



Council Meeting

18 April 2018

HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Hastings Borough Council to be held at the Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3UY, on Wednesday, 18th April, 2018 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

10 April 2018

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting Held on 13 December 2018 and the Budget Council meeting held on 21 February 2018
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 Beaver to propose, seconded by Councillor Cooke 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.”

7. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Patmore to propose the following motion, 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. “

8. Membership of Committees

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

9. Pay Policy Statement

(Report of the Executive Manager, People Customer and Business Support)

10. 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.

Minute No.	Subject	Cabinet Member / Chair
CABINET - 8 JANUARY 2018		
57.	Youth Council Manifesto	Forward
58.	Hastings Museum Strategic Development	Forward
59.	Lifeguard Service	Forward
60.	Proposal for Local Nature Reserves	Fitzgerald
CABINET – 5 MARCH 2018		
68.	Heritage Strategy	Forward

69.	Cash Collection Contract	Chowney
70.	Harold Place Redevelopment Site	Chowney
71.	An Update – CHART (Connecting Hastings and Rother Together) Community Led Local Development (CLLD) – Stage 2 application	Forward
72.	Unit 1 Hastings Retail Park	Chowney
CABINET – 9 APRIL 2018		
73. (C)	Amendments to the Council's Constitution	Poole
74.	Development of a Social Lettings Agency for Hastings	Batsford
75.	Proposed Revisions to the Local Development Scheme	Forward
76.	Healthy Hastings & Rother Funding Programme Update	Batsford
77.	Freedom Leisure Capital Investment	Batsford

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 part II minutes covered by the resolution 10a) above. Any such discussion shall be deferred to item 11 on the agenda.

(C – Council decision) (E – Exempt)

11. 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 Public Document Pack

FULL COUNCIL

13 DECEMBER 2017

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

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Lee Clark, Roberts, Turner and Terri Dowling

21. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on 18 October 2017 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared an interest in the minutes:

Councillors	Committee	Minute	Interest
Beaney	Cabinet, 4 December 2017	52 – Sports Village Development	Prejudicial – she is a Director of Hastings Housing Company
Forward	Cabinet, 4 December 2017	52 – Sports Village Development	Prejudicial – she is a Trustee of the Education Futures Trust
Poole	Full Council, 13 December 2017	27 – Motion (Rule 14)	Personal – she is a governor of Dudley Infants Academy
Rankin	Cabinet, 6 November 2017	44 – Treasury Management – Mid Year report 2017/18	Personal – he works in the property industry

23. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

The Mayor announced the deaths of former Councillor Trevor May and Mr Owen Thompson. Mr Thompson had been awarded the Order of 1066 in 2014 in recognition of his work to promote equalities and as a founder of Hastings Intercultural Organisation. Members stood and observed one minute's silence in their memory.

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The Mayor announced that there would be a procession and service at the Priscilla Mac Bean lifeboat on Saturday, 18 December. The service would remember members of the fishing community and lifeboat crews who had lost their lives at sea.

24. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC RULE 11

A written question had been received from Mr Bob Hart regarding the Roman Baths in Summerfields Woods. Councillor Chowney replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated.

A written question had been received from Ms Barbara Rogers regarding future management options for the White Rock Theatre. Councillor Chowney replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated.

Ms Rogers asked a supplementary question as to whether the council had considered alternative uses for the building, such as visitor centre. Councillor Chowney replied that the contract extension was intended as an interim measure, while the long term options to create a suitable performance venue in the town were considered. The subsidy paid by the council during the 5 year contract would be reduced and the contractor would be encouraged to involve a consortium of local groups in running the venue and developing plans for the future.

25. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS UNDER RULE 12

A written question had been received from Councillor Patmore regarding graffiti in the town. Councillor Fitzgerald replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated at the meeting.

A written question had been received from Councillor Patmore regarding the former Harold Place toilets. Councillor Chowney replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated at the meeting.

A written question had been received from Councillor Lee regarding the cost of consultancy services. A copy of the initial response to the question was 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	<u>St Leonards Crown Post Office</u> will the Leader of the Council provide an update on progress to purchase the freehold of St Leonards Crown Post Office? Councillor Chowney replied that the council had met with officers from the Post Office and	Chowney

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	<p>submitted an expression of interest in the site. In addition to purchasing the freehold of the building, the council would need to operate the Post Office franchise as well. Councillor Chowney added that there may be additional opportunities to develop residential accommodation within the site. The closing date for expressions of interest was 15 December 2017.</p>	
Atkins	<p><u>Food Bank</u> there has been a 21% increase in referrals to the Food Bank over the past month. Will the Leader of the Council write to staff at the Food Bank to thank them for their efforts and will he also encourage people to make donations to the Food Bank?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney said that he would write to staff at the Food Bank to thank them for their efforts. He commented that a collection was being arranged amongst council staff and members for donations to the Food Bank.</p>	Chowney
Street	<p><u>Awards for Alexandra Park and Hastings Country Park</u> will the Lead Member congratulate staff and contractors at Alexandra Park and Hastings Park on their recent award from the Green Flag and explain more about what this means?</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald congratulated staff and contractors at Alexandra Park and Hastings Country Park. He explained that the award from Green Flag recognised innovation in the management of green spaces. In Alexandra Park a new water filtration system had been installed. In Hastings Country Park, works had been undertaken to remove gorse to support the natural habitat.</p>	Fitzgerald
Beaver	<p><u>West Marina</u> will the Leader of the Council provide an assurance that any development of housing at the West Marina site will be accompanied by a significant development of leisure facilities?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney confirmed this was the case. Following initial expressions of interest in the site, the council had requested more information on some of the proposals. Any housing development on the site was intended to support the development of more comprehensive leisure facilities in the area.</p>	Chowney
Bacon	<p><u>Keeping fit</u> what keep fit opportunities will there be in the new year?</p>	Batsford

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	<p>Councillor Batsford said that park run would be offering new walk and run sessions on the seafront from 2 January 2018. Beat the Blues will also be taking place at Summerfields Leisure Centre on 14 January, offering access to the gym for £1. A beginners fitness class, First Step Fit, is also being organised at the Salvation Army Hall in Old London Road.</p>	
<p>Martin Clarke</p>	<p><u>Litter and detritus</u> it was previously reported that collection of litter and detritus over the summer period was below the required standard, will the lead member provide an update on current performance?</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald replied that the council continued to monitor this issue closely. A series of meetings have been held between council officers and senior managers at Kier. The Joint Waste Committee also monitors performance across the partnership area. An action plan has been developed by the contractor to improve standards of street cleansing. Councillor Fitzgerald noted that standards of street cleansing after events later in the year, including the bonfire had improved. However, these improvements will need to be maintained throughout the remainder of the contract.</p>	<p>Fitzgerald</p>
<p>Scott</p>	<p><u>Local Government Funding</u> whilst the final settlement from the government is not yet known, are there likely to be further cuts to the council's funding as part of this year's budget? Councillor Chowney replied that the council was likely to receive its funding settlement over the next week, although details of some grants may not be known until early in 2018. The council had previously secured a 4 year settlement from the government and was anticipating a reduction of £496,000 to its revenue support grant in 2018/19. Councillor Chowney commented that reductions to government funding had a particular impact on areas with high levels of deprivation. The council was aiming to offset some of the reductions in its government funding by generating additional income.</p>	<p>Chowney</p>
<p>Edwards</p>	<p><u>Hastings Pier</u> it has been reported that the council gave funding of £20,000 to Hastings Pier. Who agreed this grant, what was it spent on and will the council get its money back? Councillor Chowney explained that the grant from the council formed part of a funding</p>	<p>Chowney</p>

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	package, led by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to ensure the pier remained open until after Christmas. Administrators had been appointed to seek a new operator for the pier. The new management arrangements would need to reflect the conditions of the original grant from Heritage Lottery Fund, which funded the restoration of the structure. Councillor Chowney, added that in the future, the council may need to consider its planning policy in respect of the pier, to ensure it can operate on a more commercial basis.	
Sabetian	<u>Investment in Commercial Property</u> how many jobs would have been lost, or services cut, if the council had not secured additional income by investing in commercial property? Councillor Chowney had said that the council had gained additional income of £500,000 by investing in commercial property, which was the equivalent of around 12 posts. He added that it was particularly important that the council generate additional income, to maintain the discretionary activities it carries out to improve the town.	Chowney

26. MOTION (RULE 14)

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

The Mayor ruled that Councillor Forward was unable to participate in the debate on this item, as she arrived during the debate.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

“This council is committed to welcoming asylum seekers and refugees to the Borough of Hastings, and including them in our activities. Hastings Council recognises their potential contribution to our town, and also recognises that a comprehensive, co-ordinated and forward-looking approach is needed if the welfare of people moving into the town, and community cohesion between new and existing communities, are to be supported effectively. To this end, we pledge to:

- **Support Hastings bid to become a place of sanctuary;**
- **Welcome to Hastings and St Leonards those fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries;**
- **Value the contribution those seeking sanctuary can make to our town;**

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- **Support taking practical steps to welcome and integrate all people into our communities, activities and culture;**
- **Add our organisation's name to the body of supporters and we will offer relevant and practical action as appropriate.**

This council will work to implement the City of Sanctuary pledges through its actions and policies, and with its partners in the statutory and voluntary sectors."

27. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Rankin proposed a motion, as set out in the council agenda, which was seconded by Councillor Batsford.

Councillor Street proposed an amendment to the motion, seconded by Councillor Scott, as follows:

"After the recent publication of negative Ofsted reports of a number of Hastings schools, we ask that the Leader of Hastings Borough Council writes to the Regional Schools Commissioner expressing our concerns about this situation".

The amendment was accepted by Councillor Rankin, as the proposer of the original motion.

The Mayor ruled that Councillor Cooke was unable to participate in the vote on this matter, as he arrived during the debate.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

"After the recent publication of negative Ofsted reports of a number of Hastings schools, we ask that the Leader of Hastings Borough Council writes to the Regional Schools Commissioner expressing our concerns about this situation"

28. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Councillor Chowney proposed a motion regarding the membership of committees, as set out in the resolution below.

RESOLVED that the council adopt the following arrangements for the membership of committees:

- 1. Councillor Bacon be appointed to Planning Committee, in place of Councillor Cartwright**

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29. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

The Mayor advised that minute 52 of Cabinet on 4 December 2017, Sports Village Development, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision.

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, 6 November 2017	42 – Healthy Hastings and Rother Update	Martin Clarke
Cabinet, 6 November 2017	43 – Medium Term Financial Strategy	Martin Clarke
Cabinet, 6 November 2017	44 (C) – Treasury Management – Mid Year Report 2017/18	Rankin
Cabinet, 6 November 2017	45 (C) – Social Media Policy	Lee
Cabinet, 4 December 2017	48 (C) – Council Tax Support Scheme	Davies
Cabinet, 4 December 2017	49 (C) – National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) Relief	Lee
Cabinet, 4 December 2017	50 (C) – An Energy Transition for Hastings	Rankin
Cabinet, 4 December 2017	52 (C) – Sports Village Development	Beaver
Cabinet, 4 December 2017	54 (E) - Property Purchase	Patmore
Cabinet, 4 December 2017	55 (E) - Property Purchase	Martin Clarke

Minute number 44 of Cabinet on 6 November 2017, Treasury Management – Mid Year Report 2017/18, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Poole and agreed by 19 votes for to 8 against.

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Minute number 45 of Cabinet on 6 November 2017, Social Media Policy, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Councillor Poole proposed approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald and agreed unanimously. Minute number 48 of Cabinet on 4 December 2017, Council Tax Support Scheme, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Lee and agreed unanimously.

Minute number 49 of Cabinet on 4 December 2017, National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) Relief, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Lee and agreed unanimously.

Minute number 50 of Cabinet on 4 December 2017, An Energy Transition for Hastings, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Patmore and agreed unanimously.

Minute number 52 of Cabinet on 4 December 2017, Sports Village Development, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Councillors Beaney and Forward, having declared a prejudicial interest in this item, left the chamber during the debate. Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Batsford and agreed 27 votes for 0 against with 1 abstention.

Minute numbers 54 and 55 of Cabinet on 4 December 2017, both of which concerned property purchases, were exempt items. When these items were reached, Councillor Street proposed a motion for the exclusion of the public from the meeting.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of minute numbers 54 and 55 of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 December 2017, Property Purchases, 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 paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the relevant reports

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.

(The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.43 pm)

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

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Cartwright, Cooke and Westley

Apologies for lateness had been received from Councillor Davies.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared an interest in the minutes:

Councillor	Committee	Minute	Interest
Rankin	Full Council, 21 February 2018	65, Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy 2018/19	Personal – he operates a property business as a landlord and agent
Edwards	Full Council, 21 February 2018	65, Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy 2018/19	Personal – he operates a property business as a landlord
Webb	Full Council, 21 February 2018	63, Draft Corporate Plan 2018/19 – 2020/21	Personal – he is a councillor at East Sussex County Council
Scott	Full Council, 21 February 2018	63, Draft Corporate Plan 2018/19 – 2020/21	Personal – he is a councillor at East Sussex County Council

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31. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2018/19 - 2020/21

Councillor Rogers, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Beaver, and agreed unanimously as follows: -

RESOLVED that in order to facilitate full discussion on cabinet's proposal for the corporate plan and any proposed amendment to cabinet's recommendations, council suspends Rule 16(6)(b) of council procedure rules (only one amendment may be moved and discussed at any one time. No further amendment may be moved until the amendment under discussion has been disposed of) to permit the Deputy Leader's motion and all amendments to be on the table and open for discussion at the same time.

Councillor Forward proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Roberts, that the recommendations set out in minute number 63, draft corporate plan 2018/19 – 2020/21, of budget cabinet on 12 February 2018 be approved.

RESOLVED (by 22 votes for to 7 against, with 1 abstention) that:

1. Full council approves that the content of the content of the draft document presented to budget cabinet form the basis of the council's corporate plan 2018/19 – 2020/21.
2. That delegated authority is given to the Director of Corporate Services and Governance, after consultation with the Leader of the Council to make further revisions as is considered necessary to the attached plan prior to publication to reflect decisions made on the council's budget.
3. That all those who submitted views as part of the consultation process be thanked for their contribution.

The reason for this decision was:

The council needs to approve the corporate plan as its statement of Hastings Borough Council's strategic direction to 2021.

32. REVENUE BUDGETS 2017/18 (REVISED) AND 2018/19, PLUS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 TO 2019/20

Councillor Rogers, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Beaver, and agreed unanimously as follows: -

RESOLVED that in order to facilitate full discussion on cabinet's proposal for the revenue budget and capital programme and any proposed amendment to cabinet's recommendations, council suspends Rule 16(6)(b) of Council Procedure Rules (only one amendment may be moved and discussed at any one time. No further amendment may be moved until the amendment under discussion has been disposed of) to permit the Deputy Leader's motion and all amendments to be on the table and open for discussion at the same time.

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Councillor Rogers, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor B Dowling, that the council proceed as if in committee at the start of the debate, in order for members to take advice from the Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues.

The Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues presented a report on the revenue budgets 2017/18 (revised) and 2018/19, plus the capital programme for 2018/19 to 2020/21. The report gave an overview of the key factors impacting on the budget and updated members on the council's progress to achieve further efficiencies and generate additional income. Members were also advised of amendments to the report, following receipt of the final council tax figures from the other precepting authorities.

Councillor Chowney proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Charman, that minute number 64, Revenue Budgets 2017/18 (Revised) and 2018/19, plus Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2019/20, of budget cabinet on 12 February 2018 be approved, subject to the amendments set out by the Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues.

Councillor Lee proposed an amendment to the budget, seconded by Councillor Edwards, as follows: -

1. The Council resolves to make necessary staffing and supplies and services reductions for the 2018/19 year amounting to:

Staffing savings of £673,200 (17.3 FTE's)
Supplies and Services net reductions of £56,200

There are however some areas of increased expenditure proposed, the ongoing costs to be met from some of the savings identified above :

The Council resolves to:

- (i) Reopen and refurbish Harold Place toilets at an estimated cost of £150,000 funded from the Capital Reserve.
The subsequent maintenance and cleaning of the toilets £75,000 per annum
Less the estimated income from installing turnstiles £14,600 per annum
Total net running costs in a full year would be £60,400 per annum
- (ii) Reinstate planning notice letters at a cost of £13,000

The net overall ongoing saving from these measures amounting to £701,300 in 2018/19 and an estimated £656,000 in a full year. The budget deficit being reduced from £1,038,763 to £337,463 in 2018/19 and to £380,000 in 2019/20

The proposed amendment was lost by 7 votes to 22 votes against with 0 abstentions. Councillors Atkins, Beaver, Martin Clarke, Edwards, Lee, Patmore and Rankin voted in favour of the amendment. Councillors Bacon, Batsford, Beaney, Lee Clark, Chowney, Davies, B Dowling, T Dowling, Fitzgerald, Forward, Howard, Poole,

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Roberts, Rogers, Sabetian, Scott, Sinden, Street, Turner, Webb and Wincott voted against the amendment.

The motion proposed by the Leader of the Council was approved by 21 for, to 7 against with 1 abstention. Councillors, Bacon, Batsford, Beaney, Chowney, Davies, Fitzgerald Forward, Howard, Poole, Roberts, Rogers, Sabetian, Scott, Sinden, Street, Turner, Webb and Wincott voted in favour of the motion. Councillors Atkins, Beaver, Martin Clarke, Edwards, Lee, Patmore and Rankin voted against the motion. Councillor Lee Clark abstained from the vote.

RESOLVED (by 21 votes for, to 7 against, with 1 abstention) that: -

1. Approve the revised revenue budget for 2017/18 (Appendix A)
2. Approve the draft 2018/19 revenue budget (Appendix A)
3. Approve a 2.99% increase in the borough council's part of the Council Tax
4. Agree that the absolute minimum level of reserves that shall be retained be £6m (plus General Fund Balance) i.e. an increase of £1m from 2017/18
5. Approve the Capital programme 2017/18 (revised) to 2020/21 (Appendix P)
6. Approve the proposed expenditure from the Renewal and repairs reserve, and Information Technology Reserve (Appendices J and I respectively) and those items from other reserves shown in Appendix H that can proceed without further reference to cabinet or Council
7. Approve that the use of the monies in the budget and Reserves for "Invest to Save" schemes be determined by the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council
8. Approve the revised Land and Property Disposal Programme (Appendix L), and agree that disposals can be brought forward if market conditions make it sensible to do so.
9. Agree that schemes marked with asterisk in the Capital Programme can proceed without further reference to cabinet or Council.
10. Agree that work on Priority Income and Efficiency Reviews (PIER) through the Strategic Budget Group should continue, and where possible identify a sustainable budget for a period in excess of one year. A mid-year review, for members and officers, to be undertaken in light of the continuing severe government grant reductions.
11. Approve the detailed recommendations in Appendix M, which relate to the setting of Council Tax in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Act 1992 (updated or full Council)
12. Approve that the budget be amended as necessary to reflect the final grant figures including Disabled Facility Grants.
13. Approve an increase in the Council Tax premium chargeable for long term empty properties to 200% (from 150%), subject to the required legislation being in place along with sufficient time to undertake annual billing

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The reason for this decision was:

1. Major reductions in funding in 2018/19 are set to continue into 2019/20 and beyond and this will impact heavily upon the council's ability to provide services and grants across all areas of existing activity.
2. Since 2010/11 funding has been reduced by more than 65% in cash terms on a like for like basis. To ensure key corporate priorities are achieved it remains imperative that the limited resources available are properly targeted.
3. The council needs to be in a position to match its available resources to its priorities across the medium term and to maintain sufficient reserves and capacity to deal with potentially large and unexpected events in addition to fluctuations in income and expenditure levels
4. The council is exposed to a much greater degree of volatility in the level of funding it receives through Non Domestic Rates. In addition it is also exposed to a much higher degree of volatility in terms of Council Tax Support claims – the council now receiving an upfront sum as part of the annual grant settlement rather than reimbursement of actual costs. The potential downside risks of Brexit and the increased reliance on income streams provide further potential volatility to the council's future funding.

33. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

Meeting	Minute	Councillor
Budget cabinet, 12 February 2018	65 (C) – Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy 2018/19	Lee
Budget cabinet, 12 February 2018	66 (C) - Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy	Lee

Minute number 65 of budget cabinet on 12 February 2018, Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy 2018/19, was a matter on which the council was required to make a decision. Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Turner, and agreed by 21 votes for, to 7 against, with 1 abstention.

Minute number 66 of budget cabinet on 12 February 2018, Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy, was a matter on which the council was required to make a decision. Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Poole, and agreed unanimously.

(The Mayor declared the meeting closed at. 8.52 pm)

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Agenda Item 9



Report to: Full Council

Date of Meeting: 28 February 2018

Report Title: Pay Policy Statement 2018/19

Report By: Jane Hartnell – Director of Corporate Services and Governance

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is for Full Council to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19, as required by the Localism Act 2011.

Recommendation(s)

That Full Council approves the Pay Policy Statement

Reasons for Recommendations

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.

Introduction

1. The Localism Act 2011 requires Hastings Borough Council to prepare and publish a pay policy statement for each financial year.
2. The attached statement (Appendix 1) sets out the key policy principles that underpin the Council's requirements to provide accountability under the Localism Act. It takes into account and has due regard to guidance issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government.
3. The majority of the statement reflects current policy, practice and procedures adopted by the Council and it is cross referenced to other documents including the Council's severance scheme and transparency requirements.

Wards Affected

Insert the list of wards affected

Implications

Relevant project tools applied? No

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

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Insert a list of appendices and/or additional documents. Report writers are encouraged to use links to existing information, rather than appending large documents.

Officer to Contact

Officer Name	Verna Connolly
Officer Email Address	vconnolly@hastings.gov.uk
Officer Telephone Number	01424 451707

Appendix 1

HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Pay Policy Statement for the year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

Introduction

1. This pay policy statement under section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 shall apply for the financial year 2018-19 until amended.
2. The purpose of the statement is to provide transparency with regard to the Council's approach to setting the pay of its employees by identifying:
 - the methods by which remuneration of all employees are determined, including the remuneration of its most senior staff;
 - the arrangements for ensuring the provisions set out in this statement are applied consistently throughout the Council.
3. This statement applies to all employees under the following conditions of employment:

JNC for Chief Officers of Local Authorities
NJC for Local Government Services
4. The council defines its senior management as :

Corporate Directors
Assistant Directors
General Managers/Professional leads who are directly accountable to a statutory or non statutory officer in respect of all or most of their duties (excluding roles which are clerical or secretarial). Such officers are invited to provide expertise in their role as head of their profession.
5. This Pay Policy will operate subject to any requirements regarding exit payments pursuant to the Enterprise and the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act, 2015 and associated regulations.

The Council's policies for setting remuneration

6. In determining its grading structure and setting remuneration levels for all posts, the Council takes account of the need to ensure value for money in respect of the use of public expenditure, balanced against the need to recruit and retain employees who are able to meet the requirements of providing high quality services to the community, delivered effectively and efficiently and at times at which those services are required.
7. With the exception of Directors and Assistant Directors, the Council uses the nationally negotiated pay spine as the basis for its local grading structure. The grade of a post is determined by application of an agreed Job Evaluation process. The value of scale points changes in line with national agreements, including any "cost of living" increases, the most recent of these at the time of preparation of this policy, was a 2% increase effective from 1st April 2018.

Grade and Salary Band (value at time of preparation of this statement)

Grade	Salary Band
11*	£17,007 to £17,972
10	£17,681 to £19,446
9	£18,672 to £21,074
8	£19,819 to £23,111
7	£21,693 to £25,463
6	£23,866 to £29,055
5	£27,358 to £32,233
4	£30,756 to £35,229
3	£33,136 to £39,002
2	£38,052 to £43,757
1	£42,806 to £49,382

- * Lowest hourly rate is £8.82. Accredited living wage at time of preparation of this statement £8.75.
As we are committed to paying the Accredited Living Wage all Apprentices will be paid at this rate.
8. All other pay-related allowances are the subject of either nationally or locally negotiated rates, having been determined from time to time in accordance with collective bargaining machinery and/or as determined by Council policy.
9. New appointments will normally be made at the minimum of the relevant grade, although this can be varied where necessary to secure the best candidate. From time to time it may be necessary to take account of the external pay market in order to attract and retain employees with particular experience, skills and capacity. Where possible, the Council will ensure the requirement for such approaches is objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence of relevant market comparators, using appropriate data sources available from within and outside the local government sector.
10. There are a number of pay points within each grade. For staff not on the highest point within the band, there is a system of annual progression to the next point on the band. Faster progression is possible for posts identified and evaluated as career grades.
11. With regard to the equal pay requirements of the Equality Act 2010, the Council ensures there is no pay discrimination within its pay structures and that all pay differentials can be objectively justified through the use of equality proofed Job Evaluation mechanisms which directly relate salaries to the requirements, demands and responsibilities of the role.

Chief Officer Grade Range pay rate (officers who are JNC Chief Officers Terms and conditions of employment)

12. Chief Officer pay range is £74,668 to £82,416 (value at time of preparation of this statement)

Chief Officers

13. The Council's policy and procedures with regard to recruitment of Chief Officers are set out in the Officer Employment Procedure Rules in Part 4, Section 30 of the Council's Constitution. The determination of the remuneration to be offered to any newly appointed chief officer will be in

accordance with this pay policy statement and other relevant policies in place at the time of recruitment. In the case of recruitment of Directors and Assistant Directors, the decision on remuneration will be taken by the Employment Committee. Any appointments at this level offering a salary in excess of £100,000 would require approval by Full Council. Where the Council is unable to recruit to a post at the designated grade, it may consider the use of temporary market forces supplements in accordance with its relevant policies.

14. Where the Council remains unable to recruit Directors or Assistant Directors under a contract of service, or there is a need for interim support to provide cover for a vacant substantive Director or Chief Officer post, the Council will, where necessary, consider engaging individuals under 'contracts for service'. These will be sourced through a relevant procurement process ensuring the council is able to demonstrate value for money from competition in securing the relevant service.

Additional payments

15. In addition to the basic salary for the post, staff are or may be eligible for other payments under the Council's existing policies. Some of these payments are chargeable to UK Income Tax and do not solely constitute reimbursement of expenses incurred in the fulfilment of duties:

Lease car provision, the Council no longer offers subsidised lease cars to new employees. A small number of staff remain eligible under historical contracts of employment;

Benefits allowance, employees who are not entitled to a lease car but are required to travel in order to carry out their duties may receive a benefits allowance to cover motor costs of travel including mileage except for journeys over 50 miles.

Reimbursement of mileage, Employees can claim mileage travelled in the course of council business. Hastings Borough Council mileage rates are paid dependant on which scheme the employee is in.

This could be:-

NJC rates which are based on the engine size, fuel type for protected employees in post prior to 27th November 2001

HMRC Company Advisory Fuel Rates for lease cars.

HMRC Approved Mileage Rates for all other employees. Passenger rate is also paid if appropriate;

Professional fees. The Council will meet the cost of a legal practicing certificate for all those employees where it is a requirement of their employment; and professional body subscriptions for staff who are studying providing sponsorship has been agreed by the Council.

Long service awards. The Council allows staff to purchase a gift to a maximum amount if they have completed 25 years of service;

Honoraria, in accordance with the Council's policy on salary and grading. Generally, these may be paid only where a member of staff has performed a role at a higher grade. Deputy returning officers are paid an honorarium.

Fees for returning officer and other electoral duties, such as acting as a presiding officer of a polling station, excluding deputy returning officers. These are fees which are identified and paid separately for local government elections, elections to the UK Parliament and EU Parliament and other electoral processes such as referenda;

Pay protection, where a member of staff is placed in a new post and the grade is one grade below that of their previous post, for example as a result of a restructuring, pay protection at the level of their previous post is paid for the first 18 months;

Childcare vouchers are available to all eligible employees via the HMRC-approved salary sacrifice scheme. There is no direct subsidy towards childcare costs by the Council;

Standby and/or call-out payments, employees who are required to be on standby at times which are outside their normal working week and/or who may be called-out to attend to an issue at the Council's premises or other location may receive an additional payment in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Council policy;

Provision of mobile telephones, mobile telephones are provided to employees on the basis of business need where they are necessary to enable them to undertake their duties effectively. The Council funds the provision of the phone and business calls.

Discounted loans, permanent employees who have satisfactorily completed their probationary period have access to discounted loans for:

- The purchase of cars/bicycles; and/or
- The purchase of season tickets for travel;

Interest is charged on Car and Bicycle loans at current PWLB (Public Works Loan Board) rates plus 1.25%. For a small number of employees employed before 27th November 2001 no interest is chargeable under historical contract of employment terms. Travel season ticket loans are interest free;

Employee assistance programme, is a 24/7 confidential support service for information and guidance on a range of work-life topics funded by the Council and made available to all staff.

Lifestyle scheme is an online benefits scheme that works with well-known retailers, both online and on the high street, to provide market-leading offers and discounts to all staff.

Performance-related pay and bonuses

16. The Council does not operate a scheme of performance-related pay or bonuses for its staff.

Lowest-paid employees

17. The Council's definition of lowest-paid employees is people employed in Grade 11 of the Council's grading structure. This is because it is the lowest pay band operated by the Council for permanent staff. Hastings Borough Council ensures its lowest paid employees are paid the current published UK Accredited Living Wage or higher.

Relationship between remuneration of chief officers and remuneration of employees who are not chief officers

18. The Council's ratio of pay at the top, to pay at the median is currently 1:3.5. The Council will look to ensure the ratio does not exceed the national average for the public sector. This ratio is based on basic salary only, excluding variable pay and benefit in kind.

Payments on termination etc.

19. The Council's approach to statutory and discretionary payments on termination of employment is set out within its Early Termination of Employment – Compensation Policy which includes the written statement in accordance with regulations 5 and 6 of the Local Government (Early

Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations 2006. At the time of preparation of this policy statement, the policy is:

- to pay statutory redundancy payments in accordance with the Employment Relations Act 1998, which provides for a maximum calculation of up to 30 weeks' pay, multiplied by two. The payment will be based on an employee's actual weekly salary rather than the figure set by the Government.

20. The Council's policy is normally not to make any awards under the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) (Injury Allowances) Regulations 2011: this constitutes its written policy statement under the regulations.
21. Any large severance payments will be considered by the Employment Committee and referred to full Council for approval. Large payments would be those in excess of £95,000 including salary paid in lieu, redundancy compensation, pension entitlements, holiday pay and any bonuses, fees or allowances paid. The basis of any exit payment is subject to a maximum salary of £80,000.
22. Employees re-employed by a relevant body, as specified in the Modification Order, within 12 months of receiving of an exit payment in excess of £80,000 will be required to repay an amount of the payment. Tapering provisions will be implemented using Government guidelines when they become available.

Publication of information

23. This statement will be published on the Council's Website www.hastings.gov.uk
In accordance with regulation 7 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, for posts where the remuneration in a year is £50,000 or more, the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts will include a note setting out the total amount of - salary, fees or allowances paid to or receivable by the person in the current and previous year;
 - any sums payable by way of expenses allowance that are chargeable to UK income tax;
 - any compensation for loss of employment and any other payments connected with termination;
 - any benefits received that do not fall within the above

The statement of accounts is available on the Council's website.

24. The Council also publishes information about remuneration of JNC Chief Officers and staff in the transparency section of its website.
http://www.hastings.gov.uk/my_council/transparency/
This information is updated from time to time and includes a list of Directors and Assistant Directors as defined in the Localism Act 2011.

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8 JANUARY 2018

Present: Councillors Chowney (Chair), Forward, Batsford, Fitzgerald, Poole, Beaney, Lee and Patmore.

56. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 December 2017 be approved as a correct record

RESOLVED the chair called over the items on the agenda, under rule 13.3 of the council's constitution, the recommendations set out in minute number 4 was agreed without being called for discussion.

57. YOUTH COUNCIL MANIFESTO

The report of the Assistant Director for Regeneration and Culture shared the Hastings Youth Council manifesto with elected members, and sought support from cabinet to back the youth council's aims and vision.

The manifesto set out the vision, values and purpose the Youth Council had agreed. It was noted that the Youth Council is a very active organisation, supporting a wide range of events which focus on issues affecting the young people of Hastings, and the wider community. Thanks were given to the Community Cohesion and Support Officer for his work to support the Youth Council. The point was made that this model of Youth Council is used in other parts of the country, with the Hastings Youth Council setting a precedent. Members were advised that 2018 will be the 20th Anniversary of the Youth Council, and the cabinet wished the organisation many more successful years.

The recommendation was moved by Councillor Forward, and seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

- 1. Hastings Borough Council supports the Hastings Youth Council manifesto**
- 2. Hastings Borough Council supports the Hastings Youth Council's vision and aims for the young people of Hastings.**

Reasons for the Recommendations:

Hastings Youth Council is endorsed by Hastings Borough Council, it provides a method to actively engage with young people from the borough and help shape policy. The aims of the Youth Manifesto are consistent with the council's own mission statement.

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58. HASTINGS MUSEUM STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

The Assistant Director for Regeneration and Culture presented a report which summarised recent strategic and project development at Hastings Museum. The report summarised the findings of the earlier resilience programme Finding Our Place, which had been funded by Arts Council England, and recommended the next steps in the process.

A recent review had identified potential to enhance the museum as a visitor attraction and community resource. It was also noted that the museum would be important to broader plans for the White Rock area. In order to realise this potential, it was proposed to submit a major funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to support significant improvement works to the layout and facilities at the museum. Developing this bid was outside the capacity of the existing team, and it was therefore recommended that the council apply for funding from the HLF resilient heritage scheme to gain external expertise to develop and submit the capital bid.

Thanks were given to the officers involved with the cultural regeneration of the town, as well as the museum team and association who have all worked hard to keep the museum at a high standard.

Councillor Forward moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Poole.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

- 1. The council support the proposal to apply for Heritage Lottery Fund Resilience funding in order to develop a capital bid.**
- 2. That the budget is amended to take into account the income and expenditure involved in the event of a successful bid.**

Reasons for these Recommendations:

To support the development and long term sustainability of Hastings Museum and Art Gallery so that it can contribute fully to the culture-led regeneration of the town and quality of life of residents.

59. LIFEGUARD SERVICE

The Assistant Director for Regeneration and Culture presented a report, which recommended to cabinet that the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) be appointed to operate the Hastings' beach lifeguard service for three years (the 2018, 2019 and 2020 seasons). The report sought cabinet authority to appoint the RNLI without going through the competitive tendering procedures.

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The RNLI had piloted their lifeguard service in Hastings throughout the 2017 summer season. The pilot had shown that the RNLI can provide a more comprehensive service at a lower cost than the council could offer in-house. The Charity Committee had considered a similar report at their meeting in December, when they approved a three year contract for the RNLI to provide a beach lifeguard service on behalf of the Foreshore Trust.

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

RESOLVED that:

- 1. A three year contract with the RNLI to provide our beach lifeguard service covering the 2018, 2019 and 2020 seasons is entered into, and that the RNLI are appointed without going through the competitive tendering procedures.**
- 2. Authority is delegated to the director of operational services or his nominee, in consultation with the lead member responsible for resort services and the chair of the charity committee, to conclude the necessary legal agreements.**

Reasons for these Recommendations:

Because the RNLI, the 'gold standard' of lifesaving at sea, is able to provide a better service at a lower cost than we can provide in-house, whilst paying the lifeguards more than we were paying them when the service was operated in-house.

60. PROPOSAL FOR LOCAL NATURE RESERVES

The Environment and Natural Resources Manager presented the report of the Assistant Director, Environment and Place, which sought approval to proceed with the legal process for declaring Ponds Wood Local Wildlife Site a Local Nature Reserve. It was also proposed to extend the boundary of Churchwood Local Nature Reserve to include the area known as Robsack Meadow.

The council had a long standing commitment to maintain open spaces in the borough and safeguard biodiversity and important habitats. There were currently 7 local nature reserves (LNR) in the borough.

Natural England had had been consulted on the proposals and supported the approach set out in the report. Following the cabinet meeting, the council would complete the legal process by registering the declaration with Natural England, advertising the proposals in an appropriate local paper and allowing the public to inspect the declaration and the boundary map free of charge. A copy of the press notice will also be available on the council's website. The press notice would be for public information and will not be the commencement of public consultation.

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Councillor Fitzgerald moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Lee.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

1. **Delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Environment and Place and the Chief Legal officer to proceed with the legal process for Local Nature Reserve declaration of Ponds Wood and the extension of Churchwood Local Nature Reserve, under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended), and;**
2. **Publish a declaration notice in the local press and on the council's web site to allow the public to inspect the declaration and the boundary map free of charge and send a copy of the declaration to Natural England.**

Reason for Recommendations:

The Council has had a long standing ambition to declare Ponds Wood a Local Nature Reserve and to extend the boundary of Churchwood Local Nature Reserve to include the area known as Robsack Meadow.

61. **MINUTES OF THE MUSEUMS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the Museums Committee meeting held on 27 November 2017 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Museum Committee meeting held on 27 November 2017 be received and agreed.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.22 pm)

CABINET

5 MARCH 2018

Present: Councillors Chowney (Chair), Forward (from 6:30pm), Batsford, Fitzgerald, Poole, Beaney, Lee and Patmore.

Apologies for absence were notes for Councillor Forward

67. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2018 AND THE BUDGET CABINET MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2018**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 January 2018 and the Budget Cabinet meeting held on 12 February 2018 be approved as a correct record

RESOLVED the chair called over the items on the agenda, under rule 13.3 of the council's constitution, the recommendations set out in minute numbers 69 and 71 were agreed without being called for discussion.

68. **HERITAGE STRATEGY**

The Marketing & Major Projects Manager, presented the Hastings Heritage Strategy for 2018 for consideration. The Hastings Heritage Strategy (Appendix 1 to the report) is based on research detailing the heritage strengths of the town, its condition and how it may be protected and enhanced. An asset list was created, and a wealth of heritage assets was identified from planning documents, conservation area assessments and various historic documents.

The Marketing and Major Project Manager advised cabinet of minor presentational changes to this draft strategy which would be carried out prior to publication.

Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the motion, seconded by Councillor Lee.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that cabinet endorses the final strategy as set out in Appendix 1

The reason for this decision was:

Hastings Borough Council (HBC) has a commitment to produce a heritage strategy to support the economic and cultural regeneration of the town.

69. **CASH COLLECTION CONTRACT**

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5 MARCH 2018

The Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues submitted a report on the cash collection contract, as there was a change in cash collection provider which had been actioned under urgency provisions.

The existing cash collection contract had been terminated early and would come to an end on 31 January 2018. The council had received an acceptable proposal from a new contractor for an interim period of 19 months, during which time the requirements for the contract will be reviewed before a full re-tendering exercise is undertaken.

Under Rule 13.3 of the council constitution, this item was agreed without being called for discussion.

RESOLVED that the cabinet will note the report and the action taken by officers to tender for a new cash collection contract.

The reason for this decision was:

The constitution of the council requires cabinet to decide on all significant decisions and where decisions are taken by officers for reasons of urgency before informing cabinet, then a report must be submitted to cabinet at the first opportunity. Whilst the cash collection contract is circa £40,000 per annum, it is considered a significant contract.

70. HAROLD PLACE REDEVELOPMENT SITE

The Director of Corporate Services and Governance presented a report on the future of the Harold Place Redevelopment Site in the town centre. The site is situated in a prominent location in the town centre, and currently comprises a vacant standalone building. The council has been exploring opportunities to redevelop the site

The Director of Corporate Services and Governance advised that it had not be possible to complete the necessary legal arrangements with the preferred bidder to operate the site as a restaurant, as set out in recommendation 1 of the report. It was therefore recommended that cabinet approve the demolition of the existing building and cover the basement area, as set out in recommendation 2 of the report.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Lee, and seconded by Councillor Patmore, as follows:

“Recommendations:

DELETE: recommendations 1 and 2 and replace with recommendation for Option 6.

Option 6 to be placed in report on page 87

Option 6

To refurbish and reinstate the toilets in Harold Place. There is a clear need for good toilet facilities in the town centre. Recent works undertaken by the financial services

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5 MARCH 2018

team have estimated that a full refurbishment and reinstatement of the facility would cost up to £150,000 which can be met from the capital reserve budget. It is recommended that the upkeep cost of the toilets is offset by the introduction of a turnstile which is estimated to produce £14,600

The proposed amendment was lost by 2 votes for, to 5 votes against.

Councillor Chowney proposed the approval of recommendation 2 to the Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues report, as set out in the resolution below, seconded by Councillor Poole.

RESOLVED (by 5 votes for, to 2 votes against) that

- 1. Cabinet determine to demolish the site and cover the existing basement area temporarily at a cost estimated at some £105,000**

The reason for this decision was:

The council needs to determine the future of this key area of the town centre.

71. AN UPDATE - CHART (CONNECTING HASTINGS AND ROTHER TOGETHER) COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (CLLD) - STAGE 2 APPLICATION

This report was submitted as special urgency item under rule 26.16 of the Access to Information Rules contained in the council's constitution. The council the council received a grant funding agreement on 28 February needs to be approved by Cabinet and signed within 30 days.

The decision cannot be made during purdah and this is the last cabinet prior to purdah.

The Assistant Director for Regeneration and Culture submitted an update on a successful application for funding to Connecting Hastings and Rother Together (CHART) Community Led Local Development and to brief members on the programme. The report sought cabinet approval for to implement the programme.

Since the report was published, a few minor corrections were made, as follows:

Page 8 – para 33, reference to AmicusHorizon needs to be changed to Optivo

Page 13 – wards – 'Hastings Castle' needs to be changed to Castle

Under Rule 13.3 of the council constitution, this item was agreed without being called for discussion.

RESOLVED that:

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1. The council shall sign the legal agreements accepting CHART CLLD funding including commitment to the match for administration and management identified in paragraph 44
2. Delegated approval is given to the Director of Operation Services, or his nominee, in consultation with the lead member for regeneration to:
 - Negotiate and conclude legal agreements with the managing authorities to implement and deliver the programme
 - Negotiate and conclude legal agreements with successful grant applicants once the programme is commenced
 - Submit a bid for projects, on behalf of the council, funded by CHART should this be appropriate; enter in relevant contracts and deliver them if the bid is successful.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Councillor Chowney proposed a motion for the exclusion of the public from the meeting, seconded by Councillor Lee.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the 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 the paragraphs of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the relevant report.

73. UNIT 1 HASTINGS RETAIL PARK

The Director of Corporate Services and Governance presented a report, advising cabinet on the outcome of the rent review.
Councillor Forward arrived during the debate and could not participate in the vote.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the cabinet note that the review has been settled for the amount set out in the report

The reason for this decision was:
To note the increased revenue to the council.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.55pm)

Public Document Pack

CABINET

9 APRIL 2018

Present: Councillors Chowney (Chair), Forward, Batsford, Fitzgerald, Poole, Beaney, Lee and Patmore.

73. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor	Minute Number	Interest
Forward	76 – Development of a Social Lettings Agency for Hastings.	Prejudicial – She owns a property with the social lettings agency.
Beaney	76 – Development of a Social Lettings Agency for Hastings	Prejudicial – She is the Director of the Hastings Housing Company.

74. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 5 March 2018 be approved as a correct record.

RESOLVED the chair called over the items on the agenda, under rule 13.3 of the council's constitution, the recommendations set out in minute numbers 77 and 78 were agreed without being called for discussion.

75. AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

Members discussed a report on amendments to the council's constitution, previously spoken about at the Working Arrangements Group.

Councillor Poole proposed approval of the motion, seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald.

RESOLVED (by 4 votes for, to 2 votes against with 1 abstention) that:

1. Cabinet recommend that the amendments to the Council's Constitution be adopted by Full Council.

The reason for this decision was:

The Council's constitution is the basis for the Council's Corporate Governance.

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9 APRIL 2018

76. DEVELOPMENT OF A SOCIAL LETTINGS AGENCY FOR HASTINGS

The Assistant Director, Housing & Built Environment presented a report on the development of a social lettings agency for Hastings. The council run Social Lettings Agency (SLA) currently leases 45 units of accommodation from private individual property owners. The private sector leasing model was, until March 2017, funded by the Temporary Accommodation Management Fee (TAMF). This was a demand led payment from government which paid a supplement of £60 per week, per property, in addition to the standard Local Housing Allowance rate. The TAMF payments enabled the scheme to offset the operating costs of managing accommodation.

Two amendments to the report by officers were pointed out, in the five year forecast section of the report. The first amendment was that the Grant Funding Required should be corrected to -£98,949 in 2018/19 and -£77,101 in 2019/20. The second amendment was that the Bad Debt (Rent) costs were incorrect, and should be £13,673 in 2018/19 and £2,665 in 2019/20.

It was noted that a funding change to a cash limited grant was put in place. This had caused the existing scheme to no longer be viable. Though, a business plan was ready to be put in place to continue the service, which was considered important to the town.

In 2017, it was discussed whether the council would establish a commercially competitive scheme, however it was not recommended that this should happen currently, but could be considered in the future.

A question was raised on what would happen if the recommendation were not accepted. The reply was that there would have to be made arrangements to assist with the rehousing of tenants if the leases were terminated.

Councillor Batsford proposed the approval of the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald. Councillors Forward and Beaney could not vote due to their interests in this item.

RESOLVED (by 4 votes for, to 2 against) that:

Members are asked to approve the recommendation within the report for the council to proceed with two new service models for the SLA. The two models being proposed are:

- **A Guaranteed Rent Scheme**
- **A Management Service to support the Council's Housing Company**

The reason for this decision was:

1. The objective of the SLA is to improve access to quality, well-managed private sector housing for households who present to the council as homeless or at risk of homelessness. Cabinet approval was granted in July 2017 for a cost effective scheme to be developed to replace the council's existing private sector leasing arrangements

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and allow for the SLA to continue operating and achieve its objective. This was necessary due to changes in central government funding arrangements.

2. The introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act in April 2018 allows for local authorities to discharge a new 'Relief Duty' by offering the minimum of a fixed-term 6 month Assured Short-hold tenancy in the private rented sector from a private landlord. It is therefore increasingly a priority for the council to minimise the cost of homelessness by maximising access to affordable, suitable and well managed private sector accommodation.

3. Continuation of SLA also provides the council will the necessary property management capacity to provide services to the council owned Housing Company.

77. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Assistant Director, Regeneration & Culture submitted a report on Proposed Revisions to the Local Development Scheme (Local Plan Timetable). This was to inform Cabinet of the updated timescales for the production of Local Plan documents since the last Local Development Scheme was adopted in April 2016.

Planning regulations require the council to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out a programme for preparing the documents that will make up local planning policy for Hastings.

Under Rule 13.3 of the council constitution, this item was agreed without being called for discussion.

RESOLVED that the contents of the revised Local Development Scheme be agreed.

The reason for this decision was:

So that an up-to-date Local Development Scheme is in place in accordance with section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by section 180 of the Planning Act 2008 and section 111 (7) of the Local Act, and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) regulations 2004.

78. HEALTHY HASTINGS & ROTHER FUNDING PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Assistant Director, Housing & Built Environment submitted a report on the Healthy Hastings & Rother, Reducing Health Inequalities Programme. This was to advise Cabinet on proposed changes to funding to funding allocations for the Hastings Borough Council (HBC) led projects within the NHS Hastings & Rother Clinical

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Commissioning Group's (CCG) Healthy Hastings & Rother (HHR) programme, and seek agreement for the revised programme and the arrangements for ensuring delivery of projects until March 2020.

Since 2015 the CCG has allocated substantial resources from its Healthy Hastings & Rother Programme, for HBC, East Sussex County Council, and other partners or providers to invest in projects, which will address health inequalities.

Overall, the revised programme supported by CCG funding amounts to a considerable sum of approximately £2.75m between 2015-2020. However, please note the revised programme is still subject to confirmation by the CCG's Governing Body on 28 March 2018.

Under Rule 13.3 of the council constitution, this item was agreed without being called for discussion.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. To note the proposed changes to funding allocations from 2017 to 2020 for HBC led projects within the CCG's Healthy Hastings & Rother Programme.**
- 2. To agree the revised programme of HBC led projects as described in the report, within the total financial resources available from the CCG of £2,751,12.**
- 3. Subject to confirmation of the programme by the CCG's Governing Body on 28 March 2018, the Director of Operational Services, in consultation with the Lead Member, be authorised to enter into a funding agreement with the CCG under section 256 of the NHS Act 2006 to support continuation of the HBC led programme until 31 March 2020**

The reason for this decision was:

The Council has long held the position that good health is a key factor in determining the quality of people's lives and that health inequality is a significant outcome of and contributor to poverty. This programme is helping to contribute towards more integrated work with partners to address issues of health inequality. The revised programme supported by CCG funding requires Cabinet approval.

79. FREEDOM LEISURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The Assistant Director, Regeneration & Culture presented a report on the Freedom Leisure Loan for Capital Investment. The report proposes that the council supports the initial capital investment for leisure facility improvements by providing a loan to Freedom Leisure. Freedom Leisure will pay back the loan, plus the appropriate interest charge over the contract term, achieving a financial net gain for the council.

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It was said that the loan would be at market rate, so there would be no public funding implications from giving the loan. The amount earned in profit would be around £4,000 per annum.

It was noted that the loan would be beneficial to the council, as it would help with Freedom Leisure's management of one of the council's buildings. Improvements to the facilities would include a clip and climb wall, as well as energy reduction measures, a new pool inflatable and improvements to changing areas.

A question was raised in regards to whether the money had to be spent on the facility in question. The reply was that the loan must be spent on the facility in Hastings.

Councillor Batsford proposed the approval of the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

- 1. Approve the proposal for the Council to provide a loan to Freedom Leisure.**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Legal Officer to agree any matters of detail necessary to conclude the final loan arrangements.**

The reason for this recommendation was:

The recent procurement process for the leisure management contract identified Freedom Leisure as the successful bidder. The new contract will commence from 1 April 2018. Freedom Leisure's bid included an investment into various areas, including £134,037.60 on a climbing wall and energy reduction measures. The proposal will result in a net gain of £21,774 for the Council based on an opportunity cost of borrowing of 1%.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.38 pm)

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