

COMMITTEE:	CABINET
DATE:	17 JULY 2003
SUBJECT:	DRAFT STRATEGY FOR COMMEMORATIVE SEATING AND OTHER COMMEMORATIVE PRESENTATIONS
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, REGENERATION AND AMENITIES
Ward(s):	ALL
Purpose:	To seek the Cabinet's approval of a Draft Strategy for Commemorative Seating and other Commemorative Presentations.
Contact:	Mark Probyn, Head of Amenities, Telephone 01323 415240 or internally on extension 5240.
Recommendations:	That Cabinet: (a) approves the Draft Strategy for Commemorative Seating and other Commemorative Presentations; and that (b) the implementation of the Strategy is to be monitored periodically by the Cabinet Spokesperson for the Environment and the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities and referred back to Cabinet for further review after a period of no longer than 5 years from the date of this Cabinet meeting.
1.0	<u>Background</u>

1.1	Further to the Council's Best Value Review of Cleansing Services the Report to Scrutiny Committee on the 12 December 2001, endorsed by Cabinet in 2002, identified within the Best Value Review Improvement Plan an objective "to improve visual amenity and opportunity for the provision of commemorative seats and other commemorative presentations."
1.2	A similar objective was also included in the Council's Seafront Strategy adopted in 2001.
1.3	<p>Progress with the work in preparing the Draft Strategy has been monitored by the Best Value Management Committee, which on the 20 January 2003 resolved an amendment to the procedure given in an update report presented to Committee on the 18 November 2002 to the effect that:</p> <p>(1) An update on the strategy for seating and other commemorative presentations should be reported to the next meeting of the Committee on the 17 February 2003; and</p> <p>(2) That the final strategy be reported to the Best Value Management Committee in May 2003.</p>
1.4	The Cabinet will be aware that through recent change in the Council's constitution the Best Value Management Committee has now ceased to exist and it has therefore been agreed that this report should be made to Cabinet.
2.0	<u>The Draft Strategy</u>
2.1	The Draft Strategy consists of a comprehensive review of commemorative seating and other commemorative presentations currently provided by the Council and seeks to identify other presentations which may be offered to the general public and others through a readily identifiable and co-ordinated approach.

2.2	Copies of the Strategy have been circulated to Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet members and the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee only. A copy has been placed in the Members' Room and is available at the Town Hall Reception. A copy is also available on the Council's website at www.eastbourne.gov.uk/Reports/index.asp .
3.0	<u>Consultation</u>
3.1	The Head of Amenities has consulted with colleague officers who have assisted in the preparation of the Draft Strategy. Further consultation has taken place with relevant Heads of Service and other officers on the final Draft. Their comments have been taken into consideration and as appropriate included in the final Draft.
3.2	Major concern has been expressed by a number of relevant officers over the high incidence of damage attributable to vandalism to commemorative seats and plantings. Further to the adoption of the Strategy it is intended that vandalism would be monitored and this could result in some commemorative presentations being withdrawn from the list proposed.
3.3	Cabinet Members, Opposition Spokesperson and other Lead Members of the Council have been consulted on the final Draft Strategy and their comments have been taken into consideration and as appropriate included in the final Draft.

3.4	Further to consultation, it is proposed that Commemorative Presentations currently made available through the Cemeteries and Crematorium Service should remain separate to the presentations within this Draft Strategy.
3.5	It is generally believed that Commemorative Presentations currently made available through the Cemeteries and Crematorium Service are available specifically for the bereaved and their loved ones during a very sensitive time and it is considered that these should continued to be administered by the Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager.

3.6

It is accepted, however, that on such occasions Commemorative Presentations, including seating may be required in other locations within the Borough and the Head of Amenities will seek to ensure the appropriate linkages between the administrators of all Commemorative Presentations.

3.7

Some concerns have been expressed over the high number of traditional style commemorative seating that exist on the Seafront Parades. Through this Strategy the Head of Amenities would seek to encourage other forms of seating and over time to adopt a more structured approach to locating seats. Some indication of this is given in the Draft Strategy in terms of ensuring a minimum distance between seats and also prescribing a particular style of seat in certain locations.

3.8

Further concerns have been expressed over the apparent lack of opportunity for street tree planting. The County Council is responsible for all adopted highways within the Borough and is generally opposed to tree planting in streets mainly due to the ongoing maintenance required for trees and also the potential for damage resulting from tree roots to footpaths and adjacent structures. The Statutory Services also have concern over tree roots with regard to the adverse affects that they may have on their apparatus.

3.9	<p>From experience, officers are also concerned over the high incidence of damage, and cost implications, resulting from vandalism to newly planted trees.</p>
3.10	<p>The Council however, would not wish to deter tree planting schemes within the Borough and will, wherever possible, seek to identify appropriate locations for street trees with the County Council.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Financial Implications</u></p>
4.1	<p>Generally there are no financial implications arising from this report that cannot be contained within existing budgets, other than the potential need for a growth bid in the 2004/05 budget round to offset any shortfall in funding required for the maintenance of Highway Seats.</p>
4.2	<p>The provision and maintenance of Commemorative Seating and other Commemorative Presentations will be dependent on donation.</p>

5.0	<u>Community Safety Implications</u>
5.1	There are no direct community safety implications arising from this report.
5.2	There is a potential, however, for an increase in acts of vandalism concerning commemorative seating and other commemorative presentations.
6.0	<u>Equalities, Environmental, Human Rights, Youth and Anti-Poverty Implications</u>
6.1	There are no equalities, human rights, youth and anti-poverty implications arising from this report.
7.0	<u>Environmental Implications</u>
7.1	Environmental implications are referred to in the Draft Strategy for Commemorative Seating and other Commemorative Presentations.
8.0	<u>Summary</u>
8.1	Further to the Best Value Review for Cleansing Services and the adoption of the Seafront Strategy, the Head of Amenities has prepared a Draft Strategy for commemorative seating and other commemorative presentations which the Cabinet is asked to adopt.
	Mark Probyn Head of Amenities

	<p>Background papers:</p> <p>The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows:</p> <p>Best Value Management Committee, 18 November 2002 – Best Value Review of Cleansing Services: Implementation of the Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Best Value Management Committee, 20 January 2003 – Best Value Review of Cleansing Services: Implementation of the Improvement Plan – Commemorative Seats.</p> <p>Other documents as referred to specifically in the Draft Strategy entitled Commemorative Seating and other Commemorative Presentations.</p> <p>To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.</p>
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