

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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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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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)