there is an established demand from amongst many others, the elderly and disabled and, recognising its civic responsibility, will seek to make such a vital facility available at the earliest possible date.”

9. Membership of Committees

To give effect to any request received from a political group for a change in their representation on committee(s)

10. Reports of Committees

- To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of any items considered while the public were excluded by the relevant committee because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the minutes of the relevant committee.
- To receive and consider the recommendations and any decisions of the following committees: -

Minute No.	Subject	Cabinet Member / Chair
CABINET – 6 MARCH 2017		
77.	Local List of Heritage Assets	Poole
78.	Potential Sports Village Development	Chowney
79.	Hastings Off-Street Parking Infrastructure Improvements	Fitzgerald

80.	Public Space Protection Order for Hastings	Fitzgerald
81.	Improving the Hastings Street Scene	Fitzgerald
CABINET - 3 APRIL 2017		
84.	12 / 13 York Buildings	Chowney
87. (E)	Update on Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Procurement	Chowney
88. (E)	12 / 13 York Buildings	Chowney

(C) – Council Decision

(E) – Exempt

Notes:

1. The Mayor will call over the minutes and members will rise and indicate those items which they wish to have discussed.
2. No discussion shall take place at this stage upon any part II minute covered by resolution 8a) above. Any such discussion shall be deferred until item 9 on the agenda.

11. To consider the recommendations and decisions of committees (if any) which the Council resolved should be discussed after the exclusion of the public from the meeting

Note: Nothing contained in this agenda or in the attached reports and minutes of committees constitutes an offer or acceptance of an offer or an undertaking or contract by the Borough Council

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Agenda Item 2 Public Document Pack

FULL COUNCIL

15 FEBRUARY 2017

Present: The Right Worshipful The Mayor (Councillor Judy Rogers) in the Chair, Councillors Batsford, Cartwright, Chowney, Clark, Cooke, Davies, Forward, Howard, Dowling, Poole, Roberts, Sabetian, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley, Wincott, Beaver, Charman, Lee, Fitzgerald, Beaney, Atkins, Edwards, Clarke, Dowling, Bacon, Patmore and Rankin

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Sinden and Scott

45. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2016 AND THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 14 December 2016 and the Special Council meeting held on 18 January 2017 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared their interest in the minutes indicated: -

Councillor	Committee	Minute	Interest
Bacon	Full Council, 15 February 2017	50 – Motion (Rule 14)	Personal – he used to teach at a local academy
Batsford	Full Council, 15 February 2017	50 – Motion (Rule 14)	Personal – his children attend a local academy
Cooke	Full Council, 15 February 2017	50 – Motion (Rule 14)	Personal – his two sons attend an academy in Hastings
Davies	Full Council, 15 February 2017	50 – Motion (Rule 14)	Prejudicial – he is a teacher at a local school
Fitzgerald	Cabinet, 6 February 2017	65 – The Firs Former Football Ground	Prejudicial – his wife is employed by the Education Futures Trust
Forward	Cabinet, 6 February 2017	65 – The Firs Former Football Ground	Prejudicial – she is a Trustee of the Education Futures Trust
Poole	Full Council, 15 February 2017	50 – Motion (Rule 14)	Prejudicial – she is a Governor of

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			an academy in Hastings
Rankin	Full Council, 15 February 2017	50 – Motion (Rule 14)	Personal – his son attends an academy in Hastings
Roberts	Full Council, 15 February 2017	50 – Motion (Rule 14)	Prejudicial – he is Chair of Governors at a local academy
Turner	Full Council, 15 February 2017	50 – Motion (Rule 14)	Personal – his two grandsons attend a local academy

47. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

The Mayor announced that the Deputy Mayor was representing the council at a ceremony in Hastings, Sierra Leone to mark the 10th Anniversary of it's twinning with Hastings.

48. QUESTIONS FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC UNDER RULE 11

A written question had been received from Mr C Hurrell regarding Ecclesbourne Glen. Councillor Chowney, the Leader of the Council, answered the question. Copies of the question and the reply were circulated at the meeting.

49. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS UNDER RULE 12

A written question had been received from Councillor Lee Clark regarding the provision of a fresh water tap at Harold Place public conveniences. Councillor Chowney, the Leader of the Council, answered the question. Copies of the question and reply were circulated at the meeting.

Questions to the Leader, Deputy Leader and other Lead Members were asked and answered in accordance with Rule 12.1 as follows: -

Questioner and Councillor	Subject	Reply Given By Councillor
Lee	Harold Place Public Conveniences the decision at Budget Cabinet to delete the closure of Ore Village public conveniences from the draft budget proposal is to be welcomed. Is it not possible to extend this,	Chowney

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	<p>so that the public conveniences at Harold Place can also remain open?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that this was a matter for the Budget Council meeting to decide. He added that, given the severity of reductions to its funding, it would be necessary for the council to take some difficult decisions over the coming years.</p>	
Roberts	<p><u>Fisheries Local Action Group 2 (FLAG 2)</u> will the lead member update on plans for FLAG 2 and explain the benefits the first programme brought to the town?</p> <p>Councillor Poole explained that the FLAG was EU funded initiative which aimed to secure the long term sustainability of the town's fishing fleet. The project undertaken during the first round of funding included improvements to the wynch road and the development of Classroom on the Coast. The second round of funding, which had been announced last week, was worth approximately £800,000. Eight initial ideas had been developed, including the purchase of a new ice-maker and a number of new environmental research projects. The projects would benefit both the local fishing fleet and tourism to the town.</p>	Poole
Street	<p><u>Public Conveniences at Priory Meadow</u> the decision not to close Ore Village public conveniences has been welcomed by the local community. Priory Meadow recently closed a set of public toilets, what measures can the council put in place to ensure they are re-opened?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney said that the council had contacted the operator of Priory Meadow and had been advised that the closure of these toilets was temporary. A notice would be placed on the toilets to confirm this.</p>	Chowney
Clarke	<p><u>Office of National Statistics (ONS) findings</u> will the Leader of the Council join with him in welcoming the recent findings by the ONS that the local economy in East Sussex has grown by 5.2%. Would he also confirm what the council is doing to contribute to this growth?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney welcomed these findings. He added that all the local authorities in East Sussex worked closely together to support economic growth. This included the Team East Sussex initiative, which enabled the area to secure funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The council also supported local business, a new factory unit was recently built for BD Foods, which would enable the expansion of the company. The council</p>	Chowney

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	also contributed to Locate East Sussex, which encouraged businesses to relocate to the area.	
Howard	<p><u>Illegal Parking on Council-Owned Land</u> the council has recently introduced a number of measures to prevent illegal parking in Sea Road and Grosvenor Gardens. However, there is a persistent problem with illegal parking at the former bathing pool site. What is being done to address this?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney acknowledged that this had been a longstanding problem, and work was already underway to address this issue. The caravans currently parked on the site had been served notice to leave. A traffic order was awaited for the area, which would enable the council to charge for parking on the land and prevent the issue re-occurring.</p>	Chowney
Turner	<p><u>Retention of Business Rates</u> what are the implications for Hastings and East Sussex of recent negotiations between the government and Surrey County Council regarding the retention of business rates?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that the government announced some time ago that councils would retain 100% of business rates from 2020. What was not clear, however, was the system of tariffs and top ups which would be put in place to re-distribute this income between authorities across the country. The outcome of the negotiations between the government and Surrey County Council were still unclear.</p>	Chowney
Beaney	<p><u>Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA)</u> will the lead member update on the outcome of a bid for Hastings to become a Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA) and explain what this will mean for the town?</p> <p>Councillor Davies explained that the investment secured under phase 1 of this scheme had enabled the council to review and refresh it's licensing policy, support educational projects for young people around responsible drinking and work with the Community Alcohol Partnership to engage with local people. The LAAA was delivered in partnership with 33 other districts around the country. The second phase of the project would support further work around licensing, enforcement and education. The aim of this work was to reduce alcohol dependency and misuse. The Community Alcohol Partnership in St Leonards worked closely with the Clinical Commissioning Group to work with local schools around alcohol awareness.</p>	Davies

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Clark	<p><u>Employment Opportunities in the Financial Sector</u> what can the council do to encourage employers in the financial sector to create higher value jobs locally?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney explained that the council worked closely with employers in the financial sector to encourage them to provide high quality jobs in Hastings. Sussex Coast College Hastings were in the process of setting up a University Centre, and this was likely to offer degree level courses relevant to this sector. The college were also preparing new marketing materials for the University Centre, which would help develop a positive profile of the town.</p>	Chowney
Wincott	<p><u>Music Month</u> live music is an important part of the identity of the town. How will the council support events during music month?</p> <p>Councillor Poole agreed that the town was very lucky to have a vibrant music scene. The council continued to work with the Cultural Leaders Group to develop this further. A launch event for music month took place at the Source BMX park. Music month will build on the success of the well-established Fat Tuesday celebrations. The council has also received funding from the Arts Council to carry out a review of live music venues, which will help inform future developments within the town.</p>	Poole

50. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Chowney proposed a motion, as set out in the resolution below, which was seconded by Councillor Rankin.

Councillors Davies, Roberts and Poole, having declared a prejudicial interest in this matter, left the chamber during the debate.

RESOLVED (24 votes for, to 2 against, with 0 abstentions) that:

This council notes with concern the continued conversion of all schools in Hastings to academies. We believe that by taking schools out of local authority control, and reducing the powers and responsibilities of governing boards, educational performance are not necessarily improved and a less rewarding educational experience for students can be created through a narrower curriculum.

There are now currently only two schools left in Hastings that have not converted to academies, and at one of these, Castledown Primary, there is now a proposal to convert this school to an academy too.

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Parents are concerned about this for two reasons: firstly, because many parents chose Castledown because it was not an academy, and the conversion of this school to an academy reduces further the choice available to parents; and secondly, because only one academy sponsor chain is being considered, which again limits any choice parents might wish to make over the future of the school.

This council therefore supports parents in their campaign to oppose the academisation of Castledown School without any alternatives being presented, and calls for the current plans to be to be halted immediately so that parents, governors, staff, and other stakeholders can explore all possible options to improve standards and effectiveness of teaching at the school. We further call upon the Leader of the Council to write to Amber Rudd MP and the Lead Member for Children's Services at ESCC to raise these concerns, and ask ESCC if further support can be given to Castledown to restore the high standards and good Ofsted results it had in the recent past.

51. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

No motions for a change in representation on committees were proposed by either group leader.

52. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Mayor having called over the minutes set out in the agenda, the undermentioned minutes were reserved for discussion.

RESOLVED under rule 13.3 that the reports and minutes of committees set out in the agenda be received. Only those items which were reserved were discussed, as follows: -

Meeting	Minute	Councillor
Cabinet, 7 November 2016	49(E). Commercial Property Purchase – Retail Park	Patmore
Cabinet, 6 February 2017	65. The Firs Former Football Ground	Turner

Councillors Forward and Fitzgerald, having declared a prejudicial interest in minute 65 of Cabinet on 6 February 2017, The Firs Former Football Ground, left the chamber during the debate on this item.

No motions for reference to Overview and Scrutiny Committee or reference back to Cabinet were approved in respect of the items reserved for discussion and they were, therefore, received.

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(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 8.21 pm)

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BUDGET COUNCIL

22 FEBRUARY 2017

Present: The Right Worshipful The Mayor (Councillor Judy Rogers) in the Chair, Councillors Sinden; Batsford, Cartwright, Chowney, Clark, Cooke, Davies, Forward, Howard, Poole, Roberts, Sabetian, Scott, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley, Wincott, Beaver, Lee, Fitzgerald, Beaney, Atkins, Edwards, Clarke, Dowling, Bacon, Patmore and Rankin

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Dowling and Charman

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillor declared an interest in the minutes:

Councillor	Committee	Minute	Interest
Beaver	Full Council, 22 February 2017	55 – Revenue Budgets 2016/17 (Revised) and 2017/18, Plus Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2019/20	Personal – he uses an elected member's car parking permit.
Cartwright	Full Council, 22 February 2017	55 – Revenue Budgets 2016/17 (Revised) and 2017/18, Plus Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2019/20	Personal – he has a brown bin.
Chowney	Full Council, 22 February 2017	55 – Revenue Budgets 2016/17 (Revised) and 2017/18, Plus Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2019/20	Prejudicial (if car parking fees and charges are discussed) – he holds a season ticket for Grand Parade car park.
T Dowling	Full Council, 22 February 2017	55 – Revenue Budgets 2016/17 (Revised) and 2017/18, Plus Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2019/20	Prejudicial – her wife is employed by Hastings Borough Council.
Rankin	Full Council, 22 February 2017	56 – Treasury Management and Annual	Personal – he works in the property industry.

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		Investment Strategy 2017/18	
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54. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2017/18 TO 2019/20

Councillor Forward proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Cartwright, that the recommendations set out in minute number 70 of Cabinet on 13 February 2017 be approved.

Councillor Rogers, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Beaver, and agreed unanimously as follows: -

RESOLVED that in order to facilitate full discussion on Cabinet's proposal for the corporate plan and any proposed amendment to cabinet's recommendations, Council suspends Rule 16.6(b) of Council Procedure Rules (only one amendment may be moved and discussed at any one time. No further amendment may be moved until the amendment under discussion has been disposed of) to permit the Deputy Leader's motion and all amendments to be on the table and open for discussion at the same time.

Councillor Patmore proposed an amendment to the draft Corporate Plan, seconded by Councillor Cooke, as follows: -

Expenditure Reduction

What we want for Hastings by 2019:

While seeking to generate income to help us meet our mission objectives the council will also set up an Expenditure reduction Board to help the council make difficult decisions on how to balance future budgets by reducing council spending and not having to use reserves. To do this we must make more savings throughout the organisation in a much shorter time-scale than previously anticipated.

What will we be doing?

- An Expenditure Reduction Board (made up of the leader of the council, leader of the opposition plus key executive officers) will be set up to look at all aspects of council expenditure and how efficiencies and reductions in spending can be made.
- We will make a pledge that for every net £1 of income generated by our Income Generation Policy we will have to save 50p of council expenditure until the council doesn't need to draw on reserves to balance the budget.

What challenges could we face?

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- We need to make these changes quickly, which again will be a huge challenge for staff who are already fully committed to existing work.
- Reducing council spending and still providing core services the public expect the council to maintain.
- Making sure we have the resources to help the more vulnerable members of our community.
- Insufficient reductions implemented risking the council's future sustainability.

How can we overcome these challenges?

- The outcome of the council's strategic planning activity will be brought forward to reflect the urgency of the funding gap the council faces in the next three years.
- Staff reorganisation to ensure that key services are maintained.
- We will listen to the ideas of residents, staff and partners and reward ideas that save the council money.
- To work closely with the Income Generation Board so that we can meet the budget deficit from both sides.

The amendment was lost by 9 votes for, 21 against.

RESOLVED (by 22 votes for to 8 against, with 0 abstentions) that:-

1. **The content of the documents attached to the Director of Corporate Services and Governance's report to Cabinet form the basis of the council's corporate plan 2017/18 – 2019/20, subject to the proviso that any significant amendment made to the council's draft budget be reflected in the final corporate plan text;**
2. **Delegated authority be given to the Director of Corporate Services and Governance, after consultation with the Leader of the Council to make further revisions as is considered necessary to the plan prior to publication reflect decisions made on the council's budget, and;**
3. **All who submitted views as part of the consultation process be thanked for their contributions.**

The reason for this decision was:

The council needs to approve the corporate plan as it is a statement of Hastings Borough Council's strategic direction to 2020.

55. REVENUE BUDGETS 2016/17 (REVISED) AND 2017/18, PLUS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18 TO 2019/20

Councillor Terri Dowling, having declared a prejudicial interest in this item, left the chamber during the debate on this matter.

Councillor Rogers, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Street, and agreed unanimously, as follows: -

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RESOLVED – that in order to facilitate full discussion on Cabinet’s proposal for the budget and any proposed amendments to Cabinet’s recommendations; Council suspends Rule 16.6(b) of Council Procedure Rules (only one amendment may be moved and discussed at any one time. No further amendment may be moved until the amendment under discussion has been disposed of) to permit the Leader’s motion and all amendments to be on the table and open for discussion at the same time.

Under rule 16.14 of the council’s constitution, the Right Worshipful the Mayor proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Beaver, that the Council proceed as if in committee at the start of the debate, in order for members to take advice from the Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues.

The Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues, introduced a revised budget report. He explained that the updated report took into account the revisions to budget agreed at Cabinet on 13 February 2017, precepts and the receipt of the final grant figures. The Disabled Facility Grant (DFG) and funding for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) were still awaited.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor proposed a motion that the council return to Full Council mode for the remainder of the debate, which was seconded by Councillor Beaver, and unanimously agreed.

Councillor Chowney proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Poole, that minute number 71 of Cabinet on 13 February 2017 be approved, subject to the amendments set out by the Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues.

Councillor Lee proposed three amendments to the budget, seconded by Councillor Beaver, as follows: -

1. This council resolves not to use financial reserves to meet its budgetary requirements for the financial year 2017/18 but to make reductions in expenditure to account for a shortfall in resources coming into the council. Amendments to staffing levels will be implemented. The total staffing reductions identified will be 13.55 FTE amounting to £524,650 in 2017/18, plus other savings of £113,510 (street games £15,510, transport budgets £18,000 and return on the proposed property fund £80,000) – combining a total saving of £638,160 in 2017/18.

The proposed amendment was lost by 9 votes for to 20 against with 0 abstentions. Councillor Atkins, Beaver, Martin Clarke, Lee Clark, Cooke, Edwards, Lee, Patmore and Rankin voted in favour of the amendment. Councillors Bacon, Batsford, Beaney, Cartwright, Chowney, Davies, Fitzgerald, Forward, Howard, Poole, Roberts, Rogers, Sabetian, Scott, Sinden, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley and Wincott voted against the amendment.

2. This council will ensure we keep our public conveniences open and will reduce council expenditure in other areas to facilitate this and to ensure that other vital public services remain functional. No closure of Harold Place toilets to occur

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(cost £64,000) – the cost of keeping this open to be met from amendments to staffing levels.

The proposed amendment was lost by 9 votes for to 20 against with 0 abstentions. Councillor Atkins, Beaver, Martin Clarke, Lee Clark, Cooke, Edwards, Lee, Patmore and Rankin voted in favour of the amendment. Councillors Bacon, Batsford, Beaney, Cartwright, Chowney, Davies, Fitzgerald, Forward, Howard, Poole, Roberts, Rogers, Sabetian, Scott, Sinden, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley and Wincott voted against the amendment.

3. The council will not proceed with the planned increase of rents on beach huts and chalets (cost of £18,000), the costs to be met from savings on transport amounting to £18,000.

The proposed amendment was lost by 8 votes for to 20 against with 1 abstention. Councillor Atkins, Beaver, Martin Clarke, Cooke, Edwards, Lee, Patmore and Rankin voted in favour of the amendment. Councillors Bacon, Batsford, Beaney, Cartwright, Chowney, Davies, Fitzgerald, Forward, Howard, Poole, Roberts, Rogers, Sabetian, Scott, Sinden, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley and Wincott voted against the amendment. Councillor Lee Clark abstained from the vote.

The motion proposed by the Leader of the Council was approved by 20 votes for to 9 against with 0 abstentions. Councillors Bacon, Batsford, Beaney, Cartwright, Chowney, Davies, Fitzgerald, Forward, Howard, Poole, Roberts, Rogers, Sabetian, Scott, Sinden, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley and Wincott voted in favour of the motion. Councillors Atkins, Beaver, Martin Clarke, Lee Clark, Cooke, Edwards, Lee, Patmore and Rankin voted against the motion.

RESOLVED (by 20 votes for, to 9 against, with 0 abstentions) that: -

1. The revised revenue budget 2016/17 (Appendix A to the Cabinet report) be approved;
2. The draft 2017/18 revenue budget (Appendix A to the Cabinet report) be approved;
3. A 2.04% (£5 for a Band D property) increase in the Borough Council's part of the Council Tax be approved;
4. The absolute minimum level of reserves that shall be retained be £5m (plus General Fund Balance) i.e. no change from 2016/17 be agreed.
5. The Capital Programme 2016/17 (revised) to 2019/20 (Appendix P to the Cabinet report) be approved;
6. The proposed expenditure from the Renewal and Repairs Reserve, and Information Technology Reserve (Appendices J and I respectively to the Cabinet report) and those items for other reserves shown in Appendix H to the Cabinet report that can proceed without further reference to Cabinet or Council;
7. The use of monies in the budget and Reserves for "Invest to Save" schemes be determined by the Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues, in consultation with the Leader of the Council be approved.

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8. The revised Land and Property Disposal Programme (Appendix L to the Cabinet report) be approved, and agree that disposals can be brought forward if market conditions make it sensible to do so;
9. Schemes marked with an asterisk in the Capital Programme can proceed without further reference to Cabinet or Council;
10. Work on Priority Income and Efficiency Reviews (PIER) should continue, and where possible identify a sustainable budget for a period in excess of one year. A mid-year review, for members and officers, to be undertaken in the light of the continuing severe government grant reductions;
11. The Car Parking charges for 2017/18 as detailed in Appendix N to the Cabinet report be agreed;
12. The detailed recommendations in Appendix M to the Cabinet report, which relate to the setting of the Council Tax in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Act 1992 (updated for Full Council) be approved;
13. The budget be amended as necessary to reflect the final grant figures from government (once received) and in respect of Discretionary Housing Payments and Disabled Facility Grants;
14. The reduction for the Council Tax Prescribed Class D Properties i.e. those which are vacant and are undergoing “major repair work” or “structural alteration” to nil % be approved;
15. A contribution to the Dial a Ride service of up to £7,500 in 2017/18 be approved. The sum to be determined by the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the lead member following a review of the financial position of the service and the reserves held, and;
16. To accept the amended proposal not to close toilets at Ore or proceed with other seasonal closures. These are still mentioned in Appendix K2 to the Cabinet report but will now remain fully funded for 2017/18.

The reason for this decision was:

1. Major reductions in funding in 2017/18 are set to continue to 2019/20 and beyond and this will impact heavily upon the council’s ability to provide services and grants across all areas of existing activity.
2. Since 2010/11 funding has been reduced by more than 50% in cash terms on a like for like basis. 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 maintain sufficient reserves and capacity to deal with potentially large and unexpected events in addition to fluctuations in income and expenditure levels.
4. The council is exposed to a much greater degree of volatility in the level of funding it receives in Non-Domestic Rates. In addition it is also exposed to a much higher degree of volatility in terms of Council Tax Support claims – the council now receiving an upfront sum as part of the annual grant settlement rather than reimbursement of actual costs.
5. Further reductions in grant funding have major implications for the council and as such work needs to continue to identify and make savings in order to produce balanced budgets in 2017/18 and beyond.

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56. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2017/18**

The Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues, submitted a report to consider the draft treasury management and annual investment strategy. The strategy provided a framework for the management of the council's investments, cash flow and borrowing activities. The strategy proposed new borrowing limits, to allow for increased investment to support the council's income generation plans.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor proposed, seconded by Councillor Roberts, that under rule 13.3 of the council's constitution the recommendations set out in minute number 72 of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 February 2017, which was a matter for Council decision, were agreed without being called for discussion. This proposition was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that: -

- 1. The Council approve the Treasury Management, Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy and Annual investment Strategy (2017/18), and;**
- 2. The council's Annual Investment Strategy includes the use of Property Funds with immediate effect, and that a £2m investment is made specifically with CCLA (Local Authority Property Fund)**

The reason for this decision was:

The council seeks to minimise the cost of borrowing and maximise investment income whilst ensuring the security of its investments. The council is seeking to increase opportunities for income generation, particularly where there are benefits to the residents of Hastings in doing so, and this will involve the council in taking on additional borrowing. 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 represents the best practice and ensures compliance with statutory requirements.

The council has the ability to diversify its investments into other property funds and should consider carefully the level of risk against reward against a background of low interest rates being forecast for some years ahead. Such an investment would help to close the gap in the budget in the years ahead and thus help to preserve services.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 9.06 pm)

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Present: Councillors Chowney (Chair), Forward, Cartwright, Davies, Poole, Fitzgerald, Lee and Patmore

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared their interest in the minutes as follows:

Councillor	Minute Number	Interest
Forward	78 – Potential Sports Village Development	Prejudicial – a Trustee of Education Futures Trust
Fitzgerald	78 – Potential Sports Village Development	Prejudicial – Partner works for the Education Futures Trust

75. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL ITEMS

None.

76. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2017 AND THE BUDGET CABINET MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2017 and the Budget Cabinet meeting held on 13 February 2017 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record

RESOLVED the Chair called over the items on the agenda, under rule 13.3 the recommendations set out in minute numbers 77, 78 and 79 were agreed without being called for discussion.

77. LOCAL LIST OF HERITAGE ASSETS

The Assistant Director, Regeneration and Culture, submitted a report which advised Cabinet of progress with developing and publishing a list of local heritage assets.

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At its meeting in January 2014, Cabinet had agreed the criteria and adoption process for developing a local list of non-designated heritage assets. The purpose of the list is to record assets which contribute to the cultural heritage and character of the area, but are not subject to statutory designation. Inclusion on the list does not bring any additional consent requirement over and above those required for planning permission, however, it can help to influence planning decisions in a way that conserves and enhances the asset in line with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Each of the nominations received had been subject to detailed assessment against the criteria by an expert panel. The panel's recommendations were then subject to further public consultation. Four assets had been recommended for inclusion on the list; White Rock Gardens (East of Falaise Road), Wellington Square, Linton Gardens and the Bohemia Estate. It is intended that assets will continue to be added to the list in the future.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the context and progress made in developing this first list of local heritage assets, contained in Appendix A to the Assistant Director, Regeneration and Culture, report. That this list is published on the council's website.

The reason for this decision was:

The mechanism for the local list process was agreed by Cabinet in 2014 and the process has generated the first list of local heritage assets.

78. POTENTIAL SPORTS VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

Councillors Forward and Fitzgerald, having declared a prejudicial interest in this item, left the chamber during the debate.

The Director of Operational Services, presented a report to brief Cabinet on the proposals for the development of improved sports facilities to replace those currently found at Hastings United Football Club (HUFC) and Horntye Cricket Club and developing around 400 new homes.

The scheme is jointly proposed by Bohemia Hastings LLP and Keepmoat Ltd. The sports facilities will be owned by an amended Horntye Charitable Trust.

The proposed site for the new sports facilities is at Bexhill Road Recreation Ground. Sports facilities include a football stadium for Hastings United Football Club; netball courts, 4 petanque rinks, amongst other proposals listed in the report.

The related housing development is at Pilot Field (Elphinstone Road); Horntye Sports Complex and Bexhill Road Recreation Ground. Keepmoat intend to develop c396 homes which under the scheme will fund the new sports facilities and stadium.

Proposals include the sale of the Council's sites if satisfactory terms are reached on value and if it can be assured about the benefits of the scheme and is deliverability.

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The planning issues involved will be the subject of separate processes at Rother District Council and Hastings Borough Council, these will include consideration of policy, flooding and environmental issues.

A further report will come to cabinet for a decision subject to finances and suitable terms in response to the Consultants report.

Members welcomed the proposal.

Councillor Chowney proposed a slight amendment to recommendation 1, to include the words 'in consultation with the Leader of the Council'.

Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the amended recommendations to the report, which was seconded by Councillor Poole.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

- 1. That Cabinet agree that the Director of Operational Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, establishes terms with Bohemia Hastings LLP and Keepmoat Ltd for the proposed development of new sports facilities at Bexhill Recreation Ground and related housing development at Pilot Field (Elphinstone Road), Horntye Sports Complex and Bexhill Road Recreation Ground.**
- 2. In taking its decision Cabinet will consider the outcome of the independent study of the benefits of the proposed scheme and its viability currently commissioned by the Council [at the developer's expense].**
- 3. The final terms to be subject to Cabinet approval and such terms would include, amongst others:-**
 - i. Sale of land at market value to Bohemia LLP and/or Keepmoat Limited subject to negotiation and project viability.**
 - ii. Subject to enforceable guarantees that protect the Council's interests in the event that the delivery of the sports facilities and housing are not delivered within a timely manner.**
 - iii. Transfer of land to be subject to the necessary planning permissions required from Hastings Borough Council and Rother District Council for delivery of the whole scheme.**
 - iv. Assurances that the Charity Commission and Sports England are satisfied with the proposed changes to sports facilities in Hastings.**
- 4. Officers should explore the possibility of acquiring market homes thorough acquisition by the Council's future Housing Company.**
- 5. That subject to agreement of suitable terms a further report regarding the land sales required to deliver the scheme is presented to a future Cabinet.**

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The reason for this decision was:

1. The full development of proposals requires at risk investment by the developer. The proposals are dependent upon the sale of Council land and it is appropriate to indicate the Council's willingness to support this proposal if its requirements are met.
2. There is the opportunity to develop c400 homes including affordable housing and with potential for some of this to be acquired by the Council's future housing company.
3. The scheme would potentially deliver:-
 - a) A significant contribution to the Borough's housing target contained within the Borough Plan, gained on windfall sites
 - b) Improved educational offer
 - c) Health benefits
 - d) New pitch and sporting provision capable of meeting the needs of the community in a way current provision does not.
 - e) Employment gains
 - f) Capital receipt and revenue cost savings for the Council
 - g) Fit with a number of Council policies including income generation, housing, sports pitch strategy and regeneration

79. HASTINGS OFF-STREET PARKING INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The Assistant Director, Environment and Place, submitted a report which requested capital funding to carry out essential upgrades to the council's off street car parking infrastructure.

Thirty five of the council's existing pay and display machines were a model which is no longer manufactured. Repairing these machines is difficult due to lack of spare parts. The report proposed upgrading twenty two pay and display machines and the replacement of the tariff boards in council-owned car parks. These works would improve customer service by enabling greater use of cashless payment methods. The council would also benefit from reduced costs in the administration and payment processes associated with its off street parking services. The capital costs of works in the Pelham Place and Rock a Nore car parks would be shared with the Foreshore Trust.

RESOLVED that the request for £70,000 capital funding is approved

The reason for this decision was:

The infrastructure improvements set out in the report are an essential element of the council's digital transformation and customer first programmes. They will facilitate even greater use of cashless payment options, which will help drive channel shift in line with the council's customer first and digital by design principles, as well as generating efficiency savings as we move from partly paper based parking administration systems to wholly digital systems. The costs associated with them are

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amongst those which we can offset against income generated from our off street parking service.

80. **PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER FOR HASTINGS**

The Assistant Director, Environment and Place, presented a report to seek approval to carry out a formal public consultation on draft Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) relating to dog control measures and anti-social behaviour such as that associated with drug and alcohol abuse in public spaces.

Statutory guidance arising from the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, requires the council move from The Dogs on Leads (Borough of Hastings) Order 2008 by a direction to the new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). The two borough wide Public Spaces Protection Orders will specify certain restrictions be applied to specified areas of the borough relating to dog control issues and Anti-social behaviour. The new PSPOs will also provide Wardens with greater powers and flexibility to vary the orders depending on the nature of the offence.

The public consultation process will take 4 weeks, starting in March 2017 and ending in April 2017. Once completed, a report will be presented to Cabinet seeking approval for the Chief Legal Officer to formally make the Orders in May 2017. The Council is required to draft the new Orders by 2020.

The Assistant Director, Environment and Place stated that the site maps would be updated to clarify what is proposed for the consultation process.

Councillor Davies proposed approval of the recommendations to the report which was seconded by Councillor Cartwright.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

Authorise the Assistant Director Environment and Place in consultation with the Director of Operational Services, the Chief Legal Officer, and the Lead Member for Environment and Place to go out to public consultation on the 2 draft PSPOs for a period of four weeks, review feedback from the consultation and amend the draft PSPOs as appropriate before reporting the finalised PSPOs to Cabinet, seeking approval for the Chief Legal Officer to make the Orders in accordance with regulations published by the Secretary of State.

The reason for this decision was:

PSPOs replace existing controls such as those relating to dog fouling, under the provisions of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The existing provisions are superseded in October 2017. They also enable local authorities and their partners such as the Police to address serious anti-social behaviour in public places. The work set out in this report will contribute to the Council's vision for a safer cleaner town.

81. IMPROVING THE HASTINGS STREET SCENE

The Assistant Director Environment & Place presented a report to provide Cabinet with details of a range of linked initiatives that will lead to improved street scene for Hastings. They include raising public awareness about street scene offences, a pilot with a specialist street scene enforcement contractor, and new ways of working for the Council's Warden Service.

Councils Wardens have been responsible for enforcing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) relating to littering; dog fouling and fly tipping. Subsequent changes involving a reduction in the number of wardens; implementation of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) and an overall increase in functions, necessitates the need for new resources and priorities to address offending behaviour.

The Council seeks to pilot a 12 month scheme with a Specialist Enforcement Contractor in May 2017 and review it after 6 months with a view to assessing options in the future.

It is expected the scheme will free up the Councils Wardens and will potentially generate a profit share income for the Council of up to £50,000, which subject to further discussions and agreement, could be reinvested in the Council's Environmental Services and improvements.

Cabinet expressed their thanks to all wardens for their contribution and hard work.

Councillor Davies proposed approval of the recommendations to the report which was seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

- 1) Implement a 12 month litter and dog control enforcement pilot with a specialist environmental enforcement contractor;**
- 2) Review the pilot and assess the scope for future specialist enforcement options;**
- 3) In consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Place, the Director of Operational Services and the Chief Legal Officer, to review and update the Council's enviro-crime enforcement policy on an ongoing basis as and when necessary. Starting immediately with the suggested changes to the sections relating to the level of payment for littering, dog fouling and fly tipping FPNs, and the criteria for issuing FPNs or prosecuting for fly tipping offences. Then in parallel with the introduction of the Hastings Public Space Protection Orders, the use of the new anti-social behaviour (ASB) powers.**
- 4) In consultation with the Council's Executive Manager of People, Customer and Business Support develop the Council's Warden service into a service better able to address the emerging ASB agenda and enforcing Public Spaces Protection Orders.**

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The reason for this decision was:

The work set out in this report will contribute to the Council's vision for a safer cleaner town, and in the longer term reduce the cost of environmental services such as those associated with street cleansing and environmental enforcement.

82. ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.55pm)

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Public Document Pack

CABINET

3 APRIL 2017

Present: Councillors Chowney (Chair), Forward, Cartwright, Fitzgerald, Beaney, Lee and Patmore

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Poole

Councillor Chowney announced that, following Councillor Davies resignation from Cabinet, Councillor Fitzgerald had been appointed as Lead Member for the Environment and Place portfolio. Councillor Beaney had been appointed to Cabinet as Chair of Charity Committee.

83. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 MARCH 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2017 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record

RESOLVED the Chair called over the items on the agenda, under rule 13.3 the recommendations set out in minute number 87 were agreed without being called for discussion.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Councillor Chowney proposed a motion for the exclusion of the public from the meeting, which was seconded by Councillor Lee and unanimously agreed as follows:

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items of business listed below because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of “exempt” information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the relevant report.

Confidential Business

84. 12/13 YORK BUILDINGS

Cabinet considered the recommendations set out in minute numbers 84 and 88 together.

The Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues, presented a report which sought approval for capital funding to convert the upper floors of 12/13 York Buildings into six flats.

The property was a grade II listed building, occupying a prominent location in the town centre. The ground floor and basement of the building was leased as retail space, however, the upper floors had been vacant for many years and were in a semi derelict state.

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The council had a longstanding commitment to bring empty properties back in to use and support the supply of good quality rented accommodation in the town.

The council had commissioned a feasibility study for potential uses for the upper floors of the building. The report recommended that the council undertake the works to convert the top three floors of the building into six flats and rent the units through a 3rd party. Initial discussions had taken place with a local charity, which may be willing to take on the lease of the completed flats.

Members noted that the estimated refurbishment costs were high due to the present condition of the property and the conservation requirements for listed buildings. However, the council had the opportunity to borrow the funds at a competitive rate due to low interest rates. Once borrowing costs had been deducted, it was anticipated that the scheme would achieve a surplus of £4,700 per annum.

Discussion took place regarding alternative models to bring the property back into use, including selling the upper floors of the building in their present condition.

Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the recommendations to the Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues report, which was seconded by Councillor Forward.

RESOLVED (by 5 votes for to 2 against with 0 abstentions) that the upper floors of 12/13 York Buildings be converted to six flats at an estimated cost of £682,000

The reason for this decision was:

With historically low interest rates there is a window of opportunity to convert the upper floors in this grade II listed building (which has high conversion costs), to create much needed new residential accommodation and generate additional income for the council.

85. MINUTES OF THE MUSEUMS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2017

The minutes of the Museums Committee meeting held on 13 March 2017 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Museums Committee meeting held on 13 March 2017 be received and agreed

86. MINUTES OF THE CHARITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 MARCH 2017

The minutes of the Charity Committee meeting held on 20 March 2017 were submitted.

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RESOLVED that the minutes of the Charity Committee meeting held on 20 March 2017 be received and agreed

87. UPDATE ON ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) PROCUREMENT

The Director of Corporate Services and Governance submitted a report which updated Cabinet on the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) procurement and requested delegated authority for additional capital spend to allow Hastings Borough Council to procure on behalf of both authorities and subsequently reclaim monies from Rother District Council.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Delegated authority be given to the Director of Corporate Services and Governance in consultation with the Leader of the Council to complete the procurement process and appoint the successful supplier, and;**
- 2. To increase the capital programme to the amount set out in the report to cover the total cost, which will be split 50:50 between Hastings Borough Council and Rother District Council**

The reason for this decision was:

Following Cabinet's previous approval to proceed with procuring the ERP system from the successful supplier and to enter into joint arrangements with Rother District Council on 50:50 split of the cost it has been agreed that Hastings Borough Council will be the lead authority in procuring the system.

The total cost to both authorities will exceed the amount previously agreed in the capital programme. Under the council's financial rules, the Director of Corporate Services and Governance requires further delegated authority to spend the additional amount.

Contractual assurances in the form of a formal agreement are currently being drawn up with Rother District Council to ensure that their 50% contribution to the overall cost will be recovered.

88. 12/13 YORK BUILDINGS

The Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues, presented a report which sought approval for capital funding to convert the upper floors of 12/13 York Buildings into six flats.

Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the recommendations to the Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues report, which was seconded by Councillor Forward.

RESOLVED (by 5 votes for to 2 against with 0 abstentions) that the upper floors of 12/13 York Buildings be converted to six flats for the estimated capital cost set out in the report

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The reason for this decision was:

With historically low interest rates there is a window of opportunity to convert the upper floors in this grade II listed building (which has high conversion costs), to create much needed new residential accommodation and generate additional income for the council.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.56 pm)