



Epping Forest District Council

DECISIONS

Committee:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 7 February 2019

Date of Publication:	15 February 2019
Call-In Expiry:	21 February 2019

This document lists the decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on Thursday, 7 February 2019, 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:

3. MINUTES

Decision:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10 December 2018, be taken as read and signed by the leader as a correct record.

7. COUNCIL BUDGET REPORT

DECISION:

- (1) That the Cabinet considered the Council's 2019/20 General Fund budgets and make recommendations to the Full Council meeting on 21 February 2019 to adopt the following:
 - (a) the revised revenue estimates for 2018/19, which were anticipated to reduce the General Fund balance by £0.8m;
 - (b) a decrease in the target for the 2019/20 CSB budget from £12.1m to £12.0m (including growth items);
 - (c) an increase in the target for the 2019/20 DDF net spend from £0.553m to £2.373m;
 - (d) no change in the District Council Tax for a Band 'D' property to keep the charge at £152.46;
 - (e) the estimated increase in General Fund balances in 2019/20 of £0.43m;
 - (f) the five year capital programme 2018/19 – 2022/23;
 - (g) the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 – 2022/23;
 - (h) the Council's policy on General Fund Revenue Balances to remain that they are allowed to fall no lower than 25% of the Net Budget Requirement.
- (2) That the Cabinet recommends to the Full Council that the 2019/20 HRA budget including the revised revenue estimates for 2018/19 be agreed;
- (3) That the Cabinet notes that rent reductions proposed for 2019/20 would give an average overall fall of 1%;
- (4) That Cabinet recommends to Full Council the adoption of the Capital Strategy 2018/19 to 2022/23;
- (5) That the Cabinet notes the Chief Financial Officer's report to the Council on the robustness of the estimates for the purposes of the Council's 2019/20 budgets and the adequacy of the reserves.

8. COUNCIL TAX EMPTY DWELLINGS PREMIUM

Decision:

That the Cabinet considered the Council Tax Empty Dwellings Premium Policy and recommend to Full Council meeting on 21 February 2019 on adopting the following:

- (1) That with effect from 1 April 2019 properties that are long-term empty dwellings for over two years, under Section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, will be charged a Council Tax premium of 100%.
- (2) That with effect from 1 April 2020 properties that are long-term empty dwellings for over five years, under Section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, will be charged a Council Tax premium of 200%; and
- (3) That with effect from 1 April 2021 properties that are long-term empty dwellings for over ten years, under Section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, will be charged a Council Tax premium of 300%.
- (4) That the existing arrangements on billing and collection costs with major preceptors continues to allow this to take place.

9. DISCRETIONARY RETAIL DISCOUNT POLICY

Decision:

To amend the existing Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy to include the Retail Discount Policy as set out in Appendix A of the report.

10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2019/20

Decision:

That Cabinet considered and, recommended the following to Council for approval:

- (a) Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019/20;
- (b) Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Strategy;

- (c) Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for 2019/20 to 2021/22;
- (d) The rate of interest to be applied to any inter-fund balances; and
- (e) Treasury Management Policy Statement.

11. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2019/20

Decision:

That the Cabinet noted the responses to the consultation on the scheme for 2019/20 and recommend to Council that the scheme for 2018/19 continues unchanged for 2019/20.

12. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Decisions:

The Cabinet recommend the Pay Policy Statement to Council.

13. OUTCOME OF THE CHIGWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION

Decision:

That:

- (1) the Cabinet noted the Examiner's recommendation that the Chigwell Neighbourhood Plan did not meet the basic conditions;
- (2) the Cabinet agreed that the plan proposal should be refused and should not proceed to referendum;
- (3) the Cabinet noted that this decision would be publicised as soon as possible; and
- (4) the Cabinet noted that the Council would assist the Parish in the process of producing a revised proposal should it seek to do so.

14. CALENDAR OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2019/20

Decisions:

That, as attached at Appendix 1, the draft Calendar of Council Meetings for 2019/20 be recommended to the Council for adoption.

16. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT CABINET COMMITTEE MINUTES

Decision:

That the recommendations of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee held on 24th January 2019 be agreed. That:

(1) Detailed Directorate Budgets for 2019/20:

Decision:

- (1) That the detailed directorate budget for Community & Partnership Services be approved;
- (2) That the detailed directorate budget for Commercial and Regulatory Services be approved;
- (3) That the detailed directorate budget for Housing and Property Services be approved;
- (4) That the detailed directorate budget for Planning Services be approved;
- (5) That the detailed directorate budget for Contract and Technical Services be recommended to the Cabinet for approval;
- (6) That the detailed directorate budget for Business Support Services be approved;
- (7) That the detailed directorate budget for Customer Services be approved
- (8) That the detailed budget for the HRA be approved.

(2) Risk Management - Corporate Risk Register:

Decision:

- (1) That the amended Corporate Risk Register be approved.