



DECISIONS

Committee:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 9 March 2015
Date of Publication:	17 March 2014
Call-In Expiry:	23 March 2014

This document lists the decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on Monday, 9 March 2015, 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:

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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

Decision No:

3. MINUTES

Decision:

- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2015 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7. COUNCIL HOUSEBUILDING CABINET COMMITTEE - 18 DECEMBER 2014

Decision:

(1) That the minutes of the meeting of the Council Housebuilding Cabinet Committee, held on 18 December 2014, be noted.

8. REVIEW OF THE HOUSING TENANCY POLICY

Decision:

(1) That, as recommended by the Housing Scrutiny Panel in its report (C-068a-2014/15) and subject to the proposed changes attached at Appendix 2 of the report, Flexible (fixed term) Tenancies be continued with a fixed term of 10 years, including the Introductory Tenancy period;

(2) That the following amendments be made to the Council's Tenancy Policy:

(a) Flexible (fixed-term) Tenancies be extended to all Council properties excluding sheltered accommodation and grouped dwelling schemes;

(b) all existing Post-Act Secure (lifetime) Tenants be granted Secure Tenancies when downsizing Council accommodation (for one move only) and afforded the same protection as all Pre-Localism Act Tenants; and

(c) the following requirement be added under the Assessment Criteria which would apply to all new Flexible (fixed-term) Tenancies granted from the date the revised Tenancy Policy came into force:

(i) a further tenancy (Flexible or Secure) would not generally be granted where, in accordance with the Council's Housing Allocations Scheme (in force on the date the Six Months Notice was served), the Flexible (fixed-term) Tenant, in the opinion of the Council, had sufficient income and/or assets to enable them to meet their housing need themselves;

(3) That, following a consultation exercise, the comments of the Tenants and Leaseholders Federation, partner agencies, Parish and Town Councils and partner Registered Providers be noted, and the Officer responses be agreed, as set out at Appendix 2 of the report;

(4) That the revised Tenancy Policy be adopted and implemented on 1 July 2015; and

(5) That the Tenancy Policy be reviewed again after two years of operation with the reviewed Policy implemented on 1 April 2018.

9. REVISION OF THE HOUSING ALLOCATIONS SCHEME

Decision:

(1) That, as recommended by the Housing Scrutiny Panel in its report (C-069a-2014/15) and subject to the suggested changes at Appendices B and C of the Cabinet report (C-069-2014/15), the revised Housing Allocations Scheme be adopted;

(2) That, following a consultation exercise, the comments of the Tenants and Leaseholders Federation, partner agencies, Parish and Town Councils and partner

Registered Providers be noted, and the suggested resulting changes to the Housing Allocations Scheme as set out at Appendix B of the report be agreed;

(3) That, subsequent to consideration by the Housing Scrutiny Panel, the following two amendments to the Housing Allocations Scheme following the advice received from the external legal advisor be agreed:

(a) the removal of paragraphs 18.13 to 18.15 from the Scheme; and

(b) additional criterion at Band C:

“(vii) all home seekers to whom the Council does not owe a full homelessness duty, where there is a requirement under the Housing Act 1996 as amended to afford reasonable preference on the ground of homelessness.”;

(4) That the revised Housing Allocations Scheme be implemented on 1 July 2015; and

(5) That the Housing Allocations Scheme be reviewed again after two years of operation with the reviewed Scheme implemented on 1 April 2018.

10. HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS AND SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS FUND 2015/16

Decision:

(1) That the latest out-turn forecasts for each of the projects funded by the Housing Improvements and Service Enhancements Fund in 2014/15, provided at Appendix 1 of the report, be noted;

(2) That the associated expenditure for any slippage on individual projects in 2014/15 be carried forward to complete the projects in 2015/16;

(3) That the following be noted:

(a) That the Housing Scrutiny Panel had already recommended to the Cabinet for the cost of increasing the financial incentives for Council tenants downsizing their accommodation be met from the Housing Improvements and Service Enhancements Fund; and

(b) That the Cabinet had already agreed the Fund should meet the costs relating to the Housing Revenue Account of increasing the size of the new Corporate Fraud Team from April 2015, subject to the required General Fund Continuing Services Budget (CSB) bid being agreed;

(4) That the following proposed list of Housing Improvements and Service Enhancements for 2015/16, and the associated recommendations for each project, be approved:

(a) That the Allpay paperless daily direct debit facility be introduced from April 2015 for Council tenants, to replace the present four dates per month cycle;

(b) That the Allpay swipe card payment facility and daily direct debits be introduced from April 2015 for Council leaseholders;

- (c) That a revenue grant of £37,800 be provided to the Epping Forest Citizens Advice Bureau to fund the continuation of the two temporary full-time Debt Advisors for a further 12 months from 1 April 2015;
 - (d) That the non-HRA contribution of grant - amounting to £4,200 - be funded from the grant received as part of the Local Government Grant Settlement 2015/16 specifically for homelessness prevention measures;
 - (e) That an additional temporary part-time (18 hours) Housing Officer post be created for a period of 18 months, to enable the planned expansion of services at the Limes Centre in Chigwell for a pilot period of 12 months; and
 - (f) That a review of the success of the pilot be undertaken by the Housing Scrutiny Panel (or successor body) following 12 months of operation to decide whether the temporary post in (e) above should be made permanent;
- (5) That the amount allocated from the Fund to the Major Capital Projects Reserve be increased in 2015/16 from £200,000 to £384,000 to fund future Housing Capital projects (either in 2015/16 or future years); and
- (6) That, at its meeting in January 2016, the Scrutiny Panel / Select Committee responsible for scrutinising the Housing Service be requested to consider and recommend to the Cabinet the proposed use of the Housing Improvements and Service Enhancements Fund for 2016/17.

11. CORPORATE PLAN 2015-20

Decision:

- (1) That the new Corporate Plan for the period 2015/16 to 2019/20 be agreed;
- (2) That the Key Action Plan for 2015/16 be agreed; and
- (3) That the Corporate Plan 2015-20 and the Key Action Plan 2015/16 be recommended to the Council for adoption.

12. CORPORATE PLAN KEY OBJECTIVES 2014/15 - Q3 PROGRESS REPORT

Decision:

- (1) That the progress in relation to the achievement of the Key Objectives for 2014/15 in the third quarter of the year be noted.

13. SAFEGUARDING AUDIT AND REVISED POLICY & PROCEDURES

Decision:

- (1) That the summary of the findings of the Section 11 and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Audits, as submitted to Essex Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards in January 2015, be noted; and
- (2) That the introduction of the Care Act 2014 (for adults with needs of care and support) with increased duties for local authorities be noted; and
- (3) That the Council's revised Safeguarding Policy and Procedures be adopted.

14. NOMINATION OF SCHEMES FOR NEPP

Decision:

(1) That authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Safer, Greener & Transport to nominate minor parking and waiting restriction schemes for consideration by the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP), subject to the following:

- (a) greater consideration to be given to local factors in addition to the NEPP priority ranking;
- (b) consultation with relevant ward Councillors and Town/Parish Councils and only nominate schemes for which sufficient local support existed; and
- (c) publication of the schemes submitted to NEPP in the Council Bulletin; and

(2) That authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Safer, Greener & Transport to rationalise the existing long list of schemes under the above criteria if approved and following consultation as above.

15. NORTH WEALD BASSETT NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DESIGNATION

Decision:

(1) That the report concerning the designation of a North Weald Bassett Neighbourhood Area be deferred until the next meeting of the Cabinet, scheduled for 13 April 2015.

17. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Decision:

(1) That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the item of business set out below as it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act indicated and the exemption was considered to outweigh the potential public interest in disclosing the information:

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Paragraph Number</u>
19	Epping Forest Shopping Park – Progress Report	3

18. EPPING FOREST SHOPPING PARK - PROGRESS REPORT

Decision:

(1) That the response of Polofind Limited to the Council's initial offer to purchase their interest in the site at Langston Road, Loughton be noted;

(2) That the counter offer from Polofind Limited to purchase the Council's interest in the site be declined;

(3) That Officers be authorised to make a further offer to Polofind Limited to purchase their interest in the site, such offer to be determined on the basis of the latest appraisals and advice from the Council's professional advisors; and

(4) That progress on the Joint Venture documentation, and the need to achieve vacant possession of the Langston Road Depot by 31 March 2016, be noted.

