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CABINET

8 JANUARY 2018

Present: Councillors Chowney (Chair), Forward, Batsford, Fitzgerald, Poole, Beaney, Lee and Patmore.

56. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 December 2017 be approved as a correct 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 minute number 4 was agreed without being called for discussion.

57. YOUTH COUNCIL MANIFESTO

The report of the Assistant Director for Regeneration and Culture shared the Hastings Youth Council manifesto with elected members, and sought support from cabinet to back the youth council's aims and vision.

The manifesto set out the vision, values and purpose the Youth Council had agreed. It was noted that the Youth Council is a very active organisation, supporting a wide range of events which focus on issues affecting the young people of Hastings, and the wider community. Thanks were given to the Community Cohesion and Support Officer for his work to support the Youth Council. The point was made that this model of Youth Council is used in other parts of the country, with the Hastings Youth Council setting a precedent. Members were advised that 2018 will be the 20th Anniversary of the Youth Council, and the cabinet wished the organisation many more successful years.

The recommendation was moved by Councillor Forward, and seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

- 1. Hastings Borough Council supports the Hastings Youth Council manifesto**
- 2. Hastings Borough Council supports the Hastings Youth Council's vision and aims for the young people of Hastings.**

Reasons for the Recommendations:

Hastings Youth Council is endorsed by Hastings Borough Council, it provides a method to actively engage with young people from the borough and help shape policy. The aims of the Youth Manifesto are consistent with the council's own mission statement.

CABINET

8 JANUARY 2018

58. HASTINGS MUSEUM STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

The Assistant Director for Regeneration and Culture presented a report which summarised recent strategic and project development at Hastings Museum. The report summarised the findings of the earlier resilience programme Finding Our Place, which had been funded by Arts Council England, and recommended the next steps in the process.

A recent review had identified potential to enhance the museum as a visitor attraction and community resource. It was also noted that the museum would be important to broader plans for the White Rock area. In order to realise this potential, it was proposed to submit a major funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to support significant improvement works to the layout and facilities at the museum. Developing this bid was outside the capacity of the existing team, and it was therefore recommended that the council apply for funding from the HLF resilient heritage scheme to gain external expertise to develop and submit the capital bid.

Thanks were given to the officers involved with the cultural regeneration of the town, as well as the museum team and association who have all worked hard to keep the museum at a high standard.

Councillor Forward moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Poole.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

- 1. The council support the proposal to apply for Heritage Lottery Fund Resilience funding in order to develop a capital bid.**
- 2. That the budget is amended to take into account the income and expenditure involved in the event of a successful bid.**

Reasons for these Recommendations:

To support the development and long term sustainability of Hastings Museum and Art Gallery so that it can contribute fully to the culture-led regeneration of the town and quality of life of residents.

59. LIFEGUARD SERVICE

The Assistant Director for Regeneration and Culture presented a report, which recommended to cabinet that the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) be appointed to operate the Hastings' beach lifeguard service for three years (the 2018, 2019 and 2020 seasons). The report sought cabinet authority to appoint the RNLI without going through the competitive tendering procedures.

CABINET

8 JANUARY 2018

The RNLI had piloted their lifeguard service in Hastings throughout the 2017 summer season. The pilot had shown that the RNLI can provide a more comprehensive service at a lower cost than the council could offer in-house. The Charity Committee had considered a similar report at their meeting in December, when they approved a three year contract for the RNLI to provide a beach lifeguard service on behalf of the Foreshore Trust.

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

RESOLVED that:

- 1. A three year contract with the RNLI to provide our beach lifeguard service covering the 2018, 2019 and 2020 seasons is entered into, and that the RNLI are appointed without going through the competitive tendering procedures.**
- 2. Authority is delegated to the director of operational services or his nominee, in consultation with the lead member responsible for resort services and the chair of the charity committee, to conclude the necessary legal agreements.**

Reasons for these Recommendations:

Because the RNLI, the 'gold standard' of lifesaving at sea, is able to provide a better service at a lower cost than we can provide in-house, whilst paying the lifeguards more than we were paying them when the service was operated in-house.

60. PROPOSAL FOR LOCAL NATURE RESERVES

The Environment and Natural Resources Manager presented the report of the Assistant Director, Environment and Place, which sought approval to proceed with the legal process for declaring Ponds Wood Local Wildlife Site a Local Nature Reserve. It was also proposed to extend the boundary of Churchwood Local Nature Reserve to include the area known as Robsack Meadow.

The council had a long standing commitment to maintain open spaces in the borough and safeguard biodiversity and important habitats. There were currently 7 local nature reserves (LNR) in the borough.

Natural England had had been consulted on the proposals and supported the approach set out in the report. Following the cabinet meeting, the council would complete the legal process by registering the declaration with Natural England, advertising the proposals in an appropriate local paper and allowing the public to inspect the declaration and the boundary map free of charge. A copy of the press notice will also be available on the council's website. The press notice would be for public information and will not be the commencement of public consultation.

CABINET

8 JANUARY 2018

Councillor Fitzgerald moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Lee.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

- 1. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Environment and Place and the Chief Legal officer to proceed with the legal process for Local Nature Reserve declaration of Ponds Wood and the extension of Churchwood Local Nature Reserve, under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended), and;**
- 2. Publish a declaration notice in the local press and on the council's web site to allow the public to inspect the declaration and the boundary map free of charge and send a copy of the declaration to Natural England.**

Reason for Recommendations:

The Council has had a long standing ambition to declare Ponds Wood a Local Nature Reserve and to extend the boundary of Churchwood Local Nature Reserve to include the area known as Robsack Meadow.

61. MINUTES OF THE MUSEUMS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2017

The minutes of the Museums Committee meeting held on 27 November 2017 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Museum Committee meeting held on 27 November 2017 be received and agreed.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.22 pm)