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CABINET

5 JULY 2021

Present: Councillors Forward (Chair), Barnett (Vice-Chair), Batsford, Chowney* Evans*, Rogers*, Webb.

* The following Councillors were not present in person but attended virtually via MS TEAMS – they did not take part in the formal decision-making process and did not vote.

353. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence.

354. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor	Item	Interest
Webb	355	Personal – member of East Sussex County Council Health and Wellbeing Board.

355. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Chair requested that the minutes of the last meeting be amended so that the note underneath attendance reads ‘The following Councillors were not present in person but attended virtually.’

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2021 be approved as a true record.

The Managing Director gave a verbal update on the Covid-19 pandemic in Hastings. The latest data for Hastings shows a rate of 221 infections per 100,000 people. Whilst a small number are hospitalised, the biggest impact at the moment is on business continuity within education and workplaces. The large numbers of people needing to isolate is affecting schools and hospitality in particular.

The Director of Public Health for East Sussex has welcomed the council’s support in highlighting the ongoing need for continued testing and the importance of all over-18’s getting their vaccination as soon as possible.

The current concern is that the virus may continue to spread in the community and mutate into a vaccine resistant variant. There is also worry about the impact of long-covid symptoms on those who have caught the virus.

The advice of the Director of Public Health is that even though rules are being relaxed residents should continue to proceed with caution in order to protect others.

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The Council is working with voluntary and community sector partners to work out how best to engage the 6000 local people in the most vulnerable groups who remain unvaccinated.

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 356 are agreed without being called for discussion.

356. PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR 2021

The Managing Director submitted a report to outline the Programme for the Year 2021/22 headlines, and intentions to integrate these where appropriate into existing performance monitoring arrangements.

Traditionally at the Annual meeting of the Council, the Programme for the Year is debated, agreed and then integrated into service delivery arrangements.

Given the ongoing pandemic, combined with the recent requirement to host face to face meetings, both political group Leaders, (who have a right to speak on this item at Annual Council) agreed to postpone debate on the Programme for the Year until the July Council meeting.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Programme for the Year headlines are agreed and then integrated where required into the Council's Corporate Plan and Budget performance monitoring arrangements.

Reasons:

To ensure alignment of Programme for the Year commitments with those already agreed by full Council in the Corporate Plan.

357. HOMELESSNESS RECOVERY PLAN

The Assistant Director, Housing and Built Environment, presented a report to set out some of the new projects and services that have been developed to continue to improve homelessness prevention services, during the pandemic recovery period.

The report highlights the very successful work that the council has been undertaking to develop and extend its homelessness service. Additional resources have been

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secured, partly through partnership working, to support the homelessness service and further funding bids have been submitted to central government.

The proposals in the report include a continued commitment to reduce rough sleeping in Hastings; measures to assist those who are fleeing domestic abuse; measures to support those leaving prison who are at risk of reoffending due to rough sleeping; and a wider review of the council's housing allocation system.

The Strategic Housing and Projects Manager gave an overview of the projects proposed in the report.

The Leader of the Council said she was very proud of the work Hastings Borough Council and partners are undertaking to try and ensure everyone has a safe and secure home.

Councillor Batsford proposed approval of the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Barnett.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

1. That the notice period for people to leave discretionary temporary accommodation placements is extended from 1 week to 3 weeks until mid-August 2021

2. That Cabinet recommend to Full Council to amend the council's capital programme to include £1,855,000 for the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme, including match funding of £834,750 provided by the council

Subject to approval of the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme bid:

3. Delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director for Housing and Built Environment, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing, to vary our existing Housing First contract under urgency provisions (paragraph 21c of the Financial Operating Procedures)

Subject to approval of the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders bid:

4. Delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director for Housing and Built Environment, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing, to vary our existing Rapid Rehousing Pathway contract under urgency provisions (paragraph 21c of the Financial Operating Procedures)

Reasons:

The council has been working in partnership with a range of statutory and voluntary sector organisations to develop additional services to support those in need. Demand for the council's homelessness services has remained high during the pandemic and

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is expected to continue to increase in the months to come.

2. That Cabinet recommend to Full Council to amend the council's capital programme to include £1,855,000 for the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme, including match funding of £834,750 provided by the council

Subject to approval of the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme bid:

3. Delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director for Housing and Built Environment, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing, to vary our existing Housing First contract under urgency provisions (paragraph 21c of the Financial Operating Procedures)

Subject to approval of the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders bid:

4. Delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director for Housing and Built Environment, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing, to vary our existing Rapid Rehousing Pathway contract under urgency provisions (paragraph 21c of the Financial Operating Procedures)

358. LAND AT WHITWORTH ROAD (PART 2)

This item was deferred.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.29pm)