

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	15 May 2017
Report of the	-	Cabinet
Subject	-	References from Cabinet Meetings

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The Council is asked to consider recommendations arising from the Cabinet meetings held on 13 March, 3 April and 8 May 2017 as set out below.

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## **CABINET – 13 March 2017**

### **CB16/85. FOSSIL COLLECTING CODE OF CONDUCT (6.2)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Director of Business Operations that sought approval for the introduction of a Code of Conduct for fossil collecting on Rother's beaches. The purpose of the code was to encourage responsible collecting, provide clarification on the ownership of fossil material found on Rother's beaches and provide a first formal step towards combating commercial fossil collecting and potential destruction of the Council's heritage assets.

The code had been drawn up by Bexhill Museum with the active encouragement of Sussex Police Heritage Protection Office, university academics and other local authorities faced with similar challenges. Coastal Officers would be charged with monitoring compliance with the code in their patrols of the beach and foreshore.

It was noted that in the event of a serious breach of the Code, further action would be taken under powers conferred by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, in conjunction with the police using a Fixed Penalty Notice. Members were pleased to recommend to Council the Code for approval which encouraged responsible fossil collection and education for the public.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Rother District Council Fossil Collecting Code of Conduct be approved and adopted.

(Cabinet Agenda Item 6.2)

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## **CABINET – 3 April 2017**

### **CB16/91. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RE-STRUCTURE**

Members received and considered Minute OSC16/50 arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) meeting held on the 20 March 2017 which detailed proposals to reconsider the working arrangements of the OSC. The current committee structure had come about as part of wider changes to the Council's decision making

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structure in May 2014 however, since then a number of suggestions had been made to further improve the committee's operation. These included a reduction in the number of members forming the committee, reconsideration of the number of scheduled meetings per year, a change to the timing of meetings and the standardisation of the name given to the working and steering groups which were formed from the committee's work.

Members deliberated the recommendations before them. They endorsed all the recommendations with the exception of the timing of the meetings. Cabinet considered that it was appropriate for the OSC to determine its own start time at a future meeting in May.

### **RECOMMENDED:** That:

- 1) the size of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be reduced from 20 to 12 Members;
- 2) the number of scheduled meetings be retained at eight per annum;
- 3) that the timing of the meetings be determined at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in May;
- 4) all working group/parties/steering groups established from now on be known as "Task and Finish Groups";
- 5) that in accordance with current practice, the Chairman of the parent Overview and Scrutiny Committee cannot be elected chairman of any Task and Finish Group; and
- 6) Group Leaders be permitted to appoint substitute members when substantive members are unable to attend Task and Finish Group meetings on an ad-hoc basis.

(Cabinet Agenda Item 6.2)

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## **CABINET – 8 May 2017**

### **CB16/97. CALL-IN AND URGENCY PROCEDURES**

Members received and considered Minute OSC16/57 arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) meeting held on the 24 April 2017 which detailed the Council's Call-in and Urgency Procedures.

The Call-In procedure was the mechanism by which the Council's OSC could challenge decisions made by the Executive that were not yet implemented. Members noted that no Executive decisions had been called-in, and no decisions of Cabinet, within the approved budget and policy framework had been deemed and resolved as urgent decisions.

Cabinet endorsed the recommendation proposed that the number of committee members required to call-in a decision be reduced from three to two and noted that this would be subject to full Council's

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agreement regarding the restructure of the OSC from the new civic year.

**RECOMMENDED:** That subject to the proposed changes to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee structure being agreed, that the number of committee members required to call-in a decision be reduced from three to two, in recognition of the reduction of committee members, with effect from the new civic year and the Constitution be amended accordingly.

(Cabinet Agenda Item 6.1)

Councillor C.R. Maynard  
Leader of the Council