

<p style="text-align: center;">CABINET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">held on Wednesday 6 March 2002</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESENT:-</p> <p>Councillor MARSDEN (Chairman and Leader of the Council), Councillors Mrs GOODALL, Mrs MURRAY and TAYLOR.</p> <p>[An apology for absence was reported from Councillor LACEY OBE (Deputy Chairman)]</p>		
<p>130.</p>	<p>MINUTES. The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2002 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.</p>	
<p>131.</p>	<p>HERITAGE ECONOMIC REGENERATION SCHEME (HERS) – GRANT OFFER – 78/86 SEASIDE ROAD. Councillor Mrs Murray presented the report of the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities on proposals to offer grant under the Eastbourne Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme for the comprehensive repair and reinstatement of a pair of Victorian villas at 78 – 86 Seaside Road, Eastbourne. The buildings dated from around 1860 and were considered to be of considerable architectural interest. The demolition of the shop fronts would allow the properties to regain their original form.</p> <p>The estimated cost of the work to renovate and convert the property into self-contained flats was in excess of £350,000. Grant eligible works amounted to £146,287 and a grant of £50,000 was proposed. £41,500 was available in the current year’s grant budget. The balance of £8,500 would be allocated from next year’s budget. English Heritage who contributed half of the funds in the Council’s grant budget had given their approval to the award grant.</p> <p>The Cabinet had considered an earlier report in April 2001 when use of compulsory purchase powers had been sanctioned. Subsequently the owner had sold the properties to the owner of adjoining properties. Both sets of properties would now be the subject of a comprehensive refurbishment scheme.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That a grant of up to £50,000 be offered on this scheme.</p>	

*132.	<p>SEAFRONT BYELAWS. Councillor Mrs Goodall presented the report of the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities and Director of Tourism and Leisure seeking formal adoption to amended byelaws controlling seafront activities and extending them to the Sovereign Park and Eastern Parade. A copy of the proposed byelaws was appended to the report.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to adopt the byelaws.</p>
*133.	<p>BEST VALUE REVIEW OF BENEFITS. Following introduction by Councillor Mrs Murray, members of the Review Team (Mr Henry Walker, Best Value Manager (Community Finance) and Team Chairman, together with Councillors Higgins and Mrs Pooley) were invited to comment upon the Review. The Review Team's full report had first been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 18 February 2002. A copy of the Scrutiny Committee's minute extract had been circulated with the Cabinet papers. The Scrutiny Committee had agreed the recommendations of the Review Team.</p> <p>The Chairman joined with Councillor Higgins in expressing his thanks to the staff for their work and effort in assisting the conduct of the review.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to approve the Best Value Improvement Plan.</p>
*134.	<p>BEST VALUE REVIEW OF FINANCE. Following introduction by Councillor Marsden, Councillor Bowker, who had Chaired the Review Team, together with Mrs Sue McHugh, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, was invited to comment upon the Review. The Review Team's full report had first been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 18 February 2002. A copy of the Scrutiny Committee's minute extract had been circulated with the Cabinet papers. The Scrutiny Committee had agreed the recommendations of the Review Team.</p> <p>The Chairman joined with Councillor Bowker in expressing his thanks to the staff for their work and effort in assisting the conduct of the review.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to approve the Best Value Improvement Plan.</p>
135.	<p>BEST VALUE REVIEW OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT – PART 1: HOUSING STOCK OPTIONS. Councillor Mrs Murray presented the report of the Director of Housing, Health and Community Finance. The Council on 28 November 2001 had considered the Cabinet's recommendations with regard to an earlier report upon this review. They had asked for further work to be done in respect of establishing</p>

report received. A particular issue raised was the need for more detailed information on the condition of the housing stock to enable a valuation to be made prior to LSVT.

PricewaterhouseCoopers concluded that whilst the Council should pursue the stock transfer approach, they should also review and compare this option against the Council's objectives and the benefits/costs of an ALMO. The consultants indicated that the housing service was well placed to meet the performance criteria and take advantage of additional investment opportunities from an ALMO arrangement should LSVT not prove feasible.

PricewaterhouseCoopers' estimations of stock transfer valuation confirmed the likelihood of there being no net capital receipt being generated as a result of transfer and the need for Government to agree grant relief. In the short-term therefore the feasibility process should concentrate on internal proposals regarding general fund revenue implications and liaison with the Government's Community Housing Task Force.

In consideration of the above it was recommended that the Council's Action Plan be revised and details were given in the report. A further report would be made to Cabinet in July 2002 in conjunction with consideration of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.

RESOLVED: That the findings of the external appraisal report be noted and taken into consideration and that resultant changes to the timescale for establishing the feasibility of LSVT be approved.

136.	<p>BEST VALUE REVIEWS 2002 – 2004. Councillor Taylor presented the report of the Head of Strategic Development on the scope of Best Value Reviews to be carried out in the two years 2002/03 and 2003/04 and proposing the challenges to be set in respect of each of the reviews to be undertaken.</p> <p>In 2002/03 the following reviews would be undertaken:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Community Safety
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*137.

PROVISION OF COMPUTERS TO MEMBERS. Councillor Marsden presented the report of the Head of IT and E-Government and Head of Democratic Services.

It was proposed that following the May 2002 whole Council elections, all Councillors would be given a laptop computer. A rolling replacement programme was planned to match Councillors' terms of office. Initial purchase costs were estimated at nearly £50,000 and would be met from Government funding following the Council's successful IEG (implementing electronic government) bid. Estimated ongoing annual costs of c. £16,000 would include an allowance to provide for replacement.

A paper by Councillor Harris giving a number of suggestions was circulated at the meeting. The Chairman asked that these be considered by the Head of IT and E-Government and, if appropriate, taken into consideration in the implementation of this initiative.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Council be recommended to approve the provision of IT facilities for all Members from May 2002 in line with the proposals as set out in paragraph 6 of this report, the financial implications outlined in paragraph 8, and the training outlined in paragraph 9.

(2) That as a result of the above recommendation, and in line with the example consequences set out in paragraph 7 of this report, Council be recommended to make a commitment to abandon non-IT working wherever possible from May 2002.

138.	<p>REVIEW OF JOINT LIQUOR LICENSING STRATEGY: PROPOSED JOINT ALCOHOL LICENSING POLICY.</p> <p>Councillor Taylor presented the report of the Commercial Services Manager, Environmental Health. The Town Centre Action Group had requested a review of the current joint strategy between the Borough Council and the Sussex Police. The proposed and current strategies were appended to the report. The proposals had been subject to widespread consultation as detailed in the report.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the new Joint Alcohol Licensing Policy drawn up in liaison with Sussex Police be approved.</p>
139.	<p>CHOICE BASED LETTINGS – HOMECHOICE. Councillor Mrs Murray presented the report of the HomeChoice Project Co-ordinator. The Council was one of 27 local authorities selected by the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions to operate a pilot scheme. The objective was to bring together the allocation of accommodation whether it be Council or Housing Association and to offer prospective tenants greater choice. Eventually private landlords would be encouraged to participate. The scheme would go live in July 2002 and run initially until March 2003. A copy of the HomeChoice Lettings Policy was appended to the report.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (1) That the policy be approved for the purposes of implementing the HomeChoice pilot.</p> <p>(2) That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Housing, Health and Community Finance in conjunction with the Cabinet Lead Member to undertake fine tuning of the policy prior to full implementation.</p>

<p>140.</p>	<p>SOUTH EAST ARTS – FINE ART COLLECTION. Councillor Mrs Goodall presented the report of the Director of Tourism and Leisure on proposals that the South East Arts Collection be transferred to the ownership of the Council. South East Arts was due to be disbanded and its staff and assets transferred to the Arts Council. The SEA Board wished to transfer its fine art and craft collections to the hosting authorities. The fine art collection was at the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne. To assist the transfer and provide for valuation and conservation costs a total of £7,500 would be paid to the Council over three years in addition to grants under the Recurrently Funded Organisation agreement.</p> <p>The Head of Arts and Heritage further reported at the meeting upon the likely requirements of the Charity Commission regarding setting up trust arrangements to provide for the future of the collection.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the proposed transfer of ownership be agreed subject to the Council’s Solicitor vetting the latest proposals from South East Arts.</p>
<p>141.</p>	<p>PLANNING GREEN PAPER – DELIVERING A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE. Councillor Marsden presented the report of the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities on the Government’s consultation paper concerning possible changes to the country’s planning system.</p> <p>The stated key aims of the government’s proposals were to simplify the hierarchy of plans, deliver faster decisions and better engage the community. Linked to the paper were proposed reviews of compulsory purchase arrangements, major infrastructure proposals, changes to the Use Classes Order and finally, the reform of planning obligations (also known as section 106 agreements).</p> <p>Proposals included a review of national planning guidance to reduce its volume and complexity, abolition of county structure plans and the strengthening of regional planning, the replacement of development plans (of which the Eastbourne Borough Plan was an example) by a Local Development Framework (LDF) acting as the “delivery vehicle” for that part of the Community Strategy relating to land use. LDF’s would be much shorter and quicker to produce, updated annually and reviewed locally every three years. Changes to the development control process to ensure applications were dealt with faster in a predictable and transparent way were also proposed.</p> <p>Detailed responses to the questions put in the consultation paper were set out in the report. A response was required by 18 March 2002. The Chairman of the Planning and Licensing Committee had been consulted upon the content of the report and a similar report would be made to that Committee on 12 March 2002.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the responses detailed in sections 3, 4 and 5 of the report are this Council’s comments on the Government’s consultation paper and that the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State accordingly and take in account any additional comments which may be made by the Planning and Licensing Committee.</p>

<p>142.</p>	<p>PLANNING CONSULTATION PAPER – PLANNING OBLIGATIONS. Councillor Marsden presented the report of the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities on this associated consultation paper to that reported upon in minute 141. Planning obligations, also known as Section 106 Agreements, were typically agreements between local planning authorities and developers negotiated in the context of granting planning permission. The government believed that such agreements could be inconsistent, unfair and lack transparency and were time consuming and expensive. The suggestion was that Councils should set standardised tariffs for different types of development supplemented by negotiated agreements to increase or reduce the tariff according to local circumstances. The proposed response to government was appended to the report. In regard to question 9, concerning the need for a dispute resolution mechanism between the planning authority and developers, Councillor Marsden suggested that provision be made for obtaining an independent valuation and/or expert advice on site specific items or the provision of infrastructure.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (1) That the proposals for the reform and improvements of the planning obligation system as detailed in the report be supported.</p> <p>(2) That the responses to the ten questions posed in the Consultation Paper attached in Appendix 2 to the report with the additional comments in respect of question 9, form the Council’s formal response to the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions.</p>
<p>143.</p>	<p>ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR 2002 – 2003 AND ADOPTION OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES. Council on 27 February 2002 (following recommendations made by the Cabinet at their meeting on 6 February) had approved arrangements whereby the Director of Finance and Corporate Services would be responsible for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions on behalf of the Cabinet. The Cabinet had responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of treasury management practices in accordance with the Borrowing Limit and Treasury Management Policy for 2002/03 (also approved by the Council on 27 February 2002). Councillor Marsden now presented the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services setting out the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2002/03 in line with the Council approved policy, together with the detailed treasury management practices to be followed.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (1) That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2002/03 as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the Treasury Management Practices numbered TMP1 to TMP12 in the Appendix to the report, be adopted and apply as from 1 April 2002.</p>

144.	<p>SOUTHERN ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' GROUP.</p> <p>It was reported that this conference was due to be held in Eastbourne on 15 March 2002.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillors Lacey and Marsh be appointed to attend.</p>	
145.	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as otherwise there was a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A and descriptions of the exempt information are shown in the summary below.</p>	
146.	<p>SUMMARY OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.</p> <p>(Note: The full minutes of the under-mentioned items are set out in the confidential section of these minutes. The reports remain confidential).</p>	PROCEEDINGS FOR
	<p>(a) Devonshire Park Theatre Summer Season. The Cabinet agreed arrangements for productions to be staged at the Devonshire Park Theatre this summer.</p> <p>(Exempt information reason – Paragraph 7 – Financial and business information).</p>	
	<p>(b) Write-off of Irrecoverable Debts. The Cabinet approved the write-off of certain debts.</p> <p>(Exempt information reason – Paragraph 7 – Financial and business information).</p>	
	<p>(c) Disposal of Land/Property Assets. The Cabinet received an update report in respect of the review of the Council's property assets and disposal programme and authorised its continuance.</p> <p>(Exempt information reason – Paragraph 9 – Future land and property transactions).</p>	

	<p>(d) Budget Consequences – Employment Stability Procedure. The Cabinet received a report on staffing implications of certain budget decisions approved by Council at their meeting on 27 February 2002 and made resolutions and exercised discretion as necessary in respect of terms providing for the redundancy of three members of staff.</p> <p>(Exempt information reason – Paragraph 1 – Information relating to employees).</p>	
<p>The meeting closed at 5.15 p.m.</p>		
		<p>G H Marsden</p> <p>Chairman</p>
<p>(der\p:\cabinet\minutes\02.03.06)</p>		