



Council Meeting

**Wednesday, 26th
April, 2023**

HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Hastings Borough Council to be held at the Council Chamber, Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3UY. Please enter the building through the Contact Centre entrance via the seafront., on Wednesday, 26th April, 2023 at 6.00 pm at which meeting the business specified below is proposed to be transacted.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Legal Officer

Muriel Matters House
Breeds Place
Hastings

19 April 2023

AGENDA

5. Questions (if any) from:
- a) Members of the public under Rule 11
 - b) Councillors under Rule 12

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

Questions from the Public under Rule 11

Questioner	Question	Answer
Anna Sabin	Hastings needs a safe cycling network. What are your current plans to get it one?	<p>Councillor Batsford:</p> <p>Hastings Borough Council agrees that we need a much more extensive cycle network in the Borough for residents' health and as part of our response to climate change.</p> <p>We will continue to discuss with our partners East Sussex County Council how to progress new cycle routes around the town and will come forward with proposals and priorities for implementation when they are known.</p>

Questions from Councillors under Rule 12

Questioner	Question	Answer
Councillor Haffenden	How much does the council spend on collecting fly-tipping in Tressell compared to how much money do we collect from the bulky waste collection service in 2022? If we cannot have this ward specific can I get full council cost but I would prefer it to be ward specific.	<p>Councillor Roark:</p> <p>Unfortunately, we do not have that information ward specific.</p> <p>The cost of bulky waste collections and fly-tip collections are the same as the crew configuration and vehicles used are the same. Each crew is made up of 1 x 7.5t truck, 1 x driver and 1 x operative. The total cost of each crew varies slightly from year to year, but on average the crew and vehicle cost c.75k pa.</p>

		<p>Keep in mind that as the service is operated by HBC and not a contractor, we don't pay each time we use it, we pay for the resource as a whole.</p> <p>The difference between the two services is that bulky waste collections cover their own cost. The income from the bulky waste service last year was £93,205.</p>
<p>Councillor Rankin</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 2</p>	<p>Given the challenging financial situation the council finds itself in, with costs for temporary accommodation being probably the biggest single contributory factor. Can the leader of the council update members as to how we are progressing with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewing our register of council owned property assets 2. Determining whether there are property assets on our books which are underperforming 3. Resolving to dispose of those assets, if they are identified, at the best possible price. 4. Re-investing the disposal proceeds into residential council owned housing. 	<p>Councillor Barnett:</p> <p>The Asset Management Strategy is currently out for procurement, and the scope of that work will enable the answers to questions 1-3 to be provided. In depth detailed analysis will be conducted as part of the project with the aim of completion this summer (subject to procurement timescales etc.).</p> <p>The answer to Question 4 will be determined by the overall Treasury Management Strategy and borrowing requirements of the Council based on its needs at the time. It is usually considered cheaper to use Capital receipts than to borrow additional funds and this would generally be the recommendation of officers, but this will be analysed in detail by the officers involved to provide the best value for money to the Council at the time of decision.</p> <p>As part of the commitment to keep Councillors informed and provide them with the best possible support in all areas of finance, there is a Treasury Management Training session provided by our External Advisors (Link) open to all Councillors on Monday 15th May in the Council Chamber.</p>

<p>Councillor Hay</p>	<p>Could the leader of the council please tell us what the current situation is regarding the vacant town crier position and what the process is to find a replacement?</p>	<p>Councillor Barnett:</p> <p>The question of the town crier vacancy will be considered alongside other staffing options on the council's budget during the year, a process agreed through the budget setting process for the 2023/24 financial year.</p>
<p>Councillor Edwards</p>	<p>We are told that the White Rock Theatre will be terminating the lease to the existing leaseholder at the end of January 2024. In the light of the closure of St Mary in the Castle this will leave the town without any substantial facility for performing arts, charity shows and other entertainment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could the Leader of the Council inform the Council what are the plans and intentions for this building to avoid creating a prominent long-term wasting asset. 2. As a well-known lover of music could the Leader suggest where our excellent Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra should plan to hold its future performances 3. Can he rule out the demolition of the building. 4. Is there any financial obligation falling on the council as a consequence of the planned closure e.g. redundancy payments. 	<p>Councillor Barnett:</p> <p>The White Rock Theatre is a key element in the cultural life of the town and so I very much hope we can find a way of ensuring it celebrates its centenary in 2027. Therefore:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We are currently considering all options for the future of the building 2) I cannot answer this question at present, it depends on the answer to question 1 3) I have no interest in demolishing this fine building 4) It would be inappropriate to answer this question at this stage

<p>Councillor Marlow-Eastwood</p>	<p>To the Leader of the Council. At Full Council you are hoping to have it agreed that you can take money from the Town Deal, to repair one of the houses owned by the Council and rented out by the Council to residents of our town, which has fallen in to a shocking state of disrepair because it has not had regular maintenance from the Landlord (The Council), to keep it in an acceptable condition for its residents.</p> <p>In light of this, will the Leader of the Council confirm that it is maintaining its other rental properties to an acceptable living standard, without the need to take more from the Town Deal fund?</p>	<p>Councillor Barnett:</p> <p>Given the number of properties we own, I will need longer to provide a full response to this question, so will reply in writing when I can.</p> <p>No other existing HBC housing properties will be part of the Town Deal programme.</p>
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