

Agenda Item No: **Report No:**
Report Title: **Ward Issues Raised by Councillors at Council**
Report To: **Cabinet** **Date:** **2 June 2014**
Cabinet Members: **Councillors Franklin, Howson and Jones**
Ward(s) Affected: **Lewes Castle, Newhaven Denton & Meeching, Newhaven Valley**
Report By: **Assistant Director of Corporate Services
Catherine Knight**
Contact Officer(s)-
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Purpose of Report:

To respond to ward issues raised by councillors.

Officers Recommendation(s):

To decide what action, if any, to take regarding the ward issues raised by councillors at the Annual Council meeting on 7 May 2014.

Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure that appropriate follow up action is taken.

Information

- 1 The following ward issues were raised at the Annual Council meeting on 7 May 2014:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>
Councillor Chartier – Lewes Castle Ward	A board had been erected outside Lewes House, Lewes, which indicated that the building contained office space which was available for letting, an issue about which most Councillors had not been notified.

Suggested action to be taken by the Council:

That, in future, all Members of the Council be notified of such similar action prior to it being taken in order that they can be aware of the situation and therefore be

able to respond to constituents queries in respect of such matters.

Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Corporate Services):

It was an oversight that Members were not informed of the activity at Lewes House, and to prevent this happening in the future, the existing processes within Estates have been amended to ensure that Members are adequately briefed in advance.

Councillor/Ward

Ward Issue Concerning

Councillor Butler
– Newhaven
Denton and
Meeching Ward

Eric Pickles had announced a new grant in the sum of £410million for council services which put people first. It allowed flexible use of capital following asset disposal.

Councillor Butler welcomed the Council's provision of £900k which was to be used towards a new community fire station in Newhaven.

Suggested action to be taken by the Council:

That the Council investigate the eligibility of a capital bid to the fund which, on the face of it, looked attractive to the Council, and submit an application for it if appropriate.

Comment by Chief Officer: (Director of Corporate Services)

Officers have investigated the fund that Cllr Butler raised at the Council meeting of the 7 May 2014. The fund referred to is the 'Transformation Challenge Award and Capital Receipt Flexibility' fund. It's about transforming Council's services rather than assisting regeneration, but may be applicable to the Newhaven Shared Facility which we are developing in partnership with the Fire Service and Police. I can confirm that all three partners are investigating submitting bids to their respective Funds (Local Authorities, Police and Fire Service must each make individual bids to separate Funds) before the closing date in July.

Councillor/Ward

Ward Issue Concerning

Councillor
Saunders –
Newhaven Valley
Ward

Councillor Saunders had been contacted on several occasions by members of the public, shopkeepers and traders in Newhaven in respect of the blatant abuse of current traffic and parking restrictions in Newhaven High Street which forbid through traffic and parking on the pedestrianized High Street except for loading and deliveries.

However, it had become a regular practice for the public, and significantly taxis, to both drive through and

park indiscriminately in loading bays and on pavements which could result in serious injury or death to those who used those areas.

Suggested action to be taken by the Council:

That the Council investigate who was responsible for policing and enforcing the regulations and work with that authority to rectify the reckless and belligerent disregard for the rules that were in place for the protection of public safety. Furthermore, that the Licencing Committee write to the taxi business which was based in Newhaven High Street and insist that the conditions imposed on its licence were adhered to for which no provision was permitted for parking on that High Street.

Comment by Chief Officer: (Director of Service Delivery)

The District Council is aware of the history and ongoing problem associated with Taxi's abusing the parking restrictions and traffic regulations in the High Street Newhaven. Since the precinct was opened up a few years ago the use of the area by taxi drivers has been the source of complaint.

This Council has no power to control parking and traffic regulations in this area. These functions are administered by the County Parking Officials or the Police. Lewes District Council has in the past contacted Sussex Police and the County Council to secure their cooperation in seeking to control this problem. LDC has also contacted the principal Taxi Company involved and have sought their cooperation as well, and will do so again.

Officers at LDC will arrange a meeting with the County Parking Officials, and the Police to see if LDC can work together to try and come up with a more lasting solution to this problem.

In addition we will also address the state of the litter in the High Street and liaise with the County Council to see if they can address the weed problem.

Councillor/Ward

Ward Issue Concerning

Councillor
Saunders –
Newhaven Valley
Ward

On behalf of traders in Newhaven, the Chamber of Commerce and residents, Councillor Saunders drew attention to the appalling state of the roads and pavements in Newhaven High Street where weeds and litter had been allowed to grow and build-up.

Suggested action to be taken by the Council:

That, following the introduction of Special Expenses for which the people of Newhaven paid more for the upkeep of their open spaces, the areas referred to above be cleaned and brought up to the standard that

appear to be enjoyed by adjacent towns in the District.

Comment by Chief Officer: (Director of Service Delivery)

The response is combined with the response to the Ward Issue above.

Financial Appraisal

2 None arising from this Report.

Legal Implications

3 None arising from this Report.

Sustainability Implications

4 I have not completed the Sustainability Implications Questionnaire as this Report is exempt from the requirement because it is an administration Report.

Risk Management Implications

5 I have not completed the Risk Management Checklist as there is no need to undertake a risk assessment.

Equality Screening

6 I have not completed the Equality Analysis checklist as this Report is free from the requirement to do so.

Background Papers

7 None

Appendices

8 None