



To the Members of the Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL on Thursday the 21st February 2013 at 7.00 pm.

Yours faithfully

T W Mortimer
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Agenda

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Nos.

1. Apologies
2. To consider whether any items should be dealt with in private because of the likely disclosure of Exempt or Confidential Information.
3. **Declarations of Interest (see “Advice to Members” overleaf)**
 - (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) under the Localism Act 2011 relating to items on this agenda. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared, and the agenda item(s) to which it relates must be stated.

A Member who declares a DPI in relation to any item will need to leave the Council Chamber for the whole of that item, and will not be able to speak or take part (unless a relevant Dispensation has been granted).

- (b) Other Significant Interests (OSI) under the Kent Code of Conduct as adopted by the Council on 19 July 2012, relating to items on this agenda. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared, and the agenda item(s) to which it relates must be stated.

A Member who declares an OSI in relation to any item will need to leave the Council Chamber before the debate and vote on that item (unless a relevant Dispensation has been granted). However, prior to leaving, the Member may address the Committee in the same way that a member of the public may do so.

- (c) Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests not required to be declared under (a) or (b), i.e. announcements made for transparency reasons alone, such as:
- membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items, or
 - where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person, or
 - where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer etc, but not his/her financial position

[Note: an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc; OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc, would both probably constitute an OSI].

Advice to Members on Declarations of Interest:

- (a) Government Guidance on DPI is available in DCLG's Guide for Councillors, at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/2193362.pdf>
- (b) The Kent Code of Conduct was adopted by the Full Council on 19 July 2012, and a copy can be found with the papers for that Meeting.
- (c) If any Councillor has any doubt about the existence or nature of any DPI or OSI which he/she may have in any item on this agenda, he/she should seek advice from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer or from other Solicitors in Legal and Democratic Services as early as possible, and in advance of the Meeting.

4. To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 13th December 2012 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on the 10th January 2013
5. To receive any announcements from the Mayor, Leader or other Members of the Cabinet
6. To receive any petitions
7. To receive any questions from, and provide answers to, the public (being resident of the Borough), which in the opinion of the Mayor are relevant to the business of the Meeting
8. To receive, consider and adopt the recommendations set out in the Minutes of the Meetings of the Cabinet held on the 10th January and the 14th February 2013 (to follow) with the following exceptions – The recommendations of the 14th February Meeting regarding the item "Budget 2013-14" be deferred for consideration with Agenda item No 9

9. To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet regarding the item "Budget 2013/14" (which includes the adoption of the budget) and the report of the Deputy Chief Executive "Council Tax 2013/14 Resolutions" (**NOTE:** report will be despatched following the Cabinet Meeting on 14th February) and to determine the Borough Council's precept on the Collection Fund and set the Council Tax for 2013/14. NB: Members are asked to bring with them the Agenda and report for the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 14th February 2013
10. To receive, consider and adopt the Minutes of the Licensing and Health and Safety Committee held on the 7th January 2013 11-17
11. Programme of Meetings 2013/14 and 2014/15 18-23
12. To consider Motions of which Notice has been given pursuant to Procedure Rule 11
13. Questions by Members of which Notice has been given pursuant to Procedure Rule 10

NOTE:- If debate on any item included within this Agenda gives rise to the need to exclude the press and public due to the likelihood of Exempt or Confidential information being disclosed the following resolution may be proposed and seconded and if carried, the press and public will be requested to leave the meeting for the duration of the debate.

That pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of this item as it is likely that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure of exempt information hereinafter specified by reference to the appropriate paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act

KRF/AEH
13th February 2013

Queries concerning this agenda? Please contact Keith Fearon:
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To the Members of the Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam

Further to the Summons to attend a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on Thursday the 21st February 2013 at 7.00 pm, I set out below two Notices of Motion given pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.

Yours faithfully

T W Mortimer
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Supplementary Agenda

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Nos.**

12. To consider Motions of which Notice has been given pursuant to Procedure Rule 11

1. "From April the iniquitous bedroom tax enacted by the Coalition Government will begin to destroy the lives of Ashford Borough Council housing tenants. Given the urgency of the situation for residents in all our wards, we call on Council to explain clearly how they will utilise the discretionary housing payment in respect of tenants who are in specially adapted or purpose built dwellings, to ensure that they do not suffer financially or have to lose their home.

Councillor H Yeo
Councillor J Adby"

This shall stand referred to the Cabinet

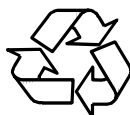
2. "To call on Council to ensure that over the course of the next financial year, Council works to ensure that all members of staff are paid the living wage which will support the Coalition Government in pursuit of reducing the benefit bill. Furthermore we call on Council to encourage all its partners, and local service providers and businesses to pay their staff the living wage.

Councillor B Chilton
Councillor H Yeo"

This shall stand referred to the Cabinet

15th February 2013

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Ashford Borough Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **13th December 2012**

Present:

His Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr R K Davidson (Chairman);

Cllrs. Adley, Apps, Bartlett, Bennett, Mrs Blanford, Burgess, Chilton, Clark, Clarkson, Claughton, Clokie, Davey, Davison, Feacey, French, Heyes, Hicks, Link, Marriott, Mrs Martin, Michael, Mortimer, Robey, Smith, Taylor, Yeo.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting:-

1. His Worshipful the Mayor asked Members to remain standing in silence for the late Major William Oswald Cotton who was the Member of the Borough Council for the Kingsnorth Ward between 1973 and 1979 and Mayor in 1978 – 1979 and who had recently passed away.
2. The Reverend Alan Dinnie said prayers.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Aaby, Mrs Bell, Buchanan, Mrs Dyer, Galpin, Mrs Heyes, Hodgkinson, Howard, Mrs Hutchinson, Rutter, Shorter, Sims, Wedgbury, Wood, Wright.

Also Present:

Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Cultural and Project Services, Head of Customers, Homes and Property, Head of Environmental Services, Member Services and Scrutiny Manager.

268 Exempt or Confidential Information

The Mayor asked whether any items should be dealt with in private because of the likely disclosure of exempt or confidential information. There were none.

269 Minutes

Councillor Smith referred to Minute No. 181 of the 18th October 2012 and in particular to the question from Mr Relf regarding the Gypsy and Traveller Site at Chilmington and explained that Members had not seen an answer to that question and he asked that an answer be provided. He also said that there were other examples throughout the Minutes and again Members had not been provided with a copy of the relevant answers.

The Mayor said that he understood that Mr Relf would raise the question regarding Chilmington under this item. The Mayor also explained that the Council had agreed

to adopt a revised public participation scheme which detailed the information required to be provided by members of the public when wishing to address the Council, and set a revised deadline for submission of the request. He said that this would allow the Officers and the Cabinet Members to give a full reply to the issues raised. He undertook to give a copy of the revised scheme to Mr Relf after the meeting.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.3, Mr Relf, a local resident said that he had three issues he wished to raise under the Minutes. He referred to Minute No. 184 and the issue of missing persons from the Electoral Register. He said that the results of the last Census had been published and a new Police Commissioner had been elected. He understood that the Kent Police were a leading authority in terms of intelligence-led information but in Ashford he said he was aware of a local drug dealer who was not on the Electoral Register. In view of this he questioned how Kent Police were supposed to be aware of where such criminals lived. He said he was also aware of one particular individual who had lived at an address in Ashford for 30 years but had never been included on an Electoral Register. Mr Relf asked whether this issue would be addressed.

The Portfolio Holder for Core Services said he took Mr Relf's point and said it was very difficult to chase up people who did not record themselves on the Electoral Roll. He said that if Mr Relf had particular information he would pursue it. In terms of the issue of drug dealing he said that that was a matter for the Police.

Mr Relf then referred to Benefit Fraud and said that the Council wished to save £780,000 by April 2013 by requiring some Benefit claimants to pay a percentage of their Council Tax. He said that in some cases the Council may inevitably capture vulnerable people in terms of this 10% contribution. He said that he believed that Benefit Fraud in Ashford was between 50% and 55% and commented that if this was tackled by up to 30% in Council Tax alone, this would save in the region of £2.5 m. In view of this he asked whether there would be a more rigorous approach to tackling Benefit Fraud in the coming year.

The Portfolio Holder for Core Services said he was delighted that Mr Relf knew that 55% of Benefit Fraud existed in Ashford and said that the Council would wish to follow that up. He therefore asked Mr Relf to provide any information or details he had. He stressed that the Council's Fraud Unit was both very positive and proactive and had recovered significant amounts of money. They, however, could not check every property and resident in the Borough.

Mr Relf referred to the Chilmington Caravan Site and the comment made by the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Customer Services in the Kentish Express and that it was hoped that the residents of the site would take pride in where they lived. He said that a mobile home had been moved from the right hand shower block to the new one on the other side of the site. He asked when would the two plots by the old shower block be occupied bearing in mind the money the Council had recently spent on the site.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Customer Services said that the new block had cost £49,000 and was covered by the Council's insurance. Larger areas had been

provided on the site and it was hoped that the residents would take pride in the site. The Portfolio Holder said she agreed that quite a lot of money had been spent last year tidying up the site and explained that the mobile homes had been moved to allow everybody to have their own areas to take responsibility for rather than the Council and therefore the Council would no longer have to spend significant sums in the future in tidying it up. In terms of the vacant plot, she said she understood that there was interest from persons wishing to move on to the site.

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 18th October 2012 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 30th October 2012 be approved and confirmed as correct records.

270 Announcements

(a) Burns Night

The Mayor announced that he was holding a Burns Night supper at the London Beach Hotel on 26th January 2013 and referred to the leaflets which had been left for each member of the Council. He said he hoped there was as much support as possible from the Council to make it a successful night.

(b) Christmas

The Mayor invited all those present to join him for refreshments in the Committee Rooms after the meeting.

(c) Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader said that as the year was drawing to a close he wished to take the opportunity to reflect on the progress the Council had seen in the last 12 months and to mention some of the developments on the horizon. He explained that at the beginning of the year the Council had announced that it was pressing ahead with rolling out a limited solar panel installation programme. Initial plans were unfortunately put on hold after the Government's proposal to reduce potential income from the scheme but he said that a window of opportunity had opened to allow the Council to embark on a smaller scale scheme which was undertaken immediately. He considered that the move demonstrated the Council's ambition to be at the forefront of using sustainable energy in reducing its carbon emissions.

The Deputy Leader said that in the Spring there had been a fantastic number and variety of small, medium and large celebratory events throughout the Borough to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and the Summer had seen the Olympic Torch travelling through the Borough on its way to the Capital. He considered that both events showed how everyone could come together to celebrate in style and he believed that this demonstrated the strong community spirit that was evident across the Borough.

Another highlight of the year was Ashford Borough Council's successful Portas Pilot bid. The Borough had beaten 400 towns to be selected by the Government to become one of the retail guru Mary Portas' pilot high streets. Ashford had been one of only 27 winning bids which would now see the Town Centre benefit from invaluable support, advice and extra funding. The bid had been highlighted for its innovative proposals and the way it embraced new technology as well as providing a good case study for other towns to follow.

Major plans for a country park in Ashford had moved a step forward as the Council had approved the overall vision for Conningbrook Lakes and now a planning application had been submitted by the land owners, Bretts. The Deputy Leader said that for many years the Council had wished to give Ashford a country park where people of all ages could enjoy both the wide range of leisure activities from swimming and kayaking to nature walks and where wildlife could thrive in its own special environment. He said that this dream was now closer to becoming reality.

Work had also begun on a dedicated cycle and pedestrian link between Park Farm and the Town Centre. As Ashford's population continued to grow the Council had to ensure that people had a choice when it came to travel.

Another major achievement for the Council was securing £1.3 m from the Homes and Communities Agency which would enable the Council to continue to build much needed Council homes for local residents. The Council had successfully bid for over £5 m in the past few years which had funded 78 new homes. This latest grant would fund another 59 homes over the next three years. The Deputy Leader said that there was very strong evidence that confirmed the continuing acute housing need in Ashford and the Council had been proactive in trying to address the situation, mindful of the increased need for housing given the current financial climate. This programme was just a part of the overall range of practical measures that the Council had put in place to tackle this important issue and only a few weeks ago figures from the National Housing Federation had shown Ashford's waiting list had the largest fall in Kent over the last ten years and one of only two Authorities to see such a fall.

Another positive development next year would be the introduction of a new, improved recycling service which would provide more recycling opportunities and make significant savings in the cost of the current collection arrangements. In October the Council had entered into a Joint Waste Contract with Maidstone and Swale and one of the best recycling contractors in the Country, Biffa. Nine out of the ten English Councils with the best recycling rates in the Country used the same system that the Council was introducing and Biffa already worked with three Local Authorities in the top five recyclers in the UK for 2011/12 with seven Councils in the top 30.

The Deputy Leader said that next year the Council would face many challenges, with rolling out a brand new recycling service, the introduction of welfare reform and increasing uncertainty over Government funding as they tackled the deficit. He said, however, that he had every faith that the Council was ready for these challenges and through strong leadership, prudent financial management and hard work from Officers and Members 2013 would be a great year for the residents of Ashford.

In conclusion, the Deputy Leader said he wished all colleagues and all residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

271 Cabinet 30th October, 8th November and 6th December 2012

The report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, which had been tabled, clarified the procedure for consideration of the Cabinet Minutes.

(a) Cabinet 30th October 2012

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 30th October 2012 be received and noted.

(b) Cabinet 8th November 2012

Councillor Bartlett referred to Minute No. 209, Commercial Quarter – Update and Future Development Framework and said that part of the Quarter development was dependent upon moving the Kent Wool Growers to a rural site in Sevington adjacent to St Mary's Church. He said that some colleagues would be concerned about moving a retail development to such a location. Furthermore, he said that developers wished to build out the Sevington site by August 2014 without any improvements to Junction 10 being delivered until 2017 and with work not even commencing until 2016. He said that improvements to Junction 10 were poorly thought out and fell well short of what was required by the Core Strategy. He said that this meant that users of Junction 10 would compete with 250 lorry trips per hour without any improvement for three years. He therefore asked whether the Commercial Quarter Design and Delivery Framework would be revised to incorporate the impact that it would have on the Council's rural communities by displacing commercial activities to rural sites.

The Mayor said that he understood the question and that the Deputy Leader would respond but, however, he believed that the issues related to the planning application.

The Deputy Leader said that he would be happy to submit a written reply to Councillor Bartlett after consulting with the relevant Planning Officers.

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 8th November 2012 be received and noted.

(c) Cabinet 6th December 2012

Councillor Davison referred to Minute No. 244 – Creating Local Authority Trading Companies and said that the formation of Trading Companies represented an important addition to the Council's responsibilities and therefore he believed that it

should have been discussed with all Councillors before being brought to the Cabinet. Councillor Davison said that the term Trading Company was a very wide brief and remained undefined to allow the Council to go in many directions. He said that for a Council that had recently reduced its staffing levels by 10% and at a time of increasing workload, to say that the Chief Executive and Council Leader had time to be Executive Directors left doubt in his mind. He said that although Council Members and Officers would not receive payment as Executive Directors he pointed out non-Executive Directors would and therefore there would be expenses and fees. He also had doubts that the Council had the right levels of expertise and said that you only had to look at the Council's record in past projects either as a Manager, consultee, or adviser. He asked Members to reject the recommendation and asked for full Councillor consultation to be undertaken to examine the need for a Trading Company.

The Deputy Leader said that the report on Trading Companies was brought forward to agree as a matter of principle and not the detail. He explained that this was discussed with a number of leading Members and Group Leaders and furthermore with Group Leaders the previous week. He had emphasised that it was a matter of principle only and that there would be no leakage in the Council's finances as if the companies went ahead as envisaged, they would bring an income and not be a drain on the Council's resources. Furthermore he said that the Chief Executive and Officers were very able to deal with this and clearly if there was a need for more expertise in a particular area that expertise would be obtained. He said that he believed it was a sensible way forward and commented that Councillor Davison had not raised the issue in detail at the Group Leader meeting.

The Mayor advised that the Minute was a resolved item.

Resolved:

That subject to the expiry of the period by which decisions arising from the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 6th December 2012 may be called in ie 19th December 2012:

- (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 6th December 2012 be received and noted with the exception of Minute Nos. 235, 236, 237 and 239.**
- (ii) Minute Nos. 235, 236, 237 and 239 be approved and adopted.**

In accordance with Procedure Rule 15.5 Councillor Davison asked for it to be recorded that he had abstained from voting on Minute No. 244.

272 Audit Committee – 4th December 2012

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on the 4th December 2012 be received and noted.

273 Selection and Constitutional Review Committee – 6th December 2012

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee held on the 6th December 2012 be approved and adopted.

274 Members' Allowances – Recommendations from the Members' Allowances Independent Remuneration Panel

The report advised that the Members' Allowances Independent Remuneration Panel had met on the 11th December 2012 to review the level of Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the newly created Lead Members. A full note of the Panel's recommendations was included within the report.

Councillor Davison said that three Lead Members had been appointed by the ruling group with a recommended allowance of £1,872.07 each. He said that for some time it had become clear that some Members had felt that they should hold a Cabinet position and he therefore said he wished to put the view to the Council that rather than create extra positions at additional cost, the Leader should shuffle his Cabinet. He considered that the change in the structure of the Council tightened the grip the Leader had on the business of the Council and said it had not been discussed with all Councillors. He said he was not convinced of the need for the positions and therefore would abstain when the vote was taken.

Councillor Michael said he wished to understand why it was necessary to make the appointments and asked what added value did they give which could not already be served by existing Committees and existing Portfolio Holders.

The Deputy Leader said he wished to thank Councillor Davison for his advice to the Leader to shuffle his Cabinet and said that no doubt that when he was in the administrative party he would decide upon his own Cabinet. The Deputy Leader said that he was also surprised that this issue had been raised now because it had been dealt with in May 2012 by the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee and its recommendations had been approved at the Annual General Meeting. At that time no issues were raised. He said that the Leader and the Cabinet were keen to widen the consideration of the decision-making process and by having three Lead Members it did just that. He also explained that the Council was required by regulations to refer the matter to the Independent Remuneration Panel and it was their recommendations on the level of allowance before the meeting. Furthermore the Panel had pointed out that there had been no review of Members' Allowances since 2008 and they were keen for this to be rectified in 2013.

Resolved:

- That (i) a Special Responsibility Allowance payable to Lead Members of £1872.07, as set out in the Panel's report, be approved.**
- (ii) it be noted that the Panel intends to meet in May 2013 to review the full level of allowances payable under the Members' Allowances scheme.**

In accordance with Procedure Rule 15.5 Councillor Davison asked for it to be recorded that he had abstained from voting.

275 Questions by Members of which Notice had been Given

- (a) Question from Councillor Yeo to Councillor Clarkson, Deputy Leader of the Council**

"After the implementation of regulations for Houses of Multiple Occupancy initiated by the Council in the Summer, when are the Council planning on assessing their effectiveness and rolling them out to at least the other urban wards in the Borough?"

Reply by Councillor Clarkson

"Mr Mayor, I thank the Member for the question. When the Planning Committee confirmed the Article 4 Directions in four wards in the Borough in January 2012 it requested that the Planning and Development Unit keep the situation of HMO's in the rest of the Borough under constant review and make necessary Directions in other wards should the need arise. Officers are carrying out this monitoring all the time by looking at the applications coming forward for Licensing under the Housing Acts and any concerns raised by local people about the effects of concentrations of HMO's in any particular area. As things stand Officers are not currently aware of any substantial evidence of a need to make other Directions elsewhere".

Supplementary Question by Councillor Yeo

"In that instance then, I would ask that we review what is going on in Norman Ward because when I walk up and down Beaver Road and around the roads behind, I am constantly getting asked what we are going to do about Houses of Multiple Occupancy. This is a family area, it is getting blighted by late night alcohol outlets. Houses with high density of young men, you have a mixture of young men, alcohol, parties and fun and that is not a mixture that is good for bringing up children and trying to get them to sleep, so I would ask that it is reviewed and for the other urban Wards as well".

Reply by Councillor Clarkson

“Mr Mayor, I am very happy to arrange for that to happen but I would say this to Members, if this is of that much concern I very much regret that you bring it to this meeting of Full Council because as soon as they emerge I would urge you to bring it to the attention of Officers so that they can address these issues at the earliest opportunity rather than now because I know that other Members, Councillor Smith for example has done just that and we do need to know early because early intervention and early notification allows our Officers time to really look into these matters and form a very clear understanding of the situation”.

(b) Question from Councillor Yeo to Councillor Hicks, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Customer Services

“How many households are there on the Council House waiting list?”

Reply by Councillor Hicks

“Well the short answer is 1,303 but I would like to expand a little bit if you will allow me, because in the 2011 Census with Ashford’s population it has increased 13% since 2001 with an additional 6,350 households in the Borough and between 2001 and 2011 the number of people waiting for social housing in Ashford actually reduced which was the largest decrease in the County. Also, as the Deputy Leader has already said we have got £6.3 million of funding from the HCA which so far has delivered 78 affordable homes with 59 more promised by 2015 and in the rural communities over the last 20 years 340 local needs houses have been built. Homes for people with local connections in Ruckinge, Bilsington and Biddenden opened this year meaning that families can stay together. All the agencies are trying very hard to bring empty homes back into use. Recently, ABC signed up with KCC under the new No Use Empty scheme and even the Moat update for December for Stanhope Residents was asking residents to look out for any abandoned homes, so I hope you will agree with me that we’ve got all the methods to bring homes back into use for those who are on our waiting list and that all the different ideas have been pursued”.

Supplementary Question by Councillor Yeo

“No, I don’t think we are doing enough and what I would like to know is, just because we don’t have to have social housing in Chilmington Green, why are we building 5,000 houses without any social houses. We are choosing not to do it and frankly the best that we are doing is not good enough, so why don’t we have any social housing in Chilmington Green if we need the 5,000 houses that badly?”

Reply by Councillor Hicks

“I think this is going to be a matter for the Section 106 Agreements as regards Chilmington Green and I haven’t really got any further comments, but we can

investigate through the Planning Department or Councillor Clarkson has got an answer for you”.

Reply by Councillor Clarkson

“Well the first thing is as you know this is with the Inspector at the moment so I wouldn’t want to comment further on that, but of course we are concerned about the housing waiting list and as you’ve heard we are using all the avenues open to us but also the business of the Company now, the Housing Company is another one that will try and address those issues and I think that’s a very important aspect, it’s another string to our bow so I think we are very conscious and we share your concern and I am just pleased to hear that we have had a reduction in our waiting list. It is a pretty formidable situation to find where you have a growing population all the time and we are trying to get on top of that, but we are using everything at our disposal to do so”.

Supplementary Question by Councillor Bartlett

“Chilmington Green in the Core Strategy requires the developer to deliver 30% of the housing as affordable, that’s a great starting point and that will go a long way to addressing some of your concerns. What the developer has offered as part of their submission is 10%, a long way short. My question is what is the view of the Portfolio Holder on developers who take that approach to their planning applications?”

Reply by Councillor Hicks

“That’s a very leading question of course. I’d be a fool to say yes and I’d be a fool to say no, but I am sure you have a lot of Christmas mirth over there. I think it’s regrettable actually that we can’t all work together. It is a definite need that we have for all this social housing, and I know for instance that Pentland Homes in particular are trying very hard to get one of their schemes off which would produce a lot of homes in the sheltered housing scheme and if we can get homes like that on there, I think that would go some way to meet the difference, but I agree with you we can’t always get the policies we want”.

Reply by Councillor Clarkson

“Mr Mayor, we have to remember a number of things, some of our planning applications were able to secure more of the local needs affordable housing and we do that because that helps us to offset some of the others that are short. Now we have to have regard to Government policy and Government policy does require us, it doesn’t ask us, it requires us to look at sustainable development and some of the development has got to also be viable and the Government have indicated that there is a lot of drain on development by the demands we put on for a whole range of things under 106 Agreements, so we are obliged to look at them and we engage as a Council professional external agencies who look at the proposals from developers so whilst we all would like to see the maximum number of social housing we have to work in within that framework in this tough economic climate”.

(c) Question from Councillor Yeo to Councillor Mrs Blanford, Portfolio Holder for Environment

“The bollards in Beaver Road are constantly out of order, what action is the Council taking to rectify the situation?”

Reply by Councillor Mrs Blanford

“Thank you Councillor Yeo for your question. The Beaver Road bus gate is the responsibility of the KCC Highway Department. Officers have contacted KCC in respect of the long periods for which it has been non-operational. They have been assured that KCC are currently attempting to restore the system to full operation, and I believe it was working this morning satisfactorily, however, we don't think this is good enough and our own Borough Council Officers are investigating the possibility of replacing the existing bollards with a fixed camera enforcement system. Without a physical barrier it is believed that such a system would avoid the current disruption and delay to authorised users of the route while providing a credible deterrent to unauthorised users”.

Supplementary Question by Councillor Yeo

“I thank you for that answer and I would just ask if you could assure me that rather than accept KCC's assurances, give them more nagging because actually that's becoming a rat run again and once again this is impacting upon the family environment of the area and people are very scared for their children's safety”.

Reply by Councillor Mrs Blanford

“I would be very happy to ask the Officers to nag KCC, we do it quite a lot as you are well aware and I will press them to have a good look at the scheme which we are putting forward which I think will save a lot of trouble”.

(d) Question from Councillor Yeo to Councillor Mrs Blanford, Portfolio Holder for Environment

“Speeding in residential/school areas is a blight across the town, what steps are the Council taking to bring about a safer environment across the Borough?”

Reply by Councillor Mrs Blanford

“Well as I think Councillor Yeo is probably well aware, speeding comes under the Police and the County Council to take action against. We are looking at various ways and as she will be aware, there are residential parking schemes within the Borough which do help to slow down the traffic though of course we don't really want residents parking near schools because then there is a danger to children crossing the road between parked cars.

Supplementary Question by Councillor Yeo

“Would the Portfolio Holder be willing to consider a 20 mile an hour blanket speed limit across the urban area. The more that we knocked on doors during the PCC campaign, the more this was asked for. It’s not something that makes my heart sing with joy because I don’t like driving that slowly, but it does resonate with parents of small children and it’s something that would make a huge difference and that’s not something that I thought of that is something that I was asked to ask, time, time and time again?”

Reply by Councillor Mrs Blanford

“I will certainly take that on board but it is a question of enforcement. The Police don’t like reducing speed limits to a position where they can’t enforce it but we will take it on board, as you know the various villages have reduced their speed limits to 30 mph and will bear it in mind, but I can’t promise action because we have to work with the Police on it”.

276 Season’s Greetings

The Mayor wished all Members and Officers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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(KRF/AEH)

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Ashford Borough Council

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **10th January 2013**

Present:

His Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr R K Davidson (Chairman);

Cllrs. Apps, Bennett, Mrs Blanford, Burgess, Chilton, Clarkson, Claughton, Clokie, Davison, Mrs Dyer, Feacey, Galpin, Heyes, Howard, Mrs Hutchinson, Link, Marriott, Mrs Martin, Michael, Mortimer, Robey, Sims, Taylor, Wedgbury, Wood, Yeo.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Adby, Adley, Bartlett, Buchanan, Clarke, Davey, French, Hicks, Hodgkinson, Shorter, Smith.

Also Present:

Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Principal Solicitor – Strategic Development, Finance Manager, Senior Communications Officer, Member Services and Scrutiny Manager.

294 Local Council Tax Support – Recommended Scheme, Post Public Consultation

The Council considered the report of the Revenues and Benefits Manager, the paper tabled at the meeting of the Cabinet and the recommendations of the Cabinet Meeting on the 10th January 2013 relating to this matter.

Resolved:

That the Recommendations of the Cabinet held on the 10th January 2013 be approved and adopted.

295 Non-Domestic (Business Rates) – approval of NNDR1 Form

The Council considered the report of the Revenues and Benefits Manager and the recommendation of the Cabinet meeting on the 10th January 2013 in relation to this matter. In response to a question the Portfolio Holder for Core Services advised of the process which would follow the approval of the provisional NNDR1 Form.

Resolved:

That the Recommendations of the Cabinet held on the 10th January 2013 be approved and adopted.

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Mins:CXXX1302

(KRF/VS)

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Cabinet

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **10th January 2013**

Present:

Cllr. Wood (Chairman);

Cllr. Clarkson (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Mrs Blanford, Claughton, Heyes, Howard, Taylor.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Aaby, Adley, Bartlett, Buchanan, Clark, Davey, French, Hicks, Hodgkinson, Shorter, Smith.

Also Present:

Cllrs. Apps, Bennett, Burgess, Chilton, Clokie, Davidson, Davison, Mrs Dyer, Feacey, Galpin, Mrs Hutchinson, Link, Marriott, Mrs Martin, Michael, Mortimer, Robey, Sims, Wedgbury, Yeo.

Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Environmental Services, Head of Planning and Development, Head of Customers, Homes and Property, Head of Cultural and Project Services, Principal Solicitor – Strategic Development, Project Office Manager, Revenues and Benefits Manager, Strategic Housing and Property Manager, Finance Manager, Senior Communications Officer, Member Services and Scrutiny Manager.

282 Minutes

A Member referred to Minute No. 243 - Ashford's Memorial Gardens – Remembrance Area Project and advised that the item had been deferred for further consideration. He said he had concerns that it had not been brought back to Members, and in particular he had noted in the local press that the scheme had now been approved by the Officers using their delegated powers. He believed that Members should have had an opportunity to comment further on the scheme. The Chairman confirmed that if an issue deferred for further consideration related to a matter of substance it would of course be brought back before Members. The Vice-Chairman indicated that the decision purely rested on the location of the site for the garden, but said that he took the Member's point regarding items of substance being brought back to Members for consideration.

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 6th December 2012 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

283 Joint Transportation Board – 11th December 2012

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on the 11th December 2012 be approved and adopted.

284 Application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Wye with Hinxhill Parish

The report provided information about the process of designating a neighbourhood area under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and considered the application for designation submitted by Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council.

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Wellbeing advised that the issue was a matter of statutory procedure and that preparatory work had been undertaken locally to draft some guiding principles for the Neighbourhood Plan. He considered that the support from the local community was important and explained that a programme of public consultation was underway. He hoped to keep Members informed of progress in due course.

Resolved:

That the application be approved and the Parish of Wye with Hinxhill as shown edged red on the plan at Appendix 1 to the report be designated as a neighbourhood area.

285 Stour Centre Essential Repairs and Proposed Invest to Save Project

The report set out the scope of works and the estimated cost of invest to save measures and essential roof repairs required to the old part of the Stour Centre building, including an assessment of the most cost effective method of providing heating and power to the Civic and Stour Centre buildings.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.3, Mr Sandford advised that he managed Godinton House and Estate and was currently the Chairman of the Kent Branch of the Country Land and Business Association representing over 1,000 members with farms, forestry and rural businesses in Kent. He advised that he had received a grant from SEEDA to examine the use of biomass. He said he would like to raise a question concerning the proposed refurbishment of the Stour Centre, specifically the use of gas as opposed to biomass for heating. He said that he did not think the long term benefits for the local economy, rural job creation and the management of the landscape with environmental benefits had been thoroughly considered. He gave examples of the use of biomass within the country by Reigate and Bansted Borough

Council, and also in parts of Stansted and Heathrow airports. He explained that the various reports and Feasibility Studies commissioned by the Borough Council had concluded that biomass was the best renewable fuel for the Borough. In view of this he considered that the Council should take the lead in promoting and encouraging sustainable local business and explained that there were robust supply chains for wood fuel and in particular in the region of 50,000 tonnes of wood which could be used each year in the Borough. This would be a benefit to the local economy rather than paying for gas which came from outside the country. He considered that the Council should take the lead in promoting and encouraging sustainable local schemes and questioned how would the burning of gas for the next 15 years help meet the Government's CO₂ emission targets or reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels. He hoped that the Cabinet would reconsider its recommendations.

The Project Office Manager said that there was a choice between the environmental benefit of using biomass and the commercial benefit of using CHP.

The Vice-Chairman confirmed that the Council wished to promote renewable energy throughout the Borough and he gave examples of steps taken by the Council in terms of photovoltaic panels. He indicated that the Council did, however, need to take into account value for money and the commercial aspects of such arrangements.

The Portfolio Holder for Youth and Sport explained that the report presented a package of improvements to the Stour Centre and the CHP and biomass issue was just one aspect. He believed it was important to get the work done and in particular that a decision needed to be taken sooner rather than later to allow for a replacement heating system to be in place before next winter.

A Member advised that he had had several email exchanges with officers over the proposal and said that this had been very helpful. However, he believed that some of the figures presented for biomass in the report were incorrect. He also advised that there had been no mention of carbon certificates. He considered that work should be undertaken in terms of presenting the wood price and the gas price index and he also pointed out that it appeared that no work had been undertaken in terms of consideration of a non interruptible gas supply option. In terms of biomass systems he advised that modern systems were very reliable. In conclusion he asked that the matter be deferred for consideration by specialists.

Another Member said he believed that the project was extremely important and said he was disappointed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had not had an opportunity to look at the issue before it was submitted to Cabinet. He asked the Chairman whether he would be supportive of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee examining the biomass and the CHP heating issue.

The Chairman believed that it would be a useful exercise for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake and considered it could also deal with issues of the future use of the unmodified parts of the Centre.

The Chairman also said that he understood that residents wanted value for money, and therefore considered it would be appropriate for the financial figures to be

reassessed, particularly in terms of the volatility of gas prices and further sensitivity work to be undertaken and a reappraisal of the financial aspects of this scheme.

Resolved:

That subject to more sensitivity work being undertaken, and a reappraisal of the financial aspects of this scheme and subject to any recommendations following a review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- (i) the appropriate Heads of Service be authorised to implement a new CHP plant, new roof covering and the installation of photovoltaic (PV) panels and other energy saving measures in/on the old Stour Centre building within the capital budget of £1.95m, including the appointment of specialist design consultants and works contractor/s.**
- (ii) the resulting heating and power costs savings estimated at £3.33m over 15 years be ring fenced to fund: proposed project works noted in (i) above, replacement of the CHP plant and any future re-ordering and repairs to the Stour Centre (un-refurbished area) approved by the Cabinet.**
- (iii) the use of £110,000 of Developer Section 106 Contributions which result from Core Strategy Policy CS10 (related to sustainable design and construction) be approved to fund energy saving measures.**
- (iv) the appropriate Heads of Services be authorised in discussion with the Portfolio Holder to prepare options/proposals in discrete packages for the balance of building repairs and re-ordering to the old area of the Stour Centre in order to maximise the potential leisure offer and business opportunity and to extend the life of the building by 20 years.**
- (v) the Deputy Chief Executive be granted delegated authority to borrow to fund the project expenditure up to the amount indicated in the report.**

286 Remodelling of Farrow Court, South Ashford

The report sought approval to undertake the remodelling of the existing Farrow Court Sheltered Housing Scheme, together with adjacent land. Tabled at the meeting was a revised Recommendation (iii).

The Head of Customers, Homes and Property explained that the project would increase the number of units, enhance day and dementia care and would also provide support for people with disabilities at all levels. The Council was working collaboratively with Social Services on the scheme, and funds within the Housing Revenue Account would allow the scheme to be undertaken and would also allow the Council to move to a second scheme in due course. The Portfolio Holder for Community and Wellbeing suggested that representatives of Ashford Access Group be involved with the project.

The Ward Member said he supported the scheme and that there was a need to bear in mind that there would be significant upheaval for residents and that this needed to be carefully managed.

In response to a question about the procurement process, the Head of Customers, Homes and Property advised that the report set out details of the traditional method of procurement but explained that the Council was procuring the contractor for the scheme via another partner. In terms of the timetable, the Head of Customers, Homes and Property accepted that the timetable was tight, and said that funding was being provided by the Homes and Communities Agency, which had to be spent by March 2015.

Recommended:

- That
- (i) the Council join the Orbit Housing Association Framework to carry out the works, and the use of a Project Partnering Contract PPC 2000 to deliver the remodelling of Farrow Court be noted.**
 - (ii) the commercially led approach to procurement in line with the Council's 2030 Framework and the selection of a local contractor to carry out the construction works for the remodelling of the Farrow Court Scheme in line with procurement law be noted.**
 - (iii) the contractor as set out in Exempt Appendix 2 be appointed to carry out the works subject to Ashford Borough Council having first joined the Orbit Framework and complied with any terms that precede the Council's drawing down a contractor from it.**
 - (iv) a funding cap of £13.0m of Housing Revenue Account resources over the next three financial years for the remodelling of the Farrow Court Scheme be approved.**
 - (v) the creation of a Project Board to oversee the delivery of the remodelling be noted.**
 - (vi) the Head of Customers, Homes and Property, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Housing and Property Manager be given delegated authority, in conjunction with the Leader of the Council, to make changes to the remodelling of the scheme within the affordability envelope as outlined in Recommendation (iv).**
 - (vii) a funding application to the Homes and Communities Agency under the Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund to support the remodelling be made.**
 - (viii) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the Strategic Housing and Property Manager be given authority to execute and complete all necessary documentation to give effect to recommendations (i) to (vii).**

287 Discharging Statutory Homelessness Duty into the Private Rented Sector

The report advised that the Localism Act 2011 made significant changes to the way in which Local Authorities could deal with applications for social housing and homelessness applications. The report detailed those changes and set out the policy framework within which Kent Authorities proposed to deal with such cases.

The Vice-Chairman said he had concerns that some residents of the Borough may be living in private rented accommodation which was not up to the standard the Council required and therefore advised that he had asked the Head of Customers, Homes and Property to see whether it was possible to introduce a voluntary scheme for landlords in the Borough with a view to achieving an equity in quality.

The Head of Customers, Homes and Property advised that there were a number of good landlords in Ashford and considered that the issue could be discussed at a future Landlord Forum.

The Chairman considered that the outcome of the discussions with the Landlord Forum should be subject to a further report back to the Cabinet in due course.

A Member, whilst welcoming the report, said that she believed that the minimum of a one year lease was not sufficient as it could be that families had to move on every year which was not an ideal situation for children.

In response to a question, the Head of Customers, Homes and Property advised that it was always a risk for Ashford that homeless people from outside the area would seek assistance from the Council. She said that she considered that Officers worked well with local landlords to prevent homelessness occurring and although initial leases were only offered for a year, it was always hoped that they would be renewed for longer periods.

Resolved:

- That**
- (i) the proposed policy for discharging the statutory homelessness duty into the Private Sector, attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved.**
 - (ii) the Head of Customers, Homes and Property report back to a future meeting of the Cabinet regarding options for establishing a voluntary Licensing scheme for Private Sector Landlords.**

288 Chilmington Gypsy and Travellers Site Policy

The report consolidated the working practices and procedures for the management of the Chilmington Gypsy and Travellers Site to produce a policy document. The document reflected best practice and provided a practical approach to the management of the site.

The Head of Customers, Homes and Property advised that there had been improvements on the site and in particular there had been a significant reduction in the number of incidents of fires. In response to a question, the Head of Customers, Homes and Property advised that a health and safety risk assessment had been undertaken for the operation of the site.

Resolved:

That the policy for the Chilmington Gypsy and Traveller Site be approved.

289 Introduction of a Garden Waste Collection Service

The report advised that the Council's 5 Year Business Plan had been approved by the Council on 17th February 2011 and as part of that Business Plan the Council was committed to the introduction of a new recycling and street cleansing service and the introduction of a garden waste collection service. The report provided an update to the Cabinet on the introduction of a garden waste collection service and sought approval to proceed.

The Portfolio Holder advised that the proposed charge of £30 was comparable with other schemes in Kent.

The Vice-Chairman also advised that the service would collect garden waste on a fortnightly basis over 25 weeks of the year. Although the service would commence from April 2013, the subscription period would be from the 1st June to 31st May.

Recommended:

- That (i) the introduction of a garden waste collection service from April 2013 be approved.**
- (ii) a service charge of £30 per annum, rising to £35 in two years be approved.**

290 Revenues and Benefits Recommended Write-Offs Schedule

The report proposed the formal write-off of 227 debts totalling £242,089.35. The proposals were in line with the Council's Revenues and Benefits Service Write-Off Policy. The existing bad debt provisions already more than covered the sums involved.

In response to a question from a Member, the Revenues and Benefits Manager advised that currently the Council was not liable for the non-payment of Business Rates. However from 1st April 2013, 50% of those debts would be the Council's responsibility. He also explained that as soon as a debtor missed a payment this would generate a letter to them and if the debt still remained unpaid, the Council would proceed to issue a Court Summons.

Resolved:

- That (i) the action that accounts totalling £37,822.10 had been written-off under delegated powers (Financial Regulations 11.1) be noted.**
- (ii) the write-offs listed in the Exempt Appendices to the report totalling £204,267.25 be approved.**

Recommended:

That delegated authority be granted to the Deputy Chief Executive and the Financial Services Portfolio Holder to write-off amounts over £1,000 of uncollectable Business Rates debts during the period 15th March to 31st March 2013.

291 Local Council Tax Support Scheme – Recommended Scheme, Post Public Consultation

The report advised that following the Cabinet decision of the 6th December 2012 to confirm the Local Council Tax Support Scheme to be operated from the 1st April 2013 the Government advised that the national scheme was to be abolished from the 31st March 2013 and therefore there was a need for the Council to establish its own scheme.

Tabled at the meeting was a revised set of recommendations which had been drafted on the basis of a review undertaken by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

The Portfolio Holder also advised that the scheme proposed by the Council would disregard war disablement pensions, war widows', and widowers' pensions and related payments for the purposes of calculating relevant incomes.

Recommended:

- That (i) a Council Tax Reduction Scheme under Section 13A(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 relating to the financial year beginning with 1st April 2013 ("Scheme") be made, incorporating:-**
- (a) the principles set out in sub-paragraphs 39(a) to (d) of the Deputy Chief Executive's report to the Cabinet on the 6th December 2012; and**
 - (b) the principles set out in paragraph 40 of that report; and**
 - (c) the existing local scheme operated by the Council whereby war disablement pensions, war widows' and widowers' pensions and certain related payments set out in Schedules 6A and 8A of Appendix 1 to the report are disregarded for the purposes of calculating relevant incomes; and**

- (d) all other elements of the Default Scheme prescribed by the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended or replaced as the case may be by any amending or replacement Regulations made on or before 31st January 2013), except those elements which prescribe a greater maximum Council Tax reduction for any case or class of persons than that set out in sub-paragraphs 39(a) to (d) and 40 of the Cabinet Report referred to above.
- (ii) the draft of the Scheme entitled “The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Ashford Borough Council) 2013” at Appendix 1 to the report be approved subject to such textual amendments as the Head of Legal and Democratic Services shall make on or before the 31st January 2013, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive, in order to ensure that the Scheme is appropriately drafted, clear and legally effective and achieves the principles set out above.
- (iii) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be granted delegated authority to make such textual amendments to the draft Scheme and to issue the final Scheme on behalf of the Council on or before 31st January 2013.

292 Non-Domestic (Business) Rates – approval of NNDR1 Form

The report advised that from 1st April 2013 the Government had changed the funding arrangements concerning Business Rates. From 1st April Councils would retain some of the rates collected and Government now required that the NNDR1 Form (estimate of Business Rate yield) be approved by the Council. The Portfolio Holder also drew attention to the recommendation that delegation be given to him and the Deputy Chief Executive to agree any changes to the provisional NNDR1 Form necessary before final submission. In this regard he advised that the MTFP Task Group would meet before the 31st January to consider the final form.

Recommended:

- That
- (i) the provisional NNDR1 Form attached to the report be approved.
 - (ii) authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Core Services and the Deputy Chief Executive to agree any changes to the provisional NNDR1 Form necessary before final submission.

293 Schedule of Key Decisions to be Taken

The report set out the latest Schedule of Key Decisions to be taken by the Cabinet of Ashford Borough Council.

Resolved:

That the latest Schedule of Key Decisions as set out within the report be received and noted.

(KRF/VS)
MINS:CAXX1302/VS

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Agenda Item No: 9

Report To: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 21th February 2013

Report Title: Council Tax 2013/14 Resolutions

Report Author: Paul Naylor, Deputy Chief Executive (and S151 Officer)
Ben Lockwood, Finance Manager



Summary:

This report presents the Cabinet's 2013-2014 General Fund Budget and Council Tax recommendations for resolution by the Full Council. It also presents the full statutory resolutions, including the requirements of the Precepting Authorities and Parish Councils, for the area covered by the Borough Council as the billing authority.

Members attention is drawn to the highlighted note at the beginning of the attached report. This explains that the draft resolutions in this report are dependent on formal confirmation by the Parish Councils. In the unlikely event that any decision varies from the assumed position notified to the Council, it would be necessary to table revised recommendations at the Full Council Meeting.

Excluding Parish Precepts, the Council's net revenue spending, is (1.84)% less than the budget for 2012/13. The Borough Council's element of the Council Tax at band D is to be increase to £145.45 (£140.67 2012/13).

On the basis of information available from the Precepting Authorities the **overall** level of Council Tax, excluding Parish Precepts, is anticipated to be £1,402.65.

Key Decision: Not applicable

Affected Wards: ALL

Recommendations: The Council is asked to:-

(1) Agree the Budget for 2013/14 as recommended by the Cabinet.

(2) Agree the formal Council Tax resolutions annexed to this Report.

Policy Overview: The Budget is a matter for the Full Council to approve. Apart from the statutory requirement and status of the budget, the proposals for 2013/14 take forward the third year of the

Council's Business Plan.

Financial Implications:

The budget supports the Business Plan and is the result of considerable input from Members and Services over several months. It is broadly in line with our medium term financial forecasts. The recommended budget requirement (excluding parish precepts) is £13.798 million. The recommended Council Tax at Band D is £145.45, an increase of £4.78 from 2013/14.

Risk Assessment

The report to the Cabinet contained advice about the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the Councils reserves, as required by the Local Government Act 2003. The report concluded that while there are risks, the Council's Members and Officers understand these, but the Council has well-developed budgetary control and monitoring procedures to address these should pressures arise. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its review concluded that the draft budget was 'achievable, sufficient and realistic'.

Other Material Implications:

None

Background Papers:

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Report Title: Council Tax 2013/14 Resolutions

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

The resolutions in this report, which must include the requirements of all Precepting authorities, are based on the recommendations made to these Authorities.

However at the time of writing 2 Parish Councils had to confirm their precept demands

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the Cabinet Committee's 2013/14 General Fund Budget and Council Tax recommendation for resolution by the Full Council. It presents the full statutory resolutions, including the requirements of the Precepting Authorities (as known at the time of writing) and the Parish Councils, for the areas covered by the Borough Council as the Billing Authority.

Issue to be Decided

2. The Full Council is required to consider and approve the recommended 2013/14 Budget and the Council Tax requirement. The Full Council must also agree the statutory resolutions, which include the Precepting Authorities' requirements.

Ashford Borough Council's General Fund Budget and Council Tax Requirement and Consultation

3. The decisions of the Cabinet at its meeting on 14th February are set out in its Minutes reported on this Agenda. A summary of the recommended budget is included as **Appendix A**. Members will also have received the full 2013/2014 Budget Book by the time of the meeting.
4. The report to the Cabinet Meeting included advice required by the Local Government Act 2003, on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the Councils reserves.
5. It should be noted that the period for budget consultation closes on 14th February. A summary of consultation responses was reported to the Cabinet on the 14th February. Any further responses to the consultation will be reported to the Full Council Meeting.

Council Tax Requirement

6. The demand on the Council Tax Collection Fund for 2013/14 that flows from the recommendation of the Cabinet, and the decisions of the Precepting Bodies totals £58,775,122 analysed as follows: -

COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. It be noted that on **06 December 2012** the Cabinet calculated
 - (a) the Council Tax Base 2013/14 for the whole Council area as **41,180.00** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")] and,
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached **Annex A**
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2013/14 (excluding Parish precepts) is **£5,989,630 (Appendices A and B)**
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2012/13 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £ 84,761,714 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) (77,758,089) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) 7,003,625 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
 - (d) 170.07 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).(**Annex C**)
 - (e) 1,013,995 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached **Annex B**).
 - (f) 145.45 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.(**Annex D & E**)

Annex A

Part of the Council's area (i.e. tax base for parished areas – Band D equivalent properties).

PARISH	LOCAL TAX BASE	PARISH	LOCAL TAX BASE
Aldington & Bonnington	536.50	Little Chart	115.90
Appledore	309.70	Mersham and Sevington	607.80
Bethersden	654.10	Molash	103.00
Biddenden	1,052.95	Newenden	98.00
Bilsington	144.20	Orlestone	508.10
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	1,030.65	Pluckley	445.40
Brabourne	572.80	Rolvenden	643.25
Brook	144.90	Ruckinge	320.40
Challock	406.90	Shadoxhurst	479.50
Charing	1,149.85	Smarden	596.50
Chilham	694.20	Smeeth	348.40
Crundale (PM)	90.80	Stanhope	688.00
Egerton	492.40	Stone	197.60
Godmersham	176.60	Tenterden (TC)	3,381.05
Great Chart with Singleton	2,308.10	Warehorne	171.70
Hastingleigh	110.10	Westwell	303.10
High Halden	656.70	Wittersham	501.90
Hothfield	260.95	Woodchurch	805.30
Kenardington	99.30	Wye with Hinxhill	974.45
Kingsnorth	3,993.80		

Annex B

PARISH	Parish Precept	PARISH	Parish Precept
Aldington & Bonnington	17,500	Little Chart	5,500
Appledore	20,500	Mersham and Sevington	11,660
Bethersden	18,490	Molash	3,850
Biddenden	43,400	Newenden	4,730
Bilsington	3,000	Orlestone	12,310
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	15,422	Pluckley	24,000
Brabourne	13,930	Rolvenden	19,455
Brook	4,780	Ruckinge	9,000
Challock	14,400	Shadoxhurst	11,440
Charing	64,926.00	Smarden	23,370*
Chilham	23,807	Smeeth	8,440
Crundale (PM)	200	Stanhope	9,750
Egerton	14,510	Stone	4,000
Godmersham	3,980	Tenterden (TC)	304,650
Great Chart with Singleton	68,180	Warehorne	2,800
Hastingleigh	2,830	Westwell	14,604
High Halden	16,607	Wittersham	18,800
Hothfield	9,500	Woodchurch	20,000
Kenardington	3,900	Wye with Hinxhill	53,924*
Kingsnorth	91,850		

***Note – at time of writing still awaiting final confirmation of precept demand**

BILLING AUTHORITY PART OF COUNCIL TAX 2013/2014

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	118.71	138.50	158.28	178.07	217.64	257.21	296.78	356.14
Appledore	141.09	164.61	188.12	211.64	258.67	305.70	352.73	423.28
Bethersden	115.81	135.12	154.42	173.72	212.32	250.93	289.53	347.44
Biddenden	124.45	145.19	165.93	186.67	228.15	269.63	311.12	373.34
Bilsington	110.83	129.31	147.78	166.25	203.19	240.14	277.08	332.50
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	106.94	124.76	142.59	160.41	196.06	231.70	267.35	320.82
Brabourne	113.18	132.04	150.91	169.77	207.50	245.22	282.95	339.54
Brook	118.96	138.79	158.61	178.44	218.09	257.75	297.40	356.88
Challock	120.56	140.65	160.75	180.84	221.03	261.21	301.40	361.68
Charing	134.61	157.04	179.48	201.91	246.78	291.65	336.52	403.82
Chilham	119.83	139.80	159.77	179.74	219.68	259.62	299.57	359.48
Crundale (PM)	98.43	114.84	131.24	147.65	180.46	213.27	246.08	295.30
Egerton	116.61	136.05	155.48	174.92	213.79	252.66	291.53	349.84
Godmersham	111.99	130.66	149.32	167.99	205.32	242.65	279.98	335.98
Great Chart with Singleton	116.66	136.10	155.55	174.99	213.88	252.76	291.65	349.98
Hastingleigh	114.10	133.12	152.13	171.15	209.18	247.22	285.25	342.30
High Halden	113.83	132.80	151.77	170.74	208.68	246.62	284.57	341.48
Hothfield	121.24	141.45	161.65	181.86	222.27	262.69	303.10	363.72
Kenardington	123.15	143.67	164.20	184.72	225.77	266.82	307.87	369.44
Kingsnorth	112.30	131.02	149.73	168.45	205.88	243.32	280.75	336.90
Little Chart	128.60	150.03	171.47	192.90	235.77	278.63	321.50	385.80
Mersham and Sevington	109.75	128.05	146.34	164.63	201.21	237.80	274.38	329.26
Molash	121.89	142.20	162.52	182.83	223.46	264.09	304.72	365.66
Newenden	129.15	150.67	172.20	193.72	236.77	279.82	322.87	387.44
Orlestone	113.12	131.97	150.83	169.68	207.39	245.09	282.80	339.36
Pluckley	132.89	155.03	177.18	199.33	243.63	287.92	332.22	398.66

Rolvenden	117.13	136.65	156.17	175.69	214.73	253.77	292.82	351.38
Ruckinge	115.69	134.98	154.26	173.54	212.10	250.67	289.23	347.08
Shadoxhurst	112.87	131.69	150.50	169.31	206.93	244.56	282.18	338.62
Smarden	123.09	143.60	164.12	184.63	225.66	266.69	307.72	369.26
Smeeth	113.12	131.97	150.83	169.68	207.39	245.09	282.80	339.36
Stanhope	106.41	124.15	141.88	159.62	195.09	230.56	266.03	319.24
Stone	110.46	128.87	147.28	165.69	202.51	239.33	276.15	331.38
Tenterden (TC)	157.04	183.21	209.39	235.56	287.91	340.25	392.60	471.12
Warehorne	107.84	125.81	143.79	161.76	197.71	233.65	269.60	323.52
Westwell	129.09	150.60	172.12	193.63	236.66	279.69	322.72	387.26
Wittersham	121.94	142.26	162.59	182.91	223.56	264.20	304.85	365.82
Woodchurch	113.53	132.45	151.37	170.29	208.13	245.97	283.82	340.58
Wye with Hinxhill	133.86	156.17	178.48	200.79	245.41	290.03	334.65	401.58
Unparished Area	96.97	113.13	129.29	145.45	177.77	210.09	242.42	290.90

TOTAL COUNCIL TAX 2013/2014

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	956.84	1,116.32	1,275.79	1,435.27	1,754.22	2,073.17	2,392.11	2,870.54
Appledore	979.22	1,142.43	1,305.63	1,468.84	1,795.25	2,121.66	2,448.06	2,937.68
Bethersden	953.94	1,112.94	1,271.93	1,430.92	1,748.90	2,066.89	2,384.86	2,861.84
Biddenden	962.58	1,123.01	1,283.44	1,443.87	1,764.73	2,085.59	2,406.45	2,887.74
Bilsington	948.96	1,107.13	1,265.29	1,423.45	1,739.77	2,056.10	2,372.41	2,846.90
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	945.07	1,102.58	1,260.10	1,417.61	1,732.64	2,047.66	2,362.68	2,835.22
Brabourne	951.31	1,109.86	1,268.42	1,426.97	1,744.08	2,061.18	2,378.28	2,853.94
Brook	957.09	1,116.61	1,276.12	1,435.64	1,754.67	2,073.71	2,392.73	2,871.28
Challock	958.69	1,118.47	1,278.26	1,438.04	1,757.61	2,077.17	2,396.73	2,876.08
Charing	972.74	1,134.86	1,296.99	1,459.11	1,783.36	2,107.61	2,431.85	2,918.22
Chilham	957.96	1,117.62	1,277.28	1,436.94	1,756.26	2,075.58	2,394.90	2,873.88
Crundale (PM)	936.56	1,092.66	1,248.75	1,404.85	1,717.04	2,029.23	2,341.41	2,809.70
Egerton	954.74	1,113.87	1,272.99	1,432.12	1,750.37	2,068.62	2,386.86	2,864.24
Godmersham	950.12	1,108.48	1,266.83	1,425.19	1,741.90	2,058.61	2,375.31	2,850.38
Great Chart with Singleton	954.79	1,113.92	1,273.06	1,432.19	1,750.46	2,068.72	2,386.98	2,864.38
Hastingleigh	952.23	1,110.94	1,269.64	1,428.35	1,745.76	2,063.18	2,380.58	2,856.70
High Halden	951.96	1,110.62	1,269.28	1,427.94	1,745.26	2,062.58	2,379.90	2,855.88
Hothfield	959.37	1,119.27	1,279.16	1,439.06	1,758.85	2,078.65	2,398.43	2,878.12
Kenardington	961.28	1,121.49	1,281.71	1,441.92	1,762.35	2,082.78	2,403.20	2,883.84
Kingsnorth	950.43	1,108.84	1,267.24	1,425.65	1,742.46	2,059.28	2,376.08	2,851.30
Little Chart	966.73	1,127.85	1,288.98	1,450.10	1,772.35	2,094.59	2,416.83	2,900.20
Mersham and Sevington	947.88	1,105.87	1,263.85	1,421.83	1,737.79	2,053.76	2,369.71	2,843.66
Molash	960.02	1,120.02	1,280.03	1,440.03	1,760.04	2,080.05	2,400.05	2,880.06
Newenden	967.28	1,128.49	1,289.71	1,450.92	1,773.35	2,095.78	2,418.20	2,901.84
Orlestone	951.25	1,109.79	1,268.34	1,426.88	1,743.97	2,061.05	2,378.13	2,853.76

Pluckley	971.02	1,132.85	1,294.69	1,456.53	1,780.21	2,103.88	2,427.55	2,913.06
Rolvenden	955.26	1,114.47	1,273.68	1,432.89	1,751.31	2,069.73	2,388.15	2,865.78
Ruckinge	953.82	1,112.80	1,271.77	1,430.74	1,748.68	2,066.63	2,384.56	2,861.48
Shadoxhurst	951.00	1,109.51	1,268.01	1,426.51	1,743.51	2,060.52	2,377.51	2,853.02
Smarden	961.22	1,121.42	1,281.63	1,441.83	1,762.24	2,082.65	2,403.05	2,883.66
Smeeth	951.25	1,109.79	1,268.34	1,426.88	1,743.97	2,061.05	2,378.13	2,853.76
Stanhope	944.54	1,101.97	1,259.39	1,416.82	1,731.67	2,046.52	2,361.36	2,833.64
Stone	948.59	1,106.69	1,264.79	1,422.89	1,739.09	2,055.29	2,371.48	2,845.78
Tenterden (TC)	995.17	1,161.03	1,326.90	1,492.76	1,824.49	2,156.21	2,487.93	2,985.52
Warehorne	945.97	1,103.63	1,261.30	1,418.96	1,734.29	2,049.61	2,364.93	2,837.92
Westwell	967.22	1,128.42	1,289.63	1,450.83	1,773.24	2,095.65	2,418.05	2,901.66
Wittersham	960.07	1,120.08	1,280.10	1,440.11	1,760.14	2,080.16	2,400.18	2,880.22
Woodchurch	951.66	1,110.27	1,268.88	1,427.49	1,744.71	2,061.93	2,379.15	2,854.98
Wye with Hinxhill	971.99	1,133.99	1,295.99	1,457.99	1,781.99	2,105.99	2,429.98	2,915.98
Unparished Area	935.10	1,090.95	1,246.80	1,402.65	1,714.35	2,026.05	2,337.75	2,805.30

Council Tax Schedule 2013/14

Precepting Authority	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ashford Borough Council	96.97	113.13	129.29	145.45	177.77	210.09	242.42	290.90
Kent County Council	698.52	814.94	931.36	1,047.78	1,280.62	1,513.46	1,746.30	2,095.56
Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent	94.31	110.03	125.75	141.47	172.91	204.35	235.78	282.94
Kent and Medway Towns Fire Authority	45.30	52.85	60.40	67.95	83.05	98.15	113.25	135.90

APPENDIX A

CALCULATION OF THE BUDGET REQUIREMENT AND COUNCIL TAX AT BAND D		
	£	£
Gross Expenditure - General Fund	56,683,000	
Gross Expenditure - HRA	27,064,719	
Parish Precepts	<u>1,013,995</u>	84,761,714
Less Gross Income		(69,958,319)
NET EXPENDITURE		<u>14,803,395</u>
Add Deficit Distribution from Collection Fund	-	
New Homes Bonus	(1,313,000)	
Less Formula Grant Allocation which includes Council Tax freeze grant 2011/12 (for 5 years)	<u>(6,486,770)</u>	
		<u>(7,799,770)</u>
BUDGET REQUIREMENT		7,003,625
Less Parish Precepts		(1,013,995)
Council Tax Requirement		<u>5,989,630</u>
Council Tax Base		41,180.00
Band 'D' Council Tax		145.45
Average including Parishes		170.07

APPENDIX B

REVENUE BUDGET

SUMMARY

ACTUALS 2011/12 £	ESTIMATE 2012/13 £	PROJECTED OUTTURN 2012/13 £	DETAIL	ESTIMATE 2013/14 £
1,018,295	1,762,850	1,903,090	Corporate Core	1,639,060
1,208,470	1,209,430	1,287,990	Legal and Democratic Services	1,250,300
1,236,267	744,800	1,372,570	Planning	1,462,340
1,841,363	2,088,610	2,096,110	Financial Services	2,189,360
428,848	249,620	280,500	ICT	234,150
1,436,091	338,040	458,680	Customers Homes and Property	376,430
6,278,082	6,323,750	6,145,990	Environmental Services	5,492,910
(725,974)	2,223,370	2,614,970	Cultural Services	2,848,970
12,721,442	14,940,470	16,159,900	SERVICE EXPENDITURE	15,493,520
572,577	(1,697,290)	(2,098,840)	Capital Charges	(1,905,520)
(684,309)	(474,500)	(472,500)	Net Interest	(319,450)
72,220	66,520	66,520	Concurrent Functions Grant	60,520
235,840	265,370	241,000	Drainage Board Levies	235,210
-	-	-	Business Rates Yield	118,150
-	-	-	Contingency	
-	-	-	Budget Contingency	100,000
342,870	35,660	(159,850)	Contribution to/(from) balances	15,070
13,260,640	13,136,230	13,736,230	ABC BUDGET REQUIREMENT	13,797,500
816,056	844,243	844,243	Total Parish Precepts	1,013,995
14,076,696	13,980,473	14,580,473	TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT	14,811,495
			INCOME	
(6,860,790)	(5,941,780)	(5,941,780)	Government Grant	(3,778,800)
			Retained Business Rates	(2,707,970)
(21,100)	(713,000)	(1,313,000)	New Homes Bonus	(1,313,000)
-	-	-	Parish Support (net of Preceptors contribution)	(8,100)
(816,056)	(844,243)	(844,243)	Parish Precepts	(1,013,995)
6,378,750	6,481,450	6,481,450	Council Tax	5,989,630

Licensing and Health and Safety Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing and Health and Safety Committee held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the 7th January 2013.

Present:

Cllr. Feacey (Chairman);
Cllrs. Mrs Bell, Chilton, Galpin, Mortimer, Shorter.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.3 Councillor Mortimer attended as a Substitute Member for Councillor Davey.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Davey, Hodgkinson, Mrs Martin.

Also Present:

Licensing Manager, Licensing Officer, Member Services & Scrutiny Support Officer.

277 Declaration of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Feacey	Announced an 'Other Interest' as the Managing Director of Energyshift Ltd who worked with members of the taxi trade.	279 and 280

278 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 9th January 2012 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

279 Proposed Fee Levels for 2013/14 Applications

The Licensing Manager introduced his report which recommended the proposed fees for gambling applications, sex establishment fees and the hackney carriage, private hire service and operator licence fees for the financial year 2013/14.

Gambling Related Fees

The report recommended that no changes be made to the fees associated with gambling related applications for 2013/14. The expenditure fluctuated due to the amount of staff time allocated to gambling related matters. No new applications for betting premises were anticipated in 2013/14.

In response to questions from Members, the Licensing Manager advised that the types of casino were based on the floorspace covered and the number of machines and gaming tables. There were no plans for a casino in the Borough. The cost of

enforcement or monitoring could not be included within the fee structure. Visits to gambling premises were carried out on a pro-rata basis often in association with the Gambling Commission.

Sex Establishment Fees

Following a recent High Court case and the Council's adoption of the relevant provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 for the licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues, the fees for sex establishments were required to be determined annually. The report proposed an increase across the fees of 3.3%.

In response to a question from a Member, the Licensing Manager advised that premises required a licence to sell 'R18' rated DVDs. Many premises did not require a licence, such as Ann Summers, as they did not sell DVDs of that nature.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fees

It was proposed to maintain fees at the current levels; this was a result of income remaining above the budget and a surplus being generated in previous years. During 2012/13 three year driver licences were introduced, care had been taken to ensure that this implementation was staggered to ensure that there would not be an abundance of applications in one year and minimal applications in the two following years.

In response to questions from Members, the Licensing Manager advised that if there were to be a significant change to fees the taxi trade would be consulted. The cost bandings for different levels of vehicles took into account the inspection of records and were based upon previous fee rates.

Following significant discussions Members felt that the rates for multiple vehicles should be reduced.

Recommended:

- (i) **That the fees used for gambling applications and notices as given below be approved.**

RECOMMENDED GAMBLING RELATED LICENCE FEES FOR 2013/14

Premises Type	New Application (£)	Annual Fee (£)
New Small Casino	6285	3575
New Large Casino	7540	7215
Regional Casino	11880	11140
Bingo Club	2160	670
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	2160	430
Tracks	1690	670
Family Entertainment Centres	1690	580
Adult Gaming Centre	1690	670
Temporary Use Notices	200	N/A

	Application to Vary £	Application to Transfer £	Application for Re-Instatement £	Application for Provisional Statement £	Licence Application (provisional Statement holders) £	Copy Licence £	Notification of Change £
New Small Casino	2580	1500	1260	6285	2240	25	50
New large Casino	3410	1760	1985	7540	3700	25	50
Regional Casino	5570	4055	4055	11880	5785	25	50
Bingo Club	1475	820	820	2160	890	25	50
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	1245	820	820	2160	890	25	50
Tracks	1130	820	820	1690	890	25	50
Family Entertainment Centres	760	820	820	1690	735	25	50
Adult Gaming Centre	760	820	820	1690	890	25	25
Temporary Use Notices	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25	N/A

(ii) That the fees used for sex establishment applications as given below be approved.

RECOMMENDED SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE FEES FOR 2013/14

Current Fees:

Grant: £2,994

Transfer: £546

Renewal: £546

Taking into account the above, the recommended fee levels for sex establishments for 2013/14 are as follows:

Grant: **£3,095**

Transfer: **£565**

Renewal: **£565**

(iii) That the fees used for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle, driver and operator applications, as amended at the Meeting and given below be approved for the purposes of public consultation.

**PROPOSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING FEES
2013/14**

	CURRENT FEES	PROPOSED FEES
	2012/13	2013/14
Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (for 1 year)	£49.00	£49.00
Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (for 3 years)	£75.00	£75.00
Additional driver's licence (adding a licence)	£20.00	£20.00
Hackney Carriage Knowledge Test & Re-test	£30.00	£30.00
Replacement badge	£15.00	£15.00
Vehicle Licence - New or Renewal (including vehicle plate) for 1 year	£290.00	£290.00 – New £270.00 - Renewal
Internal Vehicle Plate	£15.00	£15.00
Transfer of Vehicle Licence (with or without vehicle plate)	£20.00	£20.00
<i>Vehicle Inspection - Test Fee (set by contract)</i>	<i>Max £28.00</i>	<i>Max £28.00</i>
<i>Vehicle Inspection - Missed Appointment (set by contract)</i>	<i>No charge</i>	<i>No charge</i>
Private Hire Operators Licence - New or Renewal (for 3 years)	1-3 vehicles : £73 4-10 vehicles : £310 11-20 vehicles : £620	1-3 vehicles : £73 4-10 vehicles : £240 11-20 vehicles : £480
To increase number of vehicles licensed during duration of Operators Licence		Differences between the categories (£163 & £240)
Replacement Badge	£15.00	£15.00
Fee for Returned (Bounced) Cheques	£16.00	£16.00

280 Review of the Hackney Carriage Fare Scale 2013/14

The Licensing Manager introduced the report which reviewed the hackney carriage fare scale and recommended a 10 pence increase to the starting fare (drop rate) and a 3 percent increase to the fare scale for 2013/14. The recommendations had arisen

following debate at the September Taxi Forum, a subsequent questionnaire of hackney carriage drivers and operators, the responses to which were set out in the report and were discussed at the November Taxi Forum. The proposed increases were modest.

In October 2012 the average price per litre of unleaded fuel for the South East was 135.7 pence. This was approximately the same price for unleaded fuel as of October 2011 with diesel prices remaining approximately the same as of October 2011. Prices had risen during that 12 month period, however had fallen recently.

The Licensing Manager distributed a table detailing a comparison of fees for Local Authorities in Kent as of December 2012. Ashford was shown to be mid-way between the Authorities that had responded.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Licensing Manager advised that he would investigate alternative ways of undertaking the questionnaire of drivers and operators to try to increase the level of responses. It should be noted that Ashford was believed to be the only Local Authority in Kent to carry out such consultations.

Recommended:

That the hackney carriage and private hire vehicle, driver and operator licence fees structure as given in the table below be approved.

DELIBERATLY LEFT BLANK

PROPOSED FARES FOR 2013/14

(a) Fares for distance or time

	<u>£</u>
Rate 1	
If the distance does not exceed 700 yards, for the whole distance or for the first 220.5 seconds of waiting time	2.80
For each subsequent 171.8 yards or uncompleted part thereof	0.20
Or for each subsequent period of 54.5 seconds of waiting time or uncompleted part thereof	0.20

(b) Surcharges for certain times and days:-

Rate 2

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| a) For each hire commenced between 12 midnight and 7 am | 1½ x Rate 1 |
| b) For each hire undertaken on GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER MONDAY, MAY DAY, SPRING BANK HOLIDAY, SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY or any other specifically declared Bank Holiday only. | 1½ x Rate 1 |

Rate 3

- | | |
|--|------------|
| c) For each hire undertaken on a CHRISTMAS DAY, BOXING DAY or NEW YEARS DAY
Note: When the holiday charge (b) or (c) is payable the Night Charge (a) is NOT payable. | 2 x Rate 1 |
|--|------------|

Extras - up to a maximum of £1.20

- | | |
|--|------|
| d) for each person (excluding infants in arms) carried in excess of two persons (two children under 10 years of age count as one person) irrespective of distance. | 0.20 |
|--|------|

Note: For the purposes of counting the number of persons that the vehicle is licensed to carry, children under 10 years of age should each be counted as a person. A babe in arms should not be counted as a person.

- | | |
|---|------|
| e) for each article of luggage conveyed outside the passenger compartment of the carriage | 0.05 |
| f) for perambulators | 0.05 |
| g) for dogs | 0.10 |

281 Licenses issued under Delegated Authority for the period 1st December 2011 to 30th November 2012

The Licensing Manager introduced the report which summarised the licences issued under delegated authority. If no representations were received then Officers must grant applications. Only those applications which received representations were brought before Members for consideration at Licensing Sub-Committee hearings.

Members felt that it would be useful to receive the report on an annual basis.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

After the conclusion of the Meeting the Licensing Manager drew the Committees attention to a number of proposed amendments to the Licensing Act. These were:

- Review of mandatory licensing conditions, minimum pricing and the possibility of banning drinks promotions.
- Enhanced closure powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill.
- Changes to street trading and pedlar licensing rules.
- A new act for scrap metal dealer registration and regulation.
- The Plastic Glasses and Bottles (Mandatory Use) Bill 2012-13.
- Changes to charitable collections licensing legislation.
- New draft legislation for taxi/private hire licensing legislation.

The Committee would be kept updated with any changes as and when they were proposed.

Queries concerning these minutes? Please contact Kirsty Liddell:
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Agendas, Reports and Minutes are available on: www.ashford.gov.uk/committees

Agenda Item No: 11
Report To: COUNCIL
Date: 21ST FEBRUARY 2013
Report Title: Programme of Meetings 2013/2014 and 2014/15
Report Author: Senior Member Services & Scrutiny Support Officer



Summary:	To agree the programme of meetings for 2013/14 and 2014/15
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Key Decision: NO

Affected Wards: N/A

Recommendations : **The Council is asked to agree the programme of meetings for 2013/14 and 2014/15.**

Policy Overview: The programmes reflect the monthly (rather than four weekly) Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny cycle as agreed by the Executive at its meeting on the 7th January 2010 (Minute No 379/1/10 refers). This generally provides for a Cabinet meeting on the second Thursday of every month and a Planning Committee meeting every 4 weeks. Overview and Scrutiny meetings are programmed in line with the timetable for the call-in of items from the Cabinet and will generally fall on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Financial Implications: N/A

Other Material Implications: N/A

Exemption Clauses: N/A

Background Papers: Nil

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Report Title: Programme of Meetings 2013/14 and 2014/15

Purpose of the Report

1. To confirm the programme of meetings for 2013/14 and to seek approval for the programme of meetings for 2014/15.

Issue to be Decided

2. The provisional programme of meetings for 2013/2014 was agreed by the Council in February 2012 (Minute 340/2/12 refers). However, there have been some minor amendments made to this programme to reflect changes to the Council's meeting arrangements and cycle. The Council is asked to agree this programme. A copy of the programme is attached as Appendix 1.
3. The provisional programme of meetings for 2014/2015 has been prepared on the same pattern of meetings as the previous year. A copy of the programme is attached as Appendix 2.

Other Options Considered

4. N/A

Consultation

5. The draft programmes have been circulated to Group Leaders, Management Team and the Member Services Team.

Implications Assessment

6. N/A

Handling

7. Once the programmes are approved, the meetings dates will be issued to Members. Group meeting dates will also be added once known.

Conclusion

8. The Council is asked to agree the programme of meetings for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.

Portfolio Holder's Views

9. The Leader of the Council has been consulted on the programme and has raised no objections.

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DATES OF MEETINGS MAY 2013 - MAY 2014

Meetings are usually held at the Civic Centre and start at 7.00pm unless otherwise stated

MAY 2013	F 12		W 25
W 1	M 15		Th 26 Audit
Th 2 KCC Elections	Tu 16		F 27
F 3	W 17 Planning Council		M 30
M 6 BANK HOLIDAY	Th 18		OCTOBER 2013
Tu 7 Selection & CR	F 19		Tu 1
W 8	M 22		W 2
Th 9 Cabinet	Tu 23 O&S		Th 3 JCC 2.30pm
F 10	W 24		F 4
M 13	Th 25		M 7
Tu 14	F 26		Tu 8
W 15 Planning Council	M 29		W 9
Th 16	T 30		Th 10 Cabinet
F 17	W 31		F 11
M 20	AUGUST 2013		M 14
Tu 21 O&S	Th 1 JCC 2.30pm		Tu 15
W 22	F 2		W 16 Planning Council
Th 23	M 5		Th 17
F 24	Tu 6		F 18
M 27 BANK HOLIDAY	W 7		M 21
Tu 28	Th 8 Cabinet		Tu 22 O&S
W 29	F 9		W 23
Th 30	M 12		Th 24
F 31	Tu 13		F 25
JUNE 2013	W 14 Planning		M 28
M 3	Th 15		Tu 29
Tu 4	F 16		W 30
W 5	M 19		Th 31
Th 6 JCC 2.30pm	Tu 20 O&S		NOVEMBER 2013
F 7	W 21		F 1
M 10	Th 22		M 4
Tu 11 Joint Transportation	F 23		Tu 5 Standards
W 12	M 26 BANK HOLIDAY		W 6
Th 13 Cabinet	Tu 27		Th 7 Cabinet
F 14	W 28		F 8
M 17	Th 29		M 11
Tu 18	F 30		Tu 12
W 19 Planning	SEPTEMBER 2013		W 13
Th 20	M 2		Th 14
F 21	Tu 3		F 15
M 24	W 4		M 18
T 25 O&S	Th 5		Tu 19
W 26	F 6		W 20 Planning
Th 27 Audit	M 9		Th 21
F 28	Tu 10 Joint Transportation		F 22
JULY 2013	W 11		M 25
M 1	Th 12 Cabinet		Tu 26 O&S
Tu 2 Standards	F 13		W 27
W 3	M 16		Th 28
Th 4	Tu 17		F 29
F 5	W 18 Planning		
M 8	Th 19		
Tu 9	F 20		
W 10	M 23		
Th 11 Cabinet	Tu 24 O&S		

DECEMBER 2013

M 2
 Tu 3 Audit
 W 4
 Th 5 JCC 2.30pm, Cabinet
 F 6
 M 9
 Tu 10 Joint Transportation
 W 11
 Th 12 Council
 F 13

M 16
 Tu 17 O&S
 W 18 Planning
 Th 19
 F 20

M 23
 Tu 24
 W 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
 Th 26 **BOXING DAY**
 F 27

M 30
 Tu 31

JANUARY 2014

W 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
 Th 2
 F 3

M 6
 Tu 7
 W 8
 Th 9 Cabinet
 F 10

M 13
 Tu 14
 W 15 Planning
 Th 16
 F 17

M 20 Licensing & H&S 10am
 Tu 21
 W 22
 Th 23
 F 24

M 27
 Tu 28 O&S
 W 29
 Th 30
 F 31

FEBRUARY 2014

M 3
 Tu 4
 W 5
 Th 6 JCC 2.30pm
 F 7

M 10
 Tu 11
 W 12
 Th 13 Cabinet
 F 14

M 17
 Tu 18
 W 19 Planning
 Th 20 Council (C Tax)
 F 21

M 24
 Tu 25 O&S
 W 26
 Th 27
 F 28

MARCH 2014

M 3
 Tu 4 Audit
 W 5
 Th 6
 F 7

M 10
 Tu 11 Joint Transportation
 W 12
 Th 13 Cabinet
 F 14

M 17
 Tu 18
 W 19 Planning
 Th 20
 F 21

M 24
 Tu 25 O&S
 W 26
 Th 27
 F 28

M 31

APRIL 2014

Tu 1
 W 2
 Th 3 JCC 2.30pm
 F 4

M 7
 Tu 8
 W 9
 Th 10 Cabinet
 F 11

M 14
 Tu 15
 W 16 Planning
 Th 17
 F 18 **GOOD FRIDAY**

EASTER MONDAY

M 21
 Tu 22
 W 23
 Th 24 Council
 F 25

M 28
 T 29 O&S
 W 30

MAY 2014

Th 1 **European Elections**
 F 2

M 5 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 6 Selection & CR
 W 7
 Th 8 Cabinet
 F 9


M 12
 Tu 13
 W 14 Planning
 Th 15 Council
 F 16

M 19
 Tu 20 O&S
 W 21
 Th 22
 F 23

M 26 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 27
 W 28
 Th 29
 F 30

KEY

O&S - Overview and Scrutiny
 JCC - Joint Consultative Committee

 School Holidays

DATES OF MEETINGS MAY 2014 - MAY 2015

Meetings are usually held at the Civic Centre and start at 7.00pm unless otherwise stated

MAY 2014	F 11		W 24
Th 1	M 14		Th 25 Audit
F 2	Tu 15		F 26
M 5 BANK HOLIDAY	W 16 Planning		M 29
Tu 6 Selection & CR	Th 17 Council		Tu 30
W 7	F 18		OCTOBER 2014
Th 8 Cabinet	M 21		W 1
F 9	Tu 22 O&S		Th 2 JCC 2.30pm
M 12	W 23		F 3
Tu 13	Th 24		M 6
W 14 Planning	F 25		Tu 7
Th 15 Council	M 28		W 8
F 16	T 29		Th 9 Cabinet
M 19	W 30		F 10
Tu 20 O&S	Th 31		M 13
W 21	AUGUST 2014		Tu 14
Th 22	F 1		W 15 Planning
F 23	M 4		Th 16 Council
M 26 BANK HOLIDAY	Tu 5		F 17
Tu 27	W 6		M 20
W 28	Th 7 JCC 2.30pm		Tu 21
Th 29	F 8		W 22
F 30	M 11		Th 23
JUNE 2014	Tu 12		F 24
M 2	W 13		M 27
Tu 3	Th 14 Cabinet		Tu 28 O&S
W 4	F 15		W 29
Th 5 JCC 2.30pm	M 18		Th 30
F 6	Tu 19 O&S		F 31
M 9	W 20 Planning		NOVEMBER 2014
Tu 10 Joint Transportation	Th 21		M 3
W 11	F 22		Tu 4 Standards
Th 12 Cabinet	M 25 BANK HOLIDAY		W 5
F 13	Tu 26		Th 6
M 16	W 27		F 7
Tu 17	Th 28		M 10
W 18 Planning	F 29		Tu 11
Th 19	SEPTEMBER 2014		W 12
F 20	M 1		Th 13 Cabinet
M 23	Tu 2		F 14
T 24 O&S	W 3		M 17
W 25	Th 4		Tu 18
Th 26 Audit	F 5		W 19 Planning
F 27	M 8		Th 20
M 30	Tu 9 Joint Transportation		F 21
JULY 2014	W 10		M 24
Tu 1 Standards	Th 11 Cabinet		Tu 25 O&S
W 2	F 12		W 26
Th 3	M 15		Th 27
F 4	Tu 16		F 28
M 7	W 17 Planning		
Tu 8	Th 18		
W 9	F 19		
Th 10 Cabinet	M 22		
	Tu 23 O&S		

DECEMBER 2014

M 1
 Tu 2 Audit
 W 3
 Th 4 JCC 2.30pm, Cabinet
 F 5

 M 8
 Tu 9 Joint Transportation
 W 10
 Th 11 Council
 F 12

M 15
 Tu 16 O&S
 W 17 Planning
 Th 18
 F 19

M 22
 Tu 23
 W 24
 Th 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
 F 26 **BOXING DAY**

M 29
 Tu 30
 W 31

JANUARY 2015

Th 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
 F 2

M 5
 Tu 6
 W 7
 Th 8 Cabinet
 F 10

M 12
 Tu 13
 W 14 Planning
 Th 15
 F 16

M 19 Licensing & H&S 10am
 Tu 20
 W 21
 Th 22
 F 23

M 26
 Tu 27 O&S
 W 28
 Th 29
 F 30

FEBRUARY 2015

M 2
 Tu 3
 W 4 Planning
 Th 5 JCC 2.30pm
 F 6

M 9
 Tu 10
 W 11
 Th 12 Cabinet
 F 13

M 16
 Tu 17
 W 18
 Th 19 Council (C Tax)
 F 20

M 23
 Tu 24 O&S
 W 25
 Th 26
 F 27

MARCH 2015

M 2
 Tu 3 Audit
 W 4 Planning
 Th 5
 F 6

M 9
 Tu 10 Joint Transportation
 W 11
 Th 12 Cabinet
 F 13

M 16
 Tu 17
 W 18
 Th 19
 F 20

M 23
 Tu 24 O&S
 W 25
 Th 26
 F 27

M 30
 Tu 31

APRIL 2015

W 1 Planning
 Th 2 JCC 2.30pm
 F 3 **GOOD FRIDAY**

M 6 **EASTER MONDAY**
 Tu 7
 W 8
 Th 9 Cabinet
 F 10

M 13
 Tu 14
 W 15
 Th 16 Council
 F 17

M 20
 Tu 21
 W 22
 Th 23
 F 24

M 27
 T 28 O&S
 W 29 Planning
 Th 30

MAY 2015

F 1


 M 4 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 5
 W 6
 Th 7 ABC Elections
 F 8

M 11
 Tu 12
 W 13
 Th 14
 F 15

M 18
 Tu 19
 W 20
 Th 21 Selection & CR
 F 22

M 25 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 26
 W 27
 Th 28 Council
 F 29

KEY	
O&S	- Overview and Scrutiny
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 School Holidays