



LEADER AND LEAD MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2020 AT 9.30 AM

CC2, COUNTY HALL, LEWES

++ Please note, the Lead Member will not be present in person, but will be taking the decisions remotely ++

AGENDA

- 1 Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 2 October 2020 (*Pages 3 - 4*)
- 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 Coronavirus (Covid-19) contingency arrangements (*Pages 5 - 6*)
Report by the Assistant 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

21 October 2020

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

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LEAD MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development, Councillor Keith Glazier, on 2 October 2020 at County Hall, Lewes

++ The Lead Member was not present in person, but took the decisions remotely ++

Councillors Philip Daniel, Peter Pragnell and Rupert Simmons spoke on item 4 (see minute 9)

6 DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 28 JULY 2020

6.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2020.

7 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

7.1 Councillor Simmons declared a personal interest in Item 4 in that he is a Director of Sea Change Sussex, but he did not consider this to be prejudicial.

8 REPORTS

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

9 GETTING BUILDING FUND - GRANT AGREEMENTS

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

DECISIONS

9.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to (1) Approve grant funding to the total value of £11,179,793 to the following eight projects, subject to approval of each project's business case by the SELEP Accountability Board:

(i) grant funding to the value of £89,293 to South Downs National Park to fund the delivery of the 'Charleston Access Road' project;

(ii) grant funding to the value of £250,000 to Lewes District Council to fund the delivery of the 'Creative Hub Lewes' project;

(iii) grant funding to the value of £3,500,000 to East Sussex Energy Infrastructure & Development Ltd (trading as Sea Change Sussex) to fund the delivery of the 'Fast Track Business Solutions for the Hastings Manufacturing Sector' project;

(iv) grant funding to the value of £1,713,000 to White Rock Neighbourhood Ventures Ltd to fund the delivery of the 'Observer Building Hastings Phase 2' project;

(v) grant funding to the value of £1,600,000 to Eastbourne Borough Council to fund the delivery of the 'Restoring the Glory of the Winter Garden' project;

(vi) grant funding to the value of £2,527,500 to Riding Sunbeams to fund the delivery of the 'Riding Sunbeams Solar Railways' project;

(vii) grant funding to the value of £200,000 to University of Sussex to fund the delivery of the 'Sussex Innovation Falmer Covid-Secure Adaptions' project;

(viii) grant funding to the value of £1,300,000 to Lewes District Council to fund the delivery of the 'UTC Maritime and Sustainable Technology Hub' project; and

(2) Delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport (CET), in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, to agree the terms of the grant agreements and take all other necessary actions as required to implement Recommendation 1 above.

Reasons

9.3 The eight projects highlighted in the report all help to support the objectives and priority areas of the Government's new Getting Building Fund as well as the aims and ambitions of the East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan and the County Council's core priorities. The county will receive more than £11 million of funding, supporting projects to create new jobs, new workspace, assist new learners and unlock additional funding through public/private sector contributions to drive economic growth across the region.

Report to: **Leader and Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development**

Date: **29 October 2020**

By: **Assistant Chief Executive**

Title: **Coronavirus (Covid-19) contingency arrangements**

Purpose: **To review temporary measures in relation to executive decisions agreed by the Leader of the Council in April 2020 as a result of Covid-19 disruption.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Leader is recommended to:

- 1) agree to the continuation of the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive to take any executive decision which she considers appropriate in response to Covid-19; and**
 - 2) review the delegation in July 2021 or as soon as practicable thereafter.**
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1. Background

1.1 In April 2020 the Leader of the Council agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to take any executive decision which she considers appropriate in response to the outbreak of Covid-19 and that this delegation be reviewed in October 2020.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The current incidence of the Covid-19 virus both nationally and internationally continues to cause disruption to a range of business and social activity. There has been a need for preventative measures to be introduced nationally and in specific local areas to help contain the spread of the virus. This has included requirements for individuals or groups to self-isolate for periods of time, and more general restrictions on travel and gatherings. The measures in place are changing, sometimes rapidly, in response to the prevalence of the virus.

2.2 The situation continues to require decisions to be taken at short notice. Although arrangements are in place for Lead Member decisions to be taken virtually it may, in certain situations, not be possible or prudent to wait for the Lead Member to take the decisions at a formal meeting.

2.3 It is therefore proposed that the delegation previously agreed by the Leader be extended to July 2021 to ensure that provision continues to be in place to provide for essential urgent executive decisions to be taken in response to Covid-19.

2.4 It was recognised in April that this is a significant step and unprecedented and accordingly it was agreed to review the delegation in October. Where the Chief Executive exercises this delegation and the power exercised is not one currently set out in the scheme of delegation to officers then she will continue to report this decision to the Group Leaders as soon as practicable.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The Leader is recommended to agree to the continuation of the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive to take any executive decision which she considers appropriate in

response to Covid-19 and that this delegation be reviewed in July 2021, or as soon as practicable thereafter.

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Claire Lee
Tel: 07523 930526
Email: Claire.lee@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report to the Leader and Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development – 2 April 2020