

## LEAD MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor David Elkin, on 23 March 2018 at County Hall, Lewes

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Councillor Philip Daniel spoke on items 4 and 8 (see minutes 17 and 20)  
Councillor Ruth O’Keeffe spoke on item 4 (see minute 17)

### 15 DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 23 JANUARY 2018

15.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2018.

### 16 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

16.1 Councillor O’Keeffe declared a personal interest in Item 4 as a trustee of Pippa’s Group, but she did not consider this to be prejudicial.

16.2 Councillor Daniel declared a personal interest in item 4 as the Local Member for the neighbouring division, but he did not consider this to be prejudicial.

### 17 PETITION - TO SAVE THE SMALL SEPARATELY FENCED AREA AT THE FAR END OF THE PELL'S SCHOOL SITE ON LANDPORT, LEWES FOR CONTINUED USE AS A FOREST SCHOOL

17.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer.

17.2 Ms Debbie Twitchen, Chair of the Landport Residents’ Association and trustee of Pippa’s Group, the Lead Petitioner, spoke in support of the petition’s aims.

### DECISIONS

17.3 The Lead Member RESOLVED to advise the petitioners that (1) the petition is acknowledged;  
(2) the Chief Operating Officer is authorised to continue with the marketing of the site; and  
(3) any consideration of the local need for Forest School related activities be considered as part of future planning and development in the local area.

### Reasons

17.4 The former Pells School site is currently being marketed by the Diocese of Chichester on behalf of the Diocese and the County Council. Any development proposals that might arise on the site will be required to provide open space provision, and the potential to include and protect the small parcel of fenced land to support any education offer should be taken into account at the point of considering potential development of the whole site.

### 18 LANDS EAST OF BATTLE ROAD (REEF WAY) AND EAST OF PARK ROAD, HAILSHAM

18.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer.

## DECISIONS

18.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to (1) authorise officer to trigger options to purchase lands east of Battle Road (Reef Way) and land east of Park Road, Hailsham to support the provision of local education; and  
(2) authorise the Chief Operating Officer to acquire the sites subject to satisfactory terms.

### Reasons

18.3 The Council have a commitment and funds set aside within the approved capital Programme, for the delivery of two new schools in Hailsham. Site purchases are part of the process that need to be concluded to enable planning, construction and delivery for the scheduled opening of each school.

18.4 The terms of the option agreements, valuation and negotiation process for the land purchase are subject to specific processes and each negotiation benefits from a dispute resolution process if terms cannot be agreed by mutual agreement.

## 19 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

19.1 RESOLVED to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

## 20 ANNUAL WRITE OFF OF DEBTS

20.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer.

## DECISIONS

20.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to (1) authorise the writing off of 25 debts amounting to £203,153.79 in the Council's 2017/18 accounts;  
(2) note that provision is made for bad and doubtful debts; and  
(3) note the positive steps being put in place to make improvements going forward.

### Reasons

20.3 There is no prospect of recovering the 25 outstanding debts. Like all local authorities, some income become becomes uncollectable and to allow for this the accounts of the Council include a provision for bad and doubtful debts which recognise that a proportion of outstanding debtors at year end may not collected. This provision is monitored each month.

20.4 Work continues to review and streamline the debt recovery process, to learn the lessons and to ensure that the council have robust systems and processes to recover debt promptly.