

# Decisions taken by the Cabinet on 20 March 2025



Lewes District Council

## Notice dated: 20 March 2025

Issued to the chairman, members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee and other Councillors for information.

**Key decisions will be implemented after the expiry of 3 working days from the date of this notice unless “called-in” under the provisions of the council’s policy and performance advisory procedure rules (see end of document for call-in procedure) or implemented sooner by reason of urgency.**

Please refer to the relevant cabinet agenda and reports when reading this notice. The minutes of the meeting of the cabinet containing a full record of the proceedings will be published in due course. To view on-line follow this link to the relevant pages on the council’s website:- <https://democracy.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=417>

## **DECISIONS:**

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Matter:</b>	<b>Decision:</b>	<b>Reasons for decision:</b>
<b>8</b>	Recommendations from Full Council - Southern Water Panel Report	<b>(Non-key decision):</b>  To accept the recommendations from Full Council, on 4 March 2025.	To respond to the recommendations from Full Council and to reflect the work of the Southern Water Panel report.
<b>9</b>	Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution	<b>(Key decision):</b>  (1) To agree the Interim Plan set out at Appendix 2 to the report.  (2) To approve the continued development of proposals for	The plan appended to this document is also being considered by the county council and other district and borough councils in East Sussex, and if approved by all authorities will be submitted to central government, with

		<p>the establishment of a single tier authority for the EastSussex area, subject to public and stakeholder engagement, and clarity on population size by MHCLG</p> <p>(3) To agree that the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Leader, provide a formal response to the consultation on Sussex and Brighton Devolution currently being undertaken by central government.</p>	<p>a view to development of a unitary authority for East Sussex.</p>
10	Revenue & Capital Financial Monitoring Report - Quarter 3 2024/25	<p><b>(Non-key decision):</b></p> <p>(1) To note the forecast outturn position for 2024/25 and associated risks.</p> <p>(2) To delegate authority to the Director of Finance and Performance and the portfolio holder for finance to apply the required budget virements to support effective management of the overall budget.</p> <p>(3) To note Appendix 1 and 2 to the report.</p>	<p>To update members on the financial position of the Council and ensure that the Authority complies with its financial regulations.</p>
11	Portfolio progress and performance report 2024/25 - Quarter 3	<p><b>(Non-key decision):</b></p> <p>To note progress and performance for Quarter 3 2024/25.</p>	<p>To enable Cabinet members to consider specific aspects of the council's progress and performance.</p>
12	Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership – Annual Report (Lewes)	<p><b>(Non-key decision):</b></p> <p>That Cabinet notes the achievements and activities of the E&amp;L CSP in 2024/25.</p>	<p>To consider progress on delivery of the current Community Safety Plan.</p>

13	Homes First - Performance & Outlook	<p><b>(Non-key decision):</b></p> <p>To note the summary of performance, operating challenges, and the key activities that Homes First is taking to address these.</p>	<p>To provide information about the current operating performance and challenges.</p>
14	The Future of Grounds Maintenance	<p><b>(Key decision):</b></p> <p>(1) To approve a hybrid approach for future grounds maintenance delivery, which includes contracting to an external provider for the council's grounds maintenance core service provision via a joint procurement exercise with Eastbourne Borough Council.</p> <p>(2) Give delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Leader and portfolio holder, to develop and progress operational and procurement plans to ensure new service arrangements are in place for April 2026, including all contractual and ancillary arrangements.</p>	<p>To meet the council's financial and service needs in the most efficient and economically viable manner, as recommended by professional advisors.</p>
15	Asset Management	<p><b>(Key decision):</b></p> <p>(1) To note the current position regarding land and property assets at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Southover House, and</li> <li>ii) the North Street Quarter</li> </ul> <p>(2) To approve entering into a long lease of Southover House with Charleston Lewes Limited, subject to ongoing due diligence and agreed final terms.</p> <p>(3) To authorise the Assistant Director – Property and</p>	<p>(1) To enable Charleston Lewes Limited to develop a National Gallery and long-term cultural centre offer at Southover House that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure equal access to arts and culture</li> <li>• Boost the local visitor economy</li> <li>• Support local creative industries</li> <li>• Enable community, education,</li> </ul>

	<p>Development, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conclude commercial negotiations in relation to Southover House, including determining final terms, and</li> <li>• enter into a lease of Southover House on the terms agreed, including all associated documents.</li> </ul> <p>(4) To authorise the Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Director of Finance and Performance, and Head of Legal Services, to assess options to further the delivery of the North Street Quarter development as set out in Appendix 2 to the report (exempt).</p> <p>(5) To agree that compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules is waived in the event that any agreed rent, or turnover rent, exceeds £25,000 per annum.</p>	<p>and other social value benefits.</p> <p>(2) To provide an update and further the delivery of the North Street Quarter development, which includes land and property assets owned by the council.</p>
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## Call-in procedure

Call-in is the procedure whereby a decision of the Cabinet, the Leader or a portfolio holder, or a member or officer with delegated authority (an executive decision), taken but not implemented, may be examined by the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee prior to implementation.

Any Councillor is entitled to submit a request by email setting out the reason why he/she wishes any such decision to be called in by the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee for consideration by a Call-In Panel. The request must be submitted to Democratic Services within three working days of the date of this notice.

Should any request by a councillor be submitted, the Cabinet Officer will then email all members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee, advising them of the request for a review.

Members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee must decide within two working days if they support the request and if they do, they should email a response to the Committee and Civic Services Manager accordingly. If at least six members of the Committee are in favour of calling in the decision the Chair of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee will call a Call-In Panel of the Committee within five working days where possible. The number of councillors to serve on a Panel (which shall be politically proportionate except that either the Leader of a political group may decide to offer one of their Group's places to another Group or an Independent member) shall be determined by the Chair with the councillors being nominated by the respective Group Leaders.

The decision of the Cabinet will not be implemented until:

- The time period for call-in has expired and six members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee have not stated they are in favour of calling in the decision; or
- A Call-In Panel of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee considers the matter and resolves not to intervene in the decision of Cabinet; or
- A Call-In Panel of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee resolves to refer the matter back to Cabinet for further consideration and to take account of any recommendation of the Panel, in which case the Cabinet will reconsider the decision as soon as is reasonably practicable; or
- In the case of any question relating to the budget or policy framework, a Call-In Panel of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee has reported to the meeting of the Council that will consider the budget or policy framework or any component part of it (if there is insufficient time for the matter to be referred back to the Cabinet).

Once a decision of the Cabinet has been referred to a Call-In Panel of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee it shall not be subject to further consideration by a Call-In Panel or the Committee itself and shall not again be referred by any individual councillor.

## **Democratic Services**

For any further queries regarding this document or you require any further information please contact Democratic Services.

**Email:** [committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 01273 471600

[Council Website - http://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/](http://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/)