

## FULL COUNCIL

18 APRIL 2018

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Judy Rogers) in the Chair, Councillors Sinden, Batsford, Chowney, Clark, Cooke, Davies, Forward, Howard, Dowling, Poole, Roberts, Sabetian, Scott, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley, Wincott, Beaver, Charman, Lee, Fitzgerald, Beaney, Atkins, Edwards, Clarke, Dowling, Bacon, Patmore and Rankin

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Cartwright

34. **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2017 AND THE BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2018**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 13 December 2017 and the minutes of the budget council meeting held on 21 February 2018 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings

35. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following councillors declared an interest in the minutes:

Councillor	Committee	Minute	Interest
Rankin	Full Council, 18 April 2018	37 – Questions from Councillors under Rule 12	Personal – he works in the commercial property industry

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

The Mayor sent the best wishes of Full Council to Kevin Boorman, Marketing and Major Projects Manager, who had recently been unwell.

The Leader of the Council thanked Councillors Terri Dowling, Atkins, Poole, Howard, Wincott, Westley, Clark, Bruce Dowling, Street, Cartwright and Cooke, who would be standing down at the borough elections in May for their service to the council and the town.

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

A written question had been received from Councillor Beaver regarding the proposed sports village development. Councillor Chowney replied to the questions. Copies of the question and response were circulated at the meeting.

Councillor Beaver asked a supplementary question about the contingency plans that would be put in place should the sports village operator fail. Councillor Chowney

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replied that rigorous due diligence measures were in place to assess the suitability of any potential operators for the sports village, to minimise the risk of a business failure. He noted that whilst there was always an element of risk involved with development projects, high quality facilities attract interest from alternative operators.

A written question has been received from Councillor Patmore regarding increases the hire charge for council owned beach huts and chalets. Councillor Chowney replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated at the meeting.

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

Questioner and Councillor	Subject	Reply Given By Councillor
Lee	<p><u>Economic conditions in Hastings</u> Given the low levels of unemployment, rising wages and low interest rates nationally, how is the council ensuring this economic success is transferred to Hastings?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that a recent report by the Rowntree Foundation noted that levels of unemployment in many areas was higher than national figures suggest. This issue is particularly acute in coastal towns, including Hastings, many of which continue to struggle with high levels of deprivation. He added that there had been increased inward migration to the town over recent years. The Community Led Local Development programme would help to engage marginalised communities, by providing access to education, training and employment opportunities.</p>	Chowney
Turner	<p><u>Relocation of walk in medical centre</u> will the Leader of the Council agree to write to the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) objecting to the planned relocation of the walk in medical centre from Station Plaza to the Conquest Hospital?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney acknowledged that these concerns were shared by many councillors and agreed to write to the CCG in response to the consultation.</p>	Chowney
Bacon	<p><u>External Funding</u> is there an update on any upcoming external funding opportunities and recent successes?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that the council had recently secured funding via the European Union (EU) DESTI-SMART programme to</p>	Chowney

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	<p>develop transport links with the seafront. The council was also preparing a funding bid to support capital works to improve transport links.</p>	
Rankin	<p><u>Commercial Property Investment Carpet Right</u>, which occupies one of the council's commercial property units, recently issued a profits warning and intends to close a number of its stores. Does the Leader of the Council agree that commercial property investment is too high risk for the council?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney said that Carpet Right has identified the Hastings store as one of its best performing outlets and did not intend to close the shop or seek rent reductions. He added that he did not believe commercial property investment was too high risk for the council and noted that a number of other local authorities were pursuing a similar approach.</p>	Chowney
Westley	<p><u>Local Fisheries</u> will the Leader of the Council give an overview of the concerns raised at a recent protest by the local fishing community? Councillor Chowney replied that the recent protests had been regarding a new landing obligation, which was due to come into force soon. He added that more work should be done by the government to ensure fishing quotas were allocated fairly and prevent the buying and selling of fishing quotas, which disadvantaged smaller fisheries. Councillor Chowney thanked Councillor Westley for her work as a member of the Committee of Regions.</p>	Chowney
Scott	<p><u>Rough Sleeping</u> will the lead member confirm if additional funding has been received from the government to tackle rough sleeping and, if so, what it can be used for?</p> <p>Councillor Batsford replied that additional funding to tackle rough sleeping had not yet been received. He added that demand for homelessness prevention services was likely to increase following the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act. A night shelter for rough sleepers had also been set up during the recent bad weather.</p>	Batsford
Cooke	<p><u>Hastings Pier</u> what support can the council give the Friends of Hastings Pier?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that the sale of the pier was being overseen by an administrator, and it would not be appropriate for the council to intervene in or influence this process. However,</p>	Chowney

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	<p>the council would need to work closely with the new operator of the pier, to ensure a sustainable future for the attraction. This included reviewing planning policy in respect of the structure and looking at ways of maintaining community involvement.</p>	
Martin Clarke	<p><u>Major Planning Applications</u> the overview and scrutiny performance monitoring report for quarters 2 and 3 shows that the target for processing major planning applications will not be met. What can be done to address this? Councillor Forward replied that performance monitoring was a matter for overview and scrutiny to consider. She agreed to re-circulate a link to the report, which included further information about this target.</p>	Forward
Terri Dowling	<p><u>Public Arts Festival</u> will the lead member provide an update on the new public arts festival which is being developed? Councillor Beaney replied that an annual sculpture festival was being organised, which would take place on the foreshore and promenade. Interest had already been received from a number of artists who would be willing display their work. The festival would also compliment plans to develop a new water feature on the promenade at White Rock.</p>	Beaney
Sabetian	<p><u>Child Poverty</u> the latest report by the Director of Public Health highlights issues around child poverty. Can the Leader of the Council provide more information? Councillor Chowney replied that in Hastings 29% of children were living in poverty, compared to 20% nationally. Hastings also had an above average number of mental health issues reported in children. Councillor Chowney noted that the effects of living in poverty often impacted young people later in life, particularly their ability to access education and employment.</p>	Chowney
Roberts	<p><u>Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)</u> is there an update on the new ERP system? Councillor Poole noted that the new ERP system would replace the council's existing finance, HR and payroll systems. The council was co-ordinating the project in partnership with Rother District Council. The finance element of the new system went live in April, and the HR element was due to be launched in the summer.</p>	Poole

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	Councillor Poole thanked the Transformation Manager and his team for their work on this complex project.	
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### 38. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Beaver proposed a motion, as set out in the resolution below, which was seconded by Councillor Poole.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that this council understands the significance of pollution and environmental degradation caused by the disposal of plastic. This council will begin phasing out single use plastics within all our premises and will achieve zero use by the end of 2019. We will also encourage by example and through advising on operating procedures, other authorities and organisations in East Sussex to do the same.**

### 39. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Patmore proposed a motion, as set out in the resolution below, which was seconded by Councillor Chowney.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that Hastings Borough Council supports the campaign to bring the Bayeux Tapestry to Hastings during its loan period and will do all it can to achieve a successful outcome.**

### 40. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

No motions for a change in representation on committees were received from the group leaders.

### 41. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The report of the Director of Corporate Services and Governance was submitted, which sought approval of the pay policy statement.

Under the Localism Act 2011, the council was required to prepare and publish a pay policy statement each year. The statement provides information about the council's policies on a range of issues relating to the pay of its workforce, particularly its senior staff and its lowest paid employees.

Under rule 13.3 of the council's constitution, the recommendations of the report were agreed without being called for discussion.

**RESOLVED that the pay policy statement is approved**

The reason for this decision was:

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The Localism Act 2011 requires Hastings Borough Council to prepare and publish an annual pay policy statement. The purpose of such a statement is to provide information about council policies on a range of issues relating to the pay of its workforce, particularly its senior staff and its lowest paid employees. A pay policy must be prepared for each financial year and must be approved by Full Council, and published.

### 42. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

**RESOLVED that under rule 13.3 the reports and minutes of committees set out in the agenda, including those items on which a council decision was required, be received and agreed. Only those items which were reserved were discussed, as follows:**

Meeting	Minute	Councillor
Cabinet, 8 January 2018	57 – Youth Council Manifesto	Westley
Cabinet, 5 March 2018	71 - An Update – CHART (Connecting Hastings and Rother Together) Community Led Local Development (CLLD) – Stage 2 application	Davies
Cabinet, 9 April 2018	73 (C) – Amendments to the Council’s Constitution	Street

Minute number 73 of Cabinet on 9 April 2018, Amendments to the Council’s Constitution, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Councillor Poole proposed approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Street and agreed by 26 votes for to 0 against with 5 abstentions.

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

Before closing the meeting, the Mayor thanked all councillors for their contributions to Full Council meetings during her time as chair.

(The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.43 pm)