



DECISIONS

Committee:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 13 July 2009

Date of Publication:	21 July 2009
Call-In Expiry:	27 July 2009

This document lists the decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on Monday, 13 July 2009, 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 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 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

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:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2009 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

8. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2007

Decision:

- (1) That the motion passed by Council at its meeting on 30 June 2009 regarding the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 be noted; and
- (2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider the possible development proposals for submission to the Government in 2010 under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007.

9. FINANCE & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT CABINET COMMITTEE - 15 JUNE 2009

Decision:

Risk Management – Updated Corporate Risk Register

- (1) That the updating of the Corporate Risk Register for the new Executive Priorities be noted;
- (2) That an extra risk in respect of the provision of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers within the District be examined and scored for consideration at the next meeting of the Cabinet Committee;
- (3) That the tolerance line on the risk matrix be considered satisfactory and not be amended; and
- (4) That the Corporate Risk Register be approved;

Procurement Strategy 2009-12

- (5) That the updated Procurement Strategy for 2009-12 be approved;

Provisional Revenue Outturn 2008/09

- (6) That the 2008/09 Revenue Outturns for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account be noted; and
- (7) That the carry forward of £280,000 of District Development Fund expenditure be approved; and

Provisional Capital Outturn 2008/09

- (8) That the Capital Outturn for 2008/09 be noted;
- (9) That, as previously identified by the Cabinet Committee, the under and over spends for capital schemes in 2008/09 be retrospectively approved;
- (10) That the net carry forward of unspent capital estimates from 2008/09 to 2009/10 relating to schemes on which slippage had occurred be approved in the sum of:

- (a) £911,000 for the General Fund; and
- (b) £1.534million for the Housing Revenue Account; and
- (11) That the funding of the Capital Programme for 2008/09 be retrospectively approved.

10. HOUSING TREE MAINTENANCE BUDGET

Decision:

That, in order to complete the major tree work and shrub maintenance project on Housing-owned land at Ninefields in Waltham Abbey, a supplementary estimate for 2009/10 in the sum of £38,000, to be funded from Housing Revenue Account balances, be recommended to the Council for approval.

11. REVIEW OF OLDER PEOPLES' SERVICES

Decision:

- (1) That an additional full-time post of a Senior Scheme Manager in the Housing Directorate be agreed from 1 September 2009, funded from the Housing Revenue Account and rated at Grade 5 subject to Job Evaluation; and
- (2) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in due course to consider additional staffing implications for monitoring alarms for an external provider, should the Council be invited to submit a tender and prior to the Council entering into any contract.

12. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPOSSESSION PREVENTION FUND

Decision:

- (1) That the £7,500 "Recession Busting" grant received from the Department of Communities and Local Government be passed to the Epping Forest Housing Aid Scheme in order to assist more applicants to whom the Council owes a full homelessness duty with rental guarantees which would enable them to secure accommodation in the private rented sector;
- (2) That the maximum amount underwritten by the Council in respect of rent guarantees issued by the Epping Forest Housing Aid Scheme (EFHAS) to private landlords be increased from £40,000 to £60,000; and
- (3) That the £47,500 received from the Department of Communities and Local Government's Preventing Repossessions Fund, to enable the Council to grant small loans in accordance with Government guidance to applicants who were threatened with losing their home and to whom the Council would otherwise owe a full duty under homelessness legislation, be noted.

13. FORESTER CONSULTATION & LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Decision:

- (1) That, as set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report on 2 June, the completion of the Forester public consultation exercise be noted;
- (2) That the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be agreed, including:
 - (a) retention of the current A4 colour magazine format;
 - (b) greater use of imagery;
 - (c) shorter and more concise articles;
 - (d) retention of community news and features; and
 - (e) better front cover design;
- (3) That Officer discussions with Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership to explore options for the use of the Forester in enhancing public awareness of the work of the Partnership be authorised; and
- (4) That a review of these recommendations be undertaken after one year.

14. PROVISION OF SPORTS HALL - WALTHAM ABBEY SWIMMING POOL

Decision:

- (1) That the endorsement of the recommendations of the Leisure Task & Finish Panel by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- (2) That the proposal to build a Sports Hall at Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool be progressed to the pre-planning application stage at an estimated cost of £41,000;
- (3) That Contract Standing Orders be set aside to enable the appointment of Stace to undertake this work;
- (4) That a supplementary capital estimate in the sum of £41,000 be recommended to the Council for approval;
- (5) That negotiations be commenced with the Council's leisure service providers, Sports Leisure Management Limited, in respect of:
 - (a) Sports Leisure Management Limited being the delivery agent for the proposed new Sports Hall at Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool; and
 - (b) the taking up of the optional 3 year contract extension period

from January 2013

(6) That, irrespective of the outcome of recommendation (5), the project be progressed only if the use of Capital resources and additional management fees had no subsequent adverse impact upon the Continuing Services Budget (i.e. were cost neutral); and

(7) That the indicative time frame for the project be noted, and in particular the time period between the cessation of the Joint Use Agreement with the Governors of King Harold School in January 2010 and the earliest likely date of opening of any new facility in the Summer of 2011.

15. RESTRUCTURE OF THE BENEFITS DIVISION

Decision:

(1) That the award of additional grant funding for Benefits Administration in the sum of £109,895 and the allocation of this funding to meet additional staffing costs be noted;

(2) That the vacant Customer Services Officer post (FBE/20) be deleted from the establishment;

(3) That the new Benefit Officer and Benefit Assistant posts be created as three-year fixed term posts, funded initially from additional grants and then a District Development Fund growth bid, subject to an update report in 18 months;

(4) That a new permanent post of System Administration Officer be created:

(a) funded from additional grant funding in 2009/10; and

(b) a Continuing Services Budget growth bid in the sum of £4,160 be made for 2010/11;

(5) That the establishment of the Benefits Division be accepted as outlined in the report and existing job titles be amended accordingly; and

(6) That the workload and establishment of the Benefits Division be subject to a further review in 18 months.

16. CONSIDERATION OF A RENT DEFERMENT SCHEME FOR THE SHOPS IN LOUGHTON BROADWAY

Decision:

(1) That no rent deferral scheme be undertaken at the current time for Council tenants in the shops at Loughton Broadway, due to the potential risk for loss of income to the Council and such a scheme would not necessarily be the best solution for tenants to alleviate cash flow difficulties; and

(2) That every possible help be extended to tenants of the Council's commercial and industrial properties by the Estates section during the current economic downturn, including the facility to make weekly or monthly rent payments.

17. EXTERNAL REVIEW OF THE ESTATES AND VALUATION SERVICE

Decision:

(1) That, following consideration of the external review, the conclusion of the report by CIPFA consulting whereby best value would be achieved by keeping the Estates and Valuation Service in house be accepted and agreed, subject to no increase in the current establishment costs;

(2) That the filling of the vacant post of Principal Valuer and Estate Surveyor (post CEV/01) be approved; and

(3) That the filling of the vacant post of Valuer and Estates Surveyor (part time 21.6 hours per week - Post CEV/03) by the appointment of a full time graduate trainee be approved, subject to there being no increase in the salary costs for the post.

18. 1 CARTERSFIELD ROAD, WALTHAM ABBEY

Decision:

(1) That, as recommended by the Council's agents Bidwells, Landlord's consent for change of use from light industrial to retail be granted to enable the development of a Lidl supermarket at 1 Cartersfield Road in Waltham Abbey on the following terms:

(a) an increase in the annual rent from £14,000 to £31,500 per annum; and

(b) the lessees making a premium payment in the sum of £175,000 to the Council;

(2) That, in view of the time constraints relating to the contract between the lessee and Lidl, the Chairman of the Council be requested to waive the call-in arrangements for this decision; and

(3) That authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate Support Services to agree any potential revised wording of the lease following negotiations with the interested parties.

