

FULL COUNCIL

18 DECEMBER 2019

Present: Councillors Sinden (Chair), Bacon (Vice-Chair), Barnett, Battley, Batsford, Beaney, Beaver, Berelson, Bishop, Chowney, Cox, Davies, Edwards, Evans, Fitzgerald, Foster, Lee, Levane, Louise, Marlow-Eastwood, O'Callaghan, Patmore, Rankin, Rogers, Roberts, Sabetian, Scott, Turner and Webb

92. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Forward and Charman

93. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 23rd October 2019 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

95. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

The leader of the Council congratulated the recently elected MP, Sally-Ann Hart. He believes in democracy and recognises that the people have spoken. He gave her 3 messages to consider;

1. **Transport Infra structure:** focus on resolving transport problems involving cycling and walking rather than the HS1 train connections to London.
2. **Homelessness:** large amounts of money have been paid out to cover costs of temporary accommodation. The Local Housing Allowance needs to be raised as people cannot afford private accommodation. There needs to be more homes available to people.
3. **Council Budgets:** Both Hastings Borough Council and Rother District Council need more money to deliver services. Any further cuts to budgets may mean that both Councils are unable to deliver core services.

96. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) FROM:

96.1 Members of the Public under Rule 11

A written question was received from Julia Hilton regarding the Councils recently received My Town funding and its allocation. Councillor Forward provided a written

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response. Copies of the question and response were circulated to Councillors and members of the public.

Ms Hilton asked a supplementary question. There are a great number of community groups in the town who could help build a vision for the town and facilitate it. They would also be useful in developing a climate change plan. Would the Council be advertising for this sort of input?

In the absence of Councillor Forward, Councillor Chowney responded. The Council is still awaiting guidance about how this will operate. The questioner raised good ideas which could be fulfilled with smaller contracts. He would like to see engagement from people from the deprived wards. These people rarely engage as they are occupied with worrying where the next meal will come from. We need to be thinking about what they need and there will be opportunity for developing the system for this. Any appointments would be advertised locally.

96.2 Councillors under rule 12

Questions to the Leader, Deputy Leader and portfolio holders were asked and answered in accordance with Rule 12.1 as follows:

Questioner	Subject	Reply given by
Councillor Lee	<p><u>Working with MP</u>- Will he present his ideas and collaborate working with the new MP?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that he would as he has done with the previous MP</p>	Councillor Chowney
Councillor Davies	<p><u>Street Cleansing</u>- Overview and Scrutiny were unanimous in its praise for the DSO (street cleansing). How will it be improved in the forthcoming year?</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald replied that he was pleased with the success for this and has received positive feedback from the public. Will be looking to deploy resources to north parts of the borough and exploring commercial opportunities</p>	Councillor Fitzgerald
Councillor Beaver	<p><u>Flood Risk</u>- At the Annual Council held on 23 October, it was said that Cornwallis car park wasn't suitable for housing as it was a flood risk area, will he apply this throughout the town?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that mitigation wasn't worth applying given the size of the site. Other parts of the town are bigger and we get grants to help with this.</p>	Councillor Chowney
Councillor Scott	<p><u>Fairer Funding Review</u>- After 10 years of</p>	Councillor

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	<p>austerity Leaders from East Sussex were hoping to benefit from the fairer funding review. This has currently been postponed by the government. Will Hastings Borough Council write to the government to bring this forward?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that he was hoping to get all Leaders from East Sussex to write a joint letter. The fairer funding review has been long overdue</p>	Chowney
Councillor Patmore	<p><u>Bathing Pool Site</u>- Back in October it was said that we were close to signing the terms of the lease for the Bathing Pool Site. Has this happened?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that this didn't happen within the 2 weeks stated at the time due to complications. Lease is now ready to be signed but he wants to look at it first before it goes to the board of directors.</p>	Councillor Chowney
Councillor Turner	<p><u>Doctors shortage</u>- a number of residents can't get on a doctors panel and many surgeries are not taking on new NHS patients. When he meets the new MP can he ask her to help with getting better primary services?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that we are currently 15 GPs short in Hastings which has caused a serious problem. Thankfully the walk in centre was saved. It's a general problem the country is facing. He will raise this with the new MP.</p>	Councillor Chowney

97. MOTION (RULE 14)

None received

98. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

No changes requested

99. HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY

Councillor Batsford proposed the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy as set out in the agenda. This was seconded by Councillor Davies.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Council does accept the recommendations as set out below:

1.To the draft Homelessness Review and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

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Strategy is adopted and published

2. Delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director, Housing and Built Environment, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing and Leisure, to agree any minor changes to improve the layout and readability of the strategy prior to publication

3. An action plan to implement the strategy priorities is developed with partners

4. An annual performance update is submitted to Cabinet, setting out progress against the strategy priorities and action plan

Reasons for Recommendations

The council needs to consult on a new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy prior to adoption.

100. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Mayor having called over the minutes set out in the agenda, none were reserved for discussion.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.47 pm)