

Agenda Item No: 7

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny (Services)

Date of Meeting: 2 June 2011

Report Title: Monitoring the Implementation of Cabinet Decisions

Report By: Katrina Silverson
Scrutiny and Electoral Services Officer

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

Recommendation(s)

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

Reasons for Recommendations

To inform members of decisions taken by Cabinet since their last meeting on 15 February 2011.

Background

Cabinet Meeting held on 7 February 2011

79. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT PROCUREMENT

Decision:

- (1) a thorough contract review is undertaken to identify where further cost reductions are feasible whilst maintaining an acceptable level of quality;
- (2) collaboration with Rother District Council on joint service procurement is supported;
- (3) the results of a trial of the 'Integrated Approach' to contract management, outlined in this report, are assessed and considered as an option for a new contract;
- (4) a longer contract term (10+ years) is considered; and
- (5) the contract review assesses the feasibility of combining the parks and open spaces management functions of the two authorities.

**Responsible Officer: Richard Homewood, Corporate Director
Environmental Services**

Lead Member: Councillor Phil Scott

The reason for this decision was:

Officers were exploring options for new Grounds Maintenance arrangements for when our current contract with Quadron Services expired in November 2012. Our aim was to protect the quality of our parks and open spaces, which were highly valued, whilst identifying where savings could be made through work specifications and management arrangements. Discussions with Rother District Council were progressing well and the Rother Cabinet supported a joint tendering, joint management approach, subject to agreement on a common specification and the emergence of significant contract savings through the shared approach.

Cabinet Meeting held on 16 February 2011

88. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FUND 2011 - 12

Decision:

- (1) subject to Council's budget determinations, the allocation of the Community Partnership Fund be as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Head of Regeneration and Community Services;

- (2) The inclusion in the allocation of an additional £20,000 in respect of the MyPlace project be noted; and
- (3) the Small Grants pot of £10,000 will not be subject to any reduction and will continue to be administered by Hastings Voluntary Action from April 2011 at no cost.

Responsible Officer: Monica Adams-Acton, Head of Regeneration and Community Services

Lead Member: Councillor Jay Kramer

The reasons for this decision were:

The significant reduction to the Council's budget imposed by the coalition government necessitated a reduction in the Community Partnerships Fund budget over the next three financial years. The Council wanted to minimise the impact on services that most directly benefitted vulnerable residents.

In September 2009, Cabinet agreed to approve £20k each year for a period of three years in respect of support for the MyPlace project.

Cabinet Meeting held on 7 March 2011

93. ALLOTMENTS – DESIGNATION OF STATUTORY STATUS AND SURVEY RESULTS

Decision:

- (1) the change of status from temporary to statutory be agreed for the allotment sites described in paragraph 4 of the report and for this purpose: -
- a) the land at the Harley Shute allotments site be appropriated under Section 122(1) Local Government Act 1972 to be held for allotment purposes; and
- b) the Council commence the process under Section 122(2A) Local Government Act 1972 to appropriate as allotments the land at BOS Field and Lower Clive Vale allotments sites, which are currently held under Section 164 Public Health Act 1875 (pleasure grounds).; and
- (2) the increased demand for allotments in the town, the measures being taken to accommodate this demand and the improved cultivation levels resulting as indicated through the recent survey be noted.

**Responsible Officer: Richard Homewood, Corporate Director
Environmental Services**

Lead Member: Councillor Trevor Webb

The reason for this decision was:

Re-designating those allotments that had “temporary” status as “Statutory” under the terms of the Allotments Act 1925 was incorporated into the Corporate Plan as part of the revised programme for the year following the elections in May last year.

To confirm that the approach taken to maximise the area available for cultivation on sites allocated for allotment use was resulting in improved levels of cultivation and was encouraging plot holders to make the most effective use of their plots, in accordance with the terms of their tenancy agreement.

94. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD) – VISITOR ACCOMMODATION

Decision:

That the Visitor Accommodation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Sustainability Appraisal be adopted as presented.

Responsible Officer: Tim Cookson, Borough Planning Officer

Lead Member: Councillor Peter Chowney

The reason for this decision was:

To enable the SPD to be formally adopted for development control purposes.

95. JOINT WASTE COMMITTEE AND ADMINISTARTING AUTHORITY

Decision:

(1) approval in principle be given to the establishment of a Joint Waste Committee with a report back on its constitutional arrangements;

(2) Hastings Borough Council express an interest to the Waste Portfolio Holders Group to act as the Administering Authority, subject to a mutually agreeable support package being in place to enable HBC to carry out this function.

**Responsible Officer: Richard Homewood, Corporate Director
Environmental Services**

Lead Member: Councillor Phil Scott

The reasons for this decision were:

Along with Eastbourne, Wealden and Rother District Councils, Hastings had signed up to the principle of Jointly procuring the next waste contract. Following a meeting of Leaders, Lead Members and Chief Executives on 26 January support had also been given to the establishment of a Joint Waste Committee (JWC). This would require the

delegation by Hastings Borough Council of its waste management functions to the JWC under the provisions of Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

One of the participating local authorities would need to act as the 'Administering Authority'. Members were asked to consider whether Hastings Borough Council would express an interest in acting as the Administering Authority for the Joint Waste Committee.

96. PROPOSED BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL AND HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Decision:

- (1) the principle of a partnership agreement with Rother District Council to deliver the Building Control Service on behalf of the Council is supported;
- (2) delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive or his nominee in consultation with the Lead Member to negotiate the contents of the Partnership Agreement including the financial, legal and personnel arrangement; and
- (3) subject to recommendation (2) above, Cabinet delegates to the Executive of Rother District Council pursuant to Section 19 Local Government Act 2000 and Regulation 7 Local Authorities (Discharge of Functions)(England) Regulations 2000 the following functions:-

All district council functions relating to building control under the following and any supervening legislation including but not limited to
the Building Act 1984 and Building Regulations and any supervening legislation;
East Sussex Act 1981 Section 35;
Hastings Borough Council Act 1988 Sections 4 and 5;
Building (Approved Inspectors) Regulations 1985 Regulation 8;
Land Drainage Act 1991 Section 25; and
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Sections 29-32.

Responsible Officer: Tim Cookson, Borough Planning Officer

Lead Member: Councillor Peter Chowney

The reason for this decision was:

To progress further negotiations in order to establish a partnership with Rother District Council to deliver the Building Control Service on behalf of the Council

97. CONTACT CENTRE UPDATE

Decision:

That progress to date on establishing the contact centre is noted, and the plans for taking the project forward are endorsed.

Responsible Officer: Kevin Boorman, Head of Communications and Marketing

Lead Member: Councillor Peter Chowney

The reason for this decision was:

The contact centre was vital to improve both the quality of service offered to residents and visitors, and the efficiency of the organisation.

Cabinet Meeting held on 4 April 2011

105. CULTURAL REGENERATION STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Decision:

- (1) the Cultural Regeneration Implementation Plan 2010 – 15 be approved;
- (2) the establishment of the Cultural Regeneration Partnership Group, and the Cultural Regeneration Reference Group, with its specific terms of reference be endorsed; and
- (3) the membership of the groups and Terms of Reference be noted and the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Homes and Communities be delegated authority, in consultation with the Lead Member for Regeneration (Chair of the Cultural Regeneration Partnership Group), to make amendments as necessary.

Responsible Officer: Monica Adams-Acton, Head of Regeneration and Community Services

Lead Member: Councillor Peter Chowney

The reasons for this decision were:

Development of the Cultural Regeneration Implementation Plan was a key recommendation of the Cabinet when it adopted the Cultural Regeneration Strategy in October 2010. The report also proposed the establishment of a partnership structure to provide advice, facilitate co-ordination, and monitor the delivery of the strategy.

107 HIGHWAYS MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Decision:

- (1) Hastings Borough Council enter into a new Highways Management Agreement with East Sussex County Council in relation to Traffic Management and associated Highways Act activities; and
- (2) the Chief Executive or his nominee in consultation with the Lead Member be authorised to finalise the detailed content of the agreement.

**Responsible Officer: Richard Homewood, Corporate Director
Environmental Services**

Lead Member: Councillor Phil Scott

The reason for this decision was:

In order to enable Hastings Borough Council to locally manage traffic and parking related issues within the Borough for the benefit of Hastings residents.

Cabinet Meeting held on 9 May 2011

110. LOCAL SPACE HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Decision:

- (1) work with Local Space in developing a pilot project and the research required for the development of a potentially larger long term scheme be continued;
- (2) a more comprehensive scheme for future years be developed, and support be sought from other public sector bodies, including East Sussex County Council;
- (3) the Local Space bid, to the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) for funding be endorsed;
- (4) officers to continue to work with other coastal communities in developing and expanding models for housing and related regeneration; and
- (5) the Council to work with Local Space in developing a full implementation and project plan for the pilot, prior to the acquisition of any properties. Such plans to detail any subsidy arrangements and choice of management partners that may be required.

**Responsible Officer: Simon Hubbard, Corporate Director Regeneration,
Homes and Communities**

Lead Member: Councillor Trevor Webb

The reasons for this decision were:

In order to attract both initial investment of £2m in St. Leonards housing stock by Local Space and to develop a potentially more ambitious scheme for regeneration in the area.

111. ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION – HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Decision:

- (1) an Article 4 Direction be made to remove permitted development rights otherwise granted by the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended) to change the use of a Class C3 dwelling house to a Class C4 Houses in Multiple Occupation with 6 or fewer occupants, the Direction to come into effect at least one year from the date that it is made;
- (2) a six week period of public consultation is undertaken concerning the proposed Article 4 Direction; and
- (3) it be noted that options for planning policies to prevent the concentration of Houses In Multiple Occupation in any one area of the town will be explored through the Core Strategy in the Local Development Framework plan making process.

Responsible Officer: Jane Jackson, Planning Policy Manager

Lead Member: Councillor Peter Chowney

The reason for this decision was:

The making of an Article 4 Direction is a policy matter for Cabinet to decide.

112. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH XIANGSHAN, CHINA

Decision:

That the interest expressed in Hastings by Xiangshan county be welcomed and the Council agree to enter into a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding as set out in Appendix A to the report.

Responsible Officer: Simon Hubbard, Corporate Director Regeneration, Homes and Communities

Lead Member: Councillor Jeremy Birch

The reason for this decision was:

An approach had been made by a representative acting on behalf of Xiangshan county that they wished to explore opportunities for mutually beneficial activities through a partnership arrangement between the county of Xiangshan and Hastings.

114 AXIS 4 HASTINGS FISHERIES LOCAL ACTION GROUP STRATEGY (HFLAG)

Decision:

- (1) the Chief Executive or his nominee be delegated authority, in consultation with the Lead Member for Regeneration, to undertake amendments and final sign-off of the Axis 4 FLAG Strategy in order to meet the 31st May 2011 submission deadline;
- (2) an Axis 4 FLAG Strategy for Hastings that seeks to deliver the types of projects outlined in sections 7 and 8 of the report be supported; and
- (3) the partners in the Hastings FLAG, and Hastings Borough Council staff who have been supporting them, be congratulated for their efforts in developing the scheme.

Responsible Officer: Monica Adams-Acton, Head of Regeneration and Community Services

Lead Member: Councillor Peter Chowney

The reasons for this decision were:

The report set out the key strategic objectives and outlined the current situation in regard to the FLAG and Axis 4 funding. The managing authority for Axis 4 in England had not yet finalised criteria and guidelines for the English FLAGS, which had affected the development of the FLAG strategies in each area, including Hastings. The report sought Cabinet's approval for delegated authority for the final sign off in order to meet the submission deadline of 31st May.

115 AREA BASED STRUCTURES AND CHAIRS AND CHAMPIONS REPORT

Decision:

- (1) the activities of Area Management Boards over the last 6 months are welcomed;
- (2) the changes in staffing support and funding for area based structures are noted;
- (3) the proposed introduction of area management plans for each area is agreed subject to further development and the outcome of the discussions with Chairs, Vice Chairs and Champions in May; and
- (4) the Chairs and Champions report be submitted to Cabinet on a yearly basis in future.

Responsible Officer: Monica Adams-Acton, Head of Regeneration and Community Services

Lead Member: Councillor Jay Kramer

The reason for this decision was:

Cabinet agreed in November 2009 to consider twice yearly reports from Area Management Boards. This was the second such report. It was timely to include the impact of the restructuring of the Regeneration and Community Services team. This affected the support provided to area based structures including Area Management Boards. It looked ahead to the next two years of the work of the Boards and the team and how area management plans could inform that process. It was considered that reporting to the Cabinet on a less frequently basis by the Chairs and Champions was appropriate for community based structures.

116 DRAFT EAST SUSSEX LOCAL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

Decision:

- (1) the conclusions and recommendations about the draft Local Economic Assessment contained within the report be endorsed; and
- (2) in light of the approach taken in compiling the Local Economic Assessment, this Council recommends that the new Economic Development Strategy for East Sussex recognises the different functional economies within the County and takes into account the potential impacts of significant economic policy shifts and reduction in public expenditure.

Responsible Officer: Monica Adams-Acton, Head of Regeneration and Community Services

Lead Member: Councillor Peter Chowney

The reasons for this decision were:

The Local Economic Assessment would inform the development of the new East Sussex Economic Development Strategy and thus it was an important document in terms of setting out the economic position and prospects for the East Sussex economy. The one month period for consultation on the draft document ended on 8th April, and the endorsement of the Cabinet was necessary if the contents of the report were to be considered as the views of Hastings Borough Council.

117 DRAFT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN AND DRAFT WORKFORCE STRATEGY

Decision:

That the objectives and priorities within the draft Children and Young People's Plan and the draft strategy, the recommendations contained within this report, and the proposed actions by Hastings Borough Council in support of the plan be endorsed.

Responsible Officer: Monica Adams-Acton, Head of Regeneration and Community Services

Lead Member: Councillor Jay Kramer

The reason for this decision was:

The draft CYPP set out aspirations, priorities and planned actions to improve the lives of children, young people and families in East Sussex. The draft Joint Workforce Strategy proposed objectives and plans to ensure that everyone who works with children and young people had the right skills and knowledge. The adoption of these plans would influence the shape and scale of services for children, young people and families for at least the next three years.

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

Area(s) Affected

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

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

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|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 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 |

Supporting Documents

Cabinet Minutes: 7 and 16 February, 7 March, 4 April and 9 May 2011

Officer to Contact

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