

Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 5 September 2022



Notice dated: 06/09/22

Issued to all councillors and senior officers.

Please refer to the relevant cabinet agenda and reports when reading this notice. The minutes of the meeting of the cabinet will be published in due course. To view the cabinet reports please click [here](#).

These decisions will come into force on the expiry of three working days after the publication of this decision notice unless implemented sooner for reasons of urgency.

DECISIONS:

Item No	Matter	Decision	Reason(s) for Decision
4	Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report - 2021-22	1. To consider the report – no recommendations are being made to amend the current Treasury Management Strategy as a result of this review.	To ensure that Members are fully aware of the activities undertaken in the last financial year, that Codes of Practice have been complied with and that the Council's strategy has been effective in 2021-22. Under the Code adopted the Full Council are required to consider the report and any recommendations made. There will be a further report forthcoming on Treasury Management covering a review of the current financial year i.e. the Mid-year review.

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<p>5</p>	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy</p>	<p>That Cabinet agree:</p> <p>1) Officers continue with detailed work to bring forward business case options to the Executive designed to address the deficit by curbing unplanned cost increases, reduce core costs and/or increase income.</p> <p>2) Officers report monthly to the Executive on progress with developing and implementing the business cases, savings achieved/identified to date and the latest financial position.</p> <p>3) Officers provide regular updates to the Executive on all the other management action points listed in this report.</p> <p>4) An urgent review of all fees and charges be undertaken with the aim of implementing them as soon as legally possible (allowing for any statutory consultation periods).</p> <p>5) The council request that the LGA (Local Government Association) organise a finance peer challenge in early Spring 2023.</p> <p>6) A review of the capital programme is completed to ensure it is affordable and commencement of new capital schemes which require borrowing is restricted until the strategy to address the financial deficit has been determined. (*Exceptions to include schemes that demonstrate reduction in revenue costs, or where schemes are fully externally funded).</p> <p>7) A further, more detailed Medium Term Financial Strategy be brought to the October Cabinet meeting</p>	<p>Hastings Borough Council, like many other councils, is currently facing some of the biggest financial challenges and pressures in recent years, possibly ever. The ability to deliver key services to the most vulnerable is becoming increasingly hard to do. Static funding from Central Government, coupled with high cost of inflation on all services, rising homelessness and temporary accommodation costs, and tighter restrictions on how Councils can fund capital expenditure is providing a perfect storm.</p> <p>Under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it is a statutory requirement that Councils set a balanced revenue budget. A major overhaul of the funding mechanism for local authorities has continuously been postponed and when combined with a regular one-year spending reviews, continues to provide considerable uncertainty on funding in future years.</p> <p>The previous Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities committed to providing a two-year financial settlement for 2023/24 onwards,</p>
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setting out more detail of the strategy to address the budget deficit, including scenario planning, as well as in-year and other budget savings where these have been identified.

however until the new Prime Minister and Cabinet is in place, uncertainty remains as to whether this commitment will be realised.

Whilst a two-year financial settlement would be better for planning purposes than previous one year settlement figures, it does little to provide long term assurance and planning opportunities for Local Government finance teams across the country and Hastings is no different. The Council needs to be able to match its available resources to its priorities across the medium term and to maintain sufficient reserves and capacity to deal with potentially large and unexpected events, in addition to fluctuations in income and expenditure levels.

We have seen in recent years what impact Covid-19 had on our ability to deliver services and the wider economy, so we must be prudent to guard against similar unexpected and impactful local and even global events outside of our control.

It is therefore imperative that attention is drawn to the current and future financial position of Hastings Borough Council and that Members act immediately on the

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			<p>recommendations as outlined in this report.</p> <p>Failure to do so will result in a worsening financial position and likely issuing of a Section 114 notice in the forthcoming months.</p>
6	Cabinet Appointments to Committees, Working Groups and Partnerships	1. To appoint members to committees and working groups as set out in Appendix A	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.
8a	Bye Laws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks and Open Spaces	1. Cabinet considers the following report for presentation to an extraordinary Full Council meeting on 14th September 2022 to adopt the byelaws for pleasure grounds, public walks and open spaces and the revocation of existing byelaws stated in Section 1 of this report.	<p>1. The current byelaws for parks and open spaces are out of date. The proposed new single set of byelaws for pleasure grounds, public walks and open spaces will supersede the old byelaws which will be revoked by Full Council.</p> <p>2. The proposed byelaws have been approved by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities following public consultation and due legal process required to adopt new byelaws.</p>

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