
Subject: APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT ADVISORY GROUPS 2017/18

Meeting and Date: Cabinet – 8 May 2017

Report of: David Randall, Director of Governance

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Watkins, Leader of the Council

Decision Type: Non-Key

Classification: Unrestricted

Purpose of the report: For Cabinet to appoint six Project Advisory Groups and determine the membership of these as follows: (1) Local Plan; (2) Dover Town Centre & Waterfront; (3) Dover Leisure Centre; (4) Commercial Investment; (5) Residential Investment; and (6) Investment Advisory

- Recommendation:**
1. That Cabinet appoints a Local Plan Project Advisory Group for the Council year 2017/18 on the basis outlined at Appendix A of the report,
 2. That Cabinet appoints a Project Advisory Group for Dover Town Centre and the Waterfront for the Council year 2017/18 on the basis outlined at Appendix B of the report.
 3. That Cabinet appoints a Dover Leisure Centre Project Advisory Group for the Council year 2017/18 on the basis outlined at Appendix C of the report.
 4. That Cabinet appoints a Commercial Investment Project Advisory Group for the Council year 2017/18 on the basis outlined at Appendix D of the report.
 5. That Cabinet appoints a Residential Investment Project Advisory Group for the Council year 2017/18 on the basis outlined at Appendix E of the report.
 6. That Cabinet appoints an Investment Advisory Group for the Council year 2017/18 on the basis outlined at Appendix F of the report.
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1. Summary

- 1.1 The Cabinet has annually appointed an Advisory Group to assist the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Planning, and therefore the Cabinet, on a range of Local Plan related matters. In recognition that the Project Advisory Group (PAG) on the Local Plan should be more inclusive, it is recommended that the membership of the Group is reviewed, and a range of organisations be invited to attend meetings on an ad hoc basis so that subjects can be discussed in a more rounded forum.
- 1.2 In 2010 Cabinet agreed that a PAG should be established to advise Cabinet on proposals for the Dover town centre site at St James's (CAB 65). It was agreed in 2015 that this Group should be expanded to cover regeneration plans for Dover town centre in general and the waterfront.

- 1.3 On 11 January 2016 Cabinet agreed that a PAG should be established to advise the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Public Protection in relation to proposals for a new leisure centre in Dover (CAB 88).
- 1.4 The establishment of Commercial and Residential Investment Project Advisory Groups was agreed by Cabinet at its meeting held on 21 November 2016 (CAB 87) in order to implement the Council's Property Investment Strategy, adopted on 30 November 2016.
- 1.5 In 2009 Cabinet agreed the establishment of an Investment Advisory Group (CAB 119). Although the PAG has not met since July 2010, it is considered prudent to re-appoint it for the Council year 2017/18.

2. **Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 The Council's Constitution (Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions) outlines the following rules concerning the appointment of Project Advisory Groups:

Unless otherwise agreed by Cabinet, an Advisory Group shall:

- (a) comprise of 5 members including the appropriate Portfolio Holder who shall chair the Group;
- (b) as far as possible, the Group will be appointed in accordance with the rules on political balance;
- (c) particular regard shall be had to include a relevant ward Member on the Group.

Local Plan

- 2.2 The last meeting of the Local Plan Project Advisory Group was held on 27 February 2012, prior to consultation on the Land Allocations Local Plan. The Group was established to represent a wide range of interests and organisations. It is not a decision-making body but was initially established to advise Cabinet, via the Portfolio Holder, on the preparation of the Core Strategy and Land Allocations Local Plan.
- 2.3 The Council is commencing a Review of the Local Plan and this seems an opportune time to review the existing membership of the PAG to ensure that it is as inclusive as possible, particularly as some of the representatives on the original PAG were often unable to make key meetings. It is also particularly important at this stage in the process to review the membership of the PAG as Cabinet agreed on 1 March 2017 that Officers would not seek approval from Cabinet on a draft (Preferred Options) Local Plan or authority to consult on the draft Local Plan. Instead it was agreed at that meeting that there would be informal engagement as part of the preparation of the Local Plan, and that the membership of the Local Plan PAG would be reviewed. Appendix A sets out the proposed changes to the membership of the Local Plan PAG.
- 2.4 It is recommended that the core membership of the PAG is changed to make it more inclusive. It is also recommended that other stakeholders/interested parties are invited as required by the Chairman of the PAG to attend specific meetings to discuss issues such as the Council's proposed approach towards housing, employment and leisure. This would ensure that there is a much more rounded

discussion on key issues, and would have the added advantage of trying to build consensus through the development of the Local Plan Review process.

Dover Town Centre and Waterfront

- 2.5 This PAG was originally tasked with considering proposals relating to the St James's town centre site in order to advise Cabinet whether they were of a suitable standard and style, and appropriate for the location, taking into account issues such as scale, form, physical constraints and financial viability. The PAG comprises a range of Members from all parties.
- 2.6 As a consequence of the significant progress that has been made on the St James's scheme, the PAG has recently turned its focus to adjacent needs within the town centre/waterfront. The PAG last met on 30 November 2016, and consultants appointed by the Council, Dover Harbour Board and a landowner to prepare a Masterplan for the Dover Waterfront area and Public Realm Improvements updated the PAG on their emerging findings. It is intended that the PAG will be reconvened at key stages of the commission.

Dover Leisure Centre

- 2.7 The Dover Leisure Centre PAG was established in January 2016. This PAG currently meets approximately once a month. Its role is to provide cross-party and public feedback to Officers and Cabinet on proposals for the new leisure centre.

Commercial and Residential Investment

- 2.8 These PAGs were established in November 2016 to advise the Portfolio Holder on opportunities for investment in commercial and residential properties and the strategy for the future management of such properties. Both PAGs met for the first time in February 2017.

Investment Advisory

- 2.9 This PAG was established in 2009 in the aftermath of the collapse of the Icelandic banks. As the situation settled down, the frequency of meetings declined. Moreover, in September 2010, the PAG's role in treasury management monitoring and reporting was assumed by the Governance Committee. In the light of these developments, it was decided that the PAG would be retained, but would meet only as necessary. It is considered prudent to re-appoint to the PAG so that it can meet quickly in 2017/18 should the need arise.

3 Identification of Options

- 3.1 Option One – To appoint all six Project Advisory Groups.
- 3.2 Option Two – To not appoint any or only one or two of these Project Advisory Groups.

4 Evaluation of Options

- 4.1 It is recommended that Cabinet appoints all six Project Advisory Groups for the following reasons:
- The Local Plan Project Advisory Group was set up with the specific purpose of advising the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Planning on matters

relating to the Local Plan. Taking proposals direct to Cabinet would not have the benefit of having rounded discussions with a wide range of interests and organisations as part of the development and preparation of the Local Plan prior to formal consultation being undertaken.

- It is considered important to engage cross-party support for the PAGs dealing with the Dover town centre/waterfront developments, the new leisure centre and commercial and residential property investments. Taking proposals direct to Cabinet would be time-consuming and lack the cross-party element of the PAGs.
- Although Cabinet could choose not to appoint the Investment Advisory PAG for 2017/18, it is considered prudent to do so in case the need arises for it to meet quickly.

5. Resource Implications

5.1 None.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: 'Finance has been consulted and has nothing further to add (VB).'

6.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted during the preparation of this report and has nothing further to add.

6.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: 'This report does not specifically highlight any equalities implications. However, in discharging their responsibilities, Members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15>).'

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Proposed Composition of the Local Plan Project Advisory Group

Appendix B – Proposed Composition of the Dover Town Centre and Waterfront Project Advisory Group

Appendix C - Proposed Composition of the Dover Leisure Centre Project Advisory Group

Appendix D – Proposed Composition of the Commercial Investment Project Advisory Group

Appendix E – Proposed Composition of the Residential Investment Project Advisory Group

Appendix F – Proposed Composition of the Investment Advisory Group

8. Background Papers

None.

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Appendix A

APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL PLAN PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP MAY 2017 APPOINTMENTS

Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Planning (Chairman)

Chairman of the Planning Committee

A representative from the Scrutiny (Policy and Performance) Committee – to be advised

A representative from the town and parish councils – **Keith Gowland (Kent Association of Local Councils)** and a nominated substitute

Three representatives from the voluntary sector (representing Dover, Deal and Sandwich) –

- The Dover Society - **Mr Pat Sherratt**
- The Deal Society - **Mr Robin Green**
- Sandwich Town Team – **Mr Richard Ralph**

Two representatives from the Business Forum – **Mr Gareth Doodes** and **Mr Matthew** or **Mr Stuart Jaenicke (Viking Recruitment)**

Officer representation – Chief Executive/Head of Regeneration and Development

Group Nominations (1 Member each)

Conservative Group: **Currently Councillor D P Murphy**

Labour Group: **Councillor B Gardner**

**APPOINTMENT OF DOVER TOWN CENTRE AND WATERFRONT
PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP**

MAY 2017 APPOINTMENTS

Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Public Protection (Chairman)

Group Nominations (3 Members each)

Conservative Group: **Currently Councillors P M Beresford, N J Collor and P A Watkins**

Labour Group: **Councillors P M Brivio, M R Eddy and P Walker**

Appendix C

APPOINTMENT OF DOVER LEISURE CENTRE PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP

MAY 2017 APPOINTMENTS

Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Public Protection (Chairman)

Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing

Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance

Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Wellbeing

Shadow Cabinet Member for Property Management and Public Protection or another Member nominated by the Labour Group – **Councillor P Walker**

Member of the public – **Mr Peter Ward**

Appendix D

APPOINTMENT OF COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP MAY 2017 APPOINTMENTS

Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance (Chairman)

Leader of the Council

Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Public Protection

Leader of the Opposition Group

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Group

Appendix E

APPOINTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP

MAY 2017 APPOINTMENTS

Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance (Chairman)

Leader of the Council

Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Wellbeing

Leader of the Opposition Group

Shadow Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Wellbeing

Appendix F

**APPOINTMENT OF INVESTMENT ADVISORY GROUP
MAY 2017 APPOINTMENTS**

Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance (Chairman)

Chairman of the Governance Committee

Chairman of the Scrutiny (Policy and Performance) Committee

Group Nominations (1 non-executive Member each)

Conservative Group: **Currently Councillor P I Carter**

Labour Group: **Councillor M R Eddy**