



DECISIONS

Committee:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 10 July 2006

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Call-In Expiry:	24 July 2006

This document lists the decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet held on Monday, 10 July 2006, 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. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

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

Gary Woodhall (Research and Democratic Services)
Email: gwoodhall@eppingforestdc.gov.uk Tel:01992 564470.

Call –in procedure

If you wish to call-in any of the decisions taken at this meeting you should complete the call-in form and return it to the proper officer 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

Agenda item:

4. COTTIS LANE CAR PARK REFURBISHMENT

Decision:

That, for the Civil Engineering works associated with the refurbishment of Cottis Lane Car Park in Epping, the tender received from Wedge Contracts in the sum of £55,425 be accepted.

**5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (AMENDMENTS)
REGULATIONS 2006**

Decision:

(1) That the new Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2006 be noted and a further report be submitted when guidance on the new regulations have been issued;

(2) That the deletion of regulation 15 from the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 ('the Principal Regulations') be noted and that with effect from 6 April 2006 employers will no longer be able to waive or reduce the contributions of employees who have completed 40 years service; and

(3) That the Council exercises its discretion available under the regulations whereby partially waived superannuation contributions be sought retrospectively for all reckonable service prior to 6 April 2006.

6. ALTERNATE WEEKLY REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Decision:

(1) That, in respect of the alternate weekly collection of residual waste, a detailed report be submitted to Council on 25 July 2006; and

(2) That, as this issue was a key decision and had not been previously published in the Council's Forward Plan, the Head of Research and Democratic Services be authorised to invoke Rule (16) of the Access to Information Rules within the Council's Constitution.

7. CHARGES FOR COPYING DOCUMENTS IN PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL

Decision:

(1) That, with effect from 1 September 2006, the charge for copying documents in Planning and Building Control be reduced to no more than 10 pence per A4 sheet; and

(2) That a threshold of £5.00, below which document requests will not be charged for, be agreed.

8. PLANNING SERVICES PERFORMANCE ISSUES AND PROGRESS REPORT

Decision:

(1) That the progress made with the restructure of Planning Services be noted;

(2) That, with effect from 1 September 2006, the post holder in post PBC17 (part-time) be made redundant at a cost of £1345;

(3) That, rather than the current four days per week, post PPE22 be made full time at a cost of £5,000.00 per annum; and

(4) That the positive impact of the hit squad to date be noted.

9. ADDITIONAL PROVISION OF STAFF FOR MATERNITY LEAVE COVER

Decision:

(1) That, in order to maintain acceptable levels of service whilst staff are on maternity leave, a supplementary DDF estimate for 2006/07 in the sum of £40,000 be recommended to the Council for approval; and

(2) That a DDF growth bid for 2007/08 in the sum of £40,000 be made.

10. COMPULSORY PURCHASE - 8/8A SUN STREET, WALTHAM ABBEY

Decision:

(1) That, subject to the Council being unable to negotiate an agreed purchase of 8/8A Sun Street, Waltham Abbey by 31 July 2006, approval be given to its compulsory purchase pursuant to Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;

(2) That, in approving the Compulsory Purchase Order, the Council be satisfied that it will develop or improve the land, and such development or improvement be likely to contribute to:

(a) the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being of the area;

(b) the promotion or improvement of the social well-being of the area; and

(c) the promotion or improvement of the environmental well-being of the area;

(3) That, in approving the Compulsory Purchase Order, the Council has had regard to:

(a) the provisions of the development plan, so far as is material;

(b) whether planning permission for any development of the land is in force; and

(c) any other considerations which would be material for the purpose of determining an application for planning permission for development on the land;

(4) That, in order to fund the Compulsory Purchase Order, a supplementary capital estimate for 2006/07 in the sum of £377,500 be recommended to the Council for approval; and

(5) That a final estimated cost in the sum of £27,500 be noted.

11. HOUSING ACT 2004 - MANDATORY LICENSING OF HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Decision:

(1) That the policy for the licensing of houses in multiple occupation be approved;

(2) That the fees for 2006/07 be as follows:

(a) basic fee (5 units) £550; and

- (b) units above 5 units £50 per additional unit;
- (3) That, as they relate to the licensing of houses in multiple occupation, the Constitution be amended to include the relevant sections of the Housing Act 2004 into the areas of responsibility for the Licensing Committee;
- (4) That officers be granted delegated authority to issue licences in accordance with the policy;
- (5) That an inspection and assessment regime be introduced;
- (6) That the establishment be increased by one full time equivalent Environmental Health Practitioner from 1 September 2006;
- (7) That, in order to enable the above appointment, a supplementary CSB estimate for 2006/07 in the sum of £19,000 be recommended to the Council for approval; and
- (8) That, in order to continue with the above appointment, a CSB growth bid for 2007/08 in the sum of £19,000 be made.

12. COUNCIL PLAN 2006-10

Decision:

- (1) That, in respect of responses received to the consultation on the draft Council Plan for 2006-10, the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny committee be accepted;
- (2) That the addition of a Data Quality statement by the Head of Human Resources and Performance Management be agreed; and
- (3) That, subject to the changes agreed above, the draft Council Plan for 2006-10 be recommended to the Council for approval.

13. BUILDING CONTROL FEES AND CHARGES

Decision:

- (1) That, in pursuance of the Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 1998, the proposed Scheme of Charges for 2006/07 be adopted;
- (2) That the Charges be introduced with effect from 31 July 2006; and
- (3) That, as required by the Charges Regulations, the Head of Planning Services be authorised to advertise the introduction of the new Scheme of Charges.

14. CUSTOMER SERVICES TRANSFORMATION PLAN - PROGRAMME PLAN

Decision:

- (1) That, subject to consideration of the staffing structure, the Programme

Plan for the implementation of a Customer Services Transformation Programme be approved;

(2) That the budgetary implications of the Customer Services Transformation Programme be approved;

(3) That a CSB supplementary estimate for 2006/07 in the sum of £150,000 be recommended to the Council for approval;

(4) That a DDF supplementary estimate for 2006/07 in the sum of £362,000 be recommended to the Council for approval;

(5) That the prior agreement of the capital element as part of the Capital Programme for 2006/07 be noted;

(6) That the Customer Services, Media, Communications and ICT Portfolio Holder be authorised to:

(a) take responsibility for the implementation of the Customer Service Transformation Programme within the agreed budget and policy framework; and

(b) provide formal progress reports to the Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee at quarterly intervals or as required; and

(7) That the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be fully considered by the Project Board for the Customer Services Transformation Programme prior to the submission of a further report to the Council.

15. HOUSING TREE MAINTENANCE BUDGET

Decision:

(1) That, in order to clear the backlog of major tree work on Housing Revenue Account land, a supplementary estimate for 2006/07 in the sum of £42,000, to be funded from the Housing Revenue Account balances, be recommended to the Council for approval; and

(2) That the annual budget for major tree maintenance work on Housing Revenue Account land be increased by £15,000 from 2007/08, to be funded from Housing Revenue Account balances.

16. PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT 2006-07

Decision:

(1) That the allocation of the Planning Delivery Grant 2006/07 be made as follows:

(a) Capital expenditure of £33,000 comprising:

(i) £13,000 on a Countrycare replacement vehicle; and

(ii) £20,000 on Accommodation; and

- (b) Revenue expenditure of £95,851 comprising:
 - (i) £41,000 on the completion of scanning works;
 - (ii) £15,000 on training of the Development Control hit squad; and
 - (iii) the remaining £39,851 on Forward Planning staff; and

(2) That, notwithstanding the normal rules for variations of budgets, the Head of Planning and Economic Development be authorised to make variations of plus or minus 10% for any of the items listed above.

17. CONTAMINATED LAND

Decision:

(1) That, as initially agreed in 2001, the Council's Contaminated Land Strategy be given continued support; and

(2) That, in the interests of residents, the list of potentially contaminated sites be kept confidential.

18. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2005-06 AND 2006-07

Decision:

(1) That the Council's performance in relation to its Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) and Local Performance Indicators (LPI) for 2005/06 be noted;

(2) That the deletion of BVPI 157 (Electronic Transactions) and BVPI 179 (Standard Searches) for 2006/07 by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) be noted;

(3) That, with regard to the Council's Key Performance Indicators, the following recommendations for the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel be approved:

(a) that BVPI 64 (Vacant Dwellings Returned to Occupation or Demolished) be deleted as a Key Performance Indicator from 2006/07 and, as a result of the deletion of BVPI 157 by the ODPM, the remaining thirty-eight performance indicators adopted as Key Performance Indicators in 2005/06 be readopted for 2006/07;

(b) that the new Local Performance Indicator CEM 1 – Car Parking – be adopted as an additional Key Performance Indicator from 2006/07:

(i) CEM 1(a) The number of Penalty Charge Notices issued during the year in relation to on-street parking;

(ii) CEM 1(b) The number of Penalty Charge Notices issued during the year in relation to off-street parking;

(iii) CEM 1(c) The number of Penalty charge Notices issued during the year that were subject to an informal challenge;

(iv) CEM 1(d) The number of Penalty Charge Notices issued during the year that were the subject of a formal challenge to the Head of Environmental Services;

(v) CEM 1(e) The number of Penalty Charge Notices issued during the year that were the subject of a formal challenge to the National Parking Adjudication Service;

(vi) CEM 1(f) The percentage of challenges allowed against the issue of a Penalty Charge Notice during the year;

(vii) CEM 1(g) The percentage of Penalty Charge Notices issued during the year where collection was obtained; and

(c) that a target be set for 50% of the Key Performance Indicators to achieve top-quartile status in 2006/07; and

(4) That, for use in the analysis of service performance as part of the second round of District Council Comprehensive Performance Assessments, the following Best Value Performance Indicators currently proposed by the Audit Commission be adopted as additional Key Performance Indicators for 2006/07:

(a) BVPI 84 Kilograms of household waste collected per head;

(b) BVPI 91(a) Percentage of households served by kerbside collection of recyclables;

(c) BVPI 166(a) Performance against environmental health service checklist;

(d) BVPI 175 racial incidents resulting in further action;

(e) BVPI 183(b) Average length of stay (weeks) in hostel accommodation of households that are unintentionally homeless and in priority need;

(f) BVPI 184(b) Percentage change in the proportion of non-decent Council dwellings between the start and end of the year; and

(g) BVPI 212 Average number of days to re-let Council dwellings; and

(5) That all indicators to be adopted as Key Performance Indicators for 2006/07 be agreed.

19. BROADWAY TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT - GARAGES IN VERE ROAD

Decision:

That, following consideration of the views of the Broadway Focus Group, the garages in Vere Road be retained and refurbished using the monies allocated for demolition.

