

<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting of the</p> <h1 style="text-align: center;">CABINET</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">held on Monday 1 July 2002</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESENT:-</p> <p>Councillor <b>Mrs HEALY</b> (Chairman and Leader of the Council), Councillor <b>TUTT</b> (Deputy Chairman and Deputy Leader of the Council), Councillors <b>HARRIS, LEGGETT</b> and <b>THOMPSON</b>.</p>		
	<p><b>8. MINUTES.</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2002 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.</p>	
	<p><b>*9. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF EQUALITIES.</b> The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Tourism and Leisure submitted on behalf of the Best Value Review Team. The report had previously been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 10 June 2002. The Scrutiny Committee had endorsed the recommendations set out in the Improvement Plan and a copy of the minute extract had been circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Councillor Belsey and Mr Nick Ritson (Strategic Development Officer), who were both members of the Review Team, were present and addressed the Cabinet in support of the Team's recommendations.</p> <p>The Leader referred to paragraph 1.6 of the report where a recommendation was made that a Cabinet Member be given specific responsibility for equalities, anti-poverty and social inclusion. The current allocation of responsibilities divided these between two Cabinet Members. The Leader announced that these responsibilities would now be added to her portfolio.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> (1) (Key Decision) That the Council be recommended to approve the Best Value Improvement Plan.</p> <p>(2) That the changes to the Cabinet portfolios be noted and that a revised document be published.</p>	

	<p><b>10. CIVIC BUDGET 2001/02 - FINANCIAL OUTTURN.</b> The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services providing information on the Council's overall financial outturn for the year ended 31 March 2002. Full details were given in appendices to the report.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: (Key Decision)</b> (1) That the general fund revenue outturn for 2001/02 be approved and that the working balance as at 31 March 2002 at £1,011,000 be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the housing revenue account outturn for 2001/02 be approved and that the working balance as at 31 March 2002 at £1,889,000 be noted.</p> <p>(3) That the capital strategy outturn for 2001/02 be approved together with the carry forward of unspent resources totalling £2,686,000 to finance scheme specific expenditure in 2002/03 be approved.</p> <p>(4) That the outturn for 2001/02 for Coastline Catering and Eastbourne Leisure trading organisations be approved.</p> <p>(5) That the collection fund outturn for 2001/02 be approved and that the balance as at 31 March 2002 to be returned to taxpayers of £478,000 be noted.</p>	
	<p><b>11. CIVIC BUDGET 2001/02 - CAPITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE.</b> The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services on the performance of both the housing investment programme and general fund capital programme. Full details were given in an appendix to the report. The programme had been funded through credit approvals and capital grants, major repairs allowance, capital receipts and 'Section 106' monies delivered through planning gain. Investment in the Council's housing stock had been supplemented through the release of reserves from the housing revenue account.</p> <p>The total budget for the year had been £10,827,000 of which £3,540,000 had been unspent at the year end. The report highlighted significant slippage in the housing investment programme and outlined measures to tackle this in future.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the performance of the capital programme in 2001/02 be noted and that the proposed action to improve the timeliness of the delivery of the programme be endorsed.</p>	

	<p><b>12. SINGLE REGENERATION BUDGET (SRB) ROUND 6 - FUNDING FOR CREDIT UNION PROJECT.</b> The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services on funding arrangements for the Credit Union project. The project was part of the single regeneration budget that had received funding through the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).</p> <p>Councillor Marsden was permitted to address the Cabinet.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> (1) That cash flow loans be provided to the Credit Union project to meet funding shortfalls pending receipt of grants from the SEEDA, on the basis that the regulatory regime for credit unions puts exceptional constraints on their ability to borrow.</p> <p>(2) That requests for similar loans in respect of other SRB projects be reported to Cabinet for consideration.</p>	
	<p><b>13. THE CULTURAL HUB CAPITAL PROJECT, DEVONSHIRE PARK.</b> The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Tourism and Leisure outlining further steps needed to progress this project. Council, at its meeting on the 24 April 2002, and further to report to Cabinet on 10 April 2002, had agreed to underwrite the funding gap for this project up to a maximum of £1.5m subject to agreed risk sharing arrangements.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> (1) That the Director of Finance and Corporate Services be authorised to release up to £50,000 for the stage 1 appointment of a design team prior to capital being drawn down from the Council's funding partners.</p> <p>(2) That the appointment of a project manager on a two year fixed term contract be authorised prior to revenue funding being drawn down from the South East England Development Agency.</p>	
	<p><b>14. BEACHY HEAD COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE.</b> The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Tourism and Leisure providing information on the temporary arrangements that had been made with Brewers Fayre to ensure the Countryside Centre remained in operation until the end of September 2002. This would be at no cost to the Council other than professional help and guidance from Council staff. The current year's budget however included a target of £15,000 rental income from the premises on the assumption that an alternative use would be made of the building. This would not now be achieved.</p> <p>The Mayor, Councillor Miss Woodall, was permitted to address the Cabinet.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the arrangements put in place for the temporary lease to Brewers Fayre and administration of the Countryside Centre be noted.</p>	

	<p><b>15. PARKING FOR THE DISABLED.</b> Cabinet considered the report of Councillor Harris seeking to reinstate arrangements which existed prior to June 2001 whereby drivers of disabled persons vehicles displaying both blue and orange badges could freely park in the Council's off-street car parks. This would be with the exception of Hyde Gardens. The reason for excluding this off-street car park was the high level of on-street parking available within this area. The estimated loss of income from this proposal was £12,500 with one-off costs to change signage and advertise the proposed changes of £5,500.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: (Key Decision)</b> (1) That the Cabinet is minded to extend the exemptions in respect of car parking charges to all drivers of disabled persons vehicles in the Borough Council's car parks (with the exception of Hyde Gardens) as from January 2003.</p> <p>(2) Accordingly, the Cabinet instructs the Head of Amenities to seek amendment to the off-street parking place order with the consent of the East Sussex County Council and after the necessary consultation and notice as required under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.</p> <p>(3) Subject to consent being forthcoming and there being no objection raised following consultation and notice, the Head of Amenities be authorised to implement the amendment to the order.</p> <p>(4) That the cost of this change be met from the Council's contingency fund.</p>	
	<p><b>16. COASTAL STRATEGY.</b> Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities on the outcome of the Beachy Head to Rye Harbour coastal processes and resources study that had been carried out in partnership with other local authorities and the Environment Agency, and in particular considered the strategies for the section of coastline for which the Council was the operating authority.</p> <p>The report also drew attention to potential financial implications of a new scheme prioritisation system recently published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for schemes to be considered for approval after 1 April 2003. Under the revised criteria it is possible that the works recommended by the strategies would not qualify for grant assistance.</p> <p>The situation would be monitored and a further report made to Cabinet if necessary.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: (Key Decision)</b> (1) That the Cabinet notes the potential financial implications for the Council in maintaining coast protection works on the Eastbourne frontage.</p> <p>(2) That strategy plans 1 and 2 of the Beachy Head to Rye harbour coastal processes and resources study be adopted.</p> <p>(3) That the Head of Amenities be authorised to submit the strategy plans to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.</p>	

	<p><b>17. PEDESTRIAN PRECINCTS TERMINUS ROAD.</b> Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities further to the motion considered at Council on 24 April 2002 regarding the location of information display units in the pedestrian precinct.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the limitations for accommodating display vehicles within the Terminus Road pedestrian precinct be recognised and that the current procedures in place for the control of such activities be endorsed.</p>	
	<p><b>18. REVIEW OF EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE.</b> Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Housing, Health and Community Finance on this review. The County Council had agreed a two year timetable for review last October. The review of Parker House had been completed last January and had been the subject of a report to the Cabinet on 9 January 2002. The review of St. Anthony's Court was currently being undertaken and was expected to be reported to the County's Cabinet at the end of this month. The review of Milton Court was due to commence in February next year for completion in July 2003.</p> <p>The Cabinet re-stated the Borough's concerns regarding closure of such homes. Criticism was also made of the Government's failure, in imposing the new standards, to take account of the wishes of the residents of care homes and recognise the importance of other factors such as the quality of care rather than the apparent emphasis on criteria based on facilities, room size etc. The growing shortage of beds in the private sector in Eastbourne was also highlighted.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> (1) That Cabinet express its concern in relation to any proposed closure of homes for older people in Eastbourne.</p> <p>(2) That any proposed relocation of existing residents be carried out sensitively and in full consultation with residents and their carers in order to ensure an improved quality of care.</p> <p>(3) That a further report be made to Cabinet once the County's decision had been made in respect of St. Anthony's Court.</p>	
	<p><b>19. JOINT STAFF COMMITTEE.</b> The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Staff Committee held on 22 May 2002 were reported.</p> <p><b>NOTED.</b></p>	
	<p><b>20. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC.</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> 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 paragraph of Schedule 12A and description of the exempt information is shown in the summary below.</p>	

21.	<b>SUMMARY OF CONFIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS FOR INFORMATION.</b>	
	(Note: The full minute of the under-mentioned item is set out in the confidential section of these minutes. The report remains confidential).	
	(a)	<p><b>Managerial Cover Arrangements - Housing, Health and Community Finance.</b> The Cabinet approved payment of an honorarium in recognition of managerial cover provided for the vacant Head of Housing Needs and Strategy post.</p> <p>(Exempt information reason - Paragraph 1 - Information relating to an employee).</p>
The meeting closed at 7.07 p.m.		
		<p><b>Mrs B Healy</b></p> <p><b>Chairman</b></p>
(der\P:\cabinet\minutes\02.07.01)		