

## Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 5 June 2023



### Notice dated: 6 June 2023

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	Response to council motion re: Hastings United Football Club proposal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That Cabinet note the history of the proposed scheme as set out in the report, the latest position and that for the reasons set out, agree that the scheme as proposed in November 2018, was and is not viable to be recommended to council.</li><li>2. That Cabinet note that no alternative provision for the football club infrastructure has been identified to date.</li><li>3. That HUFC be offered continued support to improve the condition of the playing pitch(s) and the stand and ensuring that they meet their maintenance and repair obligations under the existing lease.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A report setting out the current situation with Hastings United Football Club and reporting whether or not the scheme is viable to recommend to Council and to set out what alternative provision is available to allow HUFC to remain in Hastings was requested by a motion passed at Full Council on 15 December 2022.</li></ol>

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<p><b>5</b></p>	<p>Revision of Financial Assistance Policy</p>	<p>To delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive, or her nominee in consultation with the lead member for Planning, Governance and Community Safety, undertake the updates outlined in the appended Financial Assistance Policy, to enable the proposed new discretionary funding options to be implemented.</p> <p>That Cabinet note the Financial Assistance Policy will continue to be reviewed and updated when needed.</p> <p>To delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive, or her nominee, in consultation with the lead member for Planning, Governance and Community Safety, that the staffing within the Housing Renewal Team increases the level of In-House Occupational Therapists by seconding another Occupational Therapist to the team funded via the Disabled Facilities Grant. This will increase the number of occupational therapy staff to four, who will be specifically focused of the Hastings and St Leonards area and based at Hastings Borough Council. This is a budget growth item of between £40,836 - £52,896 per year and will be fully funded by the Disabled Facilities Grant.</p>	<p>To improve and enhance the assistance offered via the Disabled Facilities Grant to eligible residents in Hastings and St Leonards.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p>Internal Audit Arrangements 2023-24</p>	<p>1) Cabinet approves that the Orbis partnership is procured to provide the management of the Internal Audit Services for the 2023/24 Financial year with immediate effect and delegated decision to Chief Legal Officer to enter into agreement on behalf of Hastings Borough Council.</p>	<p>1. Following the retirement of the long-standing Chief Auditor in April 2023 from Hastings Borough Council, the Internal Audit team will now undergo a service review.</p>

## Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 5 June 2023

2) Cabinet approves that a service review of the Internal Audit Team is undertaken with a subsequent report to be brought back to Cabinet with recommendations for new arrangements to be in place by 1st April 2024.

2. Given the key role that Internal Audit plays in providing independent, objective assurance advice that adds value to, and improves an organisations operation, it is imperative that a fully resourced and experienced Audit team is in place for the 2023-24 financial year.

3. However, the timescales for looking at the longer-term options will mean that the team will be under resourced for a period of time that is considered unacceptable given the current risks to the organisation and therefore an interim solution is required with immediate effect.

4. Therefore, on an initial interim basis for the 2023-24 financial year it is recommended that Hastings Borough Council enters into an agreement with the Orbis Partnership (which currently includes East Sussex County Council, Surrey County Council, Brighton and Hove City Council and Horsham District Council) to provide Internal Audit Services for Hastings Borough Council.

5. The two current members of the Internal Audit team will continue to provide

**Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 5 June 2023**

			<p>the 'local' service whilst being supervised and overseen by the Orbis Partnership management Team. This will then allow a service review to be completed and future option analysis to be developed and agreed.</p> <p>6. The partnership will act as an advisor to the Council and provide the necessary experience and supervision required for this financial year whilst also assisting with the implementation plan for the agreed changes highlighted in the Value for Money Audit report 2020-21. The report was presented by the Councils External Auditors Grant Thornton at Audit Committee on 12th January 2023 and made a number of recommendations.</p> <p>7. The transfer of the management of the Internal Audit Services to Orbis will allow the service to improve resilience, give the Council access to further audit specialisms and allow the service to be benchmarked from specialists the Council could not afford in operating alone for this financial year.</p> <p>8. As part of the Councils ongoing</p>
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**Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 5 June 2023**

			commitment to training staff and Councillors, Orbis will also provide in house training for the Audit Committee, Councillors and Senior Leadership Team in order for them to better understand the role of the Audit Committee itself, as well as the role of the Internal Audit Team.
7	Cabinet Appointments to Committees, Working Groups and Partnerships	<p>1. To appoint councillors to cabinet committees, working groups, partnerships and representative bodies for the 2023/24 municipal year as set out in Appendix A and;</p> <p>2. To appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of Charity Committee as listed in Appendix A</p>	Councillors 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.

For further details please contact Committee Administration:

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