

**Agenda Item No:**

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

**Date of Meeting:** 16th February 2012

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

**Report By:** Katrina Silverson  
Scrutiny and Electoral Services 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 17 November 2011.

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## Background

### Cabinet Meeting held on 28 November 2011

#### 67. PETITION – REMOVAL OF ROBSACK “A” FROM THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**Decision:**

that the petition is not supported.

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

**Lead Member: Councillor Peter Chowney**

The reasons for this decision were:

1. The future of the site should be considered as part of the Council's overall planning policies contained in the developing Local Development Framework (LDF).
2. To ensure that the future of the site was decided in the context of the needs of the Borough's residents and the impact of development on all potential sites.

#### 68. FLAG (FISHERIES LOCAL ACTION GROUP) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

**Decision:**

- (1) the current position with regard to Axis 4 funding and the Hastings FLAG be noted; and
- (2) the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Homes and Communities, in consultation with the Lead Member for Regeneration, be delegated authority to agree the terms of the contract with the Marine Management Organisation.

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

**Lead Member: Councillor Peter Chowney**

The reasons for this decision were:

The report gave an update on the Axis 4 FLAG process and what remained to be resolved with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) before the FLAG could 'go live'. At the time of writing the responses of the MMO to the revised Strategy, Business Plan and Desk Instructions were still awaited. An outline of the key themes in the Strategy, financial profiles and draft outputs and outcomes for the programme were included in Appendix A to the report.

## **69. MOTION TO CABINET REGARDING THE DIAMOND JUBILEE**

### **Decision:**

- (1) the Council write to Her Majesty, so that a letter is received on 6th February 2012, to formally congratulate her on achieving her Diamond Jubilee; and
- (2) the availability of community funding for organising events related to the Jubilee be investigated, and if such funds are available, work with community groups to organise events to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

**Responsible Officer: Kevin Boorman, Head of Communications and Marketing**

**Lead Member: Councillor Jay Kramer**

The reason for this decision was:

To show Hastings' support for HM Queen Elizabeth II in 2012, her Diamond Jubilee year.

## **70. COMPULSORY PURCHASE AND RESALE OF A ST LEONARDS PROPERTY TO A REGISTERED HOUSING PROVIDER**

### **Decision:**

- (1) the process be commenced for the Compulsory Purchase of the property identified in the report in Part 2 of this agenda, pursuant to Section 226(1) (a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; and
- (2) the onward transfer of ownership of the property to Local Space Housing Association be agreed.

**Responsible Officer: Andrew Palmer, Head of Housing Services**

**Lead Member: Councillor Trevor Webb**

The reasons for this decision were:

The property identified which occupied a prominent site within the St Leonards housing renewal area, had been empty since 2009 and was considered a significant blight to the area.

A Compulsory Purchase Order would enable the Council to take the necessary steps towards bringing the property back into use.

Local Space Housing Association proposed to purchase the home from the Council, undertake conversion and refurbishment works, then let the property for residential purposes to those in housing need nominated by the Council.

## **71. JOINT WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACT – INTER-AUTHORITY AGREEMENT AND PENSIONS**

### **Decision:**

- (1) the Director of Environmental Services or his nominee be authorised to sign the Inter Authority Agreement on behalf of Hastings Borough Council; and
- (2) the Director of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition, be delegated authority to determine the applicability of Fair Deal to ex-HBC employees.

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

**Lead Member: Councillor Phil Scott**

The reason for this decision was:

To ensure Cabinet Members were aware of the implications of the Inter Authority Agreement and were able to agree to enter into it.

To ensure Cabinet Members were aware of the pension implications in relation to staff originally employed by the Council and determined whether the Fair Deal principles should apply to these employees or not.

## **72. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT PROCUREMENT**

### **Decision:**

- (1) a joint procurement exercise for grounds maintenance and related services with Rother District Council and Amicus Horizon be agreed;
- (2) Cabinet agree to tender for a single contractor for grounds maintenance services to the three partner agencies, with a joint Hastings/Rother contract and separate Amicus Horizon contract. All partners will join the tender for one separate, specialist tree works contract;
- (3) the conclusion of negotiations on partnership legal and cost sharing agreements with Rother District Council be delegated to the Director of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Leader of the Council; and
- (4) development of a strategic partnering agreement with Amicus Horizon and Rother District Council for coordinated contractor liaison and exploration of further sharing of maintenance services be supported.

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

**Lead Member: Councillor Trevor Webb**

The reasons for this decision were:

The current HBC Grounds Maintenance contract with Quadron Services Ltd, annual value £1.2 million, had a 5 year term ending in November 2012. Hastings Borough Council's Cabinet (7th. February 2011) and Rother District Council's Cabinet (17th. January 2011) had agreed that both Authorities would align their Grounds Maintenance contract specifications in order to co-procure.

Amicus Horizon had indicated that they wished to participate in the procurement for their Hastings and Rother operations. The tender would be advertised on the basis of securing the services of a single contractor for both the Hastings/Rother and the Amicus Horizon contracts.

### **73. HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

**Decision:**

that progress made in delivering against the 2011/12 commitments and targets, and the actions taken to address potential shortfalls be welcomed.

**Responsible Officer: Jane Hartnell, Head of Policy, Performance and Sustainability**

**Lead Member: Councillor Jeremy Birch**

The reason for this decision was:

The Corporate Plan and Programme for the Year set out the key commitments made by the Council for the year 2011/12. By reporting to Cabinet and being transparent about progress, local people were able to hold the Council to account.

### **74. ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT**

**Decision:**

that the Annual Monitoring Report be submitted to the Secretary of State as required by Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, subject to minor amendments to the current draft being delegated to the Chief Executive or in his absence the Deputy Chief Executive or his nominee, in consultation with the appropriate Lead Member and Opposition Spokespersons.

**Responsible Officer: Tim Cookson, Borough Planning Officer**

**Lead Member: Councillor Peter Chowney**

The reason for this decision was:

A submission is required in order to meet Government legislation.

## **77(E). COMPULSORY PURCHASE AND RESALE OF A ST LEONARDS PROPERTY TO A REGISTERED HOUSING PROVIDER**

### **Decision:**

that the process for Compulsory Purchase be commenced in respect of the property identified in the report pursuant to Section 226(1) (a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

**Responsible Officer: Andrew Palmer, Head of Housing Services**

**Lead Member: Councillor Trevor Webb**

The reasons for this decision were:

The property, which occupied a prominent site within the Central St Leonards housing renewal area, had remained unoccupied since 2009 and was considered a significant blight to the area.

Local Space Housing Association proposed to purchase the property from the Council, undertake conversion and refurbishment works, then let the property for residential purposes to those in housing need nominated by the Council.

## **Cabinet Meeting held on 9 January 2012**

### **82. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FUNDING 2012-2013**

#### **Decision:**

that the indicative funding allocations be approved to the organisations that had successfully completed the selection process to date, as set out in the appendix to the report.

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

**Lead Member: Councillor Jay Kramer**

The reason for this decision was:

To comply with and follow through the recommendations made by Cabinet on 11 July 2011.

### **83. PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Decision:**

- (1) apply for Interreg IVa funding as part of a Partnership led by Kent County Council called Pathways to Employment (P2E), to support employability initiatives;
- (2) apply to JobCentre Plus [JCP] for funding to support employability initiatives; and
- (3) authorise the Corporate Director for Regeneration, Homes & Communities in consultation with the Lead Member for Regeneration to enter into contracts and agreements that may be necessary to apply for and receive any grants that may be awarded; and to enable delivery of grant-funded activities.

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

**Lead Member: Councillor Peter Chowney**

The reasons for this decision were:

Consultations with a range of local stakeholders had highlighted a long-term concern about poor employability within the local workforce. That was, regardless of school achievement and qualifications, many people, were not work-ready in terms of life skills such as presentation, communication, timekeeping and aspiration.

The problem was a growing one, especially for young people in a period of low or zero economic growth, and given Hastings' vulnerability to public sector cuts. However the level of resource available was not commensurate with the size of the challenge. Two opportunities had recently arisen for grants to address employability: an Interreg proposal, P2E, led by Kent County Council; and JCP funds for local initiatives and it was proposed they should be pursued.

The submission date for both of these was early February 2012. The recommendations were to enable bids to be made, and for subsequent delivery if the applications were successful.

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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**

### **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

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### **Supporting Documents**

Cabinet Minutes: 28 November 2011 and 9 January 2012

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### **Officer to Contact**

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