

HASTINGS AND ST LEONARDS FORESHORE CHARITABLE TRUST

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED ORALLY

1. This Annual meeting was the only opportunity that members of the public had to ask questions. Could an opportunity be given to ask questions at the regular meetings of the Charity Committee?

Reply

The Charity Committee is a Committee of Cabinet and is governed by the rules and provisions of the Constitution relating to Cabinet. The Chief Legal Officer would investigate and provide a written reply.

2. Why was the Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust's annual report not in the same format as the annual reports to other Charities?

Reply

The format used follows guidance received from the Charity Commission. However, the Head of Finance said that he would be pleased to learn from examples from other Charities.

3. How would the business plan be reviewed and revised going forward, especially in respect of consultations?

Reply

The business plan had been amended throughout the year, as appropriate. Sometimes amendments were influenced by outside agencies. This five year plan would be reported annually and the Council was pleased to undertake wide consultation, as was the usual practice.

4. Could any further breakdown of the figures contained in the detailed monitoring statements attached to the Foreshore Trust Financial Report be provided?

Reply

The Head of Finance would be pleased to supply further details upon request.

5. Could the strategic risk register be published as part of the annual report?

Reply

The Head of Finance said that he would be pleased to include the risk register in the annual report.

6. In respect of the business plan were there any plans to increase the size of the funding available for grants and what was the gearing used to decide the proportion of funding for this purpose?

Reply

The Council had a duty to maintain and enhance the value of its assets and a need to maintain reserves for this purpose. Risks to income streams and funding pressures had to be taken into account when considering the level of funding to be made available to the community. The ratio used was currently 25% of available surpluses, which was reasonable and prudent at this stage. The Charity Committee would have to balance its ability to provide services itself against passing on funding for use by outside organisations.