



LEAD MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DECISIONS to be made by the Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development, Councillor Keith Glazier

TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2019 AT 11.00 AM OR AT THE CONCLUSION OF CABINET, WHICHEVER IS THE LATER

COMMITTEE ROOM - COUNTY HALL, LEWES

AGENDA

- 1 Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 9 May 2019 (*Pages 3 - 6*)
- 2 Disclosure of Interests
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- 3 Urgent items
Notification of any items which the Lead Member considers urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda.
- 4 Notice of Motion: right to work for asylum seekers (*Pages 7 - 10*)
Report by the Chief Executive
- 5 Any urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive
County Hall, St Anne's Crescent
LEWES BN7 1UE

30 September 2019

Contact Simon Bailey, Democratic Services Officer,
01273 481935
Email: simon.bailey@eastsussex.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

LEADER AND LEAD MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES of a meeting of the Leader and Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development held at County Hall, Lewes on 9 May 2019.

PRESENT: Councillor Keith Glazier

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors David Elkin and Rupert Simmons

18 DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 26 MARCH 2019

18.1 The Lead Member confirmed as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2019.

19 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

19.1 Councillor Simmons declared a prejudicial interest in item 5, in that he is a director of Sea Change Sussex, one of the grant recipients.

20 REPORTS

20.1 Reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

21 LOCAL GROWTH FUND AND GROWING PLACES FUND - CONFIRMED SPEND FOR 2018/19 AND FORECAST FOR 2019/20

21.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport.

DECISIONS

21.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to (1) note the final 2018/19 spend for the Local Growth Fund programme and the amount of funds re-profiled into the East Sussex County Council Capital Programme;

(2) note the final 2018/19 spend for the Growing Places Fund programme and the amount of funds re-profiled into the East Sussex County Council Capital Programme;

(3) agree the confirmed scheme spend profiles for the Local Growth Fund programme for the 2019/20 financial year; and

(4) agree the confirmed scheme spend profiles for the Growing Places Fund programme for the 2019/20 financial year.

Reasons

21.3 East Sussex have been successfully delivering across both the Local Growth Fund and Growing Places Fund projects, with some areas of short-term slippage experienced in 2018/19. This occurred on the following six projects in the 2018/19 LGF programme:

1. Queensway Gateway Road

2. Hailsham/Polegate/Eastbourne Movement and Access Transport scheme;
3. Hastings and Bexhill Movement and Access Package;
4. Eastbourne And South Wealden Walking And Cycling Package;
5. Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement scheme; and
6. East Sussex Strategic Growth Programme

In most cases this slippage is of a short term nature with spend occurring in the early quarters of the 2019/20 financial year.

21.2 East Sussex made a full early GPF repayment from the Priory Quarter Phase 3 scheme to the GPF Programme. SELEP will therefore be bringing forward a further round of the GPF monies enabling East Sussex to secure further investment.

22 LOCAL GROWTH FUND ROUND 3B – GRANT AGREEMENTS

22.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport.

DECISIONS

22.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to (1) approve grant funding to the value of £1.94m to Sea Change Sussex to fund the delivery of the Bexhill Enterprise Park North (following approval of the business case by the SE LEP Accountability Board);

(2) approve grant funding to the value of £2.918m to Plumpton College to fund the delivery of the Skills for Rural Businesses Post Brexit project (following approval of the business case by the SE LEP Accountability Board);

(3) approve grant funding to the value of £0.5m to Hastings Borough Council to fund the delivery of the Sidney Little Road Business Incubator Hub (following approval of the business case by the SE LEP Accountability Board); and

(4) delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to agree the terms of any agreements and to take all other necessary actions in respect of recommendations 1-3 above.

Reasons

22.3 The projects detailed above support the delivery of the SE LEP's strategic objectives as outlined in the new Economic Strategic Statement 2019, the County's East Sussex Growth Strategy's strategic priorities covering 2014-2020 and East Sussex County Council's core priorities in 'driving sustainable economic growth' and 'making best use of resources by maximising the funding available through external bidding'.

22.4 As a result of the award by the SE LEP Investment Panel of grant funding to East Sussex of £5.358m through the SE LEP Local Growth Fund Round 3b programme the Lead Member is asked to approve the allocation of funding to the following three projects (subject to full business cases being approved by the SE LEP's Accountability Board): (i) £1.94m to Sea Change Sussex to fund the delivery of the Bexhill Enterprise Park North site; (ii) £2.918m to Plumpton College to fund the delivery of the Skills for Rural Businesses; and (iii) £0.5m to Hastings Borough Council to fund the delivery of the Sidney Little Road Business Incubator Hub.

23 DELEGATION IN RELATION TO EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

23.1 The Leader and Lead Member considered a report by the Chief Executive.

DECISIONS

23.2 The Leader and Lead Member RESOLVED to (1) agree the delegation of Cabinet responsibilities and functions as set out in the Constitution including in Part 3 Table 1, 2 and 3 attached at Appendices 2 - 4 of the report;

(2) agree the Officer Scheme of Delegation attached at Appendix 5; and

(3) agree the annual report to the County Council.

Reasons

23.3 Part 4 of the Council's Constitution requires the Leader to present to the Council at the annual meeting a written record of delegations of executive functions. .

This page is intentionally left blank

Report to: Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development

Date of meeting: 8 October 2019

By: Chief Executive

Title: Notice of Motion – Right to Work for Asylum Seekers

Purpose: To consider a Notice of Motion from Councillor Webb asking the County Council to call on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in paragraph 1.1 and whether to make a recommendation to the County Council.

1 Background Information

1.1. The following Notice of Motion has been submitted by Councillor Webb:

“East Sussex County Council believes that:

- (i) people seeking asylum want to be able to work so that they can use their skills and make the most of their potential, integrate into their communities, and provide for themselves and their families;*
- (ii) restrictions on the right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of East Sussex and the UK; and*
- (iii) allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would therefore lead to positive outcomes for those seeking asylum in East Sussex and for the local and national economy.*

East Sussex County Council:

- a) resolves to join the “Lift the Ban Coalition”, which is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim; and*
- b) calls on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work, unconstrained by the shortage occupation list, after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim.”*

1.2. In line with County Council practice, the matter has been referred by the Chairman to the Lead Member for consideration to provide information and inform debate on the Motion. Any recommendation from the Lead Member on this Notice of Motion will be reported to the Council at its meeting on 15 October 2019.

2 Supporting Information

2.1. ‘Asylum’ is protection given by a country to someone fleeing from persecution in their own country. An ‘asylum seeker’ is someone who has applied for asylum and is awaiting a decision on whether they will be granted refugee status.

2.2. Policy in relation to asylum seekers’ right to work is determined by national government and as such is not an area within the council’s control. Current national policy is that people seeking asylum in the UK are able to apply for the right to work after they have been waiting for a decision on their asylum claim

for over a year. Employment is restricted to professions included on the Government's Shortage Occupation List.

2.3 The 'Lift the Ban Coalition' is a coalition of over 100 refugee organisations, trade unions, faith groups, businesses and others who are campaigning to win the right to work for people seeking asylum. The group is calling for the right to work for people seeking asylum, and their adult dependents, unconstrained by the Shortage Occupation List, after six months of having lodged an asylum claim or further submission.

2.4 Locally, there is limited information available about the asylum seeker population in the county. Within East Sussex, Hastings is the only local authority which is a designated asylum dispersal area. Home Office statistics for March 2019 indicate the number of asylum seekers being supported by Government in each district and borough area is as follows:

Eastbourne	3
Hastings	79
Lewes	0
Rother	0
Wealden	0

2.5 Information provided to Hastings Borough Council by South East Strategic Partnership for Migration for the slightly more recent date of June 2019 indicates that 89 asylum seekers awaiting a decision on their claim were being housed at that time, together with a further 11 people whose claim had been refused and who had exhausted their appeal rights, but who were temporarily unable to leave the UK. Of these 100 people being supported, 86 people were in family units, the rest were single asylum seekers.

2.6 There may be further asylum seekers living elsewhere in the county. Some asylum seekers will be self or part-funded and as such are permitted to live anywhere in the UK without the local authority's permission or knowledge. They may be staying with friends, family or members of their linguistic or cultural community.

2.7 In addition there will be a number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and care leavers being supported by the county council at any one time. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people arriving in the county are looked after by the council and have the same right to support as any other looked after child. This duty of care remains in place until the young person is 21 and can be extended to 25 if the young person is in education. As of August 2019 71 children and young people were being supported by the council's Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Team, 31 of whom were aged 18+. Of the 31 over 18 year olds, 22 had 'leave to remain' and 9 were currently 'without leave'.

2.8 There is no local statistical information about the length of time asylum seekers in East Sussex wait for a decision on their claim. Home Office figures from March 2019 indicate that, nationally, of 30,027 cases pending initial decision, 13,994 (47%) had been pending initial decision for more than six months.

2.9 No local statistical information is available about the skill/qualification levels or health and wellbeing of asylum seekers located within the county. In Hastings, the Links Project provides access to support and advice for asylum seekers, refugees and new migrant communities, including accessing healthcare, immigration advice and welfare benefits. Links also provides personal development projects including gardening, sewing, and English classes.

2.10 The lack of detailed local statistical information about the asylum seeker population in the county means that it is not possible to assess with any accuracy the impact that a change in national policy with regard to the right to work would have on the East Sussex economy or outcomes for asylum seekers themselves.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1. The Notice of Motion asks the County Council to call on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim.

3.2. Policy in relation to asylum seekers' right to work is determined by national government and as such is not an area within the Council's control. There is limited information available about the asylum seeker population in East Sussex resulting in insufficient evidence of what the impact of any change to national policy would be on East Sussex. The Lead Member is recommended to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in paragraph 1.1 and whether to make a recommendation to the County Council.

BECKY SHAW
Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Claire Lee, Member Services Manager
Tel. No. 01273 335517
Email: Claire.lee@eastsussex.gov.uk

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

This page is intentionally left blank