

Key Decision Required:	No	In the Forward Plan:	No
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CABINET

22 MARCH 2013

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A.1 COMMENTS TO CABINET FROM THE CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(Report prepared by Richard Barrett)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To present Cabinet with comments from the Corporate Management Committee.

COMMENTS FROM THE CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At their meeting on 18 February 2013, the Committee gave its initial consideration to the following two requests from Cabinet that were made in response to earlier points put forward by the Committee as part of its scrutiny of the 2013/14 budget:

	CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE COMMENT ON GF BUDGET:	FINANCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER RESPONSE:
2.	The Committee supports the principle of maximising opportunities to introduce new fees and charges such as introducing a reasonable charge for pre-application advice on planning applications thereby both maximising income and assisting applicants though the planning process.	Cabinet request that Corporate Management Committee undertake a piece of work to look at the philosophy and policy behind the Council's fees and charges and to put forward specific proposals where they see opportunities for new fees and charges. A report back to Cabinet is requested once the piece of work is completed for inclusion in the Financial Strategy for 2014/15 and beyond.
5.	The Committee supports and would like to see expanded, partnership working with community organisations where additional funding may be on offer / available to further develop or enhance projects and initiatives undertaken by the Council.	Any opportunities to expand on current partnership arrangements would be welcomed, with services encouraged to explore all available opportunities to support the Council in delivery of affordable excellence within a sustainable financial position. This will form a 'strand' of the Financial Strategy 2014/15 and Cabinet request that the Committee leads on an audit of third sector provision in the District to support this 'strand' of work.

To move the two requests forward, the Committee have decided to set up two separate informal working groups to enable the necessary outcomes to be 'fed' into the Financial Strategy process for 2014/15.

Amongst a number of other issues discussed by the Committee as part of the item above,

consideration was given to 'reputational risk' and where for example the Council was working in partnership with an external organisation such as the ICE Energy scheme in Jaywick.

In respect of the two points raised above and in providing feedback and comments to Cabinet, the Committee resolved:

Cabinet be informed that the Committee would be setting up the two working groups in response to the Cabinet's requests and also that when the Council undertook any form of partnership working with third party contractors (and their sub-contractors) which then directly involved the public, the Council's Officers carry out a service delivery audit in order to ensure a high quality of service provision thereby protecting both the public and, by extension, the Council's reputation.

In respect of the second point within the Committee's comments above, an update is set out at **Appendix A** regarding ICE Energy work that is currently being undertaken within the district.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet considers the comments from the Corporate Management Committee and determines what further actions it wishes to take.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

Financial planning and the Council's financial framework have direct implications on the Council's ability to deliver on the commitments, objectives and priorities set out in both the Corporate Plan and the Community Strategy up to 2016.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and Other Resources

Although there are no financial implications directly associated with this report, further considerations may be required subject to Cabinet's proposed response to the comments of the Corporate Management Committee.

Risk

There are no direct implications associated with this report. However reputational risk has been raised by the Corporate Management Committee which needs to be considered in the wider and proportionate context of identifying reasonable actions to mitigate against such risks compared with any associated impact.

LEGAL

There are no specific legal implications.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities / Area or Ward affected / Consultation/Public Engagement.

There are no other direct implications.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None

APPENDICES

Appendix A ICE Energy - Update Summary

ICE Energy – Update Summary

- Building Control are shortly expected to confirm they are satisfied with the Parex system being used after officers have now met with key stakeholders such as ICE, Solartech, Parex and Lafarge/Sineat. All the paper work and tests have been provided.
- Seventy-nine Building Control applications received last week.
- Retrofit for the overlapping insulation at eaves level (PVC panel, overhang and drip) inspected and agreed.
- Retrofit for the window cills (seamless extension cills to the correct slope, end caps and sealant) inspected and agreed.
- Daikin contacted in respect of the allegations regarding pumps. Complainant now accepted - 4 Daikin air source heat pumps.
- Solartech are providing a 5 year warranty on the insulation staying on the walls
- There are system guarantees from Parex and Sineat in respect of the products
- Daikin have extended their guarantee from 3 to 5 years
- All the houses are being snagged and retrofitted.
- Additional funding outcome awaited