

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Policy and Performance Advisory Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>11 July 2023</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Policy and Performance Advisory Committee – Policy Input and Development.</b>
<b>Exemption:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Simon Russell, Head of Democratic Services</b>
<b>Ward(s):</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Purpose of the report:</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>Recommendations to the Committee:</b>	<b>The recommendations are detailed at 1.3 of this report</b>
<b>Reasons for recommendations to the Committee:</b>	<b>To provide a critical friend challenge to the Cabinet decision and policy making process.</b>
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	<b>Name: Nick Peeters Post title: Committee Officer E-mail: <a href="mailto:nick.peeters@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk">nick.peeters@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</a> Telephone number: 01323 415272</b>

## **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: Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge**

**Purpose of the report: To consider the report provided by the Local Government Association and the council's response to the recommendations**

**Officer recommendations to the Cabinet: To note the Local Government Association report and the council's response to its recommendations.**

**Reasons for the recommendations: The LGA report is intended to provide the council with suggestions and advice that may help support future improvement.**

**Cabinet report: Portfolio progress and performance report Quarter 4 – 2023-2024**

**Purpose of the report: To consider the council's progress and performance in respect of service areas for the Fourth Quarter of the year (January-March 2023) as shown in Appendix 1.**

**Officer recommendations:**

- (1) To note progress and performance across council services for Quarter 4 and for the 22/23 year as a whole;
- (2) To note delivery of corporate plan priorities to date;
- (3) To agree arrangements for the establishment of a new Corporate Plan to run from 2024 to 2028.
- (4) To agree the suite of PIs to be reported in 2023/24 (Appendix 2)

**Reasons for the recommendations: To enable Cabinet members to consider specific aspects of the council's progress and performance and to initiate the preparation of a new Corporate Plan.**

<b>Cabinet report:</b>	<b>Private Housing Financial Assistance Policy 2023-25</b>
<b>Purpose of the report:</b>	<b>To introduce an updated Financial Assistance Policy for Disabled Facilities Grants, Housing Renewal Grants and loans</b>
<b>Officer recommendations to the Cabinet:</b>	<p><b>(1) To seek Cabinet endorsement of the Private Sector Housing Financial Assistance Policy for Disabled Facilities Grants, Housing Renewal Grants and Loans 2023-2025 ('The Policy') as set out in Appendix 1</b></p> <p><b>(1) That delegated authority is given to the Director of Service Delivery in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Tenants and Those in Housing Need to make minor changes within the Policy where necessary.</b></p>
<b>Reasons for recommendations:</b>	<b>(1) Whilst Disabled Facilities Grants remain a statutory requirement, additional funding through the Better Care Fund provides a continued opportunity to support innovative measures to improve the housing in the District and enable residents to remain at home safely for longer.</b>

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<b>Cabinet report:</b>	<b>Property and Assets Update</b>
<b>Purpose of the report:</b>	<p><b>The report provides information on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>• A defective boundary wall at Westgate Car Park, and requests a budget allocation for initial investigations and surveys;</b></li> <li><b>• Work being undertaken on Castle Rise wall;</b></li> <li><b>• Progress at bringing The Marine Workshops back into use to support the regeneration of Newhaven, including a request for additional capital funding to support the second phase of improvements at the property to allow full occupation;</b></li> <li><b>• West Beach Promenade, Newhaven Levelling Up Fund project, and requests delegated authority to agree terms and finalise the acquisition of the land with Newhaven Port and Properties Ltd, enter into a construction contract to build out the new restaurant and leisure facilities, and select an operator(s) to run them.</b></li> </ul>

**Officer  
recommendations to  
the Cabinet:**

- (1) To note the defective boundary wall at Westgate Car Park and approve the capital budget allocation of £150,000 for initial remedial investigations and surveys;**
- (2) To note the progress update regarding remedial work being undertaken at Castle Rise Wall, notwithstanding that it is not a corporate asset;**
- (3) To note the progress update regarding recommissioning of the Marine Workshops and approve the capital budget allocation of £400k to support phase 2 improvements at the property;**
- (4)**
  - a) To note the progress update regarding West Beach Promenade;**
  - b) To purchase the West Beach Promenade from Newhaven Port and Properties Ltd subject to contract, valuation and full due diligence;**
  - c) To construct a new restaurant and destination facilities on West Beach Promenade;**
  - d) To invite expressions of interest for the grant of a lease of the restaurant and leisure facilities, and to enter into that lease; and**
  - e) To authorise the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth Building and the Chief Finance (S151) Officer to take all necessary actions to progress the proposals set out in (4) above including the approval and implementation of all processes and procedures, the negotiation of terms, authorising the execution of all necessary documentation and any ancillary matters.**

**Reasons for recommendations:**

- (1) Westgate Car Park wall: the wall has become structurally defective, and a capital budget is required in order to support initial investigations and surveys. A further report will be brought back to Cabinet requesting additional capital budget once investigations are complete and design work has been undertaken on a remedial solution;**
- (2) Castle Rise Wall: to update on progress;**
- (3) Marine Workshops: the first phase of works to recommission the building is nearing completion, this report sets out a second phase of works to complete this multi-use business/community facility;**
- (4) West Beach Promenade: to enable delivery of this part of the Levelling Up Fund project.**

**Cabinet report:**

**Housing Development & Assets Update (PART EXEMPT)**

**Purpose of the report:**

**To provide an update on the housing development and delivery programme.**

**Officer recommendations:**

- 1) To note the progress of the housing development and delivery programme as set out in Appendix 1;**
- 2) To approve the purchase and development of land and assets at Peacehaven Golf and Fitness to deliver new Council homes in accordance with Appendix 2 (Exempt) including making an allocation within the HRA Capital Programme 2023/24 of up to £3.1m, subject to contract, valuation, and full due diligence.**
- 3) To approve a waiver to the Council's Contract Procedural Rules (CPR) to allow the direct selection of the contractor(s) associated with the Peacehaven Golf & Fitness proposals for the reasons as set out in the report.**
- 4) To approve and implement a new Revolving Loan Fund within the capacity of the existing General Fund Capital Programme 2023/24 to support further sustainable community-led housing developments within the district.**
- 5) To approve the criteria for HRA rationalisation as set out and to dispose of assets in order to further the capacity of the Capital Programme to deliver more Council homes across the district.**

- 6) To authorise the Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Chief Finance (S151) Officer and Lead Member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth Building, to progress recommendations 2, 3, and 4 in this report and to conclude them including the approval and implementation of all processes and procedures, negotiation and agreement of terms, award of contract(s), and authorising the execution of all related documentation.
  
- 7) To authorise the Director of Service Delivery, in consultation with the Chief Finance (S151) Officer, Lead Member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth Building, Lead Member for Tenants and those in Housing Need, and the Tenants of Lewes District (TOLD) to progress recommendation 5 to dispose of identified HRA assets including negotiation and agreement of terms and authorising the execution of all related documentation, subject to any or all of the agreed criteria as follows:
  - The cost of any repair work is prohibitive compared to the market value of the property
  - The cost of running the property is unaffordable being of sub-standard quality / efficiency
  - The sales receipt generated is capable of delivering an overall net gain in new homes
  - The capital receipt generated from the sale is ring-fenced to support the HRA Capital Programme

**Reasons for recommendations:**

- 1) To provide Cabinet with an update on the growing housing development and delivery programme, specifically in the context of the 'Reimagining Lewes District' Corporate Plan 2020-2024.
  
- 2) To further community-led housing development opportunities within the district underpinned by a secure financial instrument;
  
- 3) To support HRA finances in the context of current pressures and further the Council's objectives to build and maintain quality, affordable, and sustainable homes.

**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**