



Epping Forest District Council

DECISIONS

Committee:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 11 March 2013

Date of Publication:	15 March 2013
Call-In Expiry:	21 March 2013

This document lists the decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on Monday, 11 March 2013, 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:

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:

- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2013 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7. HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS & SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

Decision:

(1) That, in future, the budget for housing improvements and service enhancements be operated as a Housing Improvements and Service Enhancements Fund with:

(a) The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) contributing an agreed amount to the Fund each year, based on the estimated surplus available through the HRA Financial Plan;

(b) The Cabinet agreeing the amount to be contributed to the Fund each year for housing improvements/service enhancements; and

(c) Any underspends or overspends on the Fund at the end of the year being carried forward within the Fund to the following year;

(2) That the progress and latest outturn forecasts for each of the housing improvement and service enhancement projects agreed for 2012/13, provided at Appendix 1 of the report, be noted;

(3) That the associated expenditure for any further slippages on individual projects in 2012/13 be carried forward to complete the projects in 2013/14;

(4) That the following list of housing improvements and service enhancements for 2013/14 and associated recommendations for each project (as set-out in detail at Appendix 2 of the report), be approved:

(a) That a full time Senior Cleaner post be created from 1 April 2013, at a cost (subject to job evaluation) of approximately £16,500 per annum, including on-costs;

(b) That the sheltered housing budget be increased by £14,000 for 2013/14 and £10,000 per annum for the following two years, to fund a replacement programme to renew the lounge chairs at the Council's sheltered housing schemes;

(c) That a further In-Year Housing Improvements and Enhancements Fund of £50,000 per annum be set aside and used to undertake small additional housing improvements and enhancements identified during the course of the next three years by members and officers that benefit tenants;

(d) That the Director of Housing be authorised to determine the use of the In-Year Fund for such housing improvements and enhancements, subject to any individual projects above £10,000 being authorised by Housing Portfolio Holder;

(e) That a Major Capital Housing Projects Reserve be established, funded from the Housing Improvements and Service Enhancements Fund, to enable resources to be accumulated and available when required for major capital housing projects;

(f) That the following resources be allocated to the Reserve, initially, over the following three years:

- 2013/14 - £330,000;
- 2014/15 - £850,000; and

- 2015/16 - £850,000;

(g) That the use of the Reserve for major schemes must have the approval of the Housing Portfolio Holder, and that delegated authority be given to the Housing Portfolio Holder accordingly; and

(h) That, subject to the Cabinet agreeing the principle at its meeting on 4 February 2013 and the new Council Housebuilding Cabinet Committee approving the final proposed scheme and costings, the first call on the Major Capital Housing Projects Reserve be to fund the proposed Conversion Scheme at Marden Close, Chigwell Row; and

(5) That, at its meeting in January 2014, the Housing Scrutiny Panel be asked to consider and recommend to the Cabinet the proposed use of the Housing Improvements and Service Enhancements Fund for 2014/15.

8. CORPORATE PLAN 2011-15 - KEY OBJECTIVES 2013/14

Decision:

(1) That, after incorporating the changes requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the following further amendments be made to the Council's Key Objectives for 2013/14:

(a) consideration of the report by Drivers Jonas Deloitte reviewing the future of North Weald Airfield by 10 June 2013, not 22 July 2013; and

(b) the Nursery Service to be relocated from the Pyrles Lane site by 31 December 2014, not 31 March 2014;

(2) That the revised proposed key objectives for 2013/14 be recommended to the Council for adoption; and

(3) That progress against the actions to achieve the Key Objectives for 2013/14 be reported to the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis.

9. EXTENDING THE RANGE OF PRE-PLANNING APPLICATION CHARGING

Decision:

(1) That the current pre-application charging regime be expanded to include advice on Minor type applications; and

(2) That, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, the approach taken and fees levied by other Councils be noted;

(3) That the following levels of fees for pre-application advice be agreed:

(a) Major Developments (creation of 100 or more new residential units, creation of commercial development or changes of use of 10,000 square metres or more) be charged £3,000 plus VAT;

(b) Major Developments (creation of 10 to 99 new residential units, creation of commercial development or changes of use between 1,000-9,999 square metres) be charged £1,500 plus VAT;

- (c) Minor Developments (creation of 2 to 9 new residential units, creation of commercial development or changes of use between 100-999 square metres) be charged £700 plus VAT; and
- (d) Minor Developments (creation of 1 new or replacement residential unit, creation of commercial development or changes of use up to 100 square metres) be charged £250 plus VAT; and
- (4) That a letter be written by the Director of Planning & Economic Development to the Chief Planner at the Department of Communities & Local Government outlining the Council's concerns regarding the cost involved in processing retrospective applications for planning permission, with a copy to the District's three Members of Parliament.

10. REVIEW OF THE HOUSING BENEFIT LOCAL SCHEME

Decision:

- (1) That a 100% disregard of War Pensions, War Widow's Pensions, War Widower's Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Payments, or any other successor scheme, in the calculation of Housing Benefit be approved.

