



# Council Meeting

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**Wednesday, 14th  
July, 2021**

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## HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Hastings Borough Council to be held at Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, on Wednesday, 14th July, 2021 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

6 July 2021

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### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Announcements from the Mayor and Leader
5. Programme For The Year 2021
6. Appointments to Cabinet Committees, Working Groups and Partnerships
7. Membership of Committees  
To give effect to any request received from a political group for a change in their representation on committee(s).
8. Reports of Committees

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

<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Cabinet Member / Chair</b>
<b>CABINET – 6 APRIL 2021</b>		
333.	Hastings Lifeguard Contract	Webb
336. (E)	2-12 Battle Road – Dangerous Structure	Forward
<b>CABINET – 27 MAY 2021 – EMERGENCY DECISION</b>		
338.	Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Scheme Policy (Tranche 3)	Chowney
<b>CABINET – 16 JUNE 2021</b>		
342.	Welcome Back Fund, Contain Outbreak Management Fund and Culture Recovery Fund proposals	Chowney
343. (C)	Parking Spaces at Winding Street	Chowney
345.	Lease and Management Agreement for the Bale House (Part 1)	Evans
346. (C)	Buckshole Reservoir Safety Improvements - Update (Part 1)	Evans
348. (E)	Lease and Management Agreement for the Bale House (Part 2)	Evans
349. (C)(E)	Buckshole Reservoir Safety Improvements - Update (Part 2)	Evans
<b>SPECIAL CABINET – 25 JUNE 2021</b>		
352.	Hastings Town Deal	Barnett
<b>CABINET – 5 JULY 2021</b>		

357. (C)	Homelessness Recovery Plan	Batsford
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Notes:

1. The Mayor will call over the minutes and members will 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 8a) above. Any such discussion shall be deferred to item 9 on the agenda.
9. To consider the recommendations and decisions of committees (if any) which the Council has resolved should be discussed after the exclusion of the public from the meeting.
10. Questions (if any) from:
- a) Members of the public under Rule 11
  - b) Councillors under Rule 12
11. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Batsford to propose:

“A pledge for Hastings:

Hastings Borough Council pledges its commitment to be a Town that is welcoming to all, to confirm our pride in having a programme of welcome to refugees and asylum seekers. Our commitment was, for example, part of the preamble to the Equalities motion passed by the Council in October 2020, which included confirmation of our support to the Lift The Ban Campaign to allow asylum seekers to work.

We are pleased to continue to work with the Refugee Buddy Project which works with local residents of Hastings who welcome people seeking refuge, the Lift The Ban Campaign and the Hastings City of Sanctuary. We are proud of the work that has been done so far and know that this will need to continue against an increasingly hostile environment.

We have been asked by the Hastings Buddy Project, with whom we work very closely, to restate our commitment, not least in the worrying development at Napier Barracks in Kent and the possibility that similar “facilities” are being considered for our town. We are committed to doing all we can to make sure that this Borough continues to be a welcoming place for everyone who has come here to live, study, work, seek sanctuary and join family, whether they have lived here for decades or have just arrived.

This Council backs this pledge:

### 1. Dignity and Respect for All

Long-term residents as well as asylum seekers, refugees and migrants should be treated with dignity and respect. The debate on immigration should be conducted with care for the dignity of people who are vulnerable, who do not have a voice in the public domain and who have to suffer the consequences of inaccurate and inflammatory language.

### 2. Protection not Destitution

Despite the challenges our town, and indeed our country, face, the UK is still one of the richest places in the world. It cannot be right that vulnerable people are forced into destitution and left without basic protections. Everybody should be treated justly and fairly.

### 3. Welcome and Integration

Integration requires everybody to play their part in making Hastings a place of welcome and supporting people to participate in the local community. The Council and local civil society can together ensure that good processes are in place and integration services are properly provided.

Everybody in Hastings is invited to join the effort to translate these principles into effective action. Together, in our organisations and communities, our faith institutions and schools, we can make Hastings welcoming to all.”

## 12. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Cox to propose:

“Universal Basic Income (UBI) is a regular, non-means tested sum paid by the state to cover the basic cost of living. It’s paid to all citizens individually, regardless of employment status, wealth or income.

Due to the Covid crisis, which has plunged more and more people into poverty, and shown up the ever-widening gap between rich and poor in the UK, the concept has been more widely debated in recent months than ever before. It would replace the labyrinth of means-tested benefits of which £10 billion remains unclaimed each year. Motions supporting UBI pilots have now been passed by 13 local authorities, including Liverpool, Sheffield, Brighton and Lewes – the majority with cross-party support.

UBI is the fairest, most effective way to mitigate the effects of

coronavirus on people's incomes and to start to repair the terrible damage done to society during the pandemic.

A network of UBI Labs has been set up which work with local authorities across the UK to develop UBI proposals to address problems such as poverty, inequality, discrimination and environmental damage – all issues that have a profound effect on the people of Hastings. We need to join them and show our support.

Universal Credit is a punitive system based on bullying people to spend 35 hours a week looking for jobs that don't exist, and the five week wait (which is supposed to emulate waiting for your first pay cheque) guarantees that individuals are already in debt before they get their first payment, which is insufficient to live on. It is a recipe for disaster, despair and the destruction of people's lives. Being part of the movement to introduce UBI is surely one way we can show our support for the people of Hastings and our commitment to improving their quality of life with guaranteed income security.

In short:

- the current benefit system is failing citizens, with Universal Credit causing hardship to many communities in Hastings
- we need to test UBI, as it has the potential to address key challenges such as inequality, poverty, precarious employment, and loss of community through:
  - i) Giving employers a more flexible workforce whilst giving employees greater freedom to change their job and reject bad work;
  - ii) Valuing unpaid work, such as caring for family members and voluntary work;
  - iii) Removing the negative impacts of benefit sanctions and conditionality;
  - iv) Giving people more equal resources within the family, workplace and society;
  - v) Enabling greater opportunities for people to work in community and cultural activities or to train or re-skill in areas that will be needed to transition to a low- carbon economy.
- the success of a UBI pilot should not be measured only by its impact on the take up of paid work, but also the impact upon communities and what the people within them do with their lives, how they feel, and how they relate to others and the environment around them;
- given its history of innovation, creativity, resilience and community

spirit, Hastings is ideally placed to pilot a UBI

This council therefore resolves to:

1. work with the UBI Lab Network to explore ways to promote and expand the concept of UBI with particular reference to Hastings, and campaign for UBI trials to be held in this country in the near future.
2. send a copy of this Motion to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor, the leader of the party in government, their counterparts in all opposition political parties in Parliament, and to our local MP.”

13. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Foster to propose:

“I move that the council introduce reduced season ticket and parking permit rates for electric vehicles”

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

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# Agenda Item 2 Public Document Pack

## FULL COUNCIL

19 MAY 2021

Present: Councillors Sinden (Chair), Bacon (Vice-Chair), Arthur, Barnett, Battley, Batsford, K Beaney, S Beaney, Beaver, Bishop, Carr, Cooke, Chowney, Cox, Edwards, Evans, Fernando, Forward, Foster, Hay, Hilton, Marlow-Eastwood, Patmore, Pragnell, Roark, Rankin, Rogers, Roberts, Scott, Turner, Webb, Williams

### **180. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

### **181. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR**

The Mayor called for nominations for Mayor of the Borough of Hastings.

Councillor Bishop proposed that Councillor James Bacon be elected Mayor of the Borough of Hastings for the new municipal year, seconded by Councillor Scott.

No further nominations were received.

Councillor Bacon withdrew from the Council Chamber for the vote.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that Councillor Bacon is elected as Mayor of the Borough of Hastings for the new municipal year.**

Councillor James Bacon returned to the Council Chamber and made the declaration prescribed by Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillor Bacon took the Chair as the newly elected Mayor and presided over the remaining business.

### **182. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

The Mayor called for nominations for Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Hastings.

Councillor Roark proposed that Councillor Ruby Cox be elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Hastings, seconded by Councillor Evans.

No further nominations were received.

Councillor Ruby Cox withdrew from the Council Chamber for the vote.

**RESOLVED (by 29 votes for, with 1 abstention) that Councillor Ruby Cox is elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Hastings for the current municipal year.**

Councillor Cox returned to the Council Chamber and made the declaration prescribed by Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**FULL COUNCIL**

**19 MAY 2021**

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

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

**184. TO RECEIVE THE LEADER'S REPORT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Forward announced that Councillor Barnett has been appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council.

**185. TO RECEIVE THE LEADER'S REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED TO CABINET, THE NAMES OF THOSE MEMBERS AND THE ALLOCATION OF CABINET PORTFOLIOS**

Councillor Forward reported that:

- (1) membership of the Council's Cabinet be **7** Councillors
- (2) the seats on Cabinet be allocated **7** to the Labour group (to include the Chair of the Charity Committee) and members be appointed in accordance with the nomination of the groups as shown in Schedule A.
- (3) allocation of responsibilities for Cabinet portfolios is as follows:

<b>Cabinet Lead Member</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
Councillor Forward	Leader of the Council and Strategy and Partnership Working
Councillor Barnett	Deputy Leader of the Council and the Regeneration Portfolio Holder
Councillor Batsford	Housing Portfolio Holder
Councillor Chowney	Financial Portfolio Holder
Councillor Evans	Environment Portfolio Holder
Councillor Rogers	Organisation Portfolio Holder
Councillor Webb	Charity Committee Chair

**186. TO AGREE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Councillor Forward proposed the following terms of reference for Overview and Scrutiny.

FULL COUNCIL

19 MAY 2021

**RESOLVED** that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be appointed with the following key areas of responsibility:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Strategy Targets</b></li><li>• <b>Reviewing progress on the implementation of Cabinet decisions</b></li><li>• <b>Policy development work with Portfolio Holders, officers and partners</b></li><li>• <b>Service reviews</b></li><li>• <b>Collection of Council Tax and other charges</b></li><li>• <b>Payment of benefits</b></li><li>• <b>Management of resources</b></li><li>• <b>Public sector efficiency programmes</b></li></ul>

**187. TO APPOINT COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL, DETERMINE THE REPRESENTATION OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON THOSE COMMITTEES, TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THOSE COMMITTEES AND TO APPOINT CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS (AS INDICATED) FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22 (LIST TO BE CIRCULATED SEPARATELY)**

Councillor Forward proposed a motion regarding the appointment of committees as set out in the resolution below.

**RESOLVED** that the council adopts the following arrangements for the membership of committees:

(1) that membership of the Council's committees be as follows:

	Councillors	Non-Councillors
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11	-
Audit Committee	5	-
Council Appointments Committee	5	-
Standards Committee	5	2
Licensing Committee	15	-
Employment Committee	4	-
Employment Appeals Committee	4	-
Planning Committee	10	-
Environment and Safety Committee	5	-

(2) following a review of the political balance on the Council, that the seats on the committees of the Council be allocated to political groups and members be appointed to those committees in accordance with the

## FULL COUNCIL

19 MAY 2021

nominations of the political groups as shown in Schedule A; and

(3) the Chairs and Vice – Chairs of the committees be appointed as shown in Schedule A

### 188. COUNCIL MEETINGS 2021/22

**RESOLVED (unanimously) to approve the holding of the meetings of the council on the following dates:**

6 pm on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
6 pm on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
6 pm on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
6 pm on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
6 pm on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (Budget Council)  
6 pm on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
6 pm on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (Annual Council)

Councillor Rodgers proposed that the meeting is adjourned until 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Councillor Patmore seconded the motion.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that the meeting is adjourned until 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**

(The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 18.21 PM)

# Agenda Item 5



**Report To:** Cabinet  
**Date of Meeting:** Monday 5th July 2021  
**Report Title:** Programme for The Year 2021/22  
**Report By:** Jane Hartnell, Managing Director

Jane Hartnell, Managing Director

**Key Decision:** Y  
**Classification:** Open

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## Purpose of Report

To outline the Programme for the Year 2021/22 headlines, and intentions to integrate these where appropriate into existing performance monitoring arrangements.

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## Recommendation(s)

1. That the Programme for the Year headlines are agreed and then integrated where required into the Council's Corporate Plan and Budget performance monitoring arrangements.

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## Reasons for Recommendations

1. To ensure alignment of Programme for the Year commitments with those already agreed by full Council in the Corporate Plan

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## Introduction

1. Traditionally at the Annual meeting of the Council, the Programme for the Year is debated, agreed and then integrated into service delivery arrangements.
2. Given the ongoing pandemic, combined with the recent requirement to host face to face meetings, both political group Leaders, (who have a right to speak on this item at Annual Council) agreed to postpone debate on the Programme for the Year until the July Council meeting.
3. The Programme for the Year in an election year reflects those key manifesto pledges and commitments made to the electorate by the majority political group.

## Programme for the Year headlines

4. There are seven priority themes. Each are headed below and include example headline activities.

### Tackle climate change

- Review local plan to ensure planning policies maximise energy efficiency in new developments and opportunities for sustainable energy generation, biodiversity and sustainable transport
- Restart work to increase the amount of solar arrays on suitable council and third-party owned buildings, and develop new approaches to installing solar and wind generation across Hastings where funding is available.
- Continue our progress in eliminating the use of single use plastics in the council and on our land
- Ensure the new grounds maintenance specification includes biodiversity, ecology, tree planting and recycling, complementing our climate change commitments
- Publish a resident's guide to support carbon footprint reduction including more detailed advice on recycling
- Commission and install more EV charging points where funding opportunities allow
- Promote good practice on tackling climate change at the new Country Park visitor centre

### Equality approach to pandemic recovery

- Roll out training opportunities for CHART funded employment projects
- Develop and consult widely on the new Equalities Charter
- Continue to develop new opportunities in disadvantaged areas through our Active Hastings work, where funding is available to do so
- Continue the support needed by non-statutory organisations tackling poverty and inequality especially around advice, benefits, housing and homelessness
- Continue the Housing First model and explore scope for replicating with drug and alcohol users via Project Adder
- Continue to host and promote apprenticeships for people with Learning and Physical Disabilities e.g. Little Gate Farm apprentices
- Continue to offer full council tax reduction for most disadvantaged residents

## **Policies and funding targeted at most deprived communities**

- Deliver year 3 of the Connecting Hastings and Rother Together (CHART) programme
- Support delivery and monitoring of the Foreshore Trust Grants
- Progress the Town Deal funded projects
- Explore options with regards to the Levelling Up Fund and associated funding streams
- Continue partnership working to target our most deprived communities where possible through Opportunity Area Funding, Big Local, Healthier Hastings and Rother Programme (CCG), Fuel Poverty Programme, and the Community Hub

## **Bringing services back in house**

- Scope options to bring services back in house as part of contract reviews and renewals e.g. reviewing Grounds Maintenance
- Review inhouse staffing capacity and skill sets as a basis for progressing in house delivery opportunities
- Lobby ESCC for an in house approach to manage street plants, as alternative to their use of Glyphosate
- Review our procurement arrangements to maximise benefits for and retain spend within Hastings Borough
- Explore further opportunities for self-sufficiency and income generation e.g. commercial waste
- Continue to lobby and fulfil a leadership role with our service delivery partners and anchor institutions to keep spend and benefits local, ensuring services meet local needs as best they can
- Learn from best practice elsewhere (e.g. Preston Model) to maximise community wealth, benefits and best value for our residents as a local leader and place shaper

## **Maximise supply of affordable housing**

- Ensure our Local Plan enables affordable and quality housing provision
- 500 Affordable Homes programme fully scoped, reviewed, and implementation plan progressed
- Continue to compile and review our evidence base to support our 500 Affordable Homes programme
- Build new homes including some for rent and a proportion of rentals available at Local Housing Allowance rate
- Confirm next steps in terms of our key projects e.g. Harrow Lane and West Marina
- Revisit and review the future direction of travel for our Housing company

## **Projects that create good jobs and training for local people**

- Connecting Hastings and Rother Together (CHART) programme Year 3 delivery
- Progression of associated Town Deal projects
- Continue partnership working with Team East Sussex, Locate East Sussex, South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), Seachange and others to attract businesses to Hastings and complement the Town Deal
- Continue local partnership working with our local businesses via the Business Improvement District, Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Small Businesses where appropriate
- Ensure our local procurement strategy is reviewed and refreshed to keep investment and spend local where practicable

- Work with the Town’s creative sector to explore how best to complement and nurture associated opportunities

### Generate Income

- Work to recover Council income streams as a result of the pandemic
- Review our income generation intentions to best refocus efforts during and post pandemic
- Continue to support for the safe reopening of the Town e.g. Welcome Back Funding initiatives
- Bring forward opportunities and new ways of working e.g. home working and shared office space
- Build on lessons learned, scope and develop opportunities to build on the Council’s in-house street cleansing service e.g. Commercial waste collection
- Consider further in-house arrangements and or alternative service delivery models that work best for the people of Hastings.

### Next Steps

5. The bulk of the headlines themes and key activities outlined largely coincide with commitments already made and agreed by full Council through their approval of the [Corporate Plan 2020 -24](#) and the [Corporate Plan update 2021/22](#).
6. Following Council approval of the Programme for the Year, officers will liaise with lead councillors to ensure confidence that the headline activities above are sufficiently integrated into existing performance management arrangements.

### Timetable of Next Steps

7. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Programme for the Year agreed at Cabinet	Meeting held and programme headlines debated and agreed.	05/07/21	Cabinet
Programme for the Year agreed at full Council	Meeting held and programme headlines debated and agreed.	14/07/21	Full Council
Checkpoint meeting with lead councillors	Approval and confidence assured that headlines are sufficiently integrated into performance management arrangements.	Late July	Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Manager with Cabinet councillors.



Programme for the Year Headlines integrated into performance monitoring arrangements	Integrated headlines in Overview and Scrutiny Quarter 1 performance monitoring report for 2021/22	08/09/21	Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Manager
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## Wards Affected

(All Wards);

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## Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score:

Have you used relevant project tools?: Y

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

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Y/N
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Y/N
Risk Management	Y/N
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	Y/N
Economic/Financial Implications	Y/N
Human Rights Act	Y/N
Organisational Consequences	Y/N
Local People's Views	Y/N
Anti-Poverty	Y/N
Legal	Y/N

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## Additional Information

Links to the corporate plan are found in the many body of this report at paragraph 5.

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## Officer to Contact

Officer: Mark Horan (Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Manager)

Email: [mhoran@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:mhoran@hastings.gov.uk)

Tel: 01424 451485

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# Agenda Item 6



**Report to:** Full Council

**Date of Meeting:** 14 July 2021

**Report Title:** Cabinet Appointments to Committees, Working Groups and Partnerships

**Report By:** Mary Kilner, Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer

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## Purpose of Report

To consider the nominations received and to make appointments to committees, working groups and partnerships etc. and to appoint the Chairs and Vice Chairs to the committees of Cabinet.

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## Recommendation(s)

- 1. To appoint members to committees, working groups, partnerships and representative bodies as set out in Appendix A and;**
- 2. To appoint the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Charity Committee and Museums Committee, as listed in Appendix A**

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## Reasons for Recommendations

Members are required to serve on the committees, working groups, partnerships and representative bodies to which Cabinet appoints. Chairs and Vice Chairs are required for the committees that report to Cabinet.

1. The group leaders were circulated with updated schedules of the committees, working groups, partnerships and representative bodies to which Cabinet appoints. Nominations were sought to fill the places available. The schedules showing the nominations received are appended to this report. Further nominations may be made at the meeting.

2. Like Cabinet, committees of Cabinet are not required to be politically balanced and this is a matter for Cabinet decision. The allocations shown are, therefore, advisory.

3. Members are appointed until the Borough elections in May 2022.

### Timetable of Next Steps

1. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Update committee membership	ModGov updated and lists circulated internally	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Democratic Services

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### Wards Affected

None

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### Implications

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

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness- None

Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)- None

Risk Management- None

Environmental Issues- None

Economic/Financial Implications- None

Human Rights Act- None

Organisational Consequences- Yes, there are new members to some of the committees

Local People's Views- None

Anti-Poverty- None

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### Additional Information

1. Appendix A Cabinet Appointments

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**Officer to Contact**

Officer Name: Mary Kilner

Officer Email Address: mary.kilner@hastings.gov.uk

Officer Telephone Number: 01424 451730

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<b>CABINET APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, PARTNERSHIPS ETC. JUNE 2021</b>						
<b>COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUP / PARTNERSHIPS</b>						
<b>COMMITTEES</b>	<b>SEATS TO BE FILLED</b>	<b>ALLOCATION TO POLITICAL GROUPS 2021/22</b>		<b>APPOINTMENTS for 2021/22</b>		<b>NOTES</b>
		<b>LAB</b>	<b>CON</b>	<b>LABOUR GROUP</b>	<b>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</b>	
Museum Committee	Up to 10	6	4	1. Paul Barnett (Chair) 2. Nigel Sinden (Vice Chair) 3. Claire Carr 4. Maya Evans 5. Ali Roark 6. Sabina Arthur	1. Andy Patmore 2. John Rankin 3. Graeme Williams 4. Lucian Fernando	A Chair and Vice Chair is required for this committee Lead Member is chair.
Charity Committee	3	3		1. Trevor Webb (Chair) 2. Judy Rogers (Vice Chair) 3. Andy Batsford		Chair to be non-portfolio holder member of Cabinet for the majority group
Discretionary Rate Relief Appeal Panel	Up to 7			1. Paul Barnett 2. Andy Batsford 3. Peter Chowney 4. Maya Evans 5. Judy Rogers 6. Trevor Webb		All Members of Cabinet, excluding the Leader, to be appointed to the Panel

**APPENDIX A**

Licensing Committee (Scrap Metal Dealers)	Up to 7			<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Paul Barnett</li><li>2. Andy Batsford</li><li>3. Peter Chowney</li><li>4. Maya Evans</li><li>5. Judy Rogers</li><li>6. Trevor Webb</li></ol>		All Members of Cabinet, excluding the Leader, to be appointed to the committee. Functions relating to the licensing of Scrap Metal Dealers as set out in the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 or by virtue of any amending or consolidating legislation and any regulations made under the Act as such amending or consolidating legislation.
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## APPENDIX A

WORKING GROUPS ETC	SEATS TO BE FILLED	ALLOCATION TO POLITICAL GROUPS 2021/22		APPOINTMENTS for 2021/22		NOTES
		LAB	CON	LABOUR GROUP	CONSERVATIVE GROUP	
Working Arrangements Group	5	3	2	1. Judy Rogers (Chair) 2. Ruby Cox 3. Trevor Webb	1. Matthew Beaver (Vice Chair) 2. Peter Pragnell	Opposition member is Vice-Chair
Member Training and Development Group	4	2	2	1. Judy Rogers (Chair) 2. Ruby Cox (Vice-Chair)	1. Andy Patmore 2. Mike Edwards	Lead Member is chair
Hastings Country Park Management Forum	5	3	2	1. Maya Evans (Chair) 2. James Bacon 3. Andrew Battley	1. Mike Edwards 2. John Rankin	Lead Member is chair
Order of 1066	4	3	1	1. James Bacon 2. Ruby Cox 3. Nigel Sinden	1. Sorrell Marlow-Eastwood	To comprise Mayor, Deputy Mayor & 1 member from each Political Group
Joint Waste Committee	2	2		1. Kim Forward 2. Maya Evans		Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Env & Highways
Personnel Consultative Group	4	2	2	1. Kim Forward 2. Judy Rogers	1. John Rankin 2. Paul Foster	

APPENDIX A

PARTNERSHIPS	SEATS TO BE FILLED	ALLOCATION TO POLITICAL GROUPS 2021/22			APPOINTMENTS for 2021/22			NOTES
		LAB	CON	GRE	LABOUR GROUP	CONSERVATIVE GROUP	GREEN GROUP	
Stade Partnership	2	1		1	1. James Bacon		1. Julia Hilton	Old Hastings members
Hastings Overseas Student Advisory Council	3	2	1		1. Maya Evans 2. Nigel Sinden	1. Sorrell Marlow Eastwood		Known as HOSAC
Hastings Local Strategic Partnership	2	1	1		1. Kim Forward	1. Andy Patmore		
Safer Hastings and Rother Partnership	2	2			1. Paul Barnett 2. Judy Rogers			Relevant Lead Member
Jt. Advisory Cttee. the High Weald AONB	1	1			1. Maya Evans			
Combe Haven Community Interest Company	2	2			1. Sue Beaney 2. Ruby Cox			
Hastings and Rother Task Force Steering Group	1	1			1. Kim Forward			Leader of the Council
Optivo Hastings Area Panel	1	1			1. Andy Batsford			Relevant Lead Member
Police & Crime Panel	1	1			1. Judy Rogers			Lead Member
East Sussex Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee	1	1			1. Mike Turner			Needs to be a non-executive Member.

**APPENDIX A**

East Sussex Community Safety Partnership	1	1			1. Judy Rogers			Needs to be either the Chair of the Safer Hastings Partnership or a member of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel.
Hastings and Rother Transport Action Group	1				1. Maya Evans			Relevant Lead Member

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# Agenda Item 8



**Report To:** Cabinet  
**Date of Meeting:** 7 June 2021  
**Report Title:** Parking Spaces at Winding Street  
**Report By:** Peter Grace, Chief Finance Officer  
**Key Decision:** N  
**Classification:** Open

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## Purpose of Report

To consider a request from the proposed new owners of the Isabel Blackman Centre (IBC) to have exclusive use of the parking spaces in Winding Street.

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## Recommendation(s)

- 1. Cabinet recommend to full Council that terms be agreed to lease the parking spaces to the new owners of the IBC at less than Market Rent (Nil rent).**

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## Reasons for Recommendations

Use of the five parking spaces is considered essential by IBC for the practical operation of the centre and while letting at less than Market Value is a financial loss to the Council this is outweighed by the benefit to the Community as a whole.

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## Introduction

1. This report updates on developments surrounding the IBC and considers future use of parking spaces owned by Hastings Borough Council (HBC). A request has been made that HBC make these spaces available without charge to support the retention and operation of this important building and enable services for older people and the wider community.
2. Decisions to grant leases, or concessions, at below market rent are, given the Council's challenging financial position, required to be made by full Council.

## Background

3. For many years the IBC has been a day-centre resource for older people and their carers and a bookable community facility for meetings and activities in the Old Town. It is one of relatively few accessible community venues in the Old Town. The building (at the time of producing the draft report) is in the ownership of East Sussex County Council (ESCC) who, as a result of financial challenges faced by the authority and following a Day Care Services review deemed the building to be surplus to requirements and following a Cabinet decision listed it for disposal. This proposal was the case of considerable local concern and a series of stakeholder meetings were convened by Hastings Voluntary Action to discuss possible options.
4. From this process, a consortium of voluntary and community organisations (currently Age UK East Sussex, Hastings Voluntary Action, Hastings and St Leonards Seniors Forum, and the Hastings Old Town Residents Association) have been working for some time on a campaign to ensure that this important Old Town building remained a local asset of lasting social value. An initial application was made to register the building with HBC as an Asset of Community Value whilst a fundraising campaign was launched. As this gathered pace ESCC voluntarily extended the moratorium period to give every chance that the fundraising target could be achieved. As a result of an enormous community effort a total of £450,000 has been pledged via local fundraising, donations, charitable trusts and the sale of a painting by Quentin Blake.
5. For the local community this represents a considerable moment – achieved during the COVID 19 crisis and for ESCC a double benefit is achieved in the form of a capital receipt and the centre continuing to offer services. A new charity IBC – in Perpetuity (IBC in perp) has been formed to hold and manage the building. Contracts have been exchanged and the completion of the sale is anticipated over the next period.
6. Within the centre a 2-bedroom flat is available but has been unused for some years. IBC in perp are in discussion within a Housing Provider to partner in the refurbishment of the property so that this can be brought back into use to both meet local housing needs and make a revenue contribution towards the day to day costs of the centre's activities.

## Parking and Garden Area

7. When the IBC was owned by ESCC an agreement was in place between them and HBC to lease the parking spaces and garden area (shown edged black on the plan) at a Market Rent (was £5,000 in 2017). These areas were made available free of charge by ESCC to the organisation responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Centre. IBC in perp assumed that that this would continue when they became owners of the IBC.

8. The Trustees of IBC in perp consider that use of the parking spaces is essential to the future operation of the Centre and have made the following points to demonstrate this:
  - a. To access the IBC, particularly for older people with disabilities or mobility issues, off road parking is needed.
  - b. It will enable mini-bus access, it is likely that there will be 2 minibus pickup and drop offs per day, and an adequate turning space for larger vehicles.
  - c. Alternative arrangements have been found to cause disruption to other road users.
  - d. Winding Street also serves 2 busy commercial properties Trade Paints (with 50 vehicles visiting per day) and Judges Bakery (with the need to load and unload delivery vans). If the road becomes congested there is an impact on the A259 which IBC in perp are keen to minimise.

### Equalities and Community Cohesiveness

9. The provision of the services from this building will provide considerable support to many members of the community.

### Financial Implications

10. Should the Council agree to lease these parking spaces, the monies spent on refurbishment (removal of posts, resurfacing, lining) will not be recovered. There will also be an ongoing loss of income of **£5,000 per annum** (at 2017 prices – previously paid by ESCC) and the potential income from these spaces could be higher.
11. An undertaking by the IBC to maintain the spaces, not to sublet them and return them if not used may help minimise future costs and loss of income.

### Conclusion

12. IBC in perp have made a proposal to take a lease of the parking spaces for a peppercorn (less than Market Rent) but they have committed they will undertake ongoing maintenance as part of their wider management of the site.
13. While the proposal will result in a loss of income to HBC it may be considered that the overall benefits justify this.

### Timetable of Next Steps

14. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Consideration by Full Council	Decision made	June/July 2021	Amy Terry
Agree Heads of	Legal instructed	June 2021	Amy Terry

Terms			
IBC in perp start using the spaces	Lease completed	TBC	Legal/Amy Terry

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### Wards Affected

Old Hastings

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### Policy Implications

Have you used relevant project tools?: Y/~~N~~

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

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Y/ <del>N</del>
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	<del>Y</del> /N
Risk Management	<del>Y</del> /N
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	<del>Y</del> /N
Economic/Financial Implications	Y/ <del>N</del>
Human Rights Act	<del>Y</del> /N
Organisational Consequences	<del>Y</del> /N
Local People's Views	Y/ <del>N</del>
Anti-Poverty	<del>Y</del> /N
Legal	<del>Y</del> /N

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### Additional Information

Plan.

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### Officer to Contact

Officer: Amy Terry  
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**Report To:** Cabinet

**Date of Meeting:** 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Report Title:** Buckshole Reservoir Safety Improvements - Update

**Report By:** Mike Hepworth – Assistant Director Environment and Place

**Key Decision:** Yes

**Classification:** Public – Part One

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## Purpose of Report

To update councillors on progress with this mandatory project to improve the safety of the reservoir and dam (as required by Reservoirs Act 1975 and subsequent guidance), including the results of the tender process highlighting the shortfall in the approved programme budget, and seeking approval to increase the budget to enable the project to proceed.

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## Recommendation(s)

**Authorise the capital and revenue budgets for this project to be increased as detailed in the associated part 2 report on this agenda.**

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## Reasons for Recommendations

1. The original estimates for the costs of the project were carefully developed by specialists before approval by cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020. They included a 10% contingency sum and were also adjusted to take account of potential inflation between Autumn 2019 and Summer 2021, when the works were likely to be carried out. However, the tenders obtained through the East Sussex Procurement Hub in 2021 are significantly higher than the original estimates. There are well understood reasons for this and these are set out in this report. They include the need to amend the specification to secure planning approval, and the significant financial impact of the pandemic and EU-exit on the UK construction and civil engineering sectors.
2. It is essential that this project goes ahead as the works are mandatory, and necessary to reduce the risk to life and property associated with a failure of the reservoir infrastructure. In addition, the council would be the subject of enforcement action by the Environment Agency were it not to comply with the guidance and complete the works as required by spring 2022.

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## Introduction

1. The aim of this report is to provide councillors with an urgent update on the Buckshole Reservoir Safety Project, and the cost implications following the return of tenders for the main construction and civil engineering works. From the tender returns it is clear the cost of the works exceeds the budget estimates approved in good faith by cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.
2. The report identifies the reasons for the shortfall and seeks approval to increase the capital programme allocation and associated revenue budget, to cover the updated cost of the project.

## Background

3. The council has a legal obligation to undertake annual and ten-yearly inspections of qualifying reservoirs under the Reservoirs Act 1975. The inspections are undertaken by our specialist reservoir engineers, Stillwater Associates, against national standards for reservoir safety and flood risk. Buckshole is categorised as a category 'A' dam, meaning that there is likely to be loss of life if the dam fails.
4. The national standards enforced through the Act are periodically reviewed and updated to reflect current thinking on flood risks, especially in relation to safety and climate mitigation. They were updated in 2015 and 2017 through the Floods & Reservoir Safety Guidance, published by the Institution of Civil Engineers, and guidance issued by the Environment Agency, which is the Enforcement Agency.
5. The works are mandatory and time constrained. The council has until Spring 2022 to complete this work. The original deadline for compliance was 2020, but this was deferred as the council was able to demonstrate that it was committed to a scheme of works to secure compliance.
6. The council received comprehensive safety improvement assessments from Stillwater Associates in 2018 and 2019. The 2 assessments cover different aspects of the overall scheme required to ensure compliance with the updated standards. The first being the options for a new emergency drawdown facility to enable the water level to be safely reduced in an emergency. The second being the options for 'upgrading' the spillway channel on the dam so it is better able to deal with serious storm flow conditions.
7. The implications of these studies and the nature of the works required were considered by Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The 2 comprehensive reports containing the safety assessments and options for securing compliance were attached to the 2020 cabinet report, to enable cabinet to understand the full complexities of the project, and the details of the various options under consideration.
8. At the cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (in summary) cabinet unanimously:
  - a. Agreed the scope of works for the project
  - b. Authorised the Director of Operational Services to work with the Sussex Procurement Hub to procure and let a contract to deliver the agreed options

- c. Authorised the Director of Operational Services to contract Stillwater Associates to provide the main specialist technical support to the council throughout the project
- d. Agreed a capital programme budget of £837,000, and the associated revenue budget of £62,775 pa.

## **Project Update and Tender Returns**

9. Following Cabinet in January 2020, a project team and project board were established, and work undertaken to submit a planning application. Planning permission was granted in January 2021.
10. In March 2021 the Sussex Procurement Hub invited tenders from suitable and experienced companies. The normal tender process was followed, and returns received in May. All due diligence and quality assurances were carried out by the Hub and the tenders evaluated by the project team, facilitated by the Procurement Hub, on 13<sup>th</sup> May.
11. Unfortunately, the returned tenders are significantly higher than had been estimated back in 2019/20. Leaving a shortfall in the available capital budget and associated revenue budget. However, there are very good reasons for this, which are outlined below.

### **Reasons for the Project Budget Shortfall**

12. The estimates presented to Cabinet in January 2020 were prepared in Autumn 2019, and were realistic at that time, and had been adjusted to include a 10% contingency and for future predicted inflation. It was also clear that for a specialist project of this nature the actual cost would only be known once the Sussex Procurement Hub had been through a formal procurement process and the suppliers in this limited market had submitted their bids.
13. The UK construction market has been impacted by the pandemic and it is well reported that costs are predicted to increase dramatically over the next few years. Examples of these articles include:
  - a. For example in Summer 2020 the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), forecast that tender prices could rise by 30%. Material prices could increase due to difficulty in obtaining materials due to COVID-19, oil prices, tariffs on imports and Sterling exchange rates. Labour costs could also be affected by the increase in demand as the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, and due to restrictions in the availability of European labour due to EU-exit.
  - b. The Guardian recently reported that UK homeowners face higher bills for renovation work as builders grapple with soaring material costs and shortages of essentials such as timber and concrete.
  - c. According to the Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategies (BEIS) monthly statistics of building materials and components report for April 2021, the cost of materials for repair and maintenance work rose 1.5% between February and March, and increased by 9% between March 2020 and March 2021.
  - d. At the time of writing this report, the BBC were reporting that industry sources are saying building projects are now being hit by a lack of supplies and price rises, citing chiefly an 'unprecedented demand' together with supply shortages and large shipping cost rises.

- e. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) are reporting 7-8% increases across most material prices, and the Federation of Master Builders are experiencing 10-15% average rises, up to as much as 50% for timber (80% comes from Europe) and 30% on cement.
- f. Anecdotally, through discussions with colleagues from other public bodies, it appears that many public sector construction and engineering projects are being adversely affected by these market pressures.
14. It is therefore clear that despite the best efforts of officers to ensure that the original approved project estimates were realistic, the trading environment within the UK construction and civil engineering sector has changed dramatically since then.
15. Our specialist reservoir consultants, Stillwater Associates, have also confirmed that these factors are undoubtedly relevant to this project. There are also other factors responsible for the increased project costs. These include:-
- The estimates used in Autumn 2019 were based on feasibility specifications which have needed to be changed following the more detailed work that was commissioned to draw up the detailed specifications required for the tender process this May. Detailed site investigations resulted in the need to increase the complexity and height of the new sections of the spillway channel, and this has led to a knock-on effect of increased earthworks, backfilling and landscaping.
  - During the process to obtain planning consent, the original proposals for the spillway channel were required to be changed to provide covered sections at the upper and lower ends of the proposed new structure, and again more extensive associated landscaping.
  - The planning approval process also resulted in more demanding measures needed to manage access to and from the site during construction.
16. The net result is that the construction programme is now more complex and longer, with associated increased overheads and site set-up costs, and therefore more expensive.
17. The Project Board has reviewed the current position and is confident that the process followed was the only reasonable option i.e. to seek approval for the project and estimate a budget, then undertake the further detailed work and to achieve the planning approvals. The overall cost of the very specialised works required would still be as they have now been identified.

### **Steps taken to seek assistance with legacy assets**

18. Hastings has a number of assets which it is responsible for maintaining. For example the council is required to spend significant sums in maintaining and making safe the cliffs owned by the council, many of which stretch over a large area of the town. The reservoir is another legacy asset, which is no longer needed for drinking water, but still cost millions to maintain. The cost of maintaining these assets is not recognised in the funding the council receives from the government as it is not a cost pressure many councils are required to meet. The council does not receive new burdens funding for this activity and is simply in the unfortunate position of inheriting the reservoir and its associated costs. The council's current financial position means that the requirement to spend significant sums on this, means funding is not available to support other projects and programmes that could improve the quality of life of residents or the regeneration of our town.

19. The council has therefore written to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs setting out its case for additional support for both the costs of maintaining the reservoir and the cliffs. The suggestion to the Secretary of State is that this work could be funded through a ring fenced grant as the number of local authorities facing these costs pressures for legacy assets is relatively low, but the impact on those council's finances is significant.

**Financial, Risk Management and Legal Implications**

20. The financial, risk management and legal implications are set out in the associated part 2 report on this agenda.

**Timetable of Next Steps**

21. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Obtain approval to increase the project budgets	Report to cabinet for approval and referral to full council	7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Mike Hepworth – Asst Director Environment and Place
Obtain approval to increase the project budgets	Report to full council for approval	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Mike Hepworth – Asst Director Environment and Place

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**Wards Affected**

Parts of Silverhill, St Helens, Baird, Braybrook, Gensing and Castle.

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**Policy Implications**

Reading Ease Score:

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

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	N
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	N
Risk Management	Y
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	N
Economic/Financial Implications	Y
Human Rights Act	N
Organisational Consequences	N
Local People's Views	N
Anti-Poverty	N
Legal	Y

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## 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.

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## Officers to Contact

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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**Report To:** Cabinet

**Date of Meeting:** 5 July 2021

**Report Title:** Homelessness Recovery Plan

**Report By:** Andrew Palmer, Assistant Director Housing and Built Environment

  

**Key Decision:** Y

**Classification:** Open

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### **Purpose of Report**

To set out some of the new projects and services we have been developing to continue to improve the council's homelessness prevention services, during the recovery period from the pandemic.

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### **Recommendation(s)**

- 1. That the notice period for people to leave discretionary temporary accommodation placements is extended from 1 week to 3 weeks until mid-August 2021**
- 2. That Cabinet recommend to Full Council to amend the council's capital programme to include £1,855,000 for the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme, including match funding of £834,750 provided by the council**

**Subject to approval of the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme bid:**

- 3. Delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director for Housing and Built Environment, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing, to vary our existing Housing First contract under urgency provisions (paragraph 21c of the Financial Operating Procedures)**

**Subject to approval of the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders bid:**

- 4. Delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director for Housing and Built Environment, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing, to vary our existing Rapid Rehousing Pathway contract under urgency provisions (paragraph 21c of the Financial Operating Procedures)**

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### **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 1. The council has been working in partnership with a range of statutory and voluntary sector organisations to develop additional services to support those in need. Demand for the**

council's homelessness services has remained high during the pandemic and is expected to continue to increase in the months to come.

## Introduction

1. Throughout the pandemic we have continued working to support people effected by homelessness. This included:
  - Responding positively to the Everyone In instruction by offering temporary accommodation for rough sleepers, and enhancing the holistic support services provided through the Rough Sleeping Initiative
  - Ensuring people can access homelessness advice services by offering telephone appointments and a face to face service for emergency cases
  - Working with Public Health to provide additional health, mental health and substance dependency support to vulnerable people living in temporary accommodation
  - Securing additional capital funding to expand our Housing First service for rough sleepers through the Next Steps Accommodation Programme

Demand for homelessness services is expected to increase across the country during the recovery period from the pandemic. We've been working with partners to build on what we've learnt over the past year and develop a range of new services

## New Projects and Services

2. We are working on a range of new projects to continue to improve our homelessness prevention services. The recovery plans supports the council's corporate priority to tackle homelessness, poverty and ensure quality housing.

## Ending Rough Sleeping

3. The council is continuing to work with partners to end rough sleeping. The average number of rough sleepers verified in the past month was 12.
4. Hastings led a successful bid to continue the RSI for a further year, securing of funding of £2,100,000 for the county-wide service. This includes a team of health, mental, health, social care, substance dependency, housing, and criminal justice specialists alongside dedicated outreach services. We are working closely with Public Health to continue our holistic approach, including a mobile health unit which will support outreach to vulnerable people.
5. We are continuing to offer temporary accommodation for rough sleepers, to help people leave the streets as quickly as possible. We provide ongoing support to help people access settled housing, so they can continue their recovery.
6. The council also secured funding through the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) to provide Housing First units for former rough sleepers. The programme was subject to a very short delivery period, but we have successfully brought 4 new units into use.
7. The council also led a successful bid to the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP) to continue this work in 2021/22, securing funding to provide 10 new Housing First units by the end of March 2022. The council will need to amend it's capital programme to

include £1,855,000 for RSAP (previously NSAP). This will include a £1,020,250 grant plus £834,750 worth of match funding provided by the council.

8. The council's math funding is made up of £722,000 carried over from NSAP and Section 106 affordable housing receipts.
9. The RSAP programme also includes additional revenue funding to provide Housing First support services. This will be delivered by varying the existing Housing First support service through the RSI. There will be opportunities to bid for further RSAP funding in July and September this year.

### **Employability Support**

10. In October 2020, the council launched Live, Work, Thrive a partnership project with Rother District Council, Education Futures Trust, Fellowship of St Nicholas and Sussex Community Development Association funded by the CHART programme. The aim of the project is to improve access to employment and housing for homeless people.
11. Since the launch, the project has supported 20 people to access settled housing and a further 8 people to find employment. Public Health have also approved funding for a new Wellbeing Co-Ordinator who will be able to provide a complimentary support service for people living outside the CHART areas.
12. Through CHART, we have also secured funding for a dedicated employability support team for people placed in Hastings through the Syrian Resettlement Programme and the wider migrant community.

### **Supporting Victims of Domestic Abuse**

13. Hastings is leading a bid to the MHCLG's Respite Rooms. If successful, the bid will provide funding of £310,000 to pilot safe spaces for homeless female victims of domestic abuse to access support services and accommodation.
14. Our proposal compliments the broader preparations for the new Domestic Abuse Act taking place across Sussex, including an intention to co-locate an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) within our housing options team.

### **Reducing Homelessness and Re-Offending**

15. We are working with partners to reduce homelessness and re-offending amongst people leaving prison across East Sussex.
16. The five local housing authorities have agreed to jointly fund a specialist housing solutions worker, who will be co-located within Lewes Prison to improve our homelessness prevention services.
17. The council has also led a bid for £287,000 to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's Accommodation for Ex-Offenders Programme. If successful, this project will improve access to private rental accommodation through a tenancy sustainment service and landlord incentive package.

### **Improving Access to Housing**

18. The council's social housing allocation scheme is now due for review. It is important to ensure that the council reviews its policies to reflect changing demand for our homelessness

services, while ensuring we can continue to create mixed and sustainable communities throughout the town.

19. Through Fulfilling Lives, we have secured funding for a policy officer role who will oversee a review of the allocation scheme. The review will include engaging with the housing team, accommodation providers, people on the waiting list for social housing and other stakeholder to identify good practice. The review and development of the new scheme will take approximately 12 months to complete.

## **Changing Futures**

20. The council is supporting a pan-Sussex bid to the MHCLG's Changing Futures Programme. If successful the bid will provide funding for a 3-year programme to deliver systems change across services working with people experiencing multiple disadvantages, including homelessness. Our application builds on existing examples of good practice, including the RSI.
21. The Sussex proposal was shortlisted by the MHCLG and a decision on our final application is expected in July.

## **Emergency Accommodation**

22. Demand for emergency accommodation has continued to increase during the pandemic. The reasons for this are:
  - A lack of move on accommodation in the private and social rented sector, partly caused by the restrictions on evictions
  - New homelessness presentations, often following the breakdown of insecure housing arrangements (sofa surfing etc.)
  - The Everyone In instruction issued by the government
23. During the pandemic, local authorities were directed to continue accommodating people who had been issued with a negative decision on their homelessness application, to prevent a rise in rough sleeping. The cost of these placements was to be met from the additional funding given to local authorities to contribute to the cost of the pandemic. Now that lockdown measures are easing, local arrangements need to be put in place.
24. There are currently 284 households living in emergency accommodation compared to 186 at the start of the pandemic in March 2020. The average cost of a single placements is £168 per week. Of our current placements, 44 are for verified rough sleepers and will continue to be funded by our Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) grant. A further 4 individuals were accommodated during the pandemic, and it is recommended that these placements are ended from 19 July.
25. We estimate that approximately 70 people currently living in emergency accommodation will be issued with a negative decision over the next 3 months. We are recommending extending the notice period for people to leave their temporary accommodation following a negative decision from 1 week to 3 weeks. This is because turnover of move-on accommodation is still low, particularly in the private rented sector. We will continue to provide support to people to access settled housing and extending the notice period is an important way the council can keep rough sleeper numbers low. The additional cost of extending the notice period is estimated at £24,000. The notice period will be reviewed again at the end of August.

26. To reduce our overall use of emergency accommodation, it is vital that the council continues to develop plans to increase the supply of affordable housing locally.

### Financial Implications

27. The additional revenue cost of increasing the notice period from 1 week to 3 weeks for people who are due to be issued with a negative decision on their homelessness application is estimated at £24,000.
28. The council will need to amend the entry in its capital programme to include £1,855,000 for the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (previously the Next Steps Accommodation Programme).
29. The council is heavily reliant on external grant funding to enhance its homelessness prevention activities, much of which is for short term periods.
30. Demand for homelessness services is likely to continue to increase in the coming months, particularly if the recovery period coincides with an economic downturn. There also remains a shortage of affordable accommodation options in the town. This increase the risk of additional financial pressures to the council, particularly in terms of its spend on emergency accommodation.

### Urgency

31. This is an urgent decision under Rule 26 of the Access to Information Rules contained in the council's constitution.
32. The council has bid for several additional funding streams to support its homelessness prevention work. If these bids are successful, there will be a short time to mobilise the new services.

### Timetable of Next Steps

33. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Rough Sleeping	RSAP funding approved	June 2021	Strategic Housing and Projects Manager
Domestic Abuse	Respite Rooms funding approved	July 2021	Strategic Housing and Projects Manager
Ex-Offenders	AFO funding approved	July 2021	Strategic Housing and Projects Manager
Multiple Disadvantage	Changing Futures Programme approved	July 2021	Strategic Housing and Projects Manager

Social Housing	New Allocation Scheme adopted	July 2022	Housing Options Manager / Strategic Housing and Projects Manager
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## Wards Affected

(All Wards);

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## Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score: 31

Have you used relevant project tools?: Y

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

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Y
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	N
Risk Management	Y
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	N
Economic/Financial Implications	Y
Human Rights Act	Y
Organisational Consequences	Y
Local People's Views	N
Anti-Poverty	Y
Legal	Y

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## 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.

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# Public Document Pack

## CABINET

16 JUNE 2021

Present: Councillors Forward (Chair), Barnett (Vice-Chair), Batsford\*, Evans\*, Rogers, Webb

\* The following councillors were not present in the meeting, but attended virtually via MS TEAMS – they did not take part in the formal decision-making process and did not vote.

### **339. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Councillor Chowney.

### **340. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None received.

### **341. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 be approved as a true 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 minutes number 5, 9 and 12 are agreed without being called for discussion.

#### **Update from the Managing Director:**

The Managing Director updated the Cabinet on the current response to the pandemic. Despite the low infection rate, the Council stays on the high alert in case of a major outbreak or need for surge testing for new virus variants. The Delta variant is now the main cause of concern. The vaccine rollout is positive. At present, efforts are made to facilitate access to vaccines and encourage more people to take the offer.

Council officers continue to support local business to keep them covid secure and support recovery from the losses from the last year. The delay in lifting the restrictions will have an impact on scheduled events, and colleagues are continuing to work closely with event organisers around very challenging decisions. The lifeguard service is in operation since the end of May. They saved three lives already.

Additional work is undertaken by the officers to facilitate safe Council operations and public meetings. We have submitted views to the government's call for evidence regarding the holding of virtual meetings, and hope that the situation can be addressed very quickly so that the decision about how and where councillors meet can reflect the circumstances we are living through.

The Chair thanked the officers for their work. She also extended her thanks to the lifeguards for saving lives and creating a safe environment for everyone.

## CABINET

16 JUNE 2021

### 342. WELCOME BACK FUND, CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND AND CULTURE RECOVERY FUND PROPOSALS

The Managing Director presented a report to advise the Cabinet of 3 funding opportunities, programme activities and seek delegated authority for each. The timescales of those projects were very challenging, not allowing much time for discussion, but the requirement has been recognised, and vital funding was granted. A detailed breakdown of the proposed spend is included in the report.

The Councillors discussed the benefits of the funding and how it will help to support local businesses, tourism, and culture in Hastings. They also recognised the efforts of cultural organisations that secured additional Culture Recovery money to support their work and restart cultural activities.

Councillor Barnett proposed approval of the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Webb.

#### **RESOLVED (unanimously):**

That the delegated authority is granted to the Managing Director or relevant nominee, in consultation with the Leader to:

- Submit funding application form (action plan), sign the grant funding agreement, sign any relevant service level agreement with delivery partners, and commence spend, in some cases at risk, for the welcome back funding proposed interventions as detailed in paragraph 14.
- From the Government's Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF), allocate £80,000 to the Environmental Health and Licensing Team to help reduce the spread of coronavirus and support public health initiatives, and £10,000 to the Parking Services Team towards enhancing communication via digital signage.
- Allocate the Culture Recovery Fund Grant to eligible costs in line with the funding scheme aims

#### **Reasons for Recommendations**

To ensure that the government's various Covid funding schemes are used to best effect in Hastings.

### 343. PARKING SPACES AT WINDING STREET

The Chief Finance Officer submitted the report to consider a request from the proposed new owners of the Isabel Blackman Centre (IBC) to have exclusive use of the parking spaces in Winding Street.



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

**RESOLVED:** Recommendation to full Council that terms be agreed to lease the parking spaces to the new owners of the IBC at less than Market Rent (Nil rent).

### **Reason for Recommendations:**

Use of the five parking spaces is considered essential by IBC for the practical operation of the centre and while letting at less than Market Value is a financial loss to the Council this is outweighed by the benefit to the Community as a whole.

### **344. CABINET APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

**The item was not completed before the meeting and therefore has been deferred to the next cabinet meeting under part 4, rule 13.3 of the Constitution.**

(No discussion shall take place on any items which have not been reserved. Items not reserved, including items requiring Council decision, shall be deemed adopted without discussion)

### **345. LEASE AND MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE BALE HOUSE (PART 1)**

The Environment and Natural Resources Manager presented a report to seek cabinet agreement on the draft Heads of Terms for the lease and management agreement for The Bale House Visitor Centre at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve with Groundwork South. A 10-year lease is proposed. The details of the draft lease and management agreement are included in the appendices in part 2 of the report.

The Councillors agreed that the Visitor Centre is a great asset to the town. It will benefit residents and tourists by enhancing the eco-tourism offer in the region and promoting the Hastings Country Park. Groundwork South are keen to make the centre accessible to people from all backgrounds. Apart from leisure facilities, they are aiming to create an education hub.

Councillors thanked the officers involved in the project.

Councillor Rogers proposed approval of the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Webb.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that:**

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1. Cabinet agree the draft Heads of Terms for the lease and management agreement with Groundwork South for the Bale House Visitor Centre at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve, and
2. Delegate authority to enter into a legal agreement for the lease and management agreement with Groundwork South to the Chief Legal Officer, in conjunction with the Assistant Director of Environment and Place, and the lead councillor for the Environment.

### Reasons for Recommendations

1. The Bale House is our new visitor centre at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve. It is due to open this Summer, 2021. Council Officers have negotiated a proposed 10-year agreement with Groundwork Trust to manage the centre on our behalf. Authorisation to proceed with a lease and management agreement are required to enable an operator to be appointed, so the new visitor centre can open this Summer.
2. The draft lease and the draft management agreement are commercially sensitive and are detailed in a Part 2 report.

### 346. BUCKSHOLE RESERVOIR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS - UPDATE PART 1

The Assistant Director Environment and Place submitted the report to update councillors on progress with this mandatory project to improve the safety of the reservoir and dam (as required by Reservoirs Act 1975 and subsequent guidance), including the results of the tender process highlighting the shortfall in the approved programme budget, and seeking approval to increase the budget to enable the project to proceed.

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

**RESOLVED:** Recommendation to authorise the capital and revenue budgets for this project to be increased (as detailed in the associated part 2 report on this agenda) to full council for approval.

### Reasons for Recommendations

1. The original estimates for the costs of the project were carefully developed by specialists before approval by cabinet on 6th January 2020. They included a 10% contingency sum and were also adjusted to take account of potential inflation between Autumn 2019 and Summer 2021, when the works were likely to be carried out. However, the tenders obtained through the East Sussex Procurement Hub in 2021 are significantly higher than the original estimates. There are well understood reasons for this, and these are set out in this report. They include

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the need to amend the specification to secure planning approval, and the significant financial impact of the pandemic and EU-exit on the UK construction and civil engineering sectors.

2. It is essential that this project goes ahead as the works are mandatory, and necessary to reduce the risk to life and property associated with a failure of the reservoir infrastructure. In addition, the council would be the subject of enforcement action by the Environment Agency were it not to comply with the guidance and complete the works as required by spring 2022

### **347. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**Resolved (unanimously)** 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.

The live stream ended, and the meeting proceeded in the private session.

### **348. LEASE AND MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE BALE HOUSE (PART 2)**

The Environment and Natural Resources Manager presented the report and appendices with the draft Heads of Terms for the lease and draft management agreement for the Bale House.

Councillors considered the report and appendices and discussed the catering provision arrangements.

Councillor Rogers proposed approval of the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Webb

#### **RESOLVED (unanimously) that:**

1. Cabinet agree the draft Heads of Terms for the lease and draft management agreement with Groundwork South for the Bale House Visitor Centre at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve, and

2. Delegate authority to enter into a legal agreement for the lease and management agreement with Groundwork South to the Chief Legal Officer, in conjunction with the Assistant Director of Environment and Place, and the lead councillor for the Environment.

### **349. BUCKSHOLE RESERVOIR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS - UPDATE PART 2**

The Assistant Director, Environment and Place, submitted the report to update councillors on progress with this mandatory project to improve the safety of the reservoir and dam (as required by Reservoirs Act 1975 and subsequent guidance), including the results of the tender process highlighting the shortfall in the approved

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programme budget, and seeking approval to increase the budget to enable the project to proceed.

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

**RESOLVED:** Recommendation to full council to authorise the capital and revenue budgets to be increased as stated in the report.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

As stated in item 9.

(The Chair closed the meeting at 18.37 PM)