
COUNCIL PETITION REFERRAL: - INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL TO CABINET – FREEHOLD OF PLEASURAMA SITE, RAMSGATE

To: **Cabinet – 14 November 2013**

Main Portfolio Area: Operational Services

By: **Charles Hungwe, Senior Democratic Services Officer**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Eastcliff**

Summary: The report invites Cabinet to consider interim recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel regarding the current Development Agreement in relation to the Pleasurama Site.

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 A petition was considered at Full Council meeting on 18 April 2013 and it was agreed that the petition be referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel. As a result of this the Panel agreed to set up a Pleasurama Site Development Task & Finish Group as a priority scrutiny project for 2013/14 at its meeting on 23rd April. The Group was then set up on 28 May 2013. The Executive acknowledged their support for the Scrutiny initiative at the extraordinary Cabinet meeting on 29 May 2013.
- 1.2 At its meeting on 22 October 2013 the Overview and Scrutiny Panel received and adopted some recommendations that had been forward to the Panel by the Task & Finish Group.
- 1.3 Although the Sub-Group has not yet completed its review project, Members agreed interim recommendations regarding the current development agreement which were then adopted by to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 At that October Overview & Scrutiny Panel meeting Members agreed the following:
- a) THAT the Corporate and Regulatory Services Manager requests the Leader of the Council as quickly as possible for an executive decision, authorising him to seek external legal advice;
 - b) That no executive decision is taken in relation to further varying the Development Agreement, but that any recommendation in that regard be made to Council for final decision.

2.2 The Corporate & Regulatory Services Manager may wish to update Members at the Cabinet meeting on how the recommendation highlighted in Section 2.1 (a) has been progressed. However it may be worth noting that the Leader has already given his consent that external legal advice be sought and Council is now awaiting the response from the external solicitors.

3.0 Options

3.1 Cabinet may wish to adopt the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel as reflected in Section 2.1 of the report;

Or

3.2 Cabinet may opt to note the recommendations in Section 2.1 of the report and then defer making a final decision on the recommendation 2.1 (b) until the Pleasurama Site Development Review Task & Finish Group has completed its scrutiny work and made recommendations to the Panel for onward submission to the Cabinet.

Or

3.3 Cabinet may decide to refuse recommendation 2.1 (b) from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial and VAT

4.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However if the Executive sought external legal advice there are financial costs to be borne.

4.2 Legal

4.2.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. However if the Executive sought external legal advice there are financial costs to be borne.

4.3 Corporate

4.4 Equity and Equalities

4.4.1 There are no equity and equalities issues arising directly from this report.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 Taking into consideration the recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Panel and the options highlighted in Section 2.1 and Section 3.0 of the report respectively, guidance is sought from Cabinet.

6.0 Decision Making Process

6.1 This issue is a Council referral to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel. Although Cabinet is the decision maker on this referral; the Panel would need to report back to Council their findings and recommendations. The Panel can in the meantime make interim recommendations to Cabinet and or Council on the subject under review.

Contact Officer:	Charles Hungwe, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Reporting to:	Glenn Back, Democratic Services Manager

Annex List

None	N/A
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Sarah Martin, Financial Services Manager
Legal	Harvey Patterson, Corporate & Regulatory Services Manager