

Public Document Pack



Democratic Services
White Cliffs Business Park
Dover
Kent CT16 3PJ

Telephone: (01304) 821199
Fax: (01304) 872452
DX: 6312
Minicom: (01304) 820115
Website: www.dover.gov.uk
e-mail: democraticservices@dover.gov.uk

06 November 2021

Dear Councillor

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** on Monday 8 November 2021 at 6.00 pm, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

4 **MINUTES** (Pages 2 - 16)

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 July 2021, 13 September 2021 and 11 October 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Nicky", written over a white background.

Chief Executive

Minutes of the meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Monday, 26 July 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor C D Zosseder

Councillors: M Bates
T A Bond
P M Brivio
K Mills (as substitute for Councillor H M Williams)
M Rose
P Walker

Also Present: Mr D Bannister (Port of Dover)

Officers: Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)
Head of Commercial Services
Housing Development Manager
Housing Development Officer
Democratic and Corporate Services Manager
Democratic Services Officer

40 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor H M Williams.

41 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Councillor K Mills had been appointed as substitute member for Councillor H M Williams.

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

43 DECISIONS OF THE CABINET RELATING TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The decisions of the Cabinet relating to recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 5 July 2021 were noted.

44 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that no members of the public had registered to speak on items on the agenda to which the public speaking protocol applied.

45 ELECTRIC HEATING AND PHOTO-VOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS AT AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS AT KIMBERLEY CLOSE, DOVER AND STOCKDALE GARDENS, DEAL

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report on Electric Heating and Photo-Voltaic (PV) Installations at Affordable Housing Developments at Kimberley Close, Dover and Stockdale Gardens, Deal.

Members were advised that the Cabinet had previously approved projects to build a total of 24 flats as interim housing for homeless people at two DDC owned sites at Kimberley Close, Dover and Stockdale Gardens, Deal.

The report was seeking an additional expenditure of £160,000 (or £6,666 per flat) in order to enable electric heating to be installed in all 24 flats. This would avoid the use of gas fired boilers and provide for enhanced PV installations to all the buildings. The use of electric heating with PV installations would significantly reduce the environmental impact of the developments and reduce the long-term heating costs for the tenants, helping to mitigate fuel poverty concerns whilst tenants were in the accommodation.

Dover District Council's net zero carbon target would include avoiding the use of gas as a fuel in line with the anticipated changes to legislation not to permit new domestic buildings to use gas from 2025. It was therefore considered appropriate to avoid its use in all new build affordable housing.

Members considered alternative heating methods to electric boilers such as hydrogen or air/ground source boilers. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) advised that whilst gas boilers were cheaper to operate than electric boilers, when combined with PV they became cheaper to run than gas boilers. In addition, electric heating was future proofed where as alternative heating sources might not be.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to Cabinet that decision CAB 22 be endorsed as follows:

- (a) That the upgrade to the incoming electricity main to Kimberley Close, allowing electric heating to be installed in lieu of gas, and the associated additional budget required, be approved.
- (b) That the installation of enhanced photo-voltaic systems to both Kimberley Close and Stockdale Gardens developments, and the associated budget required, be approved.

46 ANGLING AT ADMIRALTY PIER

The Chairman welcomed Mr D Bannister, CEO of the Port of Dover, to discuss the issue of angling at Admiralty Pier.

Members were advised that Admiralty Pier had closed in March/April 2020 and whilst closed the Port of Dover had reviewed its protocols and found some issues that needed to be addressed before angling could resume on the Pier. Prior to the review it had been assumed that angling would have been able to resume without too much problem.

These issues were in respect of emerging security issues. In accordance with the Port Security Regulations 2003, Admiralty Pier was a controlled area but became a secure area when a cruise ship arrived. There were also further risk assessments carried out following the Manchester Arena and London Bridge attacks that had required changes to be made and additional legislation was expected before the end of the year.

The Port of Dover was keen to continue a dialogue with anglers and it had not finalised arrangements at this point. As part of this, the Port of Dover was examining operating a trial of new security arrangements, the costs of which would be met by the Port of Dover. As part of the trial, they were keen to involve disabled participants.

Members were advised that anglers had traditionally come from a great distance to use Admiralty Pier and there were concerns over a 'lone wolf' style attack as there were limited evacuation routes from the Pier. The proposed new security arrangements for anglers were actually similar to those already used by disabled anglers.

There was also a significant amount of infrastructure work required in the Eastern Docks including several listed buildings that required work and some railings and access points that needed work to be made safe. Admiralty Pier was primarily a sea defence and it had suffered damage in a previous storm. The Port of Dover had allocated £150 million for these works and the Marina Pier and Curve had been opened to the public.

The Port of Dover undertook a number of community events and had distributed £750,000 in grants to 45,000 people in and around Dover.

Ultimately, the Port of Dover was seeking to balance its obligations with the desires of sea anglers so that they could resume fishing on Admiralty Pier. The current situation was the start of a process of dialogue that would hopefully achieve that.

Angling Trust

The Angling Trust was the national association for anglers in England.

Members were advised that the Dover Sea Angling Association (DSAA) had used Admiralty Pier since 1903 and wanted to achieve a mutually acceptable position with the Port of Dover. However, the proposed arrangements were financially unsustainable for the DSAA.

The DSAA had provided security on Admiralty Pier for 30 years when in use by anglers and had encouraged disabled anglers to use the facility as it was one of the view suitable locations. It was stated that angling had been one of the few sports that had been able to continue during the pandemic and that it helped with mental health.

'Little Brian'

Councillor C D Zosseder read out a letter from 'Little Brian' who was 9 years old and for whom angling was his favourite hobby. However, he needed a flat stable surface to fish from and the Pier was one of the few locations where he could do this.

The alternative of Samphire Hoe was not as enjoyable, and he could not fish on the beach. While the top deck of Deal Pier was suitable it was very crowded, and he often could not get a space. In contrast, Admiralty Pier had easy transport access, no stairs and was easily accessible to the disabled.

'Little Brian' asked that access to Admiralty Pier for anglers be restored.

Councillor S C Manion asked the Chairman if she could respond to 'Little Brian' on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and thank him for his letter and the points he raised. Councillor C D Zossedder advised Members that she would be pleased to do so.

Dover Sea Angling Association

The Chairman and the President of the Dover Sea Angling Association spoke in respect of the proposals put forward by the Port of Dover.

They expressed hope that the letter setting out proposals from the Port of Dover was only the starting position as the proposals were disproportionate and financially unworkable. The DSAA did not see how it could afford to restart angling under the proposals.

There was concern expressed over the dilapidated state of a walkway on Admiralty Pier that was unsafe to use and questioned why the Port of Dover had not kept it in a safe working condition.

It was pointed out that disabled anglers had benefited from the use of Admiralty Pier for 100 years prior to its closure and the access for disabled and junior anglers had been championed by the Port of Dover in the past.

The DSAA had requested a meeting three weeks ago on this matter and had not received a response.

Public Speakers

The Chairman called upon any Members of the public present who wished to speak in respect of this item. The following points were raised:

- To question if the new Border Force facility had impacted on the security arrangements for Admiralty Pier and if so, why it was not paying for the increased security costs.
- To question whether the PROTECT duty was being correctly applied by the Port of Dover and whether the issuance of passes for those using the Pier would be a deterrent in the case of a 'lone wolf' attack.
- That angling helped those with health conditions.
- That the DSAA had staff that could control access and limit it to Member only access if security was a concern.
- That the Port of Dover had previously promoted angling and had promised that angling would continue at Admiralty Pier.
- Concerns that the issues were because of the objections of a single cruise company. The Port of Dover was asked to confirm if this was the case.
- That anglers would be willing to discuss what arrangements could be put in place for when cruise ships were in the docks. Mr Bannister advised that he was not aware of any objections from cruise companies to angling but acknowledged that one client had not properly appreciated it.
- There was concern that the security risk assessment would also impact on other events, such as litter picks.
- Members were advised that the Port of Dover's risk assessments could not be published due to security concerns, but it was emphasised that

arrangements had yet to be finalised and the Port would ensure that all measures were proportionate to the risk.

- That angling was a means by which the working class could represent their country. It was noted that Dover had previously hosted the world angling championships.
- That hoarding put up during construction works had promoted angling at the Pier.
- The concern that with the Southern Breakwater closed due to asbestos concerns and changes to the Prince of Wales Pier there would be nowhere left to fish if Admiralty Pier was not open to anglers.
- That in 1987 the Angling Trust had raised £180,000 to contribute towards damage as a result of the hurricane that year and was assured that it would have a lifelong lease.

Members

The following points were raised by members of the committee:

- That any security arrangements needed to be proportionate to the risk. For example, at Deal Pier there were 200 anglers but no security concerns. There were also more significant targets at the Port of Dover than sea anglers in the event of an attack.
- To call upon Mr Bannister to work with the Dover Sea Angling Association to achieve an affordable and sustainable solution. It was stated that this would be a good opportunity for the Port of Dover to show its support for the local community.
- That a fresh start in the relationship between the Port of Dover and the angling community was needed. Members called upon Mr Bannister to personally oversee the process and find a mutually acceptable solution.
- To point out that angling was the highest participation sport in the country, and it should not be ignored.

Councillor C D Zosseder called upon Mr Bannister and the Dover Sea Angling Association to work together to find a solution. She also thanked everyone for attending the meeting and expressed the hope that it had been productive for all parties.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

Public Document Pack

Minutes of the meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Monday, 13 September 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor C D Zosseder

Councillors: T A Bond
P M Brivio
S C Manion
M Rose
R S Walkden
P Walker
H M Williams

Also Present: Councillor T J Bartlett
Mr G Morison (Veolia)

Officers: Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)
Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial)
Head of Commercial Services
Waste Services Manager
Strategic Development Lead (Leisure)
Democratic and Corporate Services Manager

47 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D A Hawkes.

48 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that no notice had been received for the appointment of substitute members.

49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T A Bond declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Minute No. 59 (Your Leisure Covid Support Funding) on the grounds of his wife's employment and advised that he would withdraw from the meeting for the consideration of that item of business.

50 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2021 and 12 July 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

51 DECISIONS OF THE CABINET RELATING TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The decisions of the Cabinet relating to recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 6 October 2021 were noted.

Councillor C D Zosseder raised concerns over the lack of Member involvement in the East Kent Food Poverty Group and proposed that the Cabinet be requested to

address the perceived democratic deficit by appointing Member representatives to the group.

It was moved by Councillor C D Zosseder, duly seconded by Councillor P M Brivio, and

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to the Cabinet that in respect of decision CAB29 (Referral from Council – Food Poverty Review) that two councillors be appointed to the East Kent Food Poverty Working Group.

52 ISSUES REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY COUNCIL, CABINET, OR ANOTHER COMMITTEE

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that there were no issues referred to the Committee by Council, Cabinet or another Committee.

53 NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING KEY DECISIONS

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager presented the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions to the Committee for its consideration.

There being no dissent indicated, it was agreed that the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions be noted.

54 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager presented the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme to the Committee for its consideration.

Members identified the following items for inclusion in the work programme:

- Housing Repairs
- The 149th Open Golf – breakdown of costs

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted and the proposed priority schedule be agreed, subject to the inclusion of additional items relating to housing repairs and the breakdown of costs of the 149th Open Golf.

55 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that a member of the public had requested to speak in respect of the Waste Service Update. The Chairman, with the consent of the committee, agreed to vary the public speaking arrangements and let the member of the public speak for three minutes in respect of the item of business.

56 SOUTHERN WATER UPDATE

The Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett, and the Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial) provided an update to Members on the progress of discussions with Southern Water in respect of the problems with flooding in Deal.

The Committee was advised that the Member of Parliament for Dover had been involved in the matter. A Deal Flood Water Action Task Group had been formed which would be chaired by the MP for Dover and involved local elected members, OFWAT, Kent County Council, Dover District Council and Southern Water. The Group would operate for six months.

Southern Water had acknowledged long standing issues that needed to be addressed and the first meeting had been held. A qualified engineer would be part of the Group as the issues were of an engineering nature not a customer issue.

The Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial) would continue to update the Council on its progress and pointed that Councillor T A Bond could do the same for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members welcomed the formation of the Group and the involvement of Southern Waters engineering teams as their concerns related to the capacity of the local network and how flood water was dealt with.

It was agreed that the Committee would receive a further update following the conclusion of the Group's work.

57 WASTE SERVICE UPDATE

The Committee received an update from the Head of Commercial Services and a representative of Veolia, Gary Morison (Senior Contract Manager), on the performance of the waste service.

The Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial) advised that this had been a difficult time for the waste services team who were trying to provide the best service that they could in the circumstances.

The service was now showing signs of improvement and had achieved a degree of stability. As part of this, the Council would look to reintroduce the green waste service once it was confident that this would not impact on the performance of the rest of the waste service.

Mr Morison apologized on behalf of Veolia and advised that a combination issues with the introduction of the new Echo system, the impact of the 'pingdemic' which had seen 13 members of staff off at one point and the shortage of HGV drivers had all contributed to the issues with the performance of the waste service.

However, since the suspension of the green waste service on 22 July 2021 in Folkestone and Hythe and 4 August 2021 in Dover the service had improved and Veolia had recruited 15 new HGV drivers, 13 of which had been retained. Veolia was also fast tracking non-HGV drivers to qualify to drive HGV vehicles and had 22 members of staff on the scheme.

The review of routes had been postponed while the service was stabilising and this would not be considered again until early 2022. Members were advised that while the service still had further improvements to make the previous weekend had been the first where it had not been required to bring in additional crews from outside the district to complete rounds. Veolia had deployed an additional vehicle for the last 2 weeks to clear the backlog of collections.

Veolia was confident that performance had been improved sufficiently to reinstate the green waste service in one district at this point with the other district's green waste service reinstated a couple of weeks after that date.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett, advised that it had been a difficult period for the service following 10 years of excellent service from Veolia. He emphasised the importance of Veolia solving the problems and restoring the high standard of service that residents had come to expect.

Members raised the following concerns with the current performance of the waste service:

- That the previous promise of service improvement in three weeks had not been achieved.
- To ask that drivers with local knowledge be involved in setting any new vehicle routes.
- That there were still problems in respect of emptying communal waste bins.
- That street cleaning was not happening and the mess created during the collection and non-collection of bins was going uncleared.
- That poor management of the waste service by Veolia had led to the problems being experienced under the new contract and that the national shortage of HGV drivers and the impact of the 'pingdemic' were not the only factors for the poor service. In addition, Veolia would have been aware of the shortage of HGV drivers when the new contract was introduced.
- That the new routes introduced under the new contract were not suitable for the resources allocated.
- That communication on the problems affecting the service and the suspension of the green waste service had not been properly communicated to residents.
- That green waste subscribers were Dover District Council customers and not Veolia customers and therefore the Council was responsible for communicating changes in service to them.
- That uncollected waste was causing vermin problems in the district.
- That there were difficulties in reporting missed bins on the website.
- That waste vehicles were not being effectively used and that vehicles had been seen parked in the centre of Deal while bins remained uncollected.
- The impact the poor performance of the service had on vulnerable residents.
- The need for Veolia to have contractual penalties applied for poor performance.
- The importance of the Council being robust in its dealings with Veolia and making Veolia deliver the service it was contracted to deliver.
- The lack of resilience in the service.
- The need for effective communication with local residents as further changes were made to the waste service and in advance of the green waste service being restored.

Members were advised that subscribers to the green waste service would be advised prior to its restoration.

It was requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further update before any changes were made to the waste service so that the resilience of any changes could be scrutinized.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the Performance Report for Quarter 1, 2021-22.

Members were advised that the new style Strategic Dashboard was still in development and would be consulted on as soon as a final draft was ready.

Although the new style Strategic Dashboard was not ready there had been several amendments introduced for the Quarter 1 2021-22 Performance Report. These related to the consolidation of the Housing Indicators in a single place and additional Civica indicators relating to the use of the portal and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Furthermore, there was a brief introduction to Port Health and future reports would have further information included.

The impacts of the Covid Pandemic were still seen in the Performance Report, and there had been an adverse impact on call waiting times as a result of the challenges with the performance of the waste service. However, overall a huge amount of work and a number of projects continued to be delivered in the circumstances.

Members considered the following points:

- The impact of the performance of waste services on the council's call answer time. Councillor T A Bond expressed concern that this had been a problem before the problems with the waste service.
- The performance of business rate collection and the impact of government support on the collection rate.
- That problems arising from the switch over of residents to Universal Credit was still impacting on the Council Tax collection figures. Members were advised that the Council was working with Kent County Council to identify families under pressure.
- To express concerns that the targets in respect of some indicators could be more challenging.
- To question how vacancy levels in the Council were reported. Members were advised that the Council did not automatically backfill vacancies and each post was examined as it became vacant to see whether it needed to be filled. It was suggested that a more appropriate indicator would be the number of posts the Council was currently advertising for.

In the absence of dissent, it was agreed to note the Performance Report.

59 YOUR LEISURE COVID SUPPORT FUNDING

The Strategic Development Lead (Leisure) presented the report on Your Leisure Covid Support Funding.

Members were informed that due to the Covid Pandemic, Tides Leisure Centre had been required to close on a number of occasions or subject to additional restrictions when open that had impacted on the financial risk facing Your Leisure. While the business was recovering it was not in a position to absorb its trading losses and the support funding would assist with this.

The future of the Tides Leisure Centre would be considered as the district emerged from the pandemic and it was noted that the whole project would need to be reviewed in light of the impact of the pandemic.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to the Cabinet that decision CAB34 be endorsed as follows:

- (a) That the business recovery measures undertaken by Your Leisure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic be noted and welcomed.
- (b) That the allocation of £80,000 as COVID-19 support funding for the Tides Leisure & Indoor Tennis Centre be approved.

(Councillor T A Bond declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Minute No. 59 (Your Leisure Covid Support Funding) on the grounds of his wife's employment and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

The meeting ended at 8.26 pm.

Public Document Pack

Minutes of the meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Monday, 11 October 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor C D Zosseder

Councillors: T A Bond
P M Brivio
D R Friend
D A Hawkes
S C Manion
M Rose
R S Walkden
P Walker
H M Williams

Also Present: Councillor D P Murphy
Councillor O C de R Richardson

Officers: Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial)
Head of Assets and Building Control
Head of Finance and Investment
Strategic Project Manager (Infrastructure)
Corporate Projects Manager
Housing Development Officer
Democratic and Corporate Services Manager

60 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received.

61 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that no notice had been received for the appointment of substitute members.

62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T A Bond declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 74 (Market Square, Dover) by reason of his directorship in the Dover Town Team and advised that he would withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of that item of business.

63 MINUTES

The consideration of the Minutes was deferred.

64 DECISIONS OF THE CABINET RELATING TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The decisions of the Cabinet relating to recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 4 October 2021 were noted.

65 ISSUES REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY COUNCIL, CABINET, OR ANOTHER COMMITTEE

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that there were no issues referred to the Committee by Council, Cabinet or another Committee.

66 PETITION - OPEN LETTER TO CALL ON DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL TO COMMIT TO HELPING AFGHAN REFUGEES

In the absence of the petition organiser to present the petition, the Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that a written response would be provided to the petition.

The Portfolio Holder for Social Housing and Port Health was thanked by the Chairman for attending the meeting.

67 REQUEST FROM FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that a request had been received from Folkestone and Hythe District Council's Scrutiny Committee for a 'joint' meeting to scrutinise the waste service.

The Chairman advised that she supported a meeting of the two committees being held at Dover and from conversations with her counterpart at Folkestone and Hythe District Council believed that this would be acceptable to it. The rationale for the 'joint' meeting was that as the contract was a shared contract with Veolia for both authorities the issues in respect of the use of resources and service performance for one authority impacted on the other. In addition, there were concerns that inconsistent answers had been provided to each authority by Veolia and a 'joint' meeting would enable this to be explored more comprehensively.

Members discussed whether the 'joint' meeting was necessary given the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had already committed to holding a further meeting of its own on the subject.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) advised that the service was stable now but had required additional temporary measures to achieve this situation. It was expected that Veolia would seek to put in more permanent measures in early 2022.

RESOLVED: That the meeting of the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees be agreed for November 2022 and the Democratic and Corporate Services Manager be requested to make the appropriate arrangements to facilitate it.

68 NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING KEY DECISIONS

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager presented the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions to the Committee for its consideration.

There being no dissent indicated, it was agreed that the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions be noted.

69 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager presented the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme to the Committee for its consideration.

There being no dissent indicated, it was agreed that the Work Programme be noted.

70 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that no members of the public had registered to speak on items on the agenda to which the public speaking protocol applied.

71 PUBLIC TOILET PROVISION

The Head of Assets and Building Control presented an update on Public Toilet Provision in the Dover District.

The Committee was advised that 10 of the district's public toilets were financially supported by parish council's and 7 by Dover District Council.

The Council undertook inspections of the public toilets on a weekly or fortnightly basis and the contractor did have prior notice of which facility would be inspected. In accordance with the contract any defects found were immediately notified to the contractor which was required to return to site to rectify them in accordance with the provisions of the contract. This system had resulted in a reduction in reports of service failure and the arrangements had been formalised as part of the new cleaning contract.

The assets maintenance team would deal with the more complex maintenance issues that the cleaning contractor previously was responsible for as it was a more cost-effective arrangement and allowed for repairs to be undertaken more quickly.

Members discussed the need for better sign-posting to public toilets, particularly the ones in the Dover Discovery Centre, to assist visitors to the district. It was suggested that the toilets should be shown on on-line maps as well as with physical signs.

The involvement of Dover Town Council in providing financial support for public toilets was discussed and in particular the provision of toilets in the area of Maison Dieu. The Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property, Councillor O C de R Richardson advised that this was a matter he had taken a keen interest in and that once Maison Dieu had been refurbished its toilets would be open to the public. The Head of Assets and Building Control advised that there were potential opportunities for new public toilet provision in other areas of Dover's town centre and the potential of schemes such as 'pay to pee' were being investigated. It was noted that any new toilet facilities would need to be approaching carbon neutral.

Councillor C D Zosseder thanked the Head of Assets and Building Control and the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property for attending the meeting and updating the committee on public toilet provision in the district.

(Councillor S C Manion left the meeting at the end of this item of business.)

72 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor P M Brivio, duly seconded by Councillor H M Williams and

RESOLVED: That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the business on the grounds that the items to be considered involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

73 APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO DESIGN AND BUILD CONTRACT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INTERIM HOUSING AT POULTON CLOSE, DOVER

The Head of Finance and Investment presented the report on the Approval to Enter into Design and Build Contract for Development of Interim Housing at Poulton Close, Dover.

Members considered the report and discussed the decision of the Cabinet at its meeting held on 4 October 2021.

There being no dissent indicated, it was agreed to note the report.

74 MARKET SQUARE, DOVER

The Strategic Project Manager (Infrastructure) presented the report on Market Square, Dover.

Members considered the report and discussed the decision of the Cabinet at its meeting held on 4 October 2021.

RESOLVED: (a) That it be recommended to Cabinet that it endorse decision CAB46 as follows:

That the award of the contract to F M Conway for the consideration set out in the report be approved, noting that the external project costs would be funded by the Coastal Community Fund grant (£2.44 million), Dover District Council (£500,000) and a further £700,000 from the Council's Town Centre Regeneration Fund.

(b) That an update on the Council's regeneration programme be added to the work programme.

(Councillor T A Bond declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 74 (Market Square, Dover) by reason of his directorship in the Dover Town Team and withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of this item of business.)

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm.