



Lewes District Council

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 11 June 2020

Subject: Cabinet Report - Financial Assessment of Covid 19

Cabinet Report of: Homira Javadi, Chief Finance Officer

On 2 June, all the members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee met informally to consider and discuss the recommendations of reports going forward to Cabinet on 11 June 2020. The following members were present for this discussion:

Councillors Joe Miller (Chair), Liz Boorman (Deputy-Chair), Robert Banks, Nancy Bikson, Christine Brett, Roy Burman, Isabelle Linington, Milly Manley, Christine Robinson, Adrian Ross and Steve Saunders

The Cabinet is asked to consider the comments of the members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee on the recommendations set out in the Cabinet report.

The majority of members of the Committee agreed:

- 1) To support the recommendation in the report subject to the following recommended amendments:
 - a. That the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive of the Council send a letter to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, to welcome and acknowledge the benefit of the financial support provided to the Council, local businesses, the self-employed, the unemployed, charities and other organisations to date in response to the Covid 19 crisis and to express the need for that support to continue.
 - b. That the Leader of the Council asks the Chief Executive to formally pass on the thanks of all members to officers of the Council for their hard work and diligence during a difficult and unprecedented period.

Reasons for the amendments:

Members felt that the Government should be made aware that the financial support provided for all areas of the community was welcomed by the Council and that this be expressed through a letter to the Government. Members also felt that the letter should express the wish of the Council for that support to continue which accords with the report and the need for continued lobbying of Government as an option to mitigate the financial impact of Covid 19.

For a copy of the report please contact Democratic Services

Tel. (01273) 471600.

E-mail: committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

A copy may be downloaded on the Council's website by following the link below:

<https://democracy.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=417&MId=2975&Ver=4>



Lewes District Council

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 11 June 2020

Subject: Cabinet Report - Lewes Football Club – Lease, Dripping Pan

Cabinet Report of: Mark Langridge-Kemp, Head of Property, Delivery and Compliance

On 2 June, all the members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee met informally to consider and discuss the recommendations of reports going forward to Cabinet on 11 June 2020. The following members were present for this discussion:

Councillors Joe Miller (Chair), Liz Boorman (Deputy-Chair). Robert Banks, Nancy Bikson, Christine Brett, Roy Burman, Isabelle Linington, Milly Manley, Christine Robinson, Adrian Ross and Steve Saunders

The Cabinet is asked to consider the comments of the members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee on the recommendations set out in the Cabinet report.

The members of the Committee agreed:

1) To support the recommendation in the report subject to consideration of an additional recommendation being added to the report:

- a) That Lewes District Council investigates additional support to ensure the viability of sports clubs and leisure facilities across the district, recognising the extreme pressures faced by the organisations.

Reason for the suggested amendments:

The Committee members felt that through the amendment, the Council will be able to acknowledge the importance of sport and leisure to the District's residents and the extreme stress placed on sport clubs and organisations in the area, following the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, and the necessity for support to be provided.

Councillor Miller also requested officers to clarify whether the insertion of a break-clause in the lease would impact on the Club's ability to attract grant funding. The Council's legal representative stated in the meeting that this would likely be the case. Officers have since confirmed that an uninterrupted lease term would be recommended. It is important to the financial wellbeing of the Club that it had a lease of sufficient length to enable it to access grant funding now and in the future. For this reason, it had originally requested a much longer lease term. A compromise had been reached with the Club for a 25-year term without breaks. This limits the reduction in the Council's flexibility of the use of the land in the future whilst still allowing the Club to access grant funding now from the Football Foundation (whose terms require an interrupted lease term of either 10

or 21 years) and giving it some scope to access grant funding in the future. It was therefore recommended that a break-clause operable by Lewes District Council was not included within the lease.

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Lewes District Council

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 11 June 2020

Subject: Cabinet Report Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme – Housing Delivery Update

Cabinet Report of: Nathan Thompson, Commercial Development and Investment Manager and Leighton Rowe, Specialist Project Manager

On 2 June, all the members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee met informally to consider and discuss the recommendations of reports going forward to Cabinet on 11 June 2020. The following members were present for this discussion:

Councillors Joe Miller (Chair), Liz Boorman (Deputy-Chair), Robert Banks, Nancy Bikson, Christine Brett, Roy Burman, Isabelle Linington, Milly Manley, Christine Robinson, Adrian Ross and Steve Saunders

The Cabinet is asked to consider the comments of the members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee on the recommendations set out in the Cabinet report.

The majority of the members of the Committee agreed:

- 1) **To support recommendations 1 and 2** (subject to any changes Cabinet agrees are appropriate on the recommendations below) and to support **recommendations 5 and 8**.
- 2) **To support the recommendation 3** in the report – subject to Cabinet being requested to consider prior to making the decision whether this is the best option for delivering, taking into account any information from officers as to the reasons for the recommendations and the financial appraisal versus an alternative approach suggested by some of the members :
 - a. That Saxonbury be developed for private housing or a split between private housing and shared ownership (as per the original design for the scheme) with the right-to-buy receipts and sale profits used to deliver more affordable homes across the District.
- 3) **To not support recommendation 4** in the report and instead request the Council go back out to tender, in accordance with contract procedure rules.
- 4) **To support recommendation 6** in the report subject to the following amendment
 - a. That the level of sub-delegation by the Director of Regeneration and Planning to other officers be limited to a maximum of £25,000.

- 5) **To request that recommendation 7 in the report be deleted** and request instead that any such decisions be taken by Cabinet or the Leader, using urgency powers if time-critical, in order to enable proper scrutiny.

Reasons for suggested amendments:

Some members expressed concern as to whether value for money was being achieved by moving forward with the recommendations, in particular in relation to Saxonbury. There was also a question as to whether a different funding approach might deliver additional affordable housing but over a longer time scale. It was felt that alternative approaches and a financial appraisal of these should be considered by the Cabinet, prior to making the decision. There was some concern around the waiving of the contract procedure rule.

A minority of members were concerned about the increase in financial risk and the potential for a delay in the delivery of affordable housing, should the original recommendations 2 and 3 not go forward.

Members also expressed concern over the lack of opportunity for scrutiny of delegated decisions, and wished decisions under recommendation 7, to be made by Cabinet or the Leader even if it was necessary to use urgency powers.

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