

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**RECORD OF DECISION OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE**

Decision Made: 23 September 2015

Corporate Improvement Plan - 2014/15 progress update

Issue for Decision

To set out the new Corporate Improvement Plan Framework for 2015-20 and to provide a status update on the work streams and projects in the Corporate Improvement Plan October 2014 – March 2015.

Decision Made

- 1) That the new corporate improvement framework be approved; and
- 2) That the status of items on the former Corporate Improvement Plan 2014-17 be noted.

Should you wish to refer this decision to Council, please submit a Decision Referral Form, signed by five Councillors, to the Head of Finance and Resources by: 2 October 2015
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MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**RECORD OF DECISION OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE**

Decision Made: 23 September 2015

Corporate Planning Timetable

Issue for Decision

To review the progress of key strategies, plans and performance indicators which support the delivery of the Council's Strategic Plan 2015-20.

Decision Made

That the timetable for refreshing the Strategic Plan and the creation of the Medium Term Financial Strategy be agreed.

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MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
RECORD OF DECISION OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

Decision Made: 23 September 2015

Strategic Plan Performance Update - Quarter 1 2015/16

Issue for Decision

To consider the progress of key strategies, plans and performance indicators which support the delivery of the Council's Strategic Plan 2015-20.

Decision Made

- 1) That the position of the quarterly key performance indicators (KPIs) and updates on key strategies that support the Strategic Plan 2015-20 as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Head of Policy and Communications be noted; and
- 2) That there were no areas identified where actions to improve performance would be appropriate.

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First Quarter Budget Monitoring 2015/16

Issue for Decision

To consider the capital and revenue budget and expenditure figures for the first quarter of 2015/16 along with other financial matters with a material effect on the medium term financial strategy or the balance sheet.

Decision Made

- 1) That a working group of the full Committee (or Substitutes) be established which would be supported by officers to identify robust and deliverable savings proposals;
- 2) That the revenue budget position at the end of the first quarter and the action proposed or being taken by each service committee as set out in table 2, paragraph 2.14 of the report of the Head of Finance and Resources be noted;
- 3) That the proposed slippage in the capital programme of £2,875,985 into 2016/17 as detailed in paragraph 2.19 of the report of the Head of Finance and Resources be approved;
- 4) That the performance of the collection fund and the estimated level of balances at the year end be noted;
- 5) That the performance in relation to the treasury management strategy for the first quarter of 2015/16 be noted; and
- 6) That Officers produce a memorandum account for Mote Park.

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MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
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Decision Made: 23 September 2015

Review of Careers Guidance in Maidstone

Issue for Decision

To consider and agree the recommendations made by the Economic and Commercial Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee which reflect the findings of its review of Careers Guidance in Maidstone as undertaken in May 2015.

Decision Made

- 1) That Officers be requested to report back, as appropriate, to the relevant service committee for each recommendation as set out in the report of the Head of Finance and Resources on the possible actions that officers can take within current resource levels; and
- 2) That a copy of the review is circulated to all those organisations who participated, including Kent County Council as the Education Authority.

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Decision Made: 23 September 2015

Creation of Policy and Resources Sub-Committee

Issue for Decision

A report recommending the creation of a P & R Sub Committee with responsibility to deal with all matters relating to MKIP

Decision Made

That the whole of the Policy and Resources Committee (or Substitutes) will decide the Maidstone Borough Council position on MKIP and MKS issues and will participate in any simultaneous decision making meetings with partner authorities.

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MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Decision Made: 23 September 2015

Fraud Investigation Team

Issue for Decision

To consider arrangements for the investigation of council tax and business rates fraud, following potential transfer of housing benefit fraud staff to the Single Fraud Investigation Service.

Decision Made

- 1) That subject to the agreement of Kent County Council, Tunbridge Wells and Swale Borough Councils, the continuation of a Counter Fraud Team to reduce the level of customer fraud and error in relation to council tax and business rates be approved;
- 2) That the Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Service be authorised to make the necessary operational arrangements as set out in the report of the Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Service;
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Director of Environment and Shared Services to negotiate and subject to reaching satisfactory terms, enter into a collaboration agreement with Kent County Council, Tunbridge Wells and Swale Borough Councils for the continued delivery of Counter Fraud Service for council tax and business rates; and
- 4) That a review of the service be undertaken in 18 months with a further report to be provided to the Committee detailing the impact of the service on Fraud and Error.

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Decision Made: 23 September 2015

Resident Survey 2015

Issue for Decision

To agree the questions for the 2015 resident survey

Decision Made

- 1) That the merging of the budget consultation and resident survey to minimise cost be agreed; and
- 2) That the draft Resident Survey 2015 be approved.

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MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Decision Made: 23 September 2015

**Report of the Head of Planning and Development - Urgent
Decision Referral from Strategic Planning, Sustainability and
Transportation Committee 8/9/15: Landscapes of Local
Value**

Issue for Decision

To consider the referral.

Decision Made

That the desired outcome as set out in the Decision Referral be agreed, as follows:-

Paragraph 5.78 will read: The Low Weald covers a significant proportion of the countryside, in the rural southern half of the Borough. The Low Weald is recognised as having distinctive landscape features: the field patterns, many of which are medieval in character, hedgerows, stands of trees, ponds and streams and buildings of character should be protected, maintained and enhanced where appropriate.

Criterion 6 sentence will read: The Greensand Ridge, Medway Valley, Len Valley, Loose Valley and Low Weald, as defined on the policies map, will be protected, maintained and enhanced where appropriate as landscape of local value.

It was noted that the area to be included should reflect as defined currently in the Maidstone Borough Wide 2000 Local Plan proposals map.

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Decision Made: 23 September 2015

Property Acquisition

Issue for Decision

To consider a joint property acquisition.

Decision Made

- 1) That the proposed Heads of Terms as set out in Appendix 2 of the exempt report of the Director of Planning and Development for a joint acquisition be agreed;
- 2) That the key principles of the draft collaboration agreement as set out in paragraphs 4.5 to 4.9 of the exempt report of the Director of Planning and Development which governs how the joint owners will share responsibilities, risks and rewards in acquiring, managing, planning and developing the site be agreed and that delegated authority be granted for the Chief Executive to negotiate the final arrangement in consultation with the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee.
- 3) That within this collaboration agreement the establishment of a member led joint strategic board to oversee the project be agreed and that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive and the Director of Planning and Development in consultation with the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee and the Chairman of Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport Committee to make decisions as set out in the Collaboration Agreement;
- 4) That the capital funding of the Council's contribution to the total costs of the joint acquisition set out in Table 1 of the exempt report of the Director of Planning and Development, and the revenue funding associated with the Council's anticipated expenditure on the acquisition of the site, on an equal basis with our partner, be approved; and
- 5) That the costs associated with the site's redevelopment, including a dedicated Development Manager, professional fees, surveys, planning application etc be funded in part from the Kent Business Rates Pool and from the value generated from the development.

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