

Report to: Policy and Performance Advisory Committee

Date: 07 September 2023

Title: Policy and Performance Advisory Committee – Policy Input and Development.

Exemption: None

Report of: Simon Russell, Head of Democratic Services

Ward(s): All

Purpose of the report: This report outlines the responsibilities of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee when choosing to consult on reports from the Forward Plan that are due for consideration by the Cabinet and provides details of the recommendations to the Cabinet for each report.

Recommendations to the Committee: The recommendations are detailed at 1.3 of this report

Reasons for recommendations to the Committee: To provide a critical friend challenge to the Cabinet decision and policy making process.

Contact Officer(s): Name: Nick Peeters
Post title: Committee Officer
E-mail: nick.peeters@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk
Telephone number: 01323 415272

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In its role as a provider of public scrutiny and as critical friend, the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee has a duty to provide a challenge to the executive decision and policy makers.
- 1.2 The Policy and Performance Advisory Committee is able to provide this challenge through the inclusion of the Cabinet's Forward Plan of Decisions as a standing item on each of the Committee's agendas, allowing the Committee to request the inclusion of reports due for consideration by the Cabinet on its agenda and by asking that the relevant officers, heads of service or directors, attend the Committee meetings and discuss the content of the reports.
- 1.3 Following consideration of each item, where the Members will be able to ask questions of the relevant officers, heads of service, directors and other stakeholders, the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee will provide one of the following three recommendations to the Cabinet:
- 1) To support the recommendations in the report in full; or

- 2) To support the recommendation in the report subject to the consideration by the Cabinet of any amendments agreed by Committee; or
- 3) To not support the recommendations in the report and give reasons.

1.4 The Cabinet will be provided with the recommendations from the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee when it considers the main report.

3 The following Cabinet reports and recommendations are included in the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee agenda for the meeting on the 10 July 2023:

Cabinet report: Cost of Living Update

Purpose of the report: To update Cabinet on work delivered by the Council in supporting residents through the Cost-of-Living crisis, with proposals to continue and build on key work-streams and partnerships.

Officer recommendations to the Cabinet:

- (1) To note the initiatives undertaken to date in response to the cost-of-living crisis.
- (2) To agree that the coordination of cost-of-living responses and dedicated role continue for a further year.
- (3) To agree a one-off grant of £20,000 for Lewes District Citizens Advice to support the continuation of specialist UC advice.

Reasons for the recommendations: To enable the Council, in partnership with local organisations, to continue an effective and holistic cost-of-living response, helping residents as the crisis continues to impact negatively on households.

Cabinet report: Revenue and Capital Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2023-24

Purpose of the report: The report provides an assessment of the Council's financial performance against its approved 2023-24 budget, incorporating key financial risks, issues and opportunities identified since 1 April 2023 for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

Officer recommendations: It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- i) Notes the forecast outturn position for 2023-24 and associated risks.
- ii) Delegates authority to the Director of Finance and Performance and the portfolio holder for finance to apply any budget virements required to effectively manage the overall budget.
- iii) Notes Appendices 1 and 2.

Reasons for the recommendations: To update members on the financial position of the Council and ensure that the Authority complies with its financial regulations.

Cabinet report: Portfolio progress and performance report 2023/24 – Quarter 1

Purpose of the report: To consider the Council’s progress and performance in respect of service areas for the First Quarter of the year (April-June 2023) as shown in Appendix 1.

Officer recommendations to the Cabinet: To note progress and performance for Quarter 1 2023/24.

Reasons for recommendations: To enable Cabinet members to consider specific aspects of the Council’s progress and performance.

Cabinet report: Community Wealth Building update.

Purpose of the report: To provide an update on the progress of the Community Wealth Building Delivery plan.

Officer recommendations to the Cabinet: (1) To note the progress made in delivering Community Wealth Building and to agree the new Delivery Plan set out in Appendix A.

(2) To note Lewes District Council’s application to join the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network.

- Reasons for recommendations:**
- (1) The Council is committed to developing a Community Wealth Building approach as part of the Corporate Plan adopted in February 2020. This report is the annual update on this work to the Cabinet.**
 - (2) Joining the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network would enable sharing of best practice on issues relevant to our community wealth building delivery plan.**

Cabinet report: **Business support for Lewes District**

- Purpose of the report:**
- (1) To provide an update on the achievements of the Local Enterprise and Apprenticeship Platform (LEAP) business start-up and the general business support programmes funded by Lewes District Council.**
 - (2) To secure further funding for the Council's continuing contribution to the business support landscape.**

- Officer recommendations:**
- (1) To continue to fund a business start-up programme to support local pre-start and early-stage enterprises with specialist provision built-in to a) help entrepreneurs understand what a socially productive business is, and b) support those wanting to pursue a social enterprise model.**
 - (2) To approve a new budget of up to £105,000 for a 3-year period from April 2024, and invite suppliers to tender for the contract. The award will be subject to adoption of the final 24/25 budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.**
 - (3) To approve the renaming of the 'LEAP business start-up programme' to 'Lewes District start-up programme'.**

- Reasons for recommendations:**
- (1) There is continued demand for specialist and intensive start-up support.**
 - (2) With the current contract coming to an end, it is an opportunity to revisit the design and frequency of the start-up programme to ensure it aligns with local Community Wealth Building (CWB) plural ownership priorities and to maximise value for money for the Council and outcomes.**
 - (3) Renaming the programme will reduce associated marketing resources and risks with the LEAP brand and confusion on the omission of apprenticeship support.**

Cabinet report:	Funding Simplification Pathfinder Pilot
Purpose of the report:	To provide information on the Funding Simplification Pathfinder Pilot that Lewes District Council has been invited to participate in.
Officer recommendations to the Cabinet:	<p>(1) To approve the content of the Council’s Investment Plan (copy attached) and authorise submission of the document to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) by 15th September deadline.</p> <p>(2) To delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Performance (S151 Officer) and the Lead Member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth Building to take all necessary actions to progress the Pathfinder Pilot and to implement the Investment Plan, including determining the terms of, and authorising the execution of, all necessary documentation.</p>
Reasons for recommendations:	The Pilot will provide the Council with the flexibilities to deliver effectively in line with local priorities and reduce the administrative burdens of agreeing any minor changes.

Cabinet report:	Robinson Road Depot – Capital Development Project Update (Part Exempt)
Purpose of the report:	To provide an update on the progress of the plans to redevelop the waste and recycling depot in Robinson Road, Newhaven to meet the future needs of the service.
Officer recommendations to the Cabinet:	<p>(1) To note the progress of the Robinson Road waste and recycling depot capital development project, including the proposed Preferred Option showing in Appendix 1.</p> <p>(2) To delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Performance (S151 Officer), Lead Member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth Building, and Lead Member for Neighbourhood Wellbeing, to carry out all necessary actions to facilitate the project within the capacity of the existing General Fund capital budget allocation of £5m including finalising the Preferred Option, financing, feasibility, planning, development, award of contract(s), and determining the terms of, and authorising the execution of, all necessary documentation.</p>

(3) To approve the lease of land at Lewes Road, Newhaven as part of the project proposals in line with the key terms outlined in Appendix 2 (Exempt), subject to such variations that may be agreed in the course of negotiations and to delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Performance (S151 Officer) and Lead Member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth Building, to carry out all necessary actions to conclude that lease and any ancillary documentation including determining the terms of, and authorising the execution of, all necessary documentation.

Reasons for recommendations:

(1) To provide Cabinet with an update on the Robinson Road waste and recycling depot capital development project.

(2) To enable key decisions to be taken in relation to land / assets required to support the scheme proposals and to meet the future needs of the waste and recycling service.

2 Financial / Legal / Risk Management / Equality Analysis/ Environmental Sustainability Implications/ Background Papers

2.1 All implications are addressed in the Cabinet reports

3 Appendices: None