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CABINET

5 JUNE 2023

Present: Councillors Barnett (Chair), Evans (Vice-Chair), Batsford, Cannan, Roark, Rogers and Willis.

In attendance: Jane Hartnell (Chief Executive), Mary Kilner (Chief Legal Officer), Kit Wheeler (Chief Finance Officer) and Sandra Thornton (Housing Renewal Manager).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor	Item	Interest
Roark	4 – Response to Council Motion Re: Hastings United Football Club Proposal	Personal – Son plays youth football locally

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2023 be approved as a true record.

4. RESPONSE TO COUNCIL MOTION RE: HASTINGS UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB PROPOSAL

The Chief Executive presented a report outlining the history of the proposed scheme and the latest position, as requested by a motion passed at Full Council on 15th December 2022.

In conclusion, for the reasons outlined in the report, there is no viable scheme that can be recommended at this time. The council remains committed to working with all those involve with Hastings United Football Club.

Councillor Turner was present and asked what was being done to force the owners of the football club to maintain the ground and facilities?

Councillor Carr was present and asked why the report took so long to prepare and why weren't Hastings United consulted as part of the preparations for the report?

The Chief Executive responded that the club have a full repairing lease on the Pilot Field site. The council owns and leases many sites across the Borough and does not have the capacity to inspect all of these on a regular basis. The FA manages the

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suitability of football playing fields and East Sussex County Council is responsible for ensuring the facilities at the Pilot Field meet required safety standards.

Councillor Barnett said the council will continue to support sport in Hastings and will seek external investment to improve local sport facilities. The council will look at sustainable ways to support Hastings United going forward.

Councillor Willis proposed approval of the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Cannan.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- 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.**
- 2. That Cabinet note that no alternative provision for the football club infrastructure has been identified to date.**
- 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.**

Reasons:

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.

5. REVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

The Housing Renewal Manager presented a report to update the current Financial Assistance Policy (2019-2023). The purpose being to improve and enhance the assistance offered via the Disabled Facilities Grant to eligible residents in Hastings and St Leonards.

The Financial Assistance Policy is due for review and there has been a specific focus on Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) as this is the only grant support the council can offer at this time. The criteria and eligibility for DFG, and the types of work that can be covered, are specified in legislation and grants are administered through a joint approach between East Sussex County Council Adult Social Care and Hastings

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Borough Council.

The review is an opportunity to make sure that grants are getting out to people who need them. The council has some discretion on the use of DFG, within defined criteria. The review of the existing policy has been informed by the latest guidance, practices at other district and borough councils and officer experience.

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

RESOLVED:

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.

That Cabinet note the Financial Assistance Policy will continue to be reviewed and updated when needed.

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.

Reasons:

The purpose being to improve and enhance the assistance offered via the Disabled Facilities Grant to eligible residents in Hastings and St Leonards.

6. INTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS 2023-24

The Chief Finance Officer presented a report to consider interim arrangements for Internal Audit Services at Hastings Borough Council in 2023-24.

These arrangements will allow the council to gain from the expertise within the Orbis Partnership particularly in relation to areas that can be difficult to audit.

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Councillor Willis proposed approval of the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Evans.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

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.

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.

Reasons:

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.
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 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.
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

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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.

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.

8. As part of the Councils ongoing 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

The Chief Legal Officer presented a report to consider the nominations received and to make appointments to cabinet committees, working groups and partnerships.

Further nominations were received at the meeting:

- Councillor Edwards to be appointed to the Member Training and Development Group
- Councillor Foster to be appointed to the Personnel Consultative Group
- Councillor Beaney to be appointed to the Combe Haven Community Interest Company
- Councillor Hilton to be appointed to the Hastings Week Committee

The Chief Legal Officer stated that Councillor John Cannan was nominated to the Chair of the Charity Committee and Councillor Judy Rogers was nominated as Vice Chair of the Charity Committee.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously):

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;

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2. To appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of Charity Committee as listed in Appendix A

Reasons:

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.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.15pm)

**HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, EXTERNAL BOARDS AND
PARTNERSHIPS**



Cabinet Committees	Seats	Allocation to political groups			Nominations for 2023/24			Notes
		LAB	CON	GRN	LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN	
Charity Committee	3	3			1. John Cannan (Chair) 2. Judy Rogers (Vice-Chair) 3. Andy Batsford			Chair is a non-portfolio holder member of Cabinet
Discretionary Rate Relief Appeal Panel	Dependent on size of cabinet	6			1. Maya Evans 2. Andy Batsford 3. John Cannan 4. Ali Roark 5. Judy Rogers 6. Simon Willis			All Members of Cabinet, excluding the Leader, to be appointed to the Panel

Licensing Committee (Scrap Metal Dealers)	Dependent on size of cabinet	6			1. Maya Evans 2. Andy Batsford 3. John Cannan 4. Ali Roark 5. Judy Rogers 6. Simon Willis			All Members of Cabinet, excluding the Leader, to be appointed to the committee. Functions relating to the licensing of Scrap Metal Dealers as set out in the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 or by virtue of any amending or consolidating legislation and any regulations made under the Act as such amending or consolidating legislation.
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Joint Committees	Seats	Allocation to political groups			Nominations for 2023/24			Notes
		LAB	CON	GRN	LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN	
Joint Waste Committee	2	2			1. Paul Barnett 2. Ali Roark			Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Environment

Working Groups etc	Seats	Allocation to political groups			Nominations for 2023/24			Notes
		LAB	CON	GRN	LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN	
Working Arrangements Committee	5	2	2	1	1. Judy Rogers (Chair) 2. Simon Willis	1. Andy Patmore (Vice-Chair) 2. Peter Pragnell	1. Julia Hilton	Opposition member is Vice-Chair
Member Training and Development Group	4	2	1	1	1. Judy Rogers (Chair) 2. Ali Roark (Vice-Chair)	1. Mike Edwards	1. Glenn Haffenden	Lead Member is chair
Hastings Country Park Management Forum	5	2	2	1	1. Ali Roark (Chair) 2. Simon Willis (Vice-Chair)	1. Mike Edwards 2. Alan Hay	1. Julia Hilton	Lead Member is chair
Order of 1066	4	2	1	1	1. Mayor: Margi O'Callaghan 2. Deputy Mayor: Heather Bishop	1. Sorrell Marlow-Eastwood	1. Claire Carr	To comprise Mayor, Deputy Mayor & 1 member from each other Political Group
Personnel Consultative Group	4	2	1	1	1. Paul Barnett (Chair) 2. Maya Evans (Vice-Chair)	1. Paul Foster	1. Glenn Haffenden	

Partnerships	Seats	Allocation to political groups			Nominations for 2023/24			Notes
		LAB	CON	GRN	LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN	
Stade Partnership	2	1		1	1. James Bacon		1. Julia Hilton	Old Hastings ward members
Hastings Local Strategic Partnership	3	1	1	1	1. Paul Barnett	2. Andy Patmore	3. Julia Hilton	
Joint Advisory Committee for the High Weald AONB	1	1			1. Maya Evans			
Safer Hastings and Rother Partnership	1	1			1. Judy Rogers			Relevant Lead Member
Combe Haven Community Interest Company	1		1			1. Karl Beaney		Ward Councillor (West St Leonards)
Optivo Hastings Area Panel	1	1			1. Maya Evans			Relevant Lead Member
Police and Crime Panel	1	1			1. Judy Rogers			Relevant Lead Member
East Sussex Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel	1	1			1. Mike Turner			Needs to be a non-executive Member.
East Sussex Community Safety Partnership	1	1			1. Judy Rogers			Needs to be either the Chair of the Safer Hastings Partnership or a member of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel.

Hastings and Rother Transport Action Group		2			1. Andy Batsford 2. Ali Roark			Relevant Lead Members.
Hastings Overseas Student Advisory Council	3	2	1		1. Andy Batsford 2.	1. Sorrell Marlow-Eastwood		

External Boards	Seats	Allocation to political groups			Nominations for 2023/24			Notes
		LAB	CON	GRN	LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN	
Hastings Week Committee	4	1	1	1	1. Margi O'Callaghan 2. Heather Bishop 3. Alan Roberts	1. Rob Cooke	1. Julia Hilton	Mayor and Deputy Mayor ex-officio members
Court of the University of Sussex	1	1			1. Mike Turner			
Magdalen & Lasher Charity	3	2	1		1. James Bacon 2.	1. Peter Pragnell		

Representative Bodies	Seats	Appointments for 2023/24
Health & Wellbeing Board	1 (not to be the Health Overview and Scrutiny Member)	Andy Batsford
Local Government Association - National Body	1	Paul Barnett
Local Government Association - Urban Commission	1	Paul Barnett
Local Government Association - Coastal Issues Group	1	Paul Barnett
South East England Councils	1	Paul Barnett