



DECISIONS

Committee:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 1 September 2008

Date of Publication:	9 September 2008
Call-In Expiry:	15 September 2008

This document lists the decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on Monday, 1 September 2008, 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 Council for..." are not eligible for call-in. The wording used will 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 any 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 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:

8. FREE SWIMMING FOR THE OVER-60S AND UNDER-16S

Decision:

- (1) That the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's initiative to provide free swimming to those over the age of 60 be participated in by the Council;
- (2) That a risk adverse approach be adopted by the Council in respect of funding this initiative, with the acceptance that there could be a possible cost to the Council, following detailed negotiations with Sports & Leisure Management Ltd, over and above the allocated Government grant in the sum of £38,950;

(3) That the continuation of the scheme be reviewed in 2011 when the proposed Government funding expires; and

(4) That, subject to an assessment of the grant available and financial risk to the Council, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport be informed of the Council's interest in providing free swimming to those under the age of 16.

9. NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD STRATEGY CABINET COMMITTEE - 28 JULY 2008

Decision:

North Weald Airfield – Future Options

(1) That, in order to proceed with further strategic feasibility work, a scoping report and brief be developed to examine the intensification of aviation use with limited business or other uses including leisure as required to make it economically viable, and expressions of interest be sought from suitably qualified consultants to undertake the work; and

(2) That, in order to cover the costs of undertaking any such study, a suitable District Development Fund supplementary estimate be recommended to the Council for approval;

North Weald Airfield – Extensions of Existing Leases and Licences

(3) That, for those tenants with leases without security of tenure on renewal at North Weald Airfield which are largely due to terminate in 2010, new ten-year leases be offered with five years guaranteed and annual landlord break clauses only thereafter, and such a lease to ensure no future guaranteed tenure under the relevant Landlord and Tenants Act; and

North Weald Airfield – Contact with Interested Parties/Developers

(4) That, with respect to contact with interested parties and developers, the Council's current policy be continued until such time as it may be amended to reflect changed circumstances.

10. FINANCE & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT CABINET COMMITTEE - 12 AUGUST 2008

Decision:

Value for Money Review – July 2008

(1) That the Value for Money review undertaken by the Use of Resources Working Party be noted;

(2) That the findings of the review be highlighted to the Audit Commission when they undertake an assessment of the Council's Value for Money as part of the Use of Resources assessment;

(3) That the Audit Commission's attention be also drawn to:

(a) the Council's serious concerns about the accuracy and reliability of the data used in the Audit Commission's comparisons;

(b) the fact that not all local authorities had allocated their costs in full;

and

(c) the review's recommendation that submitted cost data be audited by the Audit Commission in a similar fashion as submitted performance data is audited; and

(4) That a detailed Value for Money Strategy be developed, focusing upon the following elements:

(a) seeking further efficiency gains;

(b) reducing service costs where practicable but acknowledging there is no imperative need to reduce overall expenditure on services; and

(c) re-investing savings, in a targeted fashion, to further improve performance.

Use of Resources Assessment 2007/08 – Self-Assessment Submissions and Value for Money Review

(5) That the draft self-assessment submission for the 2007/08 Use of Resources assessment be adopted;

(6) That the draft Value for Money self-assessment submission for the Use of Resources assessment for 2007/08 be adopted; and

(7) That, subsequent to their adoption by the Cabinet and prior to their submission to the Council's external auditors, the Chief Executive be authorised to amend the draft self-assessments to incorporate any additional details in relation to the Council's performance as necessary.

11. FORMATION OF A REPAIRS MANAGEMENT CONTRACT ADVISORY GROUP

Decision:

(1) That a Repairs Management Contract Advisory Group be formed, prior to the introduction of the proposed Housing Repairs Management Contract, for the duration of the proposed contract;

(2) That the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group be:

(a) to provide advice and feedback to officers and the Housing Portfolio Holder on the proposed specification for the Repairs Management Contract;

(b) to interview short-listed companies and recommend to the Housing Portfolio Holder which company should be appointed; and

(c) to meet periodically (at least quarterly) to monitor the performance of the repairs management contractor and the repairs service generally; and

(3) That the Advisory Group be comprised of:

(a) the Housing Portfolio Holder (as Chairman);

(b) the Finance & Performance Management Portfolio Holder;

(c) the Chairman of the Housing Scrutiny Panel;

- (d) the Vice-Chairman of the Housing Scrutiny Panel;
- (e) the Director of Housing;
- (f) the Assistant Director of Housing (Property); and
- (g) two representatives of the Tenants & Leaseholders Federation.

12. DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS - APPLICATION OF ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

Decision:

(1) That recipients of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) in excess of £12,000, be required to repay a proportion of the grant on the subsequent sale of the property, provided they:

(a) would not suffer financial hardship if they were required to make the repayment;

(b) were not selling the property to take up employment or to change the location of their employment;

(c) were not selling the property for reasons associated with their health or well-being or that of a disabled occupant of the premises; or

(d) were not selling the property so that they can move to provide care for or have care provided for them by another person;

(2) That the Director of Housing be given delegated authority to determine whether any of conditions in (1a) to (1d) are met;

(3) That the amount repaid be:

(a) the full cost of the work in excess of £12,000 (subject to a maximum of £10,000) if the property is sold within the first five years following the date of completion of the work; or

(b) 50% of this amount if the property is sold between five and ten years following the date of completion of the work;

(4) That, for all DFGs in excess of £12,000, a charge be placed on the Local Land Charges Register;

(5) That these conditions be imposed for all DFGs for which a formal application is received from 1 January 2009 inclusive; and

(6) That the situation be reviewed twelve months following its implementation to assess whether or not these conditions had been a disincentive to applicants for DFGs.

13. STANSTED AIRPORT GENERATION 2 PROPOSALS - SECOND RUNWAY & OTHER RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Decision:

(1) That the planning applications submitted by the British Airports

Authority to Uttlesford District Council in respect of a second runway at Stansted Airport be objected to by this Council on the following grounds:

(a) urbanisation pressures, traffic generation and air noise would, in the long term, seriously damage the quality of life and the predominantly rural/small town character of the surrounding area, including the northern parts of this District;

(b) insufficient arrangements had been made for infrastructure and its timely provision; and

(c) the project was inconsistent with the Government's carbon reduction targets; and

(2) That the recommendations of the Sustainable Development Commission and the Institute for Public Policy Research calling for an independent review of the Air Transport White Paper (ATWP) 2003 be supported.

14. LOUGHTON LEISURE CENTRE MAINTENANCE WORK

Decision:

That a Capital Estimate from the General Contingency fund in the sum of £46,000 be allocated for the undertaking of works at the Loughton Leisure Centre.

15. SPRINGFIELDS IMPROVEMENT SCHEME - Q2 PROGRESS REPORT 2008/09

Decision:

That the current progress of the Springfields Improvement Scheme, including an anticipated £164,000 saving against the agreed budget, be noted.

16. DIGITAL UPGRADING OF COMMUNAL TV AERIAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS - ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS

Decision:

(1) That the tender submitted by SCC International Ltd (Switchsure) for the Digital Upgrading of Communal TV Aerial Distribution Systems be accepted as the lowest received in the corrected sum of £111,072.50 for the first-year of a three-year contract, estimated at £236,000 in total;

(2) That the contract be designated as a serial contract under Contract Standing Order C11 to facilitate the annual increase in the schedule of rates in accordance with the building cost indices maintained by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; and

(3) That a fully Integrated Reception System (IRS), allowing residents access to all digital and satellite stations (subject to individual subscriptions where applicable) be installed rather than a 'Freeview' only system as previously agreed by the Cabinet in April 2005.

17. ENERGY PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES - SOCIAL RENTED DWELLINGS

Decision:

(1) That the requirement to undertake Energy Performance Certificates for all void properties and Right To Buy applications, and Display Energy Certificates in all buildings where there is public access, as part of a Government initiative to improve energy efficiency be noted; and

(2) That, in order to meet this new requirement (for which no resources have been made available by the Government), one new Voids Officer post for a fixed three-year maximum term be created in the Housing Repairs Section at Grade 5 (Subject to Job Evaluation) to assist with these additional duties;

(3) That a review be undertaken after twelve months of the post being filled to ascertain the extent of the work involved to perform these additional duties and reported to the Cabinet; and

(4) That the existing Voids Officer posts be re-evaluated under the Job Maintenance procedure in order to assist with these additional duties.

18. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - ANNUAL REPORT & PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS OUTTURN 2007/08

Decision:

(1) That the 2007/08 outturn for Prudential Indicators be approved; and

(2) That the Treasury Management Stewardship Report for 2007/08 be noted.

19. REVIEW OF EPPING FOREST CARELINE

Decision:

(1) That, in accordance with option three in the report, the local provision of the Careline Service be continued by the Council;

(2) That detailed consideration be given in the future to the following enhancements:

(a) exploring the potential to monitor alarms for other authorities and housing associations;

(b) extending the routine repairs reporting service for tenants from 5pm to 8pm on each working day;

(c) periodically monitoring existing Council-owned Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems through website access following the appointment of the new CCTV Co-ordinator and formulation of a Corporate CCTV Policy; and

(d) monitoring the whereabouts of the Council's lone workers on a 24-hour basis; and

(3) That the Careline premises be extended into the ground floor of the vacant adjacent former Scheme Manager's accommodation and that the first floor be converted into a one-bedroom flat and incorporated into the Council's sheltered housing scheme at Parsonage Court, Loughton, funded from the

Miscellaneous Structures budget within the existing Housing Capital Programme.

20. ADOPTION OF THE ESSEX JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE STRATEGY

Decision:

That the Essex Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy be recommended to the Council for adoption.

21. BOBBINGWORTH TIP - PROGRESS REPORT

Decision:

(1) That, in order to enable the completion of the scheme to the original enhanced level including additional security, a supplementary capital estimate in the sum of £112,000 be recommended to the Council for approval; and

(2) That, as required under an earlier Cabinet resolution, the submission of a report on the membership and scope of a working group for the on-going management of the site be delayed until the end of construction phase of the project.

22. GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE - PROCUREMENT BUDGET

Decision:

(1) That the projected costs associated with the procurement of sacks for the garden waste collection service be noted; and

(2) That, subject to a further report, a supplementary estimate may be required later in the year.

23. THE BOROUGH LORRY PARK, HIGH ROAD, ONGAR - TERMINATION OF LEASE

Decision:

That the Director of Corporate Support Services be authorised to terminate the lease granted by Essex County Council to the District Council in respect of the Borough Lorry Park, High Road, Ongar.

24. CHURCH HILL CAR PARK, LOUGHTON - RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT LAND SALE

Decision:

(1) That, due to current conditions in the residential development land market, the marketing of the former car park at Church Hill, Loughton be postponed pending an improvement in market conditions; and

(2) The Director of Corporate Support Services be authorised to review the position on a quarterly basis with the Corporate Support and ICT Services Portfolio Holder and to proceed with a marketing exercise when appropriate.

25. PARKMAP - PROCUREMENT OF SOFTWARE AND ASSOCIATED MAINTENANCE PACKAGE

Decision:

- (1) That the procurement of the updated "ParkMap" software and maintenance package utilising savings arising from 2008/09 budgets be agreed; and
- (2) That the on-going costs from 2009/10 onwards be met through the annual review of parking tariffs.

26. LOUGHTON BROADWAY DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN BRIEF

Decision:

- (1) That the public consultation activities conducted in the period 23 June to 18 July 2008 and the outputs from this process be noted;
- (2) That the addendum report produced by Urban Practitioners be noted;
- (3) That, following the assimilation of the addendum report and analysis of the consultation responses, the twelve recommended changes to the Development and Design Brief suggested by Urban Practitioners be agreed; and
- (4) That the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder be authorised to confirm the integration of the agreed changes into the Brief and to present the final Brief to the Council on 25 September 2008.

27. DEPOT FACILITIES & FLEET OPERATIONS

Decision:

- (1) That, in accordance with the Corporate Objectives for 2008/09, the outcome of a strategic review of the Council's depot facilities be awaited before implementing the previous in principle decision to close the Fleet Operations, subject to recommendation (2) below.
- (2) That a detailed report on the current financial situation of Fleet Operations be submitted to Cabinet in advance of the report dealing with the strategic review of the depots.

28. OFF STREET PARKING PROGRAMME

Decision:

- (1) That the following recommendations of the Housing Scrutiny Panel be agreed:
 - (a) that the maximum permitted amount of grass verge to be removed in order to construct a vehicular crossover to allow residents to park their vehicles in their front garden be increased from 6 metres to 12 metres; and
 - (b) that the additional £300,000 available in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme from 2009/10 be made available to fund further off-street parking schemes and match funded from the General Fund;
- (2) That, for any proposed crossover in excess of 6 metres, a consultation exercise involving local residents and ward members be undertaken prior to approval and construction;

(3) That, as listed in table 1 at Appendix 1 of the report, the results of the feasibility study for the following off-street parking schemes be noted:

- (a) Chester Road, Loughton;
- (b) Colebrook Gardens, Loughton;
- (c) Harvey Gardens, Loughton;
- (d) Audley Gardens, Loughton;
- (e) Hillcroft, Loughton; and
- (f) School Lane, Abbess Roding;

(4) That each of the off-street parking schemes listed above be progressed to the detailed design stage and tenders be sought in accordance with Contract Standing Orders with the outcome of the tender exercise being reported to the Housing Portfolio Holder for approval at a future date; and

(5) That, as set out in table 2 at Appendix 2 of the report, the current ranking for all other off-street parking schemes be noted.

29. CAR AND CYCLE ALLOWANCE POLICY

Decision:

That, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report and commended by the Joint Consultative Committee, the Car and Cycle Allowance Policy be adopted by the Council.

30. CYCLE TO WORK POLICY

Decision:

That, as commended by the Joint Consultative Committee, the Cycle to Work Scheme be adopted by the Council.

