

Report To:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	6th November
Report Title:	Overview and Scrutiny: Hastings Town Deal Programme Update report recommendations
Report By:	Coral Harding (Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Officer)
Key Decision:	N
Classification:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Response

Purpose of Report

Overview and Scrutiny committee met on 18th October 2023 to review the forthcoming Cabinet report Hastings Town Deal Programme Update. As a result of their discussions, they have the following additional recommendations they believe will enhance ongoing projects and potential similar future schemes.

Recommendation(s)

Overview and Scrutiny's additional recommendations are as followed;

- 1. Overview and Scrutiny recommend that auditing processes need to improve as part of the Town Deal. Overview and Scrutiny welcome the move to collate relevant safety certificates from project leads before full payments are released. There may be other auditing processes that are needed to be considered for different projects.**
- 2. Overview and Scrutiny request to see better ongoing monitoring of projects already delivered and maintain up-to-date public information on the Town Deal website to reflect project progress, success, or failure.**
- 3. Overview and Scrutiny recommend any potential legal dispute highlighted and investigated in full due to the high risk impact these could have.**
- 4. Overview and Scrutiny recommend local specialists, where available, should be used to look at initial business cases. Overview and Scrutiny believe this expertise would highlight concerns and potential issues about projects.**
- 5. Overview and Scrutiny request to see the Community Engagement Plan interact with the public positively. Better consultation and involvement is key. Small changes such as making clear project deadlines in reports would make it clearer to the public about when they can expect to see project outcomes. They would also like to see the website maintained regularly as this forms a key part of public communication.**

6. **Overview and Scrutiny welcome efforts to broaden and diversify the Town Deal Boards. They would like to see a broader range of expertise utilised to find the best projects for Hastings and wider and earlier town wide conversations to join up different initiatives.**
7. **Overview and Scrutiny recommend seeing the project employment opportunities monitored. Some projects have not produced the levels of local employment initially claimed.**
8. **Overview and Scrutiny request to see some estimates of the impact on income generation in the Hastings that the projects have produced. For example, through potential increases in business rates, visitor figures or employment.**
9. **Overview and Scrutiny request to see that the experience and qualifications projects produce for local people are relevant and accepted by employers and industries. Local people deserve opportunities to help them gain a positive future.**
10. **Overview and Scrutiny request information on how the towns current flood risks are impacting the delivery of the Town Deal projects.**
11. **Overview and Scrutiny request the opportunity to review reports on the council's projects for Hastings Castle and the Town Living project at an early stage.**

Reasons for 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.

Introduction

1. Overview and Scrutiny met on Wednesday 18th October 2023 to discuss the forthcoming November Cabinet report 'Hastings Town Deal Programme Update'.
2. The report was reviewed as part of a pre scrutiny decision making process. This process allows Overview and Scrutiny to identify and look at a planned Cabinet decision shortly before it is made.
3. Planned Cabinet decisions are publicly available as part of the Forward Plan and are published on our website. The Forward Plan shows the next 4 months planned decisions.
4. Overview and Scrutiny use the Forward plan to identify if there are reports that they wish to look at before the decision is made. The committee will seek more information about the item. This is the pre scrutiny decision making process.

Overview and Scrutiny Meeting

5. Overview and Scrutiny were given the opportunity to review the report prior to meeting with Officers and Lead members.
6. Overview and Scrutiny came up with the questions. These are contained in Appendix A and this formed the basis of initial enquiries at the meeting.
7. Councillor Batsford, Councillor Evans, the Economic Development Manager, Town Fund Project & Finance Officer and Chief Executive attended the meeting on 18th October 2023 to help answer the committees questions.
8. The meeting papers can be found here; [Modern Gov](#)
9. The meeting video can be found here; [Overview and Scrutiny - 18 October 2023 | Hastings Borough Council](#)

Recommendations

10. Overview and Scrutiny recommendations are made after the meeting they had with Lead Members and Officers. Overview and Scrutiny would like to thank them for their attendance. The information provided at the meeting was incredibly useful to the committee in making their recommendations.
11. The recommendations are made to ensure that the Town Deal projects continue to benefit the residents of Hastings.
12. They include requesting additional audit processes, monitoring activities and the use of local expertise.
13. It is Overview and Scrutiny's belief that this will produce additional successes from the Town Deal programme and will allow any future scheme to thrive.

Timetable of Next Steps

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Report added to Town Deal Update Programme Cabinet Item	Cabinet	6 th November 2023	Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Officer

Wards Affected

None

Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score:

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Y
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Y
Risk Management	Y
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	Y
Economic/Financial Implications	Y
Human Rights Act	Y
Organisational Consequences	Y
Local People's Views	Y
Anti-Poverty	Y
Legal	Y

Additional Information

Appendix A: Original Overview and Scrutiny Town Deal Questions

Officer to Contact

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