

Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 4 March 2024



Notice dated: 5th March 2024

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	Financial Monitoring Report	To note the contents of the report, and the actions within the conclusion and management action section.	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. 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.

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6	Update on various key government external initiatives.	<p>1. Hastings Borough Council act as the accountable body for the Levelling Up Partnership programme and the Long-Term Plan for Towns programmes.</p> <p>2. Authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Section 151 Officer, in agreement with the government office to make proper arrangements for the delivery of the programmes and expenditure of government funding as follows:</p> <p>a. To manage the Levelling Up Partnership programme, maximising use of the capacity funding (£90k for 2023/2025) provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)</p> <p>b. Make payments to relevant organisations to deliver the Levelling Up Partnership projects as determined by DLUHC.</p> <p>c. Make arrangements for the Long-Term Plan for Towns capacity funding (£50k for 23/24 and £200k for 2024/2025) provided by DLUHC to establish the ‘new’ Town Board and develop the Long-Term Town Investment Plan in accordance with guidance.</p> <p>d. Make arrangements for the allocation of payments for delivery of the Long-Term Town Plan projects as agreed by the new Hastings Board.</p>	<p>1. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has allocated two significant funding streams to Hastings. The Council is the accountable body for the two programmes and arrangements therefore need to put in place for the proper management, governance, delivery, and monitoring of the programmes, as well as the distribution of the funds, in line with DLUHC guidance.</p> <p>2. The timelines for delivery and ensuring all the new programme arrangements are in place are challenging, hence the need to bring forward a combined report.</p> <p>3. The Swimming Pool Support Fund has approved funding which is specific to capital investment in Summerfields Leisure Centre.</p>
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3. Authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Section 151 Officer to deliver a Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme, maximising use of the (potential) capacity funding (£1.9million) for 2024-28 and (potential) capital funding of £3.5 million for the same period.

4. Progress with delivery of the Town Deal Programme and UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme be noted.

5. The Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund offer be accepted, and the new capital investment to be installed by the March 2025 deadline.

6. Following a successful expression of interest (EOI), officers proceed to work with local people and a consortium to scope and develop a full application to the PlayZone programme (targeted at enhancing and modernising our multi-use games areas) and explore with partners options to secure the 25% match funding required for the application. The PlayZone programme prioritises engaging with groups with the greatest inequalities in physical activity, including women and girls.

7. Amend paragraph 10 of the covering report to

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		<p>read “The government has provided £50,000 capacity funding to cover the upfront costs for setting up a new Town Board by 1 April 2024. The Hastings Board will be focused on the key thematic areas of the fund. Work is underway to review the terms of reference and membership of the Hastings Board.”</p>	
7	Climate Change progress update	<p>1. To acknowledge the progress made against the actions of the climate emergency action plan since the last report to Cabinet in November 2022.</p> <p>2. To acknowledge the new monitoring of performance.</p> <p>3. To acknowledge the need for Service Area and wider partners collaborative working.</p>	<p>1. To recognise the achievements to date since the update to the action plan in November 2022.</p> <p>2. This report covers the period November 2022 to November 2023.</p>
8	Energy Procurement - Gas Contract 2024	<p>1. Acknowledge the change from the Laser Framework to eEnergy.</p> <p>2. Acknowledge the option to include Green Gas in the tender.</p> <p>3. To delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer,</p>	<p>1. The Council's Constitution, Part 9 Financial Rules Section 3, requires Cabinet approval for expenditure exceeding £200,000.</p> <p>2. The Council's gas contract with the Laser purchasing group ends on 30th September 2024. A decision needs to be made about procurement options by</p>

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		<p>in consultation with the Finance Portfolio Lead Member, to finalise the agreements.</p>	<p>March 2024 to ensure a new supplier can secure the Council’s energy needs from the energy market, six months in advance of the new supplier commencing.</p> <p>3. The council changed to eEnergy from Laser for the electricity procurement in October 2023 for a period to September 2026.</p> <p>4. In line with the councils Net Zero target of 2030, as part of the tender process officers will include an option for tendering green gas alongside traditional gas to check competitiveness and procure green gas if it is a financially viable option.</p> <p>5. Delegated Authority is required as the tendering process happens within a single day and therefore there is no timeframe to delay the decision.</p>
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