

This report will be made public on 26 April 2021.

Report number **A/21/06**

To: Council
Date: 5 May 2021
Status: Non-Executive Decision
Responsible Officer: Amandeep Khroud, Assistant Director – Governance and Law

SUBJECT: ANNUAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES ADOPTED BY CABINET AND AN UPDATE ON URGENT DECISIONS 2020/21

SUMMARY: This report is the annual report of policies and strategies that have been adopted, by Cabinet, during the 2020/21 municipal year.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Council is asked to agree the recommendations set out below, as the Council's constitution (Part 4.1, paragraph 1.3) provides that Cabinet is required to submit an annual report, to Council, detailing the policies that have been approved by the cabinet during the previous municipal year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report A/21/06.
2. To consider including any of the policies and/or strategies, outlined in this report, in the Policy Framework.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In accordance with the Folkestone and Hythe District Council Constitution (Part 4.1, paragraph 1.3), Cabinet shall submit an annual report to Council, detailing the policies that have been approved in the previous municipal year, which are not those mentioned in the Policy Framework.
- 1.2 Following consideration of the report, Council shall have the opportunity of including any of those policies or strategies, approved by Cabinet, in the Policy Framework.
- 1.3 In addition, this report will also serve to report to council on the use of urgency powers when the call-in procedure has not applied, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (Part 6.3, paragraph 19.4).

2. POLICIES ADOPTED DURING THE YEAR 2020/21

- 2.1 Policies and strategies that have been adopted, revised or updated during the 2020/21 municipal year are:
 - Customer Access Strategy
 - Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 – Policy
 - Budget Strategy 2021/22
 - Draft Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2020/25
 - Investment Strategy 2021/22
 - Housing Operations Policies
 - Equality and Diversity Policy 2021-25
 - Tenant Engagement Strategy

3. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER THE URGENCY PROVISIONS

- 3.1 There were three instances of urgent key decisions being taken in the last municipal year.

On 2 June 2020, the Leader considered report number C/20/07, which set out proposals for how Folkestone & Hythe will use the additional 5% 'top-up' to the funding for Small Business Grant (SBG) and Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grant (RLHG) schemes allocated to local authorities for a discretionary COVID-19 business grant scheme.

On 23 June 2020, the Leader made a further urgent decision to revise the eligibility criteria for the Grants, as set out in report number C/20/16.

On 9 October 2020, the Cabinet Member for Revenues, Benefits, Anti-Fraud and Corruption considered report number C/20/45 which sought approval for Folkestone and Hythe District Council's Test and Trace Discretionary Scheme. It was necessary to take this decision under the constitution's 'Call in and Urgency' rule (Part 6.3, rule 7), because the scheme was required by Government Guidelines to be in place from Monday 12 October 2020.

Council will be informed of these decisions at their next ordinary meeting.

4. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

4.1 Legal Officer's Comments (AK)

There are no legal comments.

4.2 Finance Officer's Comments

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report: the financial implications of individual policies would have been contained within the specific reports at the time the policies were adopted.

4.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications (AK)

Where necessary, an equality impact assessment has been prepared in support of each policy and is appended to that policy.

5. CONTACT OFFICER AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising from this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting:

Jemma West, Committee Services Specialist

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The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

None