



Council Meeting

22 October 2014

HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Hastings Borough Council to be held at the Sussex Room, White Rock Theatre, White Rock, Hastings, TN34 1JX, on Wednesday, 22nd October, 2014 at 6.00 pm at which meeting the business specified below is proposed to be transacted.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Legal Officer

Aquila House
Breeds Place
Hastings

15 October 2014

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 July 2014
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Announcements from the Mayor and Leader
5. Questions (if any) from: -
 - (a) members of the public under Rule 11
 - (b) councillors under Rule 12
6. Motion (Rule 14)
Councillor Clark to propose the following motion, seconded by Councillor Davies: -

“That the current list of possible persons to be recognised as new street names be supplemented with a list comprised of those from Hastings and St Leonards who served the United Kingdom during

World War One and were awarded a Gallantry medal for their actions and others who made a contribution during those years”.

7. Membership of Committees

To give effect to any request received from a political group for a change in their representation on committee(s).

8. Reports of Committees

- (a) To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of any items considered while the public were excluded by the relevant committee because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of “exempt” information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the local Government Act 1972 referred to in the minutes of the relevant committee.
- (b) To receive and consider the recommendations and any decisions of the following committees: -

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Cabinet Member/Chair</u>
Cabinet – 1 September 2014		
23	Final Accounts 2013/14	Birch
24(C)	Business Rates Pooling	Birch
25	New Factory Unit	Birch
27(E)	New Factory Unit	Birch
Cabinet – 6 October 2014		
30(C)	Street Trading Policy	Cartwright
31	Local Code of Corporate Governance	Birch
32(C)	ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014	Cartwright

33	Coastal Communities Fund	Chowney
34	Hastings Country Park Interpretive Centre	Poole
35(C)	Council Tax Support Scheme	Birch

(C) = Matter for Council Decision
(E) = Part II item.

Notes:

- (1) The Mayor will call over the minutes and members will rise and indicate those items, which they wish to have discussed.
- (2) No discussion shall take place at this stage upon any "Part II Minute" covered by the resolution at 7(a) above. Any such discussion shall be deferred until item 11 on this agenda.

PART II

9. To consider the recommendations and decisions of committees (if any) which the Council has resolved should be discussed after the exclusion of the public from the meeting

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

Agenda Item 2

COUNCIL

23 JULY 2014

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Bruce Dowling) in the Chair; Councillors Atkins, Batsford, Beaney, Beaver, Birch, Cartwright, Charlesworth, Charman, Chowney, Clark, Davies, Edwards, Fitzgerald, Forward, Hodges, Howard, Lee, Lock, Poole, Pragnell, Roberts, Rogers, Sabetian, Scott, Sinden, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley and Wincott

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Cooke

1. **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2014**

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the annual council meeting held on 4 June 2014 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Councillors declared their interests in the minutes indicated: -

Councillor	Committee	Minute	Interest
Forward, Hodges and Westley	Cabinet, 9 June 2014	3 – White Rock Baths	Prejudicial – Members of Charity Committee
Cartwright and Street	Cabinet, 7 July 2014	15 – Overview & Scrutiny Review of Changes to the Welfare System: Management Response	Personal – regarding discussion on the Credit Union

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER**

There were no announcements from the Mayor or Leader at the meeting.

4. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS UNDER RULE 12**

No written questions had been received.

Questions to the Leader, Deputy Leader or other Lead Members were asked and answered in accordance with Rule 12.1 as follows: -

Questioner and Councillor	Subject	Reply Given By Councillor
Charlesworth	<u>Active Hastings</u> a visitor to the town recently had difficulty finding out information about the Active Hastings programme of events; could the Lead	Poole

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	<p>Member explain how the programme is promoted?</p> <p>Councillor Poole said that she was surprised the visitor had been unable to find information about the programme, as Active Hastings events were publicised around the town. Councillor Poole requested that Councillor Charlesworth provide her with further details so that she could investigate the matter.</p>	
Lock	<p><u>Council Tax billing</u> will the policy on information items included with council tax bills be reviewed? East Sussex County Council (ESCC) recently offered to include details of its consultation on street lighting provision with council tax bills, but this was declined.</p> <p>Councillor Birch replied that a significant amount of information about local services was already included with the council tax bill mail out. He was not aware that ESCC had requested details of the street lighting consultation be included with the bill.</p>	Birch
Sabetian	<p><u>Events to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War</u> would the Lead Member provide an update on plans to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War? Councillor Poole explained that a wide programme of events were planned to mark the anniversary. Hastings Remembers, an exhibition of local stories from the First World War, was due to open at Hastings Museum on 25 July 2014. A pop up exhibition would also be held at the Old Town Hall Museum. We will also participate in 'Lights Out' on the seafront on 4 August 2014. The senior's forum were also planning further events for later in the year, to mark the centenary.</p>	Poole
Davies	<p><u>Notable local residents</u> a symphony is due to be performed at the Royal Albert Hall, as a tribute to Alan Turing, who lived locally. 2014 also marks the 100th anniversary of the publication of the Ragged Trousers Philanthropists. Are there any plans to celebrate the achievements of these local residents?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that a film about the life of Alan Turing was due to be released shortly. The council would be publishing a special centenary edition of the Ragged Trousers Philanthropists, which would be available to buy from the Tourist Information Centre and other local shops shortly.</p>	Chowney

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Atkins	<p><u>Grass verges</u> is it possible to increase the frequency of grass cuttings to verges? Councillor Birch responded that ESCC was the agency responsible for highways matters, including the maintenance of grass verges. Hastings Borough Council had previously undertaken additional cuts to the verges; however, it had been necessary to stop these to achieve budget savings. It would not be possible to reinstate the additional cuts to grass verges, without having to find savings from other council services.</p>	Birch
Batsford	<p><u>Local bus services</u> does the Lead Member agree that the planned reductions by ESCC to local bus services would have a disproportionate effect on elderly and infirm residents of Hastings? Councillor Forward expressed her concern at the proposed changes to the local bus and dial-a-ride service, and noted that these services were particularly important to elderly and infirm residents. Councillor Forward encouraged as many people as possible to respond to the ongoing ESCC consultation on this matter.</p>	Forward
Beaver	<p><u>Teenage pregnancy rates</u> does the Leader of the Council agree that recent figures showing an increase in the number of teenagers that continue to smoke while pregnant is very worrying, would he also consider convening a multi-agency meeting to discuss options to tackle this issue? Councillor Birch commented that the figures illustrated an ongoing social challenge in Hastings, but added that statistics related to teenage pregnancy are often slightly out of date. Councillor Birch noted that ESSC and the local Clinical Commissioning Group were primarily responsible for addressing this issue. He asked Councillor Turner to raise this issue at the next meeting of the Health and Well Being Board, to ensure that support is targeted at areas with the greatest need.</p>	Birch
Sinden	<p><u>High speed train links to Hastings</u> is there an update on plans to develop a high speed train link to Hastings? Councillor Birch replied that Network Rail was currently investigating the technical feasibility of a high speed train link from Ashford to Bexhill, via Hastings. The technical investigations should be completed in early 2017. Meanwhile, the council and its partners continued to support the project;</p>	Birch

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	<p>a consultant had been commissioned to develop a business case for the investment by Network Rail in this service. The proposed works would need to fit into Network Rail's 2019/2024 funding and work programme.</p>	
Street	<p><u>Summer events</u> the programme of events over the summer has already been very successful, are there any figures for the number of visitors to Hastings?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney responded that visitor numbers to Hastings had increased, although the exact figures were not yet available. The excellent programme of events and good weather had attracted tourists to the town. Councillor Chowney added that further events including the, carnival, Seafood and Wine Festival and Stade Saturday's programme were planned to take place over the rest of the season. He highlighted the work of local community groups which, with support from the council, helped to create an exciting and varied programme of events across the year.</p>	Chowney
Edwards	<p><u>Parking</u> would it be possible to utilise the Stade open space for parking, when it is not in use for events?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney responded that the Stade open space was in use at the busiest times of year, when additional parking may be required. He explained that efforts were underway to continue to promote the use of the open space by residents and visitors.</p>	Chowney
Webb	<p><u>FLAG conference</u> I understand that the Lead member recently attended a FLAG conference, is there any good news for fishermen in Hastings?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that further information had been given at the conference regarding the next round of FLAG funding. While it was intended to target funding for deprived areas, there was also a desire to expand the FLAG programme to cover the entire coast of England. Councillor Chowney also advised of continued efforts to ensure the fishing quotas are allocated fairly.</p>	Chowney
Scott	<p><u>Pelham roundabout</u> the recent works to Pelham roundabout have created significant improvements to the area, when will the fountain be switched on?</p> <p>Councillor Poole responded that the refurbished fountain would be switched on at 9.30pm on 26</p>	Poole

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	July 2014.	
Pragnell	<p><u>Town Hall lift</u> when will the new Town Hall lift be installed and why have the repairs taken so long to complete?</p> <p>Councillor Cartwright replied that the Head of Corporate Services had written to all Members in June to update them on repairs to the lift. Councillor Cartwright advised that the new lift would be installed in December, in the meantime, he asked officers to investigate the possibility of holding the next Full Council meeting at an alternative venue.</p>	Cartwright

5. ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT 2013-14 TO COUNCIL

The report of the Chief Auditor, from the Audit Committee, on the annual review of the effectiveness of internal audit was submitted. Under regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2011, local authorities are required to publish a statement on internal control each year, with the authorities' financial statements. The findings of the annual review of the council's internal control had been considered by the Audit Committee. The report set out the review of internal control and assurance gathering process.

Under rule 13.3 the report was approved, without being called for discussion.

RESOLVED – that the Audit Committee report 2013/14 to council is accepted.

The reason for this decision was:

Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit regulations (England) 2011 requires relevant bodies to conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of its system of internal audit and for a committee of the body to consider the findings.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Mayor having called over the minutes set out in the agenda, the under mentioned minutes were reserved for discussion.

RESOLVED – Under rule 13.3 that the reports and minutes of committees set out in the agenda be received. Minute number 16 of Cabinet on 7 July 2014, which was a matter for Council decision, was approved without being called for discussion. Only those items which had been reserved were discussed, as follows: -

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Meeting	Minute	Councillor
Cabinet, 9 June 2014	3 – White Rock Baths	Batsford
Cabinet, 9 June 2014	4 - Hastings Walking and Cycling Strategy	Sabetian
Cabinet, 7 July 2014	10 – Empty Homes Compulsory Purchase Programme	Clark
Cabinet, 7 July 2014	15 – Overview & Scrutiny Review of Changes to the Welfare System: Management Response	Davies

Councillors Forward, Hodges and Westley, having declared a prejudicial interest in minute number 3 of Cabinet on 9 June 2014, left the chamber while this matter was discussed.

No motions for reference to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or reference back to Cabinet were approved in respect of the items reserved for discussion and they were, therefore, received.

(The Mayor declared the meeting closed at. 8.01 pm)

Agenda Item 8 Public Document Pack

CABINET

1 SEPTEMBER 2014

Present: Councillors Birch (Chair), Chowney, Cartwright, Forward, Hodges, Cooke, Lock and Poole

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Westley

22. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 JULY 2014

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2014 be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record.

RESOLVED – the chair called over items on the agenda, under rule 13.3 the recommendations set out in minute 27 were agreed without being called for discussion.

MATTERS FOR CABINET DECISION

23. FINAL ACCOUNTS 2013/14

The Head of Finance presented a report which set out the draft final accounts position for 2013/14, the final accounts are subject to audit. The council continuously seeks to improve value for money and overspends and underspends identified in the outturn position are being investigated to inform future budget setting processes and resource allocation.

The Head of Finance advised that there is an improvement of some £900,000 in the net expenditure position compared to the revised budget, once reserve funded items are excluded. The largest variation was in respect of Housing Benefit grant recovery, £386,000, and this area will be closely reviewed for this year's revised budget and the 2015/16 budget.

Additional revenue grant monies amounting to £723,000 were received subsequent to setting the revised budget. The largest of these being the Coastal Communities Funding, and the unspent balance of £340,000 has been transferred to an earmarked reserve.

In terms of Capital expenditure the actual amount spent was £3,036,000. The net variations column in Appendix C should read £228,000 and not £94,000, and (£4,186,000) and not £161,000.

The Head of Finance submitted an amended recommendation at the meeting.

Councillor Birch moved approval of the amended recommendations, as set out in the resolution below, which was seconded by Councillor Cartwright.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that –

CABINET

1 SEPTEMBER 2014

- 1) Cabinet approves the report and that the 2013-14 outturn position, along with the revised estimate for 2014-15 be taken into account when preparing the 2015-16 budget.**

The reason for this decision was:

Compliance with statutory requirements and good practice. The council is accountable for the use of public money and continuously seeks to improve value for money.

The outturn position informs the budget setting process. Where there are under or overspends the reasons behind these are investigated with a view to reallocating resources to meet priorities.

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

24. BUSINESS RATES POOLING

The Head of Finance presented a report which sought Cabinet agreement to the principle of entering into a Business Rates Pool.

In April 2013, a new funding regime had been introduced whereby local authorities retain a proportion of any additional business rate income collected, or conversely experience a reduction in resources if the business rate base declines.

Consideration had been given to pooling business rates between East Sussex authorities, which may help to mitigate the impact of any changes to the business rate baseline by supporting economic development and investment across the county, which may lead to a growth in business rate base. The report included a recommendation that no authority would receive a lower level of funding than they would have received without the pool.

The Leaders, Chief Executives and Directors of each of the respective councils had unanimously recommended that an application be submitted to the DCLG by 31 October 2014, to take up the next opportunity for pooling in 2015/16.

As part of the application process, a detailed proposal would need to be submitted and governance arrangements finalised for the scheme. The report recommended that Wealden District Council be nominated as lead authority. Authorisation to finalise the submission, agree the memorandum of understanding, and the final decision on whether to join the pool was delegated to the Chief Finance Officers of each authority. Membership of the pool would then be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Head of Finance submitted an amended recommendation at the meeting, as set out in the resolution below.

Councillor Birch moved approval of the amended recommendations which was seconded by Councillor Hodges.

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1 SEPTEMBER 2014

RESOLVED (unanimously) - that Cabinet agrees in principle to enter a business rate pool with other East Sussex authorities and agrees the following conditions that are being put before each authority:

- 1) Wealden District Council be nominated as the lead authority
- 2) the basic principle be agreed that no authority will receive a lower level of funding than they would have received without the pool.
- 3) to split resources gained on the basis of the levy amount that was saved by individual authorities. The basis of the split being 40% to ESCC, 10% to the Fire authority and the remaining 50% split amongst the District/Borough Councils.
- 4) the finalisation of the submission, agreement of the memorandum of understanding, and the final decision on whether to partake in the pool, along with the annual review, is delegated to respective Chief Finance Officers for the reasons outlined in the report.
- 5) Chief Finance Officers to review membership of the Pool on an annual basis. Should an authority decide to withdraw membership, notification of intent to do so to be given to the remaining authorities at the earliest opportunity.

The reason for this decision was:

Local authorities are free to come together to form pools for NDR purposes. In such cases tariffs and top-ups can be combined – and this can result in lower payments being made to the government. Authorities within such arrangements need to agree how risks and benefits are shared. A pooling arrangement could result in additional resources being retained within East Sussex. The estimates identify sums of £1.8m in 2015/16, £2m in 2016/17 and £2.2m in 2017/18 which would be shared between authorities and used for economic development purposes.

MATTERS FOR CABINET DECISION

25. **NEW FACTORY UNIT**

The Head of Finance presented a report on proposals to build a new factory unit for an existing tenant on the Castleham Industrial Estate.

BD Foods, which supplied restaurant quality meal accompaniments, currently occupied seven units on the Castleham Industrial Estate. However, the growth of the business meant that they required additional space of up to 9,500 sq ft. The additional requirements could not be accommodated within the existing units, and it was therefore suggested that a new factory be constructed on land to the west of 68/69 Castleham Road. Once constructed, BD Foods would fit the factory unit out for use as a kitchen at their own cost.

If the council were unable to accommodate the requirements, BD Foods may need to relocate, which could adversely affect the council's rental income and create seven vacant units on the industrial estate. BD Foods had agreed to commit to a 10 year lease terms on the new factory, together with new lease terms on their existing units. The additional space would help BD Foods to create 20 new full time jobs.

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The report also set out environmental implications of the project. In the past, residents had raised concerns at odour nuisance from the premises. The Head of Environmental Health and the Estates Manager met with BD Foods to discuss this matter and agreed that only food processing within closed vessels would take place in the extension, with no airborne emissions.

Councillor Birch moved approval of the recommendations to the report, which was seconded by Councillor Chowney.

RESOLVED (by 7 votes for 0 against, with 1 abstention) that -

- 1) A feasibility study (including costs) of constructing a new factory unit be undertake, and;**
- 2) Subject to the capital costs not exceeding £700,000 delegation is given to the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to complete tendering, contracting, lease and other arrangements to deliver the new factory unit.**

The reason for this decision was:

To assist a local business to expand and create additional jobs and income for the council.

26. MINUTES OF THE CHARITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2014

The minutes of the meeting of Charity Committee on 30 June 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of Charity Committee on 30 June 2014 be received.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that the public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of items of business listed below because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the relevant report.

27. NEW FACTORY UNIT

The Head of Finance submitted a report to consider the financial implications relating to the construction of a new factory unit.

RESOLVED – that the recommendations be agreed, as per the part I report.

The reason for this decision was:

To assist a local business to expand and create additional jobs and income for the council.

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(The chair declared the meeting closed at 6.45pm)

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CABINET

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Present: Councillors Birch (Chair), Chowney, Cartwright, Forward, Hodges, Cooke, Lock and Poole

The chair advised that, following Councillor Westley's resignation from Cabinet, the responsibilities of the Environment and Safety portfolio had been reallocated between Cabinet Members. Councillor Chowney would take on responsibility for waste issues, Councillor Cartwright for community safety and licensing and Councillor Poole for parking, environmental health and emergency planning.

The chair thanked Councillor Westley for her efforts during her time on Cabinet.

28. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2014

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2014 be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record.

RESOLVED – the chair called over the items on the agenda, under rule 13.3 the recommendations set out in minute numbers 31 and 35 were agreed without being called for discussion.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following councillors declared an interest in the minutes as follows:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Birch, Cooke and Hodges	30 - Street Trading Policy	Personal – members of the board of Let's Do Business
Birch and Hodges	30 - Street Trading Policy	Personal - members of the Town Centre Management Committee
Hodges	34 - Hastings Country Park Interpretive Centre	Personal - chair of the Hastings Country Park Forum
Poole	34 - Hastings Country Park Interpretive Centre	Personal - chair of the project board and member of the Hastings Country Park Forum

CABINET

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MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

30. **STREET TRADING POLICY**

The Head of Environmental Services presented a report which proposed an updated policy for the continued management and development of street trading.

The council adopted its current street trading and highway licensing policy in August 2004. Since the policy was adopted, there has been a significant growth in the frequency and type of street trading, including local markets, themed markets and other commercial activity. Successful markets could support the continued regeneration of the town, by adding to the character and vibrancy of the area and attracting visitors and shoppers. Local markets also provided an opportunity for new businesses to develop and expand their customer base. The council worked with the Town Centre Management Committee (TCM) to manage street trading activity.

Consideration had been given to a broad set of principles to encourage well-run markets, which had informed the development of the revised policy. The report also included a scheme for fees, which the council charged to issue street trading consent. It was intended to keep the operation of charges through the council and TCM as flexible as possible, to encourage new enterprise.

The development of the new policy had included comprehensive consultation with TCM, and its parent organisation Lets Do Business. Meetings had also been held with key stakeholders, including the organisers of 3 markets currently operating in various locations around the borough. The comments made by stakeholders had been incorporated into the draft policy, and included the implementation of a consistent borough wide street trading consent fee and the simplification of some procedures.

Further comments had been received from the Town Team which recommended licensing catering outlets on market stalls. The Head of Environmental Services commented that the council may consider granting this type of licence, provided stallholders had consulted with other restaurants and catering outlets which may be affected by the market.

Councillor Cartwright moved approval of the recommendations of the report, which was seconded by Councillor Cooke.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the street trading and highways licensing policy, attached to the Director of Environmental Services' report, be agreed and recommended to full council for adoption.

The reason for this decision was:

To support the growth and retention of markets in Hastings and encourage a high quality street trading environment.

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MATTERS FOR CABINET DECISION

31. **LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The Head of Finance submitted a report on the refreshed local code of corporate governance for approval.

The council was committed to good corporate governance by which the systems and values of the organisation are controlled. A code of corporate governance, which directed the process of modernisation, community leadership, community engagement and continuous improvement; had been adopted in July 2005.

A refreshed version of the code, which incorporated changes since the last code was approved, had been appended to the Head of Finance's report. The annual audit letter from the council's external auditors acknowledged the organisation's effective governance arrangements and an annual governance statement was included within the financial accounts each year.

RESOLVED that the revised local code of corporate governance be approved.

The reason for this decision was:

To update the local code of corporate governance in relation to those areas where changes have taken place.

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

32. **ASB CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014**

The Head of Environmental Services presented a report to advise members of the implications of the anti-social behaviour, crime and policing act 2014 and proposed that procedures relating to the community trigger elements of the act are recommended to council for adoption.

The act, which came into effect from 20 October 2014, was intended to enable greater flexibility for agencies to deal with anti-social behaviour and address the needs of victims. The council would work with its local community safety partners to explore the scope for using the new powers provided by the act, and develop supporting protocols based on statutory guidance.

Provision was also made by the act for community triggers, which gave victims the right to request a review of their case to ensure agencies were working together to resolve the matter. The report set out proposals for implementing community triggers. It had been agreed to develop a consistent approach for dealing with community trigger applications across Sussex, and the council had worked with key partners as part of a working group to draft procedural documents. The working group proposed that a threshold of three complaints of anti-social behaviour or hate crimes in a six month period be set to initiate a community trigger.

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A further report on the experience of operating the new community trigger process, and the other enforcement tools provided for by the act, would be submitted to Cabinet next year.

Councillor Cartwright moved approval of the recommendations to the report, which was seconded by Councillor Chowney.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that Cabinet recommends the community trigger proposals, set out in paragraphs

The reason for this decision was:

The community trigger provisions of the act come into force on 20 October 2014 and the council must adopt local procedures to implement them as soon as possible.

MATTERS FOR CABINET DECISION

33. COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND

The Director of Regeneration presented a report which proposed submission of a bid to stage 2 of the coastal communities fund (CCF) round 3.

The CCF funded projects which supported economic growth and reductions in unemployment in seaside towns and villages around the United Kingdom.

In February 2014, Cabinet had approved a first stage submission bid for a project under the heading of linking culture, heritage to revitalise Hastings and Bexhill seafronts. The council had been invited to provide more details through a stage 2 full application, which must be submitted by 15 October 2014.

The council had worked with partners, including Rother District Council and the Pier Charity to develop a bid. A key objective of CCF funding is to create jobs, the proposed project aimed to create 33 direct new jobs, as well as 168 indirect new jobs, based on a target uplift of the visitor economy by 1% over business as usual. If successful, the bid would provide funding towards the safety and accessibility of the indoor BMX skateboard facility at White Rock Baths and landscaping at the approaches to the pier. Funding was also sought for a variety of marketing tools, including; business support, signage, smartphone apps and electrically assisted bicycles.

The stage 1 bid had included proposals for two small retail kiosks on Eversfield Place, however following consultation, it was not intended to include these plans in the stage 2 submission as it was felt this element was commercially viable without a subsidy.

Councillor Chowney moved approval of the recommendations to the report, which was seconded by Councillor Cartwright.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Director of Regeneration in consultation with the Lead Member for Regeneration be authorise to submit a full application at stage 2 of the application process for the coastal communities fund round 3, including any necessary variations

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from the funding profile identified in Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy's report.

The reason for this decision was:

Hastings Borough Council submitted a stage 1 application to the coastal communities' fund, and has now been invited to provide more details through a stage 2 full application. The recommendation will authorise this full application.

The funding sought would contribute to the joining up and promotion of attractions and activities along the seafront from the Stade to the De La Warr in Bexhill. This would support the delivery of the council's cultural regeneration strategy.

34. HASTINGS COUNTRY PARK INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

The Environment and Natural Resources Manager presented a report to seek Cabinet approval for the preferred site for a new interpretive centre and to seek approval to proceed with tendering of construction works and the spending of up to £250,000 allocated in the capital programme budget for the project.

The council, working in partnership with Groundwork South, aimed to deliver a new visitor centre by spring 2016. The new facility was intended to provide an improved visitor experience by highlighting the unique habitats, spectacular scenery and landscape of Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve.

A project board, chaired by the Lead Member for Amenities, Resorts and Leisure, had been formed to oversee the project. A detailed project plan, outline project timeline and budget profile had been developed. The board had appointed Cave Cooperative as architects to design and build the new centre, due to their expertise in creating sustainable buildings.

A detailed consultation on the proposed site of the new centre had been carried out which included a workshop with key stakeholders, submitting options to the Hastings Country Park Management Forum and a four day public consultation in Priory Meadow shopping centre. The results of the consultation indicated a strong preference for location A, as shown on the site plan appended to the Head of Amenities, Resorts and Leisure's report. Prior to the submission of a planning application, a planning forum would be held on 30 October 2014.

Subject to a successful outcome of the planning application, construction was due to begin in summer 2015 with the new centre opening in spring 2016. Groundwork South would then manage the centre for a 10 year period, working with current volunteers.

Councillor Poole moved approval of the recommendations to the report, which was seconded by Councillor Hodges.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that –

- 1) Cabinet approve location A as the preferred location for a new interpretive centre;**

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- 2) Cabinet approve the timeline for construction and delegate to the Director of Environmental Services in conjunction with the Lead Member for Amenities, Resorts and Leisure the awarding of the construction contract to the most economically advantageous tenderer, and;
- 3) Cabinet approve the expenditure of up to £250,000 allocated in the capital programme as the council's contribution to the cost of construction of the new interpretive centre.

The reason for this decision was:

It is a corporate priority to deliver a new interpretive centre at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve. The recommended location A is within Hastings borough, commands spectacular views, is within easy access from the car park and presents the least and minimal environmental impact. The other potential locations were not favoured due either to their greater environmental impact, inferior views or their remoteness from the car parks.

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

35. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

The Head of Finance submitted a report which proposed that the council tax support scheme remain unchanged in 2015/16.

As the council tax support scheme was approved on an annual basis, it was necessary to review the situation with regard to scheme each year. The East Sussex Joint Leaders / Chief Executives considered a report on possible options for 2015/16 at their meeting in April 2014. After consideration, the group recommended retaining the existing scheme as costs and income across the five authorities had been more favourable than predicted, which meant the scheme was financially viable for a third year. Maintaining the existing scheme would also have the least impact on residents and would not require any additional public consultation.

The council tax support scheme required approval by Full Council at its meeting on 22 October 2014.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommends that the council continue with the existing scheme for 2015/16.

The reason for this decision was:

The Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 2012, requires a local authority to review its scheme annually and seek approval for the provision of a council tax support scheme.

36. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUSEUMS COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2014

The minutes of the meeting of Museums Committee held on 15 September 2014 were submitted.

CABINET

6 OCTOBER 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Museums Committee held on 15 September 2014 be received.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.52 pm)

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