

Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 6 November 2023



Notice dated: 7th November 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
5	Hastings Town Deal programme update - Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations	Cabinet accepts the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report and recommendations.	Overview and Scrutiny recognise the successes and positive impact of the Town Deal Programme has had and would like this to continue. These recommendations are made to enable more future successes.
6	Hastings Town Deal Programme Update	1. To continue to progress the implementation of all projects making necessary adjustments as may be required in consultation with the Town Deal Board and the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC). 2. The Town Deal Board management team to	1. Through the investment provided by the Towns Fund Programme we will see the revival of Hastings Town Centre with investment in key heritage assets, buildings in the town centre, improvements in the public realm and creation of a 'garden town'. There will also

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		<p>incorporate key recommendations arising from the review of the programme by the Overview and Scrutiny committee on 18th October 2023.</p>	<p>be new 'environmental & green technology' business facilities with employment and training opportunities for local people.</p> <p>2. The Towns Fund projects approved for implementation have all successfully developed full business cases, which have been independently assessed and approved by the Town Deal Investment Panel, the Section 151 Officer and ratified by the Town Deal Board. The Project Summary documents have all been approved by DLUHC.</p> <p>3. All projects should be completed by end of March 2026.</p>
7	Financial Monitoring Report	<p>To note the contents of the report, and the actions within the conclusion and management action section.</p>	<p>To assist the Council in understanding the financial position and particularly areas of over and under spend. Early indications of emerging overspends can allow management action to be targeted to those areas.</p> <p>This monitoring assists in identifying areas for review in the production of the 2024/25 budget and the impact of the 2023/24 outturn on the reserves position.</p>

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8	Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	<p>1) Approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>2) The Council continues to take a proactive and robust approach to delaying or ceasing all Capital programme expenditure not deemed to be of a legal or statutory responsibility or can demonstrate a clear reduction of revenue expenditure.</p> <p>3) The Council continues to evaluate the current asset portfolio and identify any suitable potential disposal options to generate additional Capital receipts to alleviate financial burdens around borrowing costs for the current Capital programme.</p> <p>4) The Council reviews its new Council wide financial restrictions, (brought in from October 2023) for its effectiveness, financial results, and organisational impact.</p> <p>5) Service cost areas are reduced in the current and future financial years, to provide the necessary savings to balance the budget, with a pre-Section 114 approach.</p> <p>6) The Council continues to focus on reducing the</p>	<p>Hastings Borough Council, like many other councils, is continuing to face some of the biggest financial challenges and pressures in recent years, possibly ever.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>
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		<p>temporary housing expenditure, with the requirement of producing a Housing and Homelessness strategy outlining how those costs are to be reduced before 2025/26.</p> <p>7) The Council commits to implementing and co-ordinating its individual strategies to align with one single long term overall Corporate Plan. This includes Green Initiatives, Housing and Homelessness, Cultural Regeneration, IT, HR (including Equalities), Capital Financing and Asset Management.</p> <p>8) Full Council to note the actions to address the Budget deficit and if no conclusive savings identified, that the issue of a Section 114 notice will take place in 2024/25.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In a previous Medium Term Financial Strategy update report to Cabinet back in September 2022, and then reinforced as part of the Budget report agreed by Council in February 2023, it highlighted the need for the council to reduce its direct service expenditure, in particular, the escalating temporary accommodation costs for homelessness.</p> <p>As outlined as part of the regular financial monitoring reports which include a MTFS update appendix, those same temporary</p>
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			<p>housing costs, (as well as some unavoidable additional costs elsewhere) have worsened the financial position rather than improve it.</p> <p>This has resulted in further additional savings needing to be identified in order to balance the budget in the current and future financial years and the Council has brought in additional financial restrictions across the organisation from October 2023.</p>
9	Interim review of polling places and polling districts 2023	<p>1. To recommend that Council adopts the (Acting) Returning Officer's recommendations (as appended to this report) and publish the results of the interim review</p> <p>2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to amend any decisions made under this review with regard to polling places or polling stations, should there be an urgent or necessary need.</p>	Due to the recent completion of the Boundary Commission for England's review of parliamentary constituencies, the council were advised to carry out an interim review of its polling districts and places.
11	Home Adaptation Support Service (HASS) Contract Tender	1. To request agreement from Cabinet, in line with the delegation of authority and procurement rules, to go out to tender to secure a new home adaptation	1. The Home Adaptation Support Service (HASS) provides a vital service to the very large majority of residents who

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		<p>support service.</p> <p>2. To request delegated authority to award the contract to the successful bidding party, following due process, to the Head of Housing, in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning, Governance, Community Safety and Disabled Access.</p>	<p>receive a Disabled Facilities Grant. It is important that this service operates effectively, efficiently and with a high regard for customer service.</p> <p>2. The contract for the HASS is due to expire at the end of March 2024, and given the value of the contact a full tendering exercise needs to be undertaken.</p>
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