

Member Information Service

Decisions made by Cabinet

The following decisions have been made by the Cabinet at their meeting held on Monday, 14 March and will come into effect at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 24 March 2016, unless the call-in procedure is activated. If you wish to request that a proposed decision is called in, please contact Member Services on 01444 477111 or e-mail committees@midsussex.gov.uk in addition to making a written request to the Monitoring Officer, Tom Clark.

Performance Monitoring for the Third Quarter 2015/16 – Recommendation agreed.
Strategic Risks for 2016/17 – Recommendation agreed.
Acceptance of the recommendations contained in the Ashurst Wood Neighbourhood Plan Examination Report – Recommendation agreed.
Partnership Agreements 2016/17 – Recommendation agreed.
Corporate Grants Review – Recommendation agreed.
Compulsory Purchase Order for 125 Queens Road, East Grinstead – Recommendation agreed.
Sale of Land at Blackwell Farm Road for Affordable Housing – Recommendation agreed.
Sale of Land at Blackwell Farm Road for Affordable Housing – Exempt Appendix.
Purchase of Property – Exempt Report – Recommendation agreed.

Committee Meetings

Please note that all meetings start at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, unless otherwise stated.

MARCH 2016

- 16 March – Audit Committee
- 18 March – Census Joint Committee @ 10.00 a.m. in the Queen Elizabeth II Room, Shoreham Centre, Shoreham-by-Sea
- 21 March – Cabinet Grants Panel @ 5.00 p.m.
- 23 March – Special Council

PLANNING COMMITTEES

MARCH 2016

- 17 March – Planning Committee B
- 31 March – Planning Committee A

APRIL 2016

7 April – Special District Planning Committee
14 April – Planning Committee B
21 April – District Planning Committee @ 2.00 p.m.
28 April – Planning Committee A

Agendas

Cabinet Grants Panel - 21 March 2016

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 12 January 2016.

Corporate Grant Schemes.

Special Council – 23 March 2016

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 February 2016.

Lindfield and Lindfield Rural Neighbourhood Plan.

Twineham Neighbourhood Plan.

Turners Hill Neighbourhood Plan.

MSDC Pay Policy Statement 2016/17.

Equality and Diversity Scheme 2016 - 20.

Review of the Housing Allocation Scheme.

Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19.

Standards Committee Annual Report 2015.

Appointment of Independent Persons for Standards Matters and the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Member Training

All Member Training Sessions commence at 6.30 p.m. and are held in the Council Chamber unless otherwise stated.

Date	Training Event
2016	
21 March 9.00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.	Design and Planning Applications
12 April @ 6.30 p.m.	Prevent (Terrorism) Training from WSCC

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE ROUND CHANGES AND SERVICE EXPANSION

The Garden Waste Collection Service expansion begins on 4th April 2016 with the introduction of a 3rd vehicle. This will allow an additional 4,000 customers over the next 2 years, up to 18,200.

Initially all customers currently on a Saturday collection will move back onto a standard Mon – Fri collection day. Some other customers will also have their collection days changed to allow for expansion in all areas across the District. The round changes will affect 4,260 customers in 536 roads and begin on Monday 4th April.

All customers affected are being mailed on 15th March. The letter tells customers the following:

- Current collection day
- New collection day as of new date
- Last collection date on current day
- First collection date on new day
- Online calendars available from 24th March
- A paper calendar is enclosed with the letter
- The online calendar will show the new collection dates from March 24th

A full list of roads affected and changes being made are available on request. Once the round changes have taken place we will start to clear the waiting list (currently around 850 residents). Bin delivery will be done in stages and it is anticipated that everyone will have their bins by mid-August

After the waiting list is cleared we will be actively marketing the service for new customers.

For further information please contact David Harper, Business Unit Leader Waste & Outdoor Services, e-mail david.harper@midsussex.gov.uk or telephone 01444 477487.

DCLG NEW HOMES BONUS: SHARPENING THE INCENTIVE

The following is this Council's response to the NHB Consultation:-

Question 1 What are your views on moving from 6 years of payments under the Bonus to 4 years, with an interim period for 5 year payments?

The proposal to amend the scheme in this way is not supported by this Council. We have committed to increasing our housing numbers to support the Government's ambitions but now find that the incentive to do so may be diluted or withdrawn. We have used the Bonus to fund Affordable Housing in our district, which suffers from a genuine lack of reasonably priced accommodation, fund Disabled Facilities Grants to enable adults and children to stay in their own homes for longer, which is surely still a priority for this government and are now using £0.5m per year to fund the planned expansion of Burgess Hill. This will involve building up to 3,500 new homes (many of which will be Starter Homes) and the creation of thousands of jobs; none of which will happen if this funding stream is cut back.

Question 2 Should the number of years of payments under the Bonus be reduced further to 3 or 2 years?

No. This would dilute the incentive effect which has been appreciated under the current scheme.

Question 3 Should the Government continue to use this approach? If not, what alternatives would work better?

The current approach of linking New Homes Bonus to council tax returns works well and is understood.

Question 4 Do you agree that local authorities should lose their Bonus allocation in the years during which their Local Plan has not been submitted? If not, what alternative arrangement should be in place?

There are many reasons why a Local Plan is not submitted, many outside the local authority's control such as changes to Government policy and legislation which have been numerous over recent years. It is also notable that many authorities who do not have a post 2004 Local Plan in place have continued to deliver high levels of housing. Removing New Homes Bonus from these authorities will not remove the barriers that are preventing the submission of up to date Local Plans and will discourage the delivery of housing in the meantime.

Question 5 Is there merit in a mechanism for abatement which reflects the date of the adopted plan?

This would be very complex to implement and would not take account of local variations in the need to update Local Plans. Some areas will be very stable in their housing need and delivery and will not need to update their Plans every five years. Other more volatile areas will need to update their Plans more frequently to adapt to changing circumstances.

Question 6 Do you agree to this mechanism for reflecting homes only allowed on appeal in Bonus payments?

Yes but with the caveat as per Q7.

Question 7 Do you agree that New Homes Bonus payments should be reduced by 50%, or 100%, where homes are allowed on appeal? If not, what other adjustment would you propose, and why?

Whilst the rationale for this suggestion is understood, we would suggest that this only applies where an authority has costs awarded against it for unreasonable behaviour. This would ensure that differences of opinion on the planning merits of applications are not unjustly penalised.

We would go further to sharpen the incentive though and would advocate a premium for houses delivered in an area with an adopted Neighbourhood Plan, for houses built on Council owned land and for starter homes so as to make them correlate with affordable homes.

Question 8 Do you agree that reductions should be based on the national average Band D council tax? If this were to change (see question 3) should the new model also be adopted for this purpose?

Yes.

Question 9 Do you agree that setting a national baseline offers the best incentive effect for the Bonus?

The concept of 'deadweight' is misplaced. Planning permission is granted for housing for a number of reasons, the most important being meeting the established needs of the area. The incentive of New Homes Bonus is a contributing factor in helping to mitigate the impacts of new housing on local infrastructure, but it will never be the only reason for a housing development to be granted planning permission.

Question 10 Do you agree that the right level for the baseline is 0.25%?

No – See Q9

Question 11 Do you agree that adjustments to the baseline should be used to reflect significant and unexpected housing growth? If not, what other mechanism could be used to ensure that the costs of the Bonus stay within the funding envelope and ensure that we have the necessary resources for adult social care?

No

Question 12 Do you agree that the same adjustments as elsewhere should apply in areas covered by National Parks, the Broads Authority and development corporations?

The same concerns raised under questions 4-7 are even more applicable where the local planning authority for the area is not the Council that receives the New Homes Bonus. In Mid Sussex 10% of its area is within the South Downs National Park. Within this area the Council has no control over the timing of Local Plan submission and has no control over the determination of significant planning applications which are called in by the National Park Authority, which will include most major housing schemes. It would not therefore be equitable for the Council to be penalised for non-submission of the National Park's Local Plan or for housing

developments being granted on appeal when it bears all the costs of infrastructure and service provision for the area of Mid Sussex within the National Park.

Question 13 Do you agree that county councils should not be exempted from adjustments to the Bonus payments?

It should be noted that all of the points raised under question 12 also apply to County Councils, who have no control over the submission of Local Plans or the determination of planning applications but are nonetheless responsible for providing infrastructure and services to the new homes. Any adjustments should not apply to the 20% contribution to County Councils.

Question 14 What are your views on whether there is merit in considering protection for those who may face an adverse impact from these proposals?

If any of these adjustments are implemented and have particularly adverse impacts on some authorities, then the reductions in income from New Homes Bonus should be tapered for these authorities to allow time for them to adjust budgets. Such a taper could be funded from within the NHB scheme itself.

Response submitted on behalf of Mid Sussex DC by Cabinet Members:

Cllr Jonathan Ash-Edwards,
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Service Delivery
and
Cllr Andrew Macnaughton, Cabinet Member for Planning

BUDGET AND CORPORATE PLAN FOR 2016/17

The Budget and Corporate Plan for 2016/17, together with Service Plans for each Business Unit have been published on the Council's website and are available to view at <http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/my-council/about-the-council/how-the-council-is-run/council-strategies-plans-and-policies/corporate-plan/service-plans-2016-2017/> The Service Plans set out for each Business Unit the performance targets to be achieved and actions to be completed in the year. They are also available in the Members section of The Wire <http://thewire/members/corporate-and-service-plans-for-2016-2017/>

For further information please contact Neal Barton, Policy and Performance Manager, Performance and Partnerships on 01444 477588 or e-mail neal.barton@midsussex.gov.uk

News Releases

For further information or copies of the press releases listed below, please contact the Press Office on 01444 477387 or use the following link: <http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/Press/9601.htm>

PR2029 – Burgess Hill Town Centre plans approved.
PR 2030 – Parish By-election called for Balcombe.
PR 2031 – Have your say about local policing.