



**DECISIONS**

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>Monday, 3 November 2014</b>
<b>Date of Publication:</b>	<b>11 November 2014</b>
<b>Call-In Expiry:</b>	<b>17 November 2014</b>

This document lists the decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on Monday, 3 November 2014, which require publication in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000. The list specifies those decisions eligible for call-in and the date by which they must be called-in.

Those decisions that are listed as being “recommended to the Council...”, or request the Chairman of the Council to waive the call-in, are not eligible for call-in.

The wording used might not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes, which will take precedence as the minutes are the official record of the meeting.

If you have any queries about the matters referred to in this decision sheet then please contact:

Gary Woodhall  
Democratic Services Officer  
Office of the Chief Executive

Tel: 01992 564470  
Email: [gwoodhall@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:gwoodhall@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

**Call-In Procedure**

If you wish to call-in any of the eligible decisions taken at this meeting you should complete the call-in form and return it to Democratic Services before the expiry of five working days following the publication date. You should include reference to the item title. Further background to decisions can be found by viewing the agenda document for this meeting at: [www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/local\\_democracy](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/local_democracy)

Decision No:
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**3. MINUTES**

**Decision:**

- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2014 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **7. PROPOSED AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT - VERE ROAD, LOUGHTON**

### **Decision:**

- (1) That, in accordance with the Cabinet's previous decision in principle and subject to the receipt of planning permission, sufficient land at the difficult-to-let Council-owned garage site at Garages 110-145 Vere Road – located between 34-46 Barrington Green and 29-33 Barrington Road, Loughton - (as shown on the location plan attached as an Appendix to the report) be leased to Moat Housing (one of the Council's Preferred Housing Association Partners) for 999 years for the sum of £425,000 to develop an affordable rented housing scheme comprising 15 one and two bedroom flats and associated parking;
- (2) That nomination rights be received by the Council to at least the level set out in the District-wide Nominations Agreement with Moat Housing;
- (3) That, subject to planning permission, the Council be provided by Moat Housing with a licence to construct an additional 14 car parking spaces on the remainder of the site, for the Council to lease at a commercial rate to the management company responsible for providing leasehold services for the new development being constructed on the adjacent site of the former Sir Winston Churchill Public House;
- (4) That the capital receipt be shared as follows:
  - (a) 50% to be ring-fenced to help fund the Council's own Housebuilding Programme; and
  - (b) 50% to be utilised for other Council regeneration schemes; and
- (5) That, if the costs of the proposed development increase or decrease as a result of any changes made during the planning application process, the Housing Portfolio Holder be authorised to agree an appropriate corresponding change to the lease charge in (1) above.

## **8. LEISURE AND CULTURAL STRATEGY**

### **Decision:**

- (1) That the Leisure and Cultural Strategy be noted;
- (2) That the Key Recommendations of the Strategy be agreed as detailed below, as the basis of the Council's future role and priorities with respect to the provision of Leisure and Cultural opportunities:
  - 2.1 That the key aim of the District Council with respect to the future provision of Leisure and Cultural activity, be to increase the number of people actively participating, by ensuring that provision was accessible and of the highest affordable quality;
  - 2.2 That the ability of Leisure and Cultural activities to deliver across a number of broader themes, such as Health and Wellbeing, Social Inclusion, Regeneration, Skills and Employment, Community Safety and Economic Development, be acknowledged and as such, be considered important to delivering policy objectives in these areas;

2.3 That the Leisure and Cultural Strategy sets out a medium term vision of 10 years, with a formal review after 5 years, to coincide with the length of the District Council's Corporate Plan;

2.4 That the Draft Vision Statement developed by the Community Visioning consultation exercise of the Local Plan, steers the longer term aspirations of the Leisure and Cultural Strategy;

2.5 That the Council's Leisure and Cultural Strategy takes account of National and Regional Policy, which should be kept under review;

2.6 That future service provision delivered by the Council maintains alignment to the locally relevant priorities of National/Regional grant making bodies, to maximise external funding opportunities;

2.7 That, since the Council's investment in purpose built leisure facilities represented the largest area of discretionary spend, future provision should be delivered by the most cost effective means possible and that maximum Value for Money be sought in terms of cost and quality;

2.8 That whilst this Leisure and Cultural Strategy focused on the role of the District Council, with respect to the services it delivered directly or played a significant role in enabling, the conclusions of the "Epping Forest Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment" should form part of the key deliverables with respect to the Local Plan;

2.9 (a) That the conclusions of the Assessment Report with respect to future provision be accepted with regard to the quantitative adequacy of Swimming Pools, Health and Fitness Facilities, Squash Courts and Synthetic Pitches, based on current and future demand;

(b) That the need to provide additional sports hall provision be accepted and that the opportunity to meet the deficiency by working with Epping Forest College, be positively explored;

(c) That it was acknowledged that the current level of provision was adequate with respect to catchment standards, (although age and condition of the Council's facilities would need to be addressed), but that future leisure facility provision was kept under review, as growth scenarios develop as part of the Local Plan; and

(d) That provision of dual purpose spaces and facilities, where practically possible and affordable, be included within any development of new Leisure Facilities in the District, in order to accommodate arts, cultural and community activity;

2.10 That the current relative performance of the Council's Leisure Facilities with respect to cost, participation and subsidy, be noted and form a key consideration with respect to future provision;

2.11 That, subject to confirmation of the final results of the building condition surveys, Waltham Abbey Pool be deemed to have reached the end of its viable life, and be replaced by a new facility in Waltham Abbey, the part of the District with amongst the poorest health outcomes, with further work undertaken on the most suitable location, and how it might be funded;

2.12 That, in the medium term and depending on growth in the locality, the

opportunity to re-provide a replacement facility for Epping Sports Centre should be investigated and that any new Leisure Management Contract had appropriate break clauses to enable relocation;

2.13 That, now confirmation of funding for the new Ongar Academy had been confirmed and on the basis that the site adjacent to the existing Leisure Centre remained the preferred location, negotiations be entered into with respect to a dual-use arrangement for the Leisure Centre, with the intention of increasing use and sharing cost;

2.14 That the Council's Key Objectives with respect to Leisure Management be re-affirmed as the basis for any future management contract, with the preferred option being to outsource to either the private sector or external trust;

2.15 That the procurement approach to the new Leisure Management Contract be by Competitive Dialogue, seeking to deliver flexibility for any partner to develop income streams to reduce costs, whilst still meeting the Council's Key Objectives with respect to participation and community access;

2.16 That based on the success of other authorities, any new management partners be encouraged to invest in new facilities, which may involve the Council in providing capital finance;

2.17 (a) That the future Community and Cultural Priorities for the Council be Community and Cultural Cohesion, Health Inequalities, Young People and Youth Unemployment, Anti-Social Behaviour, Ageing Population and Rural isolation; and

(b) That the potential for a further community hub development at Hillhouse, Waltham Abbey, be positively explored with the aim of co-locating community, health and wellbeing services to improve the quality of life of residents, in this area of health inequality;

2.18 That the priorities of the West Essex Health and Wellbeing Strategy be adopted by the Council and continue to play a key role in the local delivery of services, which had a positive impact on addressing health inequality, allowing people to live a longer more active life;

2.19 That the Council, whilst acknowledging the important role of the voluntary sector, undertook a review of its Grant Aid Policy and Discretionary Rate Relief Policy for Voluntary Organisations to ensure that resources were used in the most efficient way possible, and that policy priorities were met; and

2.20 That the Council continued to support the work of "One Epping Forest" generally, but specifically the work of the Tourism Taskforce in delivering their Action Plan, given the economic and social benefits that increased visitors to the District could bring; and

(3) That the Leisure and Cultural Strategy be recommended to the Council for adoption.

## **9. COUNCIL TAX AND LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT COMPLIANCE**

### **Decision:**

(1) That the progress made regarding partnership working across Essex to

increase compliance with respect to Council Tax discounts and exemptions be noted; and

(2) That, in consultation with the Finance Portfolio Holder, the Director of Resources be authorised to negotiate an agreement with other agencies and authorities as set out in the report, and a further report be submitted to the Cabinet once the cost benefit of setting up the arrangements was known.

## **10. POOLING OF NON DOMESTIC RATES**

### **Decision:**

(1) That the previous in principle decision to join the Essex Region Business Rates Pool be confirmed; and

(2) That, in consultation with the Finance Portfolio Holder, authority be delegated to the Director of Resources to approve and sign the detailed Pooling agreement.

## **11. ESSEX VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR FRAMEWORK**

### **Decision:**

(1) That the Essex Voluntary and Community Sector Framework be formally signed up to by the District Council.

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Decision:**

(1) That, as agreed by the Leader of the Council and in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, together with paragraphs (6) and (24) of the Council Procedure Rules, the following item of urgent business be considered following publication of the agenda:

(a) Asset Management & Economic Development Cabinet Committee – 21 October 2014.

## **13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CABINET COMMITTEE - 21 OCTOBER 2014**

### **Decision:**

#### Licence Fee for North Weald Market

(1) That the current Licence for North Weald Airfield Market be varied on a temporary basis to eliminate any fixed fee and to receive a 75% profit share from Hughmark Continental Limited;

(2) That a formal review of the variation to the Licence for North Weald Airfield Market be considered by the Cabinet Committee at its meeting scheduled for 23 April 2015;

(3) That, as a condition of the variation, all outstanding arrears be brought up to date;

(4) That 100% of the Rate Reduction applied for at North Weald Airfield Market by Hughmark Continental Limited be paid to the Council; and

(5) That all of the above decisions be backdated to 1 April 2014, this being the beginning of the financial year.

