

- a) Given the issues around Owens including it appears, no final sign off of the building for safety and local builders being left with significant debts as well as the sudden closing of the business resulting in many people losing their jobs, what auditing processes are in place to ensure work is completed satisfactorily before payment is made from the Town Deal funds.
- b) If there are no current auditing processes what will be put in place to ensure staged works are completed satisfactorily and contractors paid for the remaining Town Deal projects?
It may be that either audit or O and S needs to get regular progress reports on Town Deal projects to provide proper scrutiny.
O and S should see the business case documents submitted for the contribution to the Owens development. Given such an early failure in the enterprise it seems clear that the business case was not sufficiently thorough.
- c) Priory Meadow – Job Centre Plus was in the building for a very short time, this again indicates a failure in the business case. What reasons were given firstly for moving into the building and then very quickly moving out?
- d) Hastings Castle
Very concerned to learn more about the models of operation being considered for this as there are dangers in giving away too much control of what is delivered here. Would be keen to see this come to O and S for discussion before final decision made. Surely there is a high risk of this project not being delivered by 2026 given we don't even have an operator/designer for the project?
- e) Green Construction, Energy and Vehicle Training Centre
Do we have information on the curriculum for this new centre yet? Green construction could also include learning skills to work with natural building materials which are also relevant to maintaining the fabric of the many historic buildings in the town. There is a huge shortage of builders with skills to understand the repair, retrofit and maintenance of historic buildings.
- f) Town centre living
What will happen to this building now which we know is in desperate need of repair? The housing taskforce visited Eastbourne last week and saw how the in house team had tackled converting a similarly derelict historic building into TA. Are any efforts being made to engage the inhouse team from Eastbourne/Lewes to bring their skill set to bear on this building?
- g) There is still £80k allocated to Priory St/ESK. What was this spent on?
- h) Has any calculation been undertaken as to what increase in income to the council there is likely to be from the increase in council tax and business rates on all the proposed Town Deal projects?
- i) Only 12 out of 29 units let at Churchfield Business Centre so far. This seems slow, are you confident that the remaining units will be let? What feedback

have you had so far on reasons for both taking units on and not taking units on?

- j) Priory St report – appendix states report will be public in Oct 2023. So can O and S see this report?
- k) How are we monitoring employment targets? Are we assessing quality of jobs created?
- l) Public Realm and green connections project – timeline is unbelievably ambitious for such a large scale scheme especially since we have lost a year to procurement processes
- m) It's extremely frustrating that thinking processes so far on Hastings Castle and Town centre living as well as (under a different funding stream) the proposed new leisure centre, have not been more widely shared or the wider councillor group invited to comment and input at an early stage. I would like to hear how members will be engaged in these important projects for the town.