

<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting of the</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">CABINET</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">held on Thursday 13 March 2003</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESENT:-</p> <p>Councillor Mrs HEALY (Chairman and Leader of the Council), Councillor TUTT (Deputy Chairman and Deputy Leader of the Council) and Councillor THOMPSON.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Harris and Leggett.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">116.</p>	<p>MINUTES. The minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2003 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">*117.</p>	<p>PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE REVISED DEPOSIT DRAFT EASTBOURNE BOROUGH PLAN 2001-2011 (page 462, minute 156 2001/02 minutes and page 45, minute 3, 2002/03 minutes). The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities seeking approval to modifications to be made to the draft Borough Plan. The modifications had been proposed in the light of recommendations made by the public inquiry Inspector in his report. An inquiry into unresolved objections to the draft plan had been heard by an independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State last summer. The proposed modifications were set out in a separately circulated document, copies of which had been provided to Members of the Cabinet and certain other Councillors and otherwise made available for public inspection.</p> <p>The regulations governing the preparation of development plans required that the proposed modifications be placed on public deposit for a six week period to enable representations to be made on the proposed modifications or on any aspects where the Council had failed to comply with the Inspector's recommendations. Only after consideration of any objections received could the Council consider formal adoption of the plan.</p> <p>In his report the Director noted that the Inspector had been strongly supportive of the plan's policies and proposals especially in the key areas of housing, business, industry and transport. The Inspector had accepted that adequate provision had been made to deliver the structure plan requirements for housing and employment land and had supported the threshold of 15 units in relation to the making of contributions towards affordable housing and had concurred with the test of genuine redundancy where the loss of business land and premises to other uses was proposed. The Inspector's main recommendations related to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Eastbourne Park – need for bio-diversity study and supplementary planning guidance to re-establish the overall vision for the parkland. · Housing Allocations – land off Larkspur Drive should not be allocated for housing and instead reassessed within the recommended supplementary planning guidance for Eastbourne Park – land

comply with Government Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 required.

The recommendations made by the Inspector had been considered at length and it was now proposed that the draft plan be modified along the lines suggested subject to two reservations. These were in relation to the Town Centre primary retail area and the policy in relation to seeking developer contributions to meet education requirements. In these two cases amended wording was proposed which it was felt would satisfy the Inspector's requirements but still maintain the Council's original objectives.

Two specific recommendations by the Inspector had financial implications. These were the bio-diversity study for Eastbourne Park and the commitment to monitor the Compensatory Flood Storage Scheme. Both would require use of specialist consultants and further reports would be made to the Cabinet once full implications were clear.

The report and proposed modifications had been considered by the Council's Planning and Licensing Committee at its meeting on 11 March 2003. The Committee had recommended approval of the proposed modifications. The Committee had also strongly supported the Inspector's recommendations for a full bio-diversity study and supplementary planning guidance for Eastbourne Park.

Councillor Tutt raised the matter of the proposed allocation of land for housing at Kingfisher Drive, site adjacent to the Langney Shopping Centre (Policy HO4). This had been the subject of local objections at the Inquiry. The Inspector had supported the Council's original proposal and made no recommendation for change (Inspector's recommendation 6.85). Councillor Tutt sought further consideration of this matter and asked the Cabinet to agree to receiving a further report at their next meeting. As this would be on 10 April it would not delay matters since the final decision on the modifications was not due to be made by full Council until 16 April 2003.

RESOLVED: (1) (Key Decision) That, with the exception of the matter of the site at Kingfisher Drive, adjacent to Langney Shopping Centre, the Council be recommended to approve the proposed modifications to the emerging replacement Borough Plan as set out in the document titled "Eastbourne Borough Plan 2001-2011: Proposed Modifications".

(2) That the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities be asked to submit a report to the Cabinet's meeting on 10 April 2003 in respect of the site at Kingfisher Drive, adjacent to Langney Shopping Centre.

(3) That following Council approval the proposed modifications be placed on deposit for public comment for a six week period commencing 24 April 2003.

*118.	JOINT BEST VALUE REVIEW OF EMERGENCY PLANNING. This review had been conducted jointly with the other districts and boroughs in East Sussex and the County Council. The report of the Joint Review Board had been considered by the Council's Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 24 February 2003 and members had been asked to refer to their copy of that meeting's agenda. The Scrutiny Committee had supported the recommendations in the report. The Review had found that local authorities' work in emergency planning in East Sussex was well integrated with, and valued by, other agencies involved in handling major incidents. This was seen in joint training and exercising, regular liaison meetings and protocols covering roles and responsibilities in emergencies. The Review did however identify a number of issues which needed to be addressed and a series of strategic and operational recommendations were made in the report. The County would be
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***119. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY 2003-2006 POLICY FRAMEWORK.** The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities proposing adoption of an environmental stewardship strategy 2003-2006 which would form part of the Council's policy framework. A copy of the strategy was appended to the report. The need for the strategy had arisen out of recommendations made by the Council's Best Value Review of Local Agenda 21 and Energy Advice which had been approved by the Council on 25 July 2001.

The term "environmental stewardship" is employed in relation to the following Council services:-

- Cleansing Services
- Energy Conservation
- Water quality and conservation
- Air pollution
- Transport
- Land management
- Planning management
- Procurement

It was intended that this strategy would be incorporated into the Local Community Strategy enabling the Council and its partners to deliver service improvement through co-ordinated action and that this would lay the foundation for sustainability best practice throughout the wider community. A series of policy statements and details of future action were given in the strategy together with accompanying background information.

_RESOLVED: (Key Decision) That the Council be recommended to approve the Environmental Stewardship Strategy 2003-2006.

	<p>120. WASTE STRATEGY 2003-2013 (page 168/9, minute 57). As part of the decision making process in respect of the new waste collection contract the Cabinet on 2 October 2002 had asked that a 10 year waste strategy be brought forward for consideration. The Cabinet now considered the report of the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities seeking endorsement to a draft waste strategy in order that it could be published for wider consultation with community groups, stakeholder organisations and the Eastbourne Strategic Partnership. The draft strategy was appended to the report and described current arrangements, the Council's targets for improved performance, discussed the likely impact of the new waste collection contract and reviewed future actions to enhance and improve the Council's waste reduction and recycling efforts.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (Key Decision) That the draft waste strategy 2003-2013 be approved for the purposes of consultation.</p>	
	<p>121. SEASIDE ROAD STREET IMPROVEMENTS – REVISED AND FINAL SCHEME FOLLOWING PUBLIC CONSULTATION (page 110, minute 31). Last August the Cabinet approved a draft street improvement scheme for Seaside Road for the purposes of public consultation. The Director's report gave details of the consultation undertaken and, in the appendix to the report, set out proposed changes made in the light of comments made. The Director commented that it had been possible to take account of the majority of suggestions made.</p> <p>The current cost estimate for the part of the scheme between Terminus Road and Cavendish Place (Part 1) was £480,000. This was higher than the original cost estimate. However, the County Council had made a provisional budget commitment, through the Local Transport Plan, of £1,000,000 towards the cost of the three street improvement schemes at Seaside Road, Terminus Road and the Pier entrance. This meant that the Local Transport Plan could meet the full cost of Part 1 works with the Council contributing £90,000 towards the final tender cost of the scheme.</p> <p>The re-paving of the south side of Seaside Road was estimated at £35,000 and it was anticipated that this work could only go ahead if the tender prices came in below the budget estimate. Priority would however be given to carrying out this work as an addition to the scheme. The remaining small scale works to the part of Seaside Road between Cavendish Place and Seaside would also be regarded as provisional. They were estimated at £20,000 and again could only go ahead if the tender figure came in substantially below estimate or other monies could be identified.</p> <p>Subject to the tender exercise it was anticipated that work would commence in November 2003 with the erection of new street lighting columns. The main construction works would be completed by early 2004. Work would not be undertaken in December. The Terminus Road and Pier entrance works would commence as the Seaside Road works were being completed.</p> <p>RESOLVED (Key Decision): (1) That approval be given to the proposed Seaside Road street improvements scheme as revised.</p> <p>(2) That £90,000 of Seaside Road Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme funding be used towards the cost of the scheme.</p> <p>(3) That East Sussex County Council be thanked for their significant financial contribution.</p> <p>(NOTE: Councillors Mrs Healy, Thompson and Tutt all declared personal interests in the above matter. The reason being that they were members of Eastbourne Liberal Democrats whose party headquarters were located in Seaside Road. The interests were not however considered to be prejudicial and they therefore remained and took full part in the proceedings).</p>	

<p>122.</p>	<p>PLAYGROUND IN SAMOA WAY. The Director of Tourism and Leisure submitted a report concerning the proposed transfer of this playground from the developer to the Council. The developer, George Wimpey South London Limited, had agreed a financial contribution of £16,250 towards the cost of future maintenance.</p> <p>Members raised a general concern that developer contributions were assessed on the basis of an estimate of the maintenance costs for 15 years. They asked if these arrangements could be reviewed as it was felt that a 15 year estimate might not always be sufficient to meet actual maintenance costs arising.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (1) That the playground and shingle bund, off Samoa Way, as shown on the plan appended to the report, is transferred to Eastbourne Borough Council from George Wimpey South London Limited subject to the payment of an agreed commuted sum.</p> <p>(2) That the officers be asked to review the arrangements for developers' contributions and report back to members of the Cabinet.</p>	
<p>123.</p>	<p>LAND AT BISHOP BELL SCHOOL AND PRIORY ROAD ALLOTMENTS. The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Tourism and Leisure regarding the proposed transfer of a strip of land between Bishop Bell School and Priory Road allotments. The existing fence was in poor condition and in need of replacement and as the boundary had well established allotment plots, sheds and vegetation it was not practical to replace the fence on the allotment side. The most effective and economic method was to erect a new fence line 150 mm inside the school boundary. The cost would be jointly funded between the Eastbourne Allotments and Gardens Society and Bishop Bell School.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That authority be given for an area of land, as shown on the plan appended to the report, to be transferred from East Sussex County Council to Eastbourne Borough Council subject to a licence being agreed between the parties involved.</p>	
<p>124.</p>	<p>LAND BETWEEN SHEFFIELD PARK WAY AND HASSOCKS CLOSE, NORTH LANGNEY. The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Tourism and Leisure on proposals to transfer an area of open space currently in the ownership of Abbey Developments Limited. The company would make a financial contribution of £12,000 towards future maintenance and £500 towards legal fees. The land included the back of the Willingdon and West Langney sewer and a strip of open grassland between the sewer and the existing footpath.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That authority be given for the transfer of this area of land, as shown on the plan appended to the report, to Eastbourne Borough Council subject to the payment of an agreed commuted sum.</p>	

	<p>125. SEAFRONT GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT – NOVATION. The seafront ground maintenance contract had been awarded to Brophy Grounds Maintenance Limited to run from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2007. Brophy had now been purchased by Enterprise PLC. The new owners were keen to transfer the contract to another company and had been in negotiation with the Council concerning the possible options and these were detailed in the report.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Tourism and Leisure to enter into a legal agreement with Enterprise PLC to novate its current ground maintenance contracts with Eastbourne Borough Council to another approved provider at no additional cost to the Council.</p>	
	<p>126. EASTBOURNE LIFELINE BEST VALUE REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION AND PROPOSED MERGER WITH WEALDEN LIFELINE (page 170, minute 61). The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Housing Management outlining work undertaken to date to progress the implementation plan which had been agreed by the Council following the Best Value Review of Eastbourne Lifeline. Agreement had previously been given in principle to combining Eastbourne Lifeline with Wealden Lifeline and First Point (Downland Housing Association Lifeline) into a “not for profit” joint venture company. Downland Housing Association had now withdrawn from this initiative.</p> <p>The proposal was now for an operational merger between the Borough Council’s and Wealden District Council’s Lifeline operations. To take this project further it was proposed to establish a Project Management Board of Wealden and Eastbourne Cabinet Members and Senior Officers with the task of developing firm proposals and making recommendations upon the following issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Location · Legal · Human Resources · Board of Management · User Group · Financial Matters · Practicalities of bringing the two services together <p>Councillor Elkin was permitted to address the Cabinet and spoke of the importance of maintaining a local identity and high quality of personal service.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (1) (Key Decision) That the Council be recommended to approve the merger of Eastbourne Lifeline and Wealden Lifeline into a single Lifeline call centre to both ensure a sustainable future for this valuable service and to enable it to assist in meeting the borough and countywide strategic objectives.</p> <p>(2) That an Eastbourne/Wealden Project Management Board using PRINCE 2 methodology be established to work on the logistical and legal aspects of an operational merger with the aim of the merger taking place by December 2003 and report back to both Council’s Cabinets prior to December 2003.</p> <p>(3) That the Leader be authorised to nominate the Cabinet member to sit on the Project Board.</p> <p>(4) (Note: Appendices, setting out a 5 year financial forecast, were circulated separately to members as a confidential document – Exempt information reason – paragraph 9 (terms of a proposed contract).</p>	

	<p>127. COMMUNITY GRANTS 2003/04. The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities summarising the recommendations of the Grants Task Group which had met on 17 February 2003 to review applications received. The Task Group had comprised Councillors Leggett, Lacey and Mrs Sims. A total of 30 applications for funding totalling £133,134 have been received. The total budget available was £54,700 and the Task Group had recommended grant allocations totalling this figure. Details of the assessment criteria were appended to the report.</p> <p>Currently the Eastbourne Association of Voluntary Service and the Citizen’s Advice Bureau were funded outside the competitive process. These organisations received funding on an ‘evergreen’ basis reviewed annually. The Task Group intended to look further at the funding for these organisations and see if other voluntary organisations should be treated in the same way.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (1) That the recommendations of the Grants Task Group for grants to community groups in the financial year 2003/04 be approved as set out in the Director’s report.</p> <p>(2) That the Task Group be asked to look at the core funding of voluntary groups and to bring a report to a future meeting of the Cabinet.</p> <p>(NOTES: (1) Councillor Thompson declared a personal interest in relation to the grant to the Underground Theatre and Eastbourne Arts Centre by reason of his membership of the Centre. His interest was not however considered to be prejudicial and he therefore remained present and participated in the decision.</p> <p>(2) Councillor Mrs Healy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter of grant to Age Concern Eastbourne as she was a trustee of that organisation. She withdrew from the meeting while this grant was considered and the vote taken).</p>	
<p>132. The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.</p> <p>(der\P:\cabinet\minutes\03.03.13)</p>	<p>(b) SUMMARY OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION</p> <p>(Note: The full minutes of the meeting are available in the confidential section of these minutes. The reports remain confidential.)</p> <p>The meeting was held on 3rd March 2003 at 7.15 p.m.</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>The Grants Task Group recommendations were approved. Applications in six cases were deferred for further consideration pending receipt of financial information. (Exempt information reason – Paragraph 7 – Personal, financial or business information).</p> <p>(NOTE: Councillor Mrs Healy declared personal interests in relation to applications by the RNLI, of which she was a member, and Age Concern. In the latter case, as a trustee, she considered her interest was also prejudicial and withdrew from the meeting while the application was considered and voted upon).</p>	<p>Net Established (and financial hand in The Grants Applications consideration Information (Exempt infor Information (NOTE: Coun interests in latter case, also prejudi withdrew fr the applicat was consider and voted up</p>