

## Appendix 1

### Citizens' Panel Questions

1. We have identified the following principles that will underpin our budget for 2007/08 and help us set our plans for the next 3 years. We would like to know the extent to which you agree or disagree that these principles should guide our future activities.

Our principles are to:

- Continue our primary focus on the regeneration of Hastings and St Leonards
- Prioritise activities that contribute to improving the town's 5 E's. These are:
  - § Economy
  - § Education
  - § Employment
  - § Environment (including Housing)
  - § Enjoyment
- Provide good quality, customer focussed cost effective services
- Focus on affordability and recognise that our financial position means we have to make every penny count.
- Ensure our expenditure is in line with income and we focus on our 'core' activities and work with others to bring in external funds for anything extra.
- Recognise that we may not be able to deliver as wide a range of services in future
- Increase joint-working with local authority partners and others to share resources, improve the quality, resilience and cost efficiency of our services
- Deliver services in the most efficient, effective and equitable way either in-house or by others in the private or voluntary sector.
- Make savings by not funding activities which can be funded from elsewhere
- Keep Hastings Borough Council's Council Tax increase as low as possible whilst providing the services the town needs.
- Recognise that the Council cannot be a funder of last resort when funding from other sources is reduced or ends.

Services in your local area are provided by a number of bodies. In Hastings, some of these services such as Childrens Services, Adult Social Services, Transport and Libraries are provided by East Sussex County Council. The services outlined in this

consultation document are provided by Hastings Borough Council, in partnership with other agencies where stated.

2. In order to target our resources at delivering good quality core services we need to make choices about which activities we should continue to support and which areas we should invest more or less in.

(a) Please help us identify which activities from the following list are **core** activities that residents need and expect the Council to spend money on. Please tick one box on each line.

(b) Which of these activities, if any, do you think we should no longer provide?

(c) Which of the activities below, if any, do you think most need improving?

*Currently we....*

3. Are key partners in creating new and better employment, training and other opportunities for local people
4. Support the growth of and investment in local business through the local enterprise growth initiative and other economic programmes
5. Use the planning process to deliver housing, employment and environmental benefits
6. Guide physical developments and protect the built environment through the Local Development framework
7. Use planning to enforce seafront and town centre improvements and building regulations to ensure new developments are safe
8. Provide guidelines on conservation and design to ensure that new developments respect our heritage and promote innovative design
9. Teach vocational skills to young people who've left school with few or no qualifications
10. Offer advice to reduce and prevent homelessness
11. Work with housing providers to match housing supply to local needs
12. Offer financial assistance to householders/ tenants whose homes are in need of minor repairs or adaptations e.g. the disabled facilities grant enables people to make adaptations which allows them to remain in their own homes
13. Address disadvantage in deprived areas through Neighbourhood Renewal
14. Work in partnership with others such as the Police, Health and Education to address issues affecting the town
15. Support community groups such as young people, older people, disabled people, black and minority ethnic groups
16. Provide financial assistance to the voluntary and community sector to support community based activities which benefit the residents of the town
17. Deal with licensing applications such as licenses to allow the sale or supply of alcohol, entertainments and hackney carriage/private hire vehicles
18. Work with the police and other partners to tackle anti-social behaviour and reduce crime

19. Prepare contingency plans to deal with crisis or disasters such as flooding, fire, terrorism
20. Protect public health by ensuring that food outlets comply with food safety and health and safety laws, monitor air quality and deal with noise pollution
21. Manage the Highways (on behalf of the County Council) by maintaining our roads, pavements and road signs
22. Collect rubbish and provide opportunities for recycling
23. Keep the streets clean
24. Provide a warden service
25. Maintain public conveniences
26. Manage Hastings Museum & Art Gallery and the Old Town Museum
27. Ensure our parks and open spaces are kept clean, attractive and safe for the public to enjoy
28. Offer an arboriculture service, providing advice on trees and protecting our woodland
29. Manage the contract for our leisure centres: Summerfields, Falaise and Hillcrest
30. Provide opportunities for people of all ages to take part in sport through our Active Hastings Programme
31. Hold play events and maintain play facilities for children and young people
32. Support the Arts by supporting projects such as Coastal Currents and maintaining St. Mary in the Castle as an Arts venue
33. Provide entertainment through the White Rock Theatre
34. Manage Hastings cemetery and crematorium
35. Collect Council Tax
36. Distribute Housing and Council Tax Benefits and tackle fraud
37. Provide a range of services through the Hastings Information Centre
38. Oversee elections and voting
39. Manage the Council's portfolio of land and property used for employment
40. Market Hastings as a tourist destination

In addition to these services we also carry out the following functions to help manage the smooth-running of our organisation:

- Provide means to communicate with us electronically and pay bills online
- Personnel and organisational development
- Policy development & Performance Management
- Legal Services
- Financial Services
- Internal Audit