

Cabinet

Minutes of meeting held in Ditchling and Telscombe Rooms at Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes, BN7 1AB on 23 March 2023 at 2.30 pm.

Present:

Councillor James MacCleary (Chair).
Councillors Zoe Nicholson (Vice-Chair), Matthew Bird, Julie Carr, Chris Collier, Stephen Gauntlett, William Meyer and Ruth O'Keeffe.

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Ian Fitzpatrick (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning), Tim Whelan (Director of Service Delivery), Parmjeet Jassal (Interim Head of Financial Planning), Oliver Jones (Lead, Housing, Homelessness & Community Safety), Ola Owolabi (Deputy Chief Finance Officer - Corporate Finance) and Simon Russell (Head of Democratic Services).

Also in attendance:

Councillor Isabelle Linington (Leader of the Opposition).
Ms Debbie Twitchen (Tenants' Representative)

52 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2023 were submitted and approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

53 Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was reported from Cabinet member, Councillor Denis.

Apologies were also reported from visiting members, Councillors Boorman and Peterson.

54 Declarations of interest

None were declared.

55 Finance update - performance quarter 3 - 2022-2023

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Finance and Performance, updating members on the Council's financial performance at Quarter 3 2022/23.

The figures detailed in the report were reflective of the Council's financial position as of 31 December 2022. An updated financial position at year end would be presented as part of the outturn report in July 2023. It was anticipated

that due to putting aside reserves and other support, the Council would achieve a balanced position by year end.

Policy and Performance Advisory Committee (PPAC), held on 16 March 2023 considered the report and were supportive of the officer recommendations in full. Councillor Linington, Deputy-Chair of Policy and Performance Advisory Committee, was in attendance to present PPAC's discussion.

In a response to a question raised by Ms Debbie Twitchen, Tenants Representative around the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), it was advised that money allocated in the Major Repairs Reserves (MRR) was part of the agreed 30-Year Business Plan and could be accessed as and when appropriate. The reserves would be kept under constant review to ensure it was reflective of the Council's spending requirement on repairs. A further detailed response would also be provided to Ms Twitchen.

Resolved (Non-key decision):

(1) To note the General Fund, HRA and Collection Fund financial performance for the quarter ended December 2022.

(2) To note the capital programme as set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

Reason for decisions:

To enable Cabinet members to consider specific aspects of the Council's financial performance.

56 Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership – Annual Report (Lewes)

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery, enabling them to consider the 2022/23 performance of the Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership.

Policy and Performance Advisory Committee (PPAC), held on 16 March 2023 considered the report and were supportive of the officer recommendation in full. Councillor Linington, Deputy-Chair of Policy and Performance Advisory Committee, was in attendance to present PPAC's discussion.

Key highlights, activities and achievements across the Partnership's 5 priorities were detailed in the report and presented by the Lead for Housing, Homelessness & Community Safety.

Following comments raised, the Lead for Housing, Homelessness & Community Safety agreed to discuss with the Local Inspector around the possible reinstatement of Community Safety Action Group meetings (facilitated by Sussex Police) in different areas of the District. A discussion would also take place around the date and time of future meetings, to explore how to increase attendance.

Resolved (Non-key decision):

To note the achievements and activities of the Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership in 2022/23.

Reason for decision:

To consider progress on delivery of the current Community Safety Plan.

The meeting ended at 3.00 pm

Councillor James MacCleary (Chair)