

Full Council

Minutes of meeting held in Shackleton Hall, Welcome Building, Devonshire Quarter, Compton Street, Eastbourne BN21 4BP on 23 February 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Pat Rodohan (Mayor).

Councillors Helen Burton (Deputy Mayor), Josh Babarinde, Margaret Bannister, Colin Belsey, Penny di Cara, Sammy Choudhury, Peter Diplock, Tony Freebody, Stephen Holt, Jane Lamb, Robin Maxted, Paul Metcalfe, Md. Harun Miah, Colin Murdoch, Jim Murray, Amanda Morris, Kshama Shore, Alan Shuttleworth, Robert Smart, Colin Swansborough, Steve Wallis, Barry Taylor, David Tutt, Candy Vaughan and Rebecca Whippy.

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Homira Javadi (Chief Finance Officer), Simon Russell (Head of Democratic Services), Joanne Stone (Solicitor, Planning) and Sarah Lawrence (Senior Committee Officer).

54 Minutes of the meetings held on 17 November 2021 and 31 January 2022.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2021 were confirmed as a correct record subject to a correction to the name of the Mayor's charity to 'Wayfinder Woman'. The minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2022 were approved as a correct record.

55 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) by members as required under Section 31 of the Localism Act and of other interests as required by the Code of Conduct (please see note at end of agenda).

Councillor Miah declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 7d – Approval of Licensing Fees and Charges 2022-23 as a licence holder and confirmed that he would leave the room for the discussion of this item.

Councillors Belsey, di Cara, Morris and Shuttleworth declared personal interests in respect of agenda item 8d, Motion 4 – Cardiology Services at Eastbourne DGH, as members of the East Sussex Health Overview Committee, which was due to formally consider the changes to the provision of services in due course.

Councillor Freebody declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 8d, Motion 4 – Cardiology Services at Eastbourne DGH, as an employee of the NHS Sussex Partnership.

Councillor Holt declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 7e,

Review of the Cumulative Impact Assessment part of the Statement of Licensing Act Policy 2019-2024, as an employee of Your Eastbourne Bid, a representative of which had spoken at the Licensing Committee where this item was first considered.

56 Mayor's announcements.

The Mayor advised that the list of his activities for November 2021 to February 2022 were set out in the agenda. He advised that it has been a busy time and he drew attention in particular to the Holocaust Evening at the Congress, Queen's Platinum Service at St Mary's Parish Church and Brighton University the Graduation Service which he had attended.

The Mayor advised that the Mayor's Charity Ball would take place on 23 April 2022 and that he hoped to see all there.

57 Notification of apologies for absence.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dow.

58 Public right of address.

The Mayor confirmed that there were eight public speakers and that he had used his discretion to allow for more than one speaker per item on this occasion. They were as follows:

- Gaynor Sedgwick on Item 7(a) - Council Budget and Setting of the Council Tax for 2022/23 in respect of the Capital Programme.
- Tondra Thom and Tom Neville on Item 8(a) – Motion 1 – 20 mph speed limits.
- Ray Blount (Sea Swimmers Group) and Carolyn Heaps (Silver Dippers) on Item 8(b) - Motion 2 – Holding Southern Water to account.
- Chris Leach (Chair of the Eastbourne Society), Phil Hall and Heidi Emery on Item 8(c) Motion 3 – Maintaining Heritage Assets.

The Mayor confirmed that he would call forward each person to speak at the start of the relevant agenda item.

59 Order of business.

The Mayor advised that a change to the order of business had been requested due to the number of public speakers attending and agenda items would be taken in the following order:

Items 1 to 6

Item 8a (Motion 1 – 20 mph limits)

Item 8b (Motion 2 – Holding Southern Water to account)

Item 7a (Council Budget and Setting of the Council Tax for 2022/23)

Item 8c (Motion 3 – Maintaining Heritage Assets)

He advised that the remaining items would proceed in the order as set out on the agenda from Item 7b onwards.

60 Motion 1 - 20 mph speed limits

Councillor Murray moved and Councillor Swansborough seconded the following motion as set out in the agenda:

“This Council supports the ‘20’s Plenty Eastbourne’ campaign:

“We have all seen the benefits of less traffic on the road because of lockdown, the aim of this campaign is to ask East Sussex County Council to help keep these improvements in air quality and road safety by introducing 20mph speed limits in all the areas where we have schools and where people live, work, shop, play or learn.
Calls on East Sussex County Council to implement 20mph as the default speed limit in Eastbourne; and

Agrees that the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Place Services and Special Projects and Chair of the Planning Committee will write to East Sussex County Council on behalf of the Council to request making 20mph the default speed limit on streets throughout Eastbourne in places where people live, work, shop, play or learn, leaving 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.”

Councillor Lamb moved and Councillor Freebody seconded the following amendment:

“To propose an additional recommendation 4.

We propose the Eastbourne Borough Council form a cross-party group (with Officer support) to consider the areas and zones which would benefit from adopting a ‘20 is Plenty’ speed limit.

This would benefit residents’ safety and improve air quality in parts of the town where residents and vehicles mix closely but would maintain thoroughfares in order to enhance vehicular flow.”

Tondra Thom and Tom Neville spoke as public speakers in relation to this item.

Councillor Murray as the proposer of the original motion, agreed to incorporate the amendment into the recommendation.

The Council debated the motion and it received support from across the Council. There was also general agreement to involving local people in assessing where 20 mph zones were most needed.

The motion as amended was put to a vote and approved.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

“This Council:

1. Supports the ‘20’s Plenty Eastbourne’ campaign:
“We have all seen the benefits of less traffic on the road because of lockdown, the aim of this campaign is to ask East Sussex County Council to help keep these improvements in air quality and road safety by introducing 20mph speed limits in all the areas where we have schools and where people live, work, shop, play or learn.
2. Calls on East Sussex County Council to implement 20mph as the default speed limit in Eastbourne;
3. Agrees that the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Place Services and Special Projects and Chair of the Planning Committee will write to East Sussex County Council on behalf of the Council to request making 20mph the default speed limit on streets throughout Eastbourne in places where people live, work, shop, play or learn, leaving 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit; and
4. We propose the Eastbourne Borough Council form a cross-party group (with Officer support) to consider the areas and zones which would benefit from adopting a ‘20 is Plenty’ speed limit.

This would benefit residents’ safety and improve air quality in parts of the town where residents and vehicles mix closely but would maintain thoroughfares in order to enhance vehicular flow.”

61 Motion 2 - Holding Southern Water to account

Councillor Babarinde moved and Councillor Tutt seconded the following motion as set out in the agenda papers:

“This Council notes that:

1. Southern Water has discharged untreated wastewater (raw sewage) into the sea in Eastbourne 20 times in the last year.
2. Southern Water was fined £90 million in 2021 for dumping raw sewage into the sea, after pleading guilty to 6,971 unpermitted sewage discharges.
3. Southern Water conducted a severe raw sewage dump on the Eastbourne coast for more than 17 hours on Saturday 5 February 2022.
4. The 5 February dump was caused by an electrical fault at the Southern Water Treatment Plant. No back-up system was in place and this could not be rectified until a portable generator was brought on to the site.
5. A clean Eastbourne sea is critical to Eastbourne’s tourism economy, the quality of our coastal environment, and to the enjoyment and fitness of local swimming groups and residents.
6. Southern Water made a profit £139 million last year.

This Council calls on:

1. Southern Water to swiftly complete a full and transparent investigation into the 5 February Eastbourne discharge, and their raw sewage dumping more generally.
2. Southern Water to take robust action to prevent such discharges from reoccurring in Eastbourne and elsewhere, including the deployment of a permanent on-site back-up generator at the Eastbourne Water Treatment Plant.
3. Southern Water to take responsibility for such discharges in Eastbourne and apologise to Eastbourne residents, businesses and visitors.
4. The Government to introduce a 'Sewage Tax' on water companies' profits to begin compensating for their discharges, and to help fund cleaner sea."

Councillor di Cara moved an amendment to the motion:

- To amend item 1 under 'the Council notes that' to replace 20 with 18 times, for accuracy.
- To delete recommendation 4 under 'The Council calls on', to remove reference to a Sewage Tax.

Ray Blount (Sea Swimmers Group) and Carolyn Heaps (Silver Dippers Group) spoke as public speakers in relation to this item.

The Council debated the motion and the amendment.

The amendment was put to a vote by a show of hands and declared lost by 9 votes to 17.

The original motion was put to the vote by show of hands and declared carried by 17 votes to 8, with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED (by 17 to 8 votes, with 1 abstention):

A. That this Council notes that:

1. Southern Water has discharged untreated wastewater (raw sewage) into the sea in Eastbourne 20 times in the last year.
2. Southern Water was fined £90 million in 2021 for dumping raw sewage into the sea, after pleading guilty to 6,971 unpermitted sewage discharges.
3. Southern Water conducted a severe raw sewage dump on the Eastbourne coast for more than 17 hours on Saturday 5 February 2022.
4. The 5 February dump was caused by an electrical fault at the Southern Water Treatment Plant. No back-up system was in place and this could not be rectified until a portable generator was brought on to the site.
5. A clean Eastbourne sea is critical to Eastbourne's tourism economy, the quality of our coastal environment, and to the enjoyment and

fitness of local swimming groups and residents.

6. Southern Water made a profit £139 million last year.

B. That this Council calls on:

1. Southern Water to swiftly complete a full and transparent investigation into the 5 February Eastbourne discharge, and their raw sewage dumping more generally.
2. Southern Water to take robust action to prevent such discharges from reoccurring in Eastbourne and elsewhere, including the deployment of a permanent on-site back-up generator at the Eastbourne Water Treatment Plant.
3. Southern Water to take responsibility for such discharges in Eastbourne and apologise to Eastbourne residents, businesses and visitors.
4. The Government to introduce a 'Sewage Tax' on water companies' profits to begin compensating for their discharges, and to help fund cleaner sea.

62 Matters referred from Cabinet or other council bodies (1)

62a Council Budget and Setting of the Council Tax for 2022/23.

Councillor Holt moved and Councillor Tutt seconded the recommendations set out in the agenda, in relation to the Council Budget and setting of the Council Tax for 2022/23. This incorporate recommendations from Cabinet on 9 February 2022 in respect of the General Fund Budget 2022/23 and Capital Programme, Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators 2022/23, Capital Strategy and Investment Strategy, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budget and Rent Setting 2022/23 and HRA Capital Programme 2021-25.

Councillor Smart moved and Councillor Shore seconded the following amendment which had been circulated at the meeting:

“That the budget and council tax recommendations for 2022/23 are as set out in the report subject to the following amendment:

To increase the capital expenditure allocation to the 'Bandstand and Promenade Renovations' from £750k to at least the previous estimate of £3m, to allow for as much work as possible to be completed whilst the Bandstand is closed this summer, and to adequately reflect estimates of capital receipts in the capital strategy arising from the Council's External Finance Review.”

Gaynor Sedgwick (Save Eastbourne Bandstand Campaign Group) spoke as a public speaker on this item in respect of the Capital Programme.

Councillor Holt as Cabinet Member for Finance presented the budget. He highlighted that this was a balanced budget and was a budget of recovery following the pandemic and reductions in funding, and that this budget was not without exceptional pressures. The budget included an increase of 1.99% in

Council Tax. He thanked the Chief Finance Officer and her team for all their work and staff for achieving savings through the recovery and reset programme, and for all those who had enabled the town to attract cultural and levelling up funding.

Councillor Holt advised that the Council had a capitalisation direction in place from the Government, which enabled it to borrow money or sell assets to make up shortfall on income and pay for the running cost of services. As part of the external assurance review, the Council must limit its capital expenditure over the next few years to key and specific areas such as housing, essential maintenance and health and safety. For this reason, he advised he could not support the opposition amendment to increase the funding for the bandstand to £3m to a full renovation, from the £750k budgeted, as this was outside these parameters. In relation to the Motcombe Pool, he advised that the Council could not fund it directly under the current restrictions, but that it would be working with residents to secure funding via a Community Investment Company (CIC), in order to retain the facility for the community.

Councillor Smart spoke to the amendment and spoke on behalf of the opposition group in relation to the budget. He recognised that the last two years had been overshadowed by Covid, and he applauded the response from the Council and the savings that had been achieved. He advised that he considered that it was appropriate to fund the full cost of £3m to renovate the bandstand now and protect the asset, not simply doing enough for it to be reopened, or waiting for the Environment Agency to complete its sea defence proposals. He recognised the support that the local MP had provided in enabling the Council to achieve additional levelling up and cultural funding.

The Council then debated the budget in full, including the recommendations and the amendment, and Councillor Smart and Councillor Holt had the opportunity to sum up as the proposers of the amendment and the original motion.

The amendment was put to a named vote in accordance with legislation and was declared lost by 9 votes to 17:

For: Councillors Belsey, di Cara, Freebody, Lamb, Metcalfe, Murdoch, Shore, Smart and Taylor

Against: Councillors Babarinde, Bannister, Burton, Choudhury, Diplock, Holt, Maxted, Miah, Morris, Murray, Rodohan, Shuttleworth, Tutt, Vaughan, Wallis and Whippy.

The original recommendations were put to a named vote in accordance with legislation and were declared carried by 17 votes to 9:

For: Councillors Babarinde, Bannister, Burton, Choudhury, Diplock, Holt, Maxted, Miah, Morris, Murray, Rodohan, Shuttleworth, Tutt, Vaughan, Wallis and Whippy.

Against: Councillors Belsey, di Cara, Freebody, Lamb, Metcalfe, Murdoch, Shore, Smart and Taylor

RESOLVED (17 votes to 9):

1. That the recommendations as detailed in the reports from the Chief Finance Officer to Cabinet on 9 February 2022 be agreed including:
 - (i) To approve the General Fund budget for 2021/22 (Revised) and 2022/23 (original).
 - (ii) To approve an increase in the Council Tax for Eastbourne Borough Council of 1.99% resulting in a Band D charge of £261.85 for 2022/23.
 - (iii) To approve the revised General Fund capital programme 2022/23.
 - (iv) To endorse the continuation of the Flexible use of Capital Receipts.
 - (v) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23.
 - (vi) To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement 2022/23.
 - (vii) To approve the Prudential and Treasury Indicators 2022/23 to 2024/25.
 - (viii) To approve the Capital Strategy.
 - (ix) To approve the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) income and expenditure proposals, including revised HRA budget for 2021/22 and the budget for 2022/23, rents and service charges and the arrangements for finalising Eastbourne Homes' management fee, including:
 - That social and affordable rents (including Shared Ownership) are increased by 4.1% in line with Government policy.
 - That the average General Needs Housing Benefit (HB) Eligible service charge will be £5.04 per week.
 - That the average HB Eligible service charge for Retirement Housing will be £35.85 per week.
 - That the Support charge for Retirement Housing will be £5.44 per unit.
 - That the average Non-HB Eligible heating charges will be £3.49 per week.
 - That the average non-HB Eligible water charges will be £3.33.
 - That garage rents are increased by 4.86% (September RPI).
 - (x) To grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio holders for Financial Services and Direct Assistance

Service and the Chief Finance Officer to finalise Eastbourne Homes' Management Fee and Delivery Plan.

2. That delegated authority is given to the Chief Finance Officer to amend the budget for any presentational changes ensuring the Council Tax Requirement at 6 below remains unchanged.
3. That it be noted, that since the Cabinet meeting on 9 February the Business Rates return to the Government (NNDR1) had been finalised with no changes to the previous net budget assumptions.
4. That consequent upon a General Fund budget of £16,105,550 and other matters, the basic amount (Band D) of Council Tax for the Borough Council's functions will be £261.85 (representing an increase of 1.99%) calculated as follows:

	£'000	£'000
Gross Expenditure:		
General Fund		90,256
HRA		19,452
Business Rates Tariff payable and deficit		12,974
		<u>122,682</u>
Less Income:		
Service Income	(90,294)	
Contribution form Reserves	(4,648)	
Other Government Grants	(2,706)	
Business Rates income	(15,672)	
Collection Fund Surplus (Council Tax)	(262)	(113,582)
		<u>9,100</u>
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT		9,100
Band 'D' Council Tax		£261.85

The statutory resolutions relating to this matter are given at paragraphs 5 and 6 below.

5. That it be noted that at its meeting on 1 December 2021 the Cabinet agreed the Council Tax Base of 34,754.0 for Band 'D' equivalent properties for the year 2022/23 (Item T in the formula in section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended).
6. To calculate the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022/23 as £9,100,335.
7. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended:

(a)	£122,681,850	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
(b)	£113,581,550	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£9,100,300	being the amount by which the aggregate at 5(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 5(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
(d)	£261.85	being the amount at 5(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (4 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

8. To note that East Sussex County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex and the East Sussex Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
9. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	2
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Precepting Authorities								
Eastbourne Borough Council	174.57	203.66	232.76	261.85	320.04	378.23	436.42	523.70
East Sussex County Council	1,075.56	1,254.82	1,434.08	1,613.34	1,971.86	2,330.38	2,688.90	3,226.68
Sussex Police Authority	155.19	181.06	206.92	224.91	284.52	336.25	387.98	465.58
East Sussex Fire Authority	66.25	77.29	88.33	99.37	121.45	143.53	165.62	198.74
Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements	1,471.57	1,716.83	1,962.09	2,199.47	2,697.87	3,188.39	3,678.92	4,414.70

10. To determine that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/23 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

As the billing authority, the Council has **not** been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/23 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

(Note – Following this item there was a 10-minute recess held at 8.50 pm).

63 Motion 3 - Maintaining Heritage Assets

Councillor Smart moved and Councillor di Cara seconded the motion set out on the agenda as below:

“This Council commits to properly maintaining its Heritage (and other) assets such the Bandstand, Winter Garden, Redoubt Fortress and Motcombe Pool.”

Councillor Burton moved and Councillor Maxted seconded the following alternative proposal:

“The Council remains committed to, not only maintaining, but renovating our towns heritage assets.

The Council recognises that Eastbourne is fortunate in benefitting from more heritage assets than most towns, some of national significance, but that these are expensive to maintain. As the Council’s income from council tax is only £9.1m pa and Government has ceased to provide any Government support grant:

The Council:

- Calls upon Central Government to establish a Heritage Maintenance Fund to support the maintenance of Heritage assets whilst not disadvantaging our residents;
- Requests that our Member of Parliament, Caroline Ansell, to lobby Central Government on our behalf; and
- Requests that our Member of Parliament, Caroline Ansell, reports back to us on her progress.”

Chris Leach (Chair of the Eastbourne Society), Phil Hall and Heidi Emery spoke as public speakers in relation to this item.

The Council debated the motion and the alternative proposal and the ways proposed to support the heritage assets in the town.

The alternative proposal was put to a vote and declared carried by 16 votes to 0 votes, with 10 abstentions.

RESOLVED (16 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions):

1. That the Council remains committed to, not only maintaining, but renovating

our town's heritage assets.

2. That the Council recognises that Eastbourne is fortunate in benefitting from more heritage assets than most towns, some of national significance, but that these are expensive to maintain. As the Council's income from council tax is only £9.1m pa and Government has ceased to provide any Government Support Grant:
3. That the Council:
 - Calls upon Central Government to establish a Heritage Maintenance Fund to support the maintenance of Heritage assets whilst not disadvantaging our residents;
 - Requests that our Member of Parliament, Caroline Ansell, to lobby Central Government on our behalf; and
 - Requests that our Member of Parliament, Caroline Ansell, reports back to us on her progress.

64 Matters referred from Cabinet or other Council bodies (2)

64a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Councillor Shuttleworth moved and Councillor Tutt seconded the recommendations from Cabinet set out in the agenda in relation to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, with the additional recommendation 3, from the Director of Service Delivery which was set out on the agenda supplement and had been circulated to all Councillors.

Councillor Shuttleworth advised that the amendment from the Director of Service Delivery arose from the regulations made on 10 February 2022 under the Energy Rebate Scheme 2022 and which had come into force on 12 February 2022. These required all local council tax support schemes to disregard Energy Rebate Scheme payments in determining a person's eligibility for a council tax reduction and the amount of any such reduction with effect from 1 April 2022.

The recommendations were put to a vote and declared to be carried unanimously.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- (1) To adopt the 2021/22 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme as the 2022/23 scheme;
- (2) To continue the Exceptional Hardship Scheme in 2022/23; and
- (3) To delegate authority to the Director of Service Delivery, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Direct Assistance Services, to add provisions to the 2022/23 scheme, to comply with the Council Tax (Demand Notices and Reduction Schemes) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2022.

64b Appointment of External Auditor.

Councillor Maxted moved and Councillor Shore seconded the recommendation of the report of the Chief Finance Officer, to opt in to Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) national scheme for the appointment of the Council's External Audit arrangements post for the 2023/24 financial year onwards, in line with the recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee on 12 January 2022.

This was put to a vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

1. That Full Council approves the Audit and Governance Committee's recommendation to accept the Public Sector Audit Appointments' (PSAA's) opt-in invitation into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors from 1st April 2023; and
2. That delegated authority be given to the Section 151 Officer to complete and submit the 'opt in' form (Appendix B to the report) to PSAA by the deadline of the 11 March 2022.

(**Note** – During the discussion of this agenda item the meeting reached the point at which it had been running for four hours. The Mayor paused the meeting and asked if Councillors wished for the meeting to continue in accordance with Section 9 of the Council Procedure Rules and this was put to a vote and agreed unanimously).

64c Approval of Licensing Fees and Charges 2022-23.

Councillor Maxted moved and Councillor Belsey seconded the recommendation from the Licensing Committee of 17 January 2022, to approve the Licensing Fees and Charges 2022-23, to apply from 1 April 2022. This was subject to the correction to the Total Estimated Annual Income (Taxi Licensing) in an updated Appendix 1, which was circulated to all Councillors as part of Agenda Supplement 2.

The recommendation was put to a vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

To approve the scale of Licensing Fees for 2022/23 as set out in updated Appendix 1.

(**Note** – having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item, as a licence holder, Councillor Miah left the room during the discussion of this item and took no part in the discussion or vote).

64d Review of the Cumulative Impact Assessment part of the Statement of Licensing Act Policy 2019-2024.

Councillor Maxted moved and Councillor Tutt seconded recommendations from the Licensing Committee of 17 January 2022, to remove the Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) part of the Statement of Licensing Act Policy 2019-2023.

A concern was raised around supporting the removal of the CIA, due to a specific issue some residents were having with noise, as a result of the operation of bars in the town centre. Councillor Maxted advised that the concerns were recognised, but that the Licensing Committee had been advised that the Council was required to keep the CIA under review and could only continue it if evidence was presented that it needed to continue. No such evidence was presented to the Committee, and its removal was supported by the Police. He confirmed that this could be revisited again in the future.

The recommendations were put to a vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED (By 21 votes to 4, with 1 abstention):

To approve the removal of the whole Cumulative Impact Assessment part of the Statement of Licensing Act Policy 2019-2024 (Option C in the Committee Report) at this time, with an option to reintroduce if it becomes necessary.

65 Motion 4 - Cardiology Services at the Eastbourne DGH

Councillor Babarinde moved and Councillor Smart seconded the motion set out in the agenda and as below:

“This Council calls on:

1. East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust to retain full cardiology services at the Eastbourne District General Hospital, including catheterisation laboratories and specialist inpatient services.
2. East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust to publish – in full – the criteria and the criteria weightings it will use to assess where local cardiology services will be located in the future, as part of its ‘Improving cardiology and ophthalmology services in East Sussex’ proposals.
3. Local residents in Eastbourne and the surrounding areas to contribute to East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust’s public consultation on its ‘Improving cardiology and ophthalmology services in East Sussex’ proposals before it concludes on Friday 11 March.”

The motion was debated in full across the chamber, with the majority expressing support for the motion. One Councillor indicated that they would abstain, as they considered that the proposed shape of the services should be determined by clinical leaders in line with best patient outcomes. Councillors who were also members of the East Sussex County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee indicated that they would abstain on this matter, as they would consider the proposals formally in that role.

Councillor Babarinde, in summing up, read out a letter from Liz Walke, who led the Save the Eastbourne DGH group.

RESOLVED (By 21 votes to 0, with 6 abstentions):

That this Council calls on:

1. East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust to retain full cardiology services at the Eastbourne District General Hospital, including catheterisation laboratories and specialist inpatient services.
2. East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust to publish – in full – the criteria and the criteria weightings it will use to assess where local cardiology services will be located in the future, as part of its ‘Improving cardiology and ophthalmology services in East Sussex’ proposals.
3. Local residents in Eastbourne and the surrounding areas to contribute to East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust’s public consultation on its ‘Improving cardiology and ophthalmology services in East Sussex’ proposals before it concludes on Friday 11 March.

66 Calendar of Meetings 2022/23.

The Council considered the Calendar of Meetings for 2022/23, which would be formally ratified at the Annual Council meeting.

RESOLVED – To approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2022/23.

67 Special Urgency Decisions by Cabinet Members

The Council noted the urgent decisions which had been made by the Leader since the last meeting, in relation to the ‘Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant Scheme’ made on 14 January 2022 and the ‘Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund Scheme’ made on 31 January 2022.

68 Discussion on minutes of council bodies.

The minutes of the following Council bodies were submitted to the meeting for information on the agenda and agenda supplement and noted:

- Cabinet – 1 December 2021 and 9 February 2022
- Planning Committee – 23 November 2021, 14 December 2022, 25 January 2022.
- Audit and Governance Committee – 24 November 2021 and 12 January 2022
- Scrutiny Committee – 29 November 2021 and 7 February 2022
- Licensing Committee – 17 January 2022

No questions were asked in relation to the minutes.

69 Date of the next meeting.

It was noted that the date of the next scheduled meeting was 18 May 2022 at 6 pm.

The meeting ended at 10.30 pm

Councillor Pat Rodohan (Mayor)