



Cabinet

Held at:	Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone
Date	Wednesday, 21 June 2017
Present	Councillors Mrs Ann Berry, John Collier, Alan Ewart-James, David Godfrey, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Rory Love, David Monk and Stuart Peall
Apologies for Absence	Councillors Malcolm Dearden and Dick Pascoe
Officers Present:	Jeremy Chambers (Corporate Director - Strategic Operations), Katharine Harvey (Head of Economic Development), Dave Illsley (Regeneration Officer), Amandeep Khroud (Head of Democratic Services and Law), Tim Madden (Corporate Director - Organisational Change), Susan Priest (Corporate Director - Strategic Development), Alistair Stewart (Chief Executive) and Jemma West (Senior Committee Services Officer)
Others Present:	Councillor Mrs Mary E Lawes

NOTE: All decisions are subject to call-in arrangements. The deadline for call-in is Friday 30 June 2017 at 5pm. Decisions not called in may be implemented on Monday 3 July 2017..

8. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

9. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 May were submitted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

10. **"Spirit of the Leas" Folkestone Coastal Park Heritage Lottery Fund Grant**

Following Cabinet approval in September 2016, a round one grant application was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a project to improve access to Folkestone's Coastal Park. The round one application was successful

and the HLF has awarded a development grant of £40,300 to support a round two submission. Report C/17/14 sought Cabinet approval for submission of this round two application and to agree to consider a match funding contribution of circa £130,000 in 2019/20, should other financial contributions fail to materialise, to match the potential HLF grant of circa £470,000 to deliver the project.

The report had also been presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 20 June 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Collier,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report C/17/14 be received and noted.
2. That the development and submission of a round two HLF application be agreed, providing all match funding required is found from sources other than Shepway District Council.
3. That SDC officers be supported in taking a proactive approach in identifying and securing external match funding contributions to deliver the necessary project funding and delivery requirements.
4. That a report returns to Cabinet before submission of a stage 2 application.

(Voting: For 8, Against 0, Abstentions 0).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- a) A decision to accept the round two development grant and allocate resources for delivering the project in 2019/20 will deliver potential benefits for the visitor economy in Folkestone and improve local residents' quality of life.
- b) There is a need to prioritise Economic Development team resources being used to develop a round two application.
- c) There could be a project funding gap should match funding not be available for the final project from other sources, in the event that a round two bid is approved by HLF.

11. Investing Shepway's share of the Kent Business Rates Growth Pool

Report C/17/05 sought agreement for investing Shepway District Council's share of the Kent Business Rates Growth Pool in two key employment related projects in the district: (1) Biggins Wood; and (2) the refurbishment of floors 3 and 4 of the Civic Centre.

Proposed by Councillor Collier,
Seconded by Councillor Ewart-James; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report C/17/05 be noted.

2. That the use Shepway District Council's share of the Kent business rates Growth Pool for the purposes set out in paragraph 2.9 be agreed with a report returning to cabinet relating to matters outlined in paragraph 2.10.

(Voting: For 8, Against 0, Abstentions 0).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Recent evidence indicates that there is a lack of high quality new business accommodation in Shepway which is inhibiting economic growth. It is therefore proposed to use Shepway District Council's share of the Kent business rates Growth Pool to address this issue and deliver a corporate plan objective of delivering more jobs in the district.

12. National Non Domestic Rates Locally Administered Relief Scheme

Report C/17/13 outlines the proposals for the design and implementation of the locally-administered National Non Domestic Rates relief scheme as announced in the Chancellor's Spring Budget on 8 March 2017.

The report had also been presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 20 June 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Peall; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report C/17/13 be received and noted.
2. That the recommended local discretionary criteria for inclusion in the Council's locally-administered National Non-Domestic Rates relief scheme, as detailed in this report, be approved in principle, and a further report be received when the details of the scheme have been developed.

(Voting: For 8, Against 0, Abstentions 0).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Cabinet members were asked to approve the criteria proposed for the implementation of the new Locally-Administered National Non Domestic Rates Relief Scheme.

13. Exploration of a Future Operating Model

Report C/17/15 sought approval for the commissioning of a report to look at the future operating model of the council which places its focus on the customer service through the use of technology and improved efficiency for the organisation.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Collier; and

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed operating model be noted;
2. That the procurement of the blueprint work as set out in the report with funding of £60,000 to be provided from the flexible capital receipts reserve be agreed.
3. That further reporting to Cabinet on completion of the blueprint stage to agree next steps be agreed.

(Voting: For 8, against 0, abstentions 0).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The report explored the development of a new operating model for the council to achieve financial savings and also to place the customer first and drive efficiencies and resilience. The report looked to procure a detailed blueprint to form the basis of a future programme.

14. Otterpool Park Capacity Funding bid to DCLG

Report C/17/17 explained that the council had submitted a bid to government for garden town status for a new garden town, Otterpool Park, in June 2016. Its submission had been successful, and the council received £750,000 capacity funding from Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). It received a further £345,000 in March 2017. This paper sought endorsement for submission of a similar bid for 2017/18 to DCLG. Report C/17/17 was an emergency paper due to the tight timeframe for submitting the bid, and further additional information, to DCLG. Bidding is competitive, and missing key deadlines would put the council at a disadvantage.

Proposed by Councillor Godfrey;
Seconded by Councillor Ewart-James; and

RESOLVED:

1. That the submission of the bid to DCLG for Garden Towns Capacity Funding for 2017/18 be approved.
2. That the Corporate Director, Strategic Development, be authorised to respond to DCLG and HCA on points of clarification and provide necessary additional information, following consultation with the Leader of the Council.

(Voting: For 8, against 0, abstentions 0)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- a) The decision could result in ongoing funding toward the planning and delivery of Otterpool Park, which is a corporate priority.
- b) The decision will allow constructive dialogue with DCLG to continue for Otterpool Park, including access to a wider package of support that DCLG can offer.