

Report to: Policy and Performance Advisory Committee

Date: 26 November 2024

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 on the 5 December 2024, 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.

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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 26 November 2024:

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| Cabinet report: | Greater Brighton Economic Board – Admission of New Member to the Board |
| Purpose of the report: | This report seeks LDC approval for the NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) to become a member of the Greater Brighton Economic Board (“the Board”) |
| Officer recommendations to the Cabinet: | <p>(1) To ratify the appointment of NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) to the Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB) and Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee (GBEJC), subject to formal agreement of NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board.</p> <p>(2) To note that NHS Sussex’s Integrated Care Board appointment is dependent on all the local authorities represented on the Board approving its appointment.</p> <p>(3) To agree other proposed changes within the Heads of Terms of the Greater Brighton Economic Board</p> |
| Reasons for the recommendations: | <p>(1) The Greater Brighton Economic Board was founded in April 2014 as part of the Greater Brighton City Region’s City Deal with Government.</p> <p>(2) The Board comprises the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee (GBEJC), on which the local authorities are represented; and the Greater Brighton Business Partnership (GBBP) on which business, university and further education sectors are situated.</p> |
| Lead Officer | Lisa Rawlinson, Head of Regeneration |
| Cabinet report: | Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/26 |

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| Purpose of the report: | To gain Cabinet's recommendation to Full Council that the 2024/25 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme is adopted as the 2025/26 scheme. |
| Officer recommendations: | <p>(1) Cabinet recommend to Full Council that the 2024/25 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme is adopted as the 2025/26 scheme. This is subject to any changes announced in the budget due on 30 October 2024 and annual DWP welfare benefit uprating due in January 2025.</p> <p>(2) Subject to Full Council adoption of the Scheme, Cabinet grants the Assistant Director for Revenues and Benefits delegated authority–</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) to implement the Scheme, such delegated authority to include any measures necessary for or incidental to its management and administration; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) if necessary, and in accordance with paragraph 2.3, to amend the Scheme in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Assets and Community wellbeing</p> <p>(3) That the Exceptional Hardship Scheme continues in 2025/26 subject to funds being available.</p> |
| Reasons for the recommendations: | The Council must review the scheme each year and adopt a scheme for the coming financial year. |
| Lead Officer | Nick Ducatel, Assistant Director Revenues and Benefits |
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| Cabinet report: | Portfolio progress and performance report 2024/25 - Quarter 2 |
| Purpose of the report: | To consider the council's progress and performance in respect of service areas for the Second Quarter of the year (July – September 2024) as shown in Appendix 1. |
| Officer recommendations to the Cabinet: | To note progress and performance for Quarter 2 2024/25 |
| Reasons for recommendations: | To enable Cabinet members to consider specific aspects of the Council's progress and performance. |
| Lead Officer | Luke Dreeling, Performance Lead |
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| Cabinet report: | Council Tax Base and Non-Domestic Rates income for 2025/26 |

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| Purpose of the report: | To approve the Council Tax Base and net yield from Business Rate Income for 2025/26 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992. |
| Officer recommendations to the Cabinet: | <p>(1) Agree the provisional Council Tax Base of 38,954.9 for 2025/26 for the whole area and that the Council Tax Base for each of the Town and Parish areas of the District shall be set out in Appendix 2 of this report.</p> <p>(2) Agree that the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Financial Services, determine the final amounts for the Council Tax Base for 2025/26.</p> <p>(3) Agreed that the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, determine net yield from Business Rate income for 2025/26.</p> |
| Reasons for recommendations: | Cabinet is required to approve the Tax Base which will be used for the purposes of calculating the 2025/26 Council Tax. |
| Lead Officer | Homira Javadi, Chief Finance Officer |
| Cabinet report: | Revenue & Capital Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2024/25 |
| Purpose of the report: | The report provides an assessment of the Council's financial performance against its approved 2024/25 budget, incorporating key financial risks, issues and opportunities for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account |
| Officer recommendations to the Cabinet: | <p>i) Note the forecast outturn position for 2024/25 and associated risks.</p> <p>ii) 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>iii) To delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Planning and portfolio holder for finance, assets and community wealth building to take all necessary steps to enter into and complete a sub-lease and grant agreement with Wave Active for Ringmer Swimming Pool, as set out within paragraph 5.5 of the report.</p> <p>iv) Note Appendix 1 and 2</p> |
| Reasons for recommendations: | To update members on the financial position of the Council and ensure that the Authority complies with its financial regulations. |
| Lead Officer | Homira Javadi, Director of Finance and Performance |

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| Cabinet report: | Lewes District Local Plan – Update and plans for public consultation |
| Purpose of the report: | To provide an update on the Local Plan and seek Cabinet approval (if required for this meeting) to commence the first of a two phased approach to the statutory public consultation on the Local Plan ‘defining our policies and early site allocation proposals’ under Regulation 18. |
| Officer recommendations to the Cabinet: | <p>(1) Agree that the Lewes District Council Local Plan 2040 Regulation 18 ‘defining our policies and early site allocation proposals’, attached as Annex 1 (and its annexes) to the report, be published for public consultation for an eight-week period. This will be the first phase to a two-phase approach to consultation on the local plan draft policies and site allocations. The second phase of consultation will take place later in 2025 following publication of the new National Planning Policy Framework, and the availability of further evidence, including transport modelling.</p> <p>(2) Delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure, authority to make any necessary amendments (corrections or improving the presentation) to the consultation documents (including Annexes) prior to publication.</p> |

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| <p>Reasons for recommendations:</p> | <p>To progress work on preparing the Local Plan in accordance with the relevant regulations. This includes consultation at Regulation 18 of the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).</p> <p>Work on the local plan commenced in 2020 and notwithstanding the government’s proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework published earlier in the autumn, and alongside the delay in the availability of key supporting evidence, progress on the local plan is at a stage where it would benefit from public consultation before its content is further developed.</p> <p>A nuanced two-phase approach is being taken to how we want to take forward public consultation. This first phase presents the draft policies and an initial set of sites which are considerations for allocation. These sites will be revisited, alongside others not included in this phase, as part of the second phase consultation later in 2025. The second phase will include the full final draft policies and all site allocations.</p> <p>Through this first phase consultation, we want to invite comments on the draft policies and the included sites.</p> <p>Following the second phase of consultation under Regulation 18, the final Plan will be prepared and consulted upon under Regulation 19 prior to it being submitted for Examination in Public</p> |
| <p>Lead Officer</p> | <p>Nadeem Din, Head of Policy (Planning)</p> |