

<p>CABINET</p>	<p>Meeting of the</p> <p>held on Thursday 5 September 2002</p> <p>PRESENT:-</p> <p>Councillor Mrs HEALY (Chairman), Councillor TUTT (Deputy Chairman), Councillors HARRIS, LEGGETT and THOMPSON.</p>	
<p>36.</p>	<p>MINUTES. The minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2002 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.</p>	
	<p>37. PERFORMANCE MONITORING. The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive on proposals that the Cabinet receive on a regular basis details of performance in selected areas of service delivery. This would be in addition to the Council's obligation to report annually on the performance of the Council and targets for improvement as measured by performance indicators and published in a Best Value Performance Plan. Appended to the report was a table setting out performance indicators which it was proposed be used in regular monitoring and summaries of performance for selected areas of Council activity. It was requested that the Local Performance Indicators be identified separately on future reports.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (1) That the suggested indicators for regular reporting to Cabinet be confirmed.</p> <p>(2) That the performance information provided be noted.</p>	

	<p>38. EASTBOURNE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY STRATEGY (page 182, minute 56, 2001/02 minutes). The Cabinet considered the report of the Acting Strategic Development Officer on progress in establishing the Eastbourne Strategic Partnership. Such a partnership was designed to meet the Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 2000 in respect of community leadership. In addition the report detailed progress in developing a Community Strategy to which the Council and its partners would be committed. The projected date for publication of a draft Community Strategy was 31 March 2003. Concern was expressed that the Council currently provided the only specified financial support for the partnership.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (1) That the proposed structure of the Eastbourne Strategic Partnership be endorsed and that the partnership's progress to date be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the Project Plan for the production of the Community Strategy in April 2003 be approved.</p> <p>(3) That the role of elected members in the proposed community consultation upon the Community Strategy, as detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the report, be endorsed.</p> <p>(4) That the financial implications of producing the Community Strategy be noted.</p>	
	<p>39. EVENTS 2003. The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Tourism and Leisure regarding the work of the Events Development Team in co-ordinating and managing the Council's events programme. Current events attracted over 600,000 visitors annually and generated daily visitor and accommodation spend of approximately £4 million. Details of the proposed 2003 programme of both Council co-ordinated events and other events organised independently were given in appendices to the report. Councillor Mrs Healy thanked the Events staff for their work and welcomed the inclusion of new initiatives within the 2003 programme.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the proposed events programme be approved subject to the necessary funding from partners.</p>	
	<p>40. BEACHY HEAD COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE (page 71, minute 14). The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Tourism and Leisure on proposals for the future operation of the Countryside Centre. The Centre had been operated under lease to Whitbread PLC for the period 1 June - 30 September 2002 as a temporary arrangement.</p> <p>It was proposed to keep the Centre open during the winter at weekends only and reopen fully on 31 March 2003. The estimated operating costs for the 12 months from 1 October 2002 was a projected deficit of £3,750. The investigation into longer term funding opportunities was proposed to alleviate the annual funding issues and maximise visitor potential by revitalising current displays.</p> <p>Mr R Stiggers was permitted to address the Cabinet further to notice given under Council Procedure Rule No. 11.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (1) That the Council opens the Countryside Centre from 1 October 2002 to 30 March 2003 at weekends only.</p> <p>(2) The Council re-opens the Countryside Centre fully from 31 March 2003 to 30 September 2003.</p> <p>(3) That additional running costs not exceeding £3,750 be approved for the 12 months from 1 October 2002, funded from the 2001/02 underspend.</p>	

41. FIELD ADJACENT TO EASTBOURNE BOROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB, PRIORY LANE. The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Tourism and Leisure regarding a request from the Eastbourne Borough Football Club to lease additional land adjoining the club to provide a youth football centre including pitches, changing and shower facilities. The Langney Point Junior Football Club would be bidding jointly with Eastbourne Borough Football Club to the Football Foundation for funding assistance.

Mr R Stiggers were permitted to address the Cabinet further to notice given under Council Procedure Rule No. 11. Councillor Marsden addressed the Cabinet and although supportive of an increase in facilities for young people expressed a number of concerns regarding wildlife, loss of open space and the noise and parking problems experienced by residents in the area. He stressed the importance of consultation and that the Council and not Eastbourne Borough Football Club should carry this out. He also indicated that the proposal to 100% grant aid the rent should be the subject of a 5 yearly review.

The Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities reported that the land was designated for recreation use within the revised deposit Draft Borough Plan.

Councillor Tutt supported the involvement of the Council in consulting local residents regarding the proposed use of both the existing and proposed new football pitches.

RESOLVED: (1) That subject to the outcome of consultation set out in paragraph 4 of the report, to be carried out jointly by the Council and Eastbourne Borough Football Club, the Director of Tourism and Leisure be given delegated authority in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Culture to lease the land outlined on the plan attached to the report to the Eastbourne Borough Football Club.

(2) That a lease of 25 years at a rent of £3,000 per annum, subject to five yearly reviews, be granted.

(3) That the rent is 100% grant aided for the duration of the 25 year lease.

(4) That the terms of the lease stipulate that the land is used for recreation purposes only.

	<p>42. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ENFORCEMENT POLICY. The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Environmental Health regarding a revised Environmental Health Enforcement Policy. This had last been reviewed in 1997 and the new policy took account of new legislation and guidance such as the Human Rights Act and the Enforcement Concordat.</p> <p>The general ethos of the policy would continue to be that the provision of education and advice to businesses and individuals is the preferred initial option to achieve compliance with legislative standards. However formal action would be taken where necessary as set out in the policy.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (Key Decision) That the revised Environmental Health Enforcement Policy as detailed at appendix 1 to the report be approved.</p>	
	<p>43. REVIEW OF EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE (Page 72, Paragraph 18). At their meeting on the 1 July 2002 the Cabinet had expressed concern in relation to any proposed closure of homes for older people in Eastbourne and asked for a further report once the County had made their decision in respect of St. Anthony's Court. The Cabinet now considered the report of the Director of Housing, Health and Community Finance indicating that the County intended to cease operating St. Anthony's Court as a residential care home for long stay residents and for its subsequent use for an expanded "living at home" programme and for respite care.</p> <p>The proposed change of use would take effect from the beginning of October 2002. It was the County's intention to ensure that relocation of existing residents was undertaken sensitively and with the least possible disruption to such residents.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the recent outcome of the review of St Anthony's Court be noted.</p>	
<p>*44.</p>	<p>ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY. The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services to which was appended a revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy. The policy had last been reviewed by Cabinet on 1 December 1999. A key feature of this policy was the incorporation of a Whistle-Blowing Guide for staff which had been drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (Key Decision and Budget and Policy Framework) That the Council be recommended to approve the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.</p>	
<p>*45.</p>	<p>STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2001/2002. The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services in relation to the requirement for the Council to approve annually the Statement of Accounts and to make certain determinations on the Local Government Housing Act 1989. A copy of the full Statement of Accounts had been sent to Members of the Cabinet, the Opposition Leader and Deputy Leader and the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee only. A copy had been placed in the Members' Room and made available at the Town Hall reception for public inspection purposes and published on the Council's website.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (Key Decision and Budget and Policy Framework) That the Council be recommended to:-</p> <p>(a) Approve the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2002.</p> <p>(b) Approve the final capital programme outturn as set out in appendix 3 to the report.</p> <p>(c) Approve the capital programme financing arrangements as set out in appendix 3 to the report in order to satisfy the determinations required under Sections</p>	

46. CIVIC BUDGET 2002/03 - UPDATE (page 108, minute 26). The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services updating Members on the budget position to the end of July, the projected forecast of the outturn for the financial year, and options available to achieve a balanced budget. The Director of Finance and Corporate Services updated Cabinet on the essential health and safety schemes to be released from the urgent works programme.

Mr R Stiggers was permitted to address the Cabinet further to notice given under Council Procedure Rule No. 11.

RESOLVED: (Key Decision) (1) To note that the general fund revenue net expenditure is over budget at the end of July by £201,000.

(2) To note that the general fund revenue net expenditure is currently forecast to be £540,000 over budget as at 31 March 2003.

(3) That repayment of the £3.5 million loan to the Public Works Loan Board be approved and that the timing of the repayment be delegated to the Director of Finance and Corporate Services.

(4) That officers be instructed to investigate further the options available to balance the general fund revenue account by utilising uncommitted budgets as described within the report.

(5) That expenditure listed at appendix A to the report be frozen pending a further update in October.

(6) That each Director together with their respective Cabinet Member be instructed to meet with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and the Cabinet lead member for finance to examine how their departmental budget can be delivered within the approved target.

(7) Approve the amended general fund capital programme for 2002/03 as set out at appendix C to the report.

(8) Approve the release of essential health and safety schemes from the urgent works programme.

47. FINANCIAL STRATEGY/COUNCIL BUDGET 2003/04. The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services seeking the Cabinet's agreement to the approach to be followed in preparing and setting the Council's revenue budget for 2003/04. The medium term budget forecast for 2003/04 and beyond was based upon key assumptions as follows:-

- 2.3% increase in Government grant.
- 4.5% rise in Council Tax rates.
- Significant increase in costs of cleansing contract to achieve recycling targets.
- Unavoidable cost pressures in housing and council tax benefits, weekly incorrect benefits scheme, treasury management, Coastline Caterers, and Eastbourne Leisure.
- Funding for growth.
- Proposed savings.

The current forecast currently shows deficits in the years 2003/04 - 2006/07 in the region of £1 million for each year.

With reference to the cleansing contract, the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities reported that the telephone survey element of the public consultation exercise would not be run, following advice from District Audit.

Mr R Stiggers was permitted to address the Cabinet further to notice given under Council Procedure Rule No. 11.

RESOLVED: (Key Decision) (1) That the following key assumptions for 2003/04 be agreed for the purposes of further budget planning work.

- (a) The current forecast deficit for 2003/04 of £972,000.
- (b) Increase in government grant of 2.3% for 2003/04.
- (c) Significant increase in cleansing costs.

(2) That the Cabinet continue to review the growth and savings areas, including those currently contained within the Medium Term Forecast and consider the level of council tax increase to be used for planning purposes.

(3) That the Service and Financial Planning action plan set out in appendix A to the report be approved.

(4) That the consultation arrangements for the public, detailed at paragraph 10 of the report be approved.

(5) That a further detailed report be brought to the next meeting of the Cabinet on 3 October 2002.

	<p>48. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2001/02 AND INTERIM REVIEW OF 2002/03 (page 374, minute 116, 2001/02 minutes). The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services reviewing debt, borrowing and restructuring together with investment and cash flow management in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>	
	<p>49. FORMER OLD TOWN LIBRARY (page 3, minute 6). The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive. This followed the Cabinet's decision on the 5 June 2002 to allow the Friends of Old Town Library temporary occupation of the premises for three months pending consideration of a permanent letting to the Friends.</p> <p>The Friends had now submitted their Business Plan indicating start up costs of £15,000, annual expenditure of £1,000 (assuming charitable status and no salary costs) and annual income of £1,300. The Friends had currently raised £8,000 and planned to raise a further £1,000 in their first year of operation. They were seeking a grant from the Council of £10,000 in the first year.</p> <p>Mr R Stiggers was permitted to address the Cabinet further to notice given under Council Procedure Rule No. 11.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (1) That the Friends of the Old Town Library be granted a lease to the premises at a nominal rent and that the precise terms of the lease be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>(2) That a grant of £10,000 be made to the Friends from underspend in the previous financial year to assist them in meeting their start up costs.</p> <p>(NOTE: Councillor Leggett declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and withdrew from the room).</p>	
	<p>50. CONFERENCES. Member attendance was proposed in respect of the following conferences:-</p>	
	(a)	Association of Civic Hosts, Margate, 23 - 25 September 2002. Councillor Thompson to attend.
	(b)	Local Government Association Licensing Conference, 23 September 2002. Councillors Leggett and Elkin to attend.
	(c)	Local Government Association Economic Regeneration Conference, Cardiff, 5 - 7 November 2002. Councillor Mrs Healy to attend.

	RESOLVED: That Member attendance at the above conferences be approved.	
51. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC.	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 paragraph of Schedule 12A and description of the exempt information is shown in the summary below.	
52. SUMMARY OF CONFIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS FOR INFORMATION.	(Note: The full minute of the under-mentioned item is set out in the confidential section of these minutes. The report remains confidential).	
(a)	Restructure in the Community Finance Division. The Cabinet approved proposals for a staffing restructure of the Community Finance Division of the Housing, Health and Community Finance Directorate. (Exempt Information Reason - Paragraph 1 - Information relating to employees).	
The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.		
		Mrs B Healy Chairman
(der\P:\cabinet\minutes\02.09.05)		