



Epping Forest District Council

DECISIONS

Committee:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 3 December 2020

Date of Publication:	11 December 2020
Call-In Expiry:	17 December 2020

This document lists the decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on Thursday, 3 December 2020, which require publication in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000. The list specifies those decisions, which are 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:

6. RESPONSE TO CALL-IN ON THE "RELEASE OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS - EPPING FOREST COLLEGE" REPORT

Decision:

That the Cabinet reaffirmed their decision taken at their meeting held on 14 September 2020 on the release of the restrictive covenants for Epping Forest College.

7. PURCHASE OF STREET PROPERTIES

Decision:

- (1) The Cabinet agreed a street purchase programme which would consist of up to 28 properties; and
- (2) Agreed to appoint Metaplan to undertake the purchases on behalf of the council.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING REVIEW OF SERVICE CHARGES

Decision:

- (1) The Cabinet approved the recommendation to increase service charges using an incremental approach. This followed the review regarding the level of service charges across the district and the requirement to introduce a fair and consistent approach to service charges for tenants living in blocks.
- (2) The Cabinet agreed to limit the increase in year 1 to no more than 40% (maximum £3.50 per week) and 70% in year 2.

9. NEW HOUSING MANAGEMENT CHARGES

Decision:

The Cabinet approved the proposed administration fees for carrying out non statutory requests from tenants, leaseholders and homeowners.

10. ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH - DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Decision:

1. The Cabinet approved the progression to full planning and gave approval to commit the capital required (£3,692,023) to build out the proposed scheme. This would form part of phase 5 of the council house building programme; and
2. That Cabinet noted the beginning of Phase 5, which would be funded from the HRA account.

11. COVID 19 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPLIERS / PROCUREMENT STRATEGY AND RULES

Decision:

- (1) The Cabinet agreed the updated Procurement Strategy for 2021 – 26 which supported the Council objectives under Covid-19 Development Projects to become effective from 01 January 2021; and
- (2) Agreed the updated Procurement Rules, that would come into effect from 01 January 2021.

12. COVID 19 - DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - TRAVEL LOCAL DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT (DRT) TRIAL

Decision:

- (1) The Cabinet agreed that continued subsidy payments to Essex County Council for operation of Bus 87 was not sustainable and as agreed by Cabinet on 19 October the outcome of Travel Local initiative of Covid 19 Recovery projects be progressed further;
- (2) The Cabinet agreed allocation of £26,574 from the Sustainable Travel Projects for a three month trial of a Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) bus service to be operated by Epping Forest Community Transport (EFCT) and to include as much of the current Route 87 as was feasible; and
- (3) A further report be presented to Cabinet with the outcomes of the DRT trial and opportunities to extend the DRT service to other parts of the District to improve connectivity.

13. ASBESTOS POLICY

Decision:

(1) The Cabinet agreed that following consultation with the Councils Leadership and Senior Management Teams and Corporate Health and Safety Officers and endorsement by the Tenant and Leaseholder Panel, the Councils Asbestos Policy 2020 be adopted;

(2) The aims of the Policy Statement, to effectively manage all asbestos containing materials in Council owned and managed properties in such a manner as to minimise the risk of any person being exposed to asbestos fibres be approved; and

(3) That, the targets of the Asbestos Management Plan and the Asbestos Register detailed in the Asbestos Policy 2020 be approved.

14. CIVIC ACCOMMODATION AND COMMUNITY HUB

Decision:

(1) Cabinet considered the opportunities for establishing a community hub and were happy with the progress made; and

(2) In the context of establishing a community hub, Cabinet understood the current discussions in relation to partnership working.

15. QUALIS GROUP BUSINESS PLAN

Decision:

The Cabinet recommend that Council agree the one year Qualis Business Plan.

17. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Decision:

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 items of business set out below as they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs 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	Strategic Options for Waste Management	3

18. STRATEGIC OPTIONS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

Decision:

(1) The Cabinet noted that the Councils current street cleansing and waste and recycling collections contract with Biffa Municipal Limited which started in November 2014 was working very well delivering significant financial and operational benefits and that there was an option to extend the contract by another 10 years in November 2024 subject to both parties agreeing;

(2) The Cabinet noted the high-level desk top review of the current street cleansing and waste and recycling collections contract with Biffa by Ricardo Energy & Environment Limited;

(3) The Cabinet agreed that in light of the initial findings of the high-level review and to seek best outcomes for our residents the following strategy be adopted to enable a decision on next steps at the end of the first 10 years of the Biffa contract:

a) Carry out a more detailed performance assessment of the current Biffa contract and consider the suite of service delivery options available to the Council.

b) Identify and explore financial and operational risks in the current Biffa contract including contract price indexation, decreasing income from sale of recycling materials, risk share of recycling prices, material processing fees, lack of Council owned depot, procurement options including the ability to offer Biffa an extension.

c) Explore opportunities and alternative delivery models like bringing the service back in house or delivering through a subsidiary company as well as service improvement and innovation, assessment of waste and recycling depot as a strategic asset and opportunities it may offer for synergies with other operational services. And to

d) Commence negotiations with Biffa and assess their willingness for an extension

(3) The Cabinet agreed to engage Ricardo Energy & Environment Limited to carry out the next phase of detailed assessment and analysis work in accordance with section 2.7 (a) of the Procurement Rules; and

(4) The Cabinet agreed to allocate £25,000 from the Sustainable Travel Projects to enable this assessment work and to report back to Cabinet on the findings.

