

Cabinet

Held at:	Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone
Date	Wednesday, 2 May 2018
Present	Councillors John Collier, Malcolm Dearden, Alan Ewart-James, David Godfrey, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Rory Love and David Monk
Apologies for Absence	Councillors Mrs Ann Berry, Dick Pascoe and Stuart Peall
Officers Present:	Adrian Hammond (Housing Strategy Manager), Katharine Harvey (Head of Economic Development), John Bunnett (Corporate Director - Place and Commercial Services), Amandeep Khroud (Head of Democratic Services and Law), Tim Madden (Corporate Director - Customer, Support and Specialist Services), Susan Priest (Head of Paid Service) and Matt Rain (Communications Manager)

NOTE: All decisions are subject to call-in arrangements. The deadline for call-in is Monday 14 May 2018 at 5pm. Decisions not called in may be implemented on Tuesday 15 May 2018.

101. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting. However, during the consideration of the item relating to Shepway Citizens Advice, Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee made a voluntary declaration in that she was the council's representative on the Citizens Advice.

102. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 28 March 2018 were submitted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

103. **LGA Corporate Peer Challenge - Draft Corporate Position Statement**

The report outlined the corporate position statement prepared by the Council that set out the council's current position, telling the story of where we are and provides context in preparation for the Peer Team's visit due in June 2018.

The report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 1 May 2018. Their comments had been circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Love,
Seconded by Councillor Godfrey; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report C/17/101 be received and noted.
2. That the draft Corporate Position Statement be approved.
3. That the final changes will be approved by the Leader prior to sharing with the LGA Peer Challenge Team in preparation for their visit to the district.

(Voting figures: 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Cabinet previously agreed to participate in the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge as an opportunity to take stock of where we are and seek guidance, challenge and to share our learning with the selected Peer Challenge Team.

104. Draft Shepway Healthier Housing Strategy 2018/23

The report introduced the draft Healthier Housing Strategy for the period 2018/2023. The document set out how the Council, and its local partners, intend to work together to address the housing and related needs of the district.

The report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 1 May 2018. Their comments had been circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

The Cabinet Members suggested a number of minor amendments to the Strategy, which needed to be carried out prior to public consultation on the document.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report be received and noted.
- 2) That the draft Healthier Housing Strategy for the district be approved, subject to the amendments suggested by Cabinet Members being included, and to the document being made available for public consultation.
- 3) That the Cabinet Member for Housing has delegated authority (in consultation with the Head of Planning) to make any minor changes to the draft strategy necessary following the consultation.

(Voting figures: 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- a) The draft strategy sets out how the Council and its partners intend to work together to address the housing and related needs of the district.
- b) The draft strategy has been developed using comprehensive housing needs and condition data.
- c) The Council will embark on a comprehensive consultation exercise to seek the views of local partners and the community on the draft strategy for the district.
- d) It is vital that the Council makes the best possible use of the available resources for housing and regeneration purposes within the district.

105. Supporting People Grant Funding for sheltered housing related support services and community alarm services

Kent County Council has advised that it will cease to pay Supporting People Grant Funding for sheltered housing and community alarm services from 31 March 2018. The report set out details of the suggested action that the Council and East Kent Housing (EKH) could take to minimise the financial impact on the 498 sheltered housing tenants in the district currently receiving the grant and on the income received by the Council for its sheltered housing service.

Proposed by Councillor Ewart-James,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

- 1 That the report be received and noted.
- 2. That the Supporting People Grant funding held by the Council should be used to cover any shortfalls experienced by existing tenants currently receiving the Supporting People Grant for their intensive housing management costs (housing related support costs and alarm call service).
- 3. That all new tenants moving into sheltered housing from 1st April 2018 will be informed that they will need to apply for housing benefit to cover their intensive housing management costs and dependent on their income may be liable for some or all of the costs.
- 4. That the Council work with East Kent Housing over the next two years to bring the sheltered housing service in line with the new sheltered housing funding regime to be implemented by the Government from 2020/21. Any service changes necessary will be reported to Cabinet for approval.

(Voting figures: 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

REASONS FOR DECISION

- a) Kent County Council has advised that they will no longer be providing Supporting People Grant for tenants living in sheltered housing.

- b) The approach set out in this report will protect sheltered housing services and minimise the impact of this funding change on existing tenants in receipt of housing benefit.
- c) The approach set out in this report will minimise the impact on the income received by the Council for its sheltered housing service.
- d) The Council will review its Sheltered Housing Services to ensure that they are in line with the new Government funding regime for Sheltered Housing which is due to be implemented from 2020.
- e) There will be no changes to the Sheltered Housing Service/alarm services provided to tenants. The Supporting People Grant Funding should only be used to support vulnerable tenants living within the Council's sheltered housing.

106. Funding for Shepway Citizens Advice (CA)

The District Council has historically supported Citizens Advice (CA) with grant funding. In the financial year 2016 /2017, CA dealt with over 5000 enquiries (a significant increase on previous years) and saw over 2000 clients who were supported with specialist advice and casework services. CA provides a vital service to the community, dealing with complex issues that significantly impact upon people's lives. The report proposed future funding options for the Council to consider.

The report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 1 May 2018. Their comments had been circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1. That Report C/17/98 be received and noted.
- 2. To support option c in paragraph 3.1, which is to provide £67,800 funding annually for 3 years from 1st April 2018, with a funding review after 3 years and to work with the CA to address how to achieve future funding sustainability for the organisation.

(Voting figures: 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- a) The District receives an excellent service to very vulnerable members of the community needing help and advice often in difficult circumstances and facing complex issues.
- b) The District Council portion of funding is vital to the ongoing running of the Shepway CA with funds supporting operational needs and can enable additional funding to be levered in.

107. **East Kent Growth Framework**

Cabinet endorsement was sought for the East Kent Growth Framework which is a joint initiative undertaken by the five East Kent local authorities and Kent County Council. The report set out our collective ambitions for the East Kent economy and our investment priorities to 2027.

Proposed by Councillor Collier,
Seconded by Councillor Dearden; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report C/17/100 be received and noted.
2. That the collective economic growth ambitions and investment priorities identified set out in the East Kent Growth Framework for East Kent in the period to 2027 be endorsed.

(Voting figures: 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The reason for seeking endorsement of the East Kent Growth Framework was to demonstrate the district council's support for the collective work of the East Kent local authorities and Kent County Council which set out economic growth aspirations and investment priorities across East Kent. Other East Kent local authorities have also recently endorsed the Framework.