



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL **STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

REPORT (Minutes)

of the meeting of the Strategy Committee,
held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chamber, Market Street, Hailsham
On Monday 8th April 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

STC/18/4/

19 **Public Forum**
Mr Kelvin Hinton stated to the committee that HTC needs to have a policy in place for considering how CIL is dealt with and which spells out the priorities and how projects that are bidding for CIL will be considered. The amount of CIL available will become greater with adoption of Local Plan and the extent of development, and he was still concerned that there is a risk that decisions on how to spend this money will be made on an ad-hoc basis. Therefore, there is a need to put something in place which is robust and transparent.

Cllr Coltman agreed that the town council needs to have a policy in place, that the guidelines are very loose about what CIL can be spent on and that this is on agenda for the meeting and will be discussed later on.

20 **Present:** Cllrs Nigel Coltman, Grant de Jongh, Richard Grocock, Mary Laxton, John Puttick and Chriss Triandafyllou

21 **Officers Present:** Mr. J. Harrison (Town Clerk)

22 **Apologies for Absence:** Received from Cllr Amanda O'Rawe.

23 **Declarations of Interest:** None made

24 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Strategy Committee held on 8th October 2018 (Ref StC/18/3/18), as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

25 **Equality Analysis and Equality Impact Assessments**

The Town Clerk, Mr Harrison, explained that at the last meeting (8th October 2018) the committee had considered examples of Equality Impact Assessments and identified preferred aspects from those examples.

Therefore a document had been designed using the Research Councils example EIA as the main body of the document. At the committee's request, a template EIA had also been received from Wealden District Council. The committee agreed that the worked example document was relatively straightforward and easy to use, and included helpful guidelines.

The committee agreed that this document was appropriate but that the staff would need further training from the relevant officer at WDC, who had been contacted regarding this and offered the chance to give some training and advice on its use.

RESOLVED : that the recommended Equality Impact Assessment document is accepted and rolled out across the council.

26 **Community Infrastructure Levy Policy and Resolutions**

The Town Clerk explained that the current 'policy' was as resolved by the town council at its meeting on 18th July 2018. This was that any requests for projects to be funded by CIL

would be considered by the Strategy Committee, to make recommendations to full council. Therefore, any committee or individual councillor advocating the expenditure of CIL in this way could be considered by the Strategy Committee and finally approved at a full council meeting.

The committee agreed that this had the potential to leave the council open to 'pet projects' and could be an 'ad-hoc' way of implementing CIL expenditure, however this needed to be balanced by not developing guidelines that were too restrictive and did not allow flexibility.

The committee considered the report detailing items of high level expenditure that had so far been approved or were pending approval, most of which were actually from existing or future Section 106 payments (such as the Western Road/South road Playground re-design and the hard standing track and exercise area on the Western Road Recreation Ground)

26.1 The committee discussed whether its CIL receipts should be used as leverage for the prioritisation of projects delivered by other authorities, such as highways improvements and therefore whether a proportion of overall CIL receipts should be allocated for this purpose.

RESOLVED that 25% of all CIL receipts be ring-fenced for major infrastructure projects.

26.2 **RESOLVED:** that a more detailed CIL expenditure process is drawn up, taking any available examples and policies and processes from other parishes or partner organisations, the Town Council's own strategic plan and the guidelines issued by Wealden District Council.

27 Town Council Strategic Plan

The committee considered progress against the various items in the plan on an exception basis and noted the following:

The Town Council's Youth Services have had significant staffing issues resulting in support being depleted and therefore some of the projects being behind. The plan is to recruit as soon as possible although it was noted that there have been real difficulties in recruiting in the past. The sports-based youth club running out of the James West Centre was established and had proved to be very popular.

The Street Market is causing concern and is scheduled for further review by in September. The relationship between HTC's street market and farmers market was also discussed.

The James West centre acoustics issue has now been addressed, although results of on-site tests were not known.

The surrounding fields had still not been adopted by HTC due to ongoing discussions between the developer and WDC, resulting in HTC having not yet been offered the land for adoption. Town Council staff were requesting that the situation be clarified and have already had requests from football clubs to use the land.

RESOLVED that no amendments are required to the council's strategic plan or the short term priorities as currently set out.

28 Confidential Business

RESOLVED to temporarily exclude the public and press during the discussion on the next item on the agenda as it concerns terms of tenders and proposals and counter

proposals in negotiation for contracts.

29

Country Park Lake

The committee referred to report by Cllr Steve Potts that had originally been presented to the Strategic Projects Committee, which had then recommended to the Strategy Committee to approve this expenditure.

RESOLVED to recommend to council to approve the project to enhance the footpath around the country park lake in order to make it more disabled accessible, to fund the project with 50% from CIL receipts and 50% from capital receipts.

30.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm

CHAIRMAN

DRAFT