

SIGNIFICANT OFFICER DECISIONS

16 JUNE TO 15 JULY 2016

DECISIONS

11/16 – 13/16

DATE OF PUBLICATION:

18th July 2016

DEADLINE FOR MEMBER CALL-IN:

5.00pm on 25th July 2016

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SIGNIFICANT OFFICER DECISIONS

BACKGROUND

About this document

Slough Borough Council has a decision making process involving an Executive (Cabinet) and a Scrutiny Function. Part 3 of the Council's Constitution sets out the Responsibility for Functions and Scheme of Officer Delegation. This document lists the decisions taken by officers under this scheme during the period stated.

Distribution

The schedule is circulated monthly to all Members and published on the website. This document, and any reports relating to individual decisions, are published on the Council's website in accordance The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

Decisions included in the Schedule

The definition of the categories for 'Significant' Officer Decisions to be included in the Schedule are set out below:

1. Tenders/Contracts over £50,000 or 'sensitive' excluding individual social services care packages and school placements.
2. Exemptions to Competitive Tendering.
3. Redundancies/Early Retirements above 5 in Service area*
4. Decision to commence formal organisational restructuring/consultation.
5. Consultation responses other than technical responses where officers asked for Member views.
6. Write-off of individual debts between £5,000 and £15,000.
7. Decisions arising from external report on significant Health and Safety at Work Act risk.
8. Compulsory Purchase Orders.
9. Action with regard to Petitions in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme
10. Any exceptions made to the Council's agreed tender procedure as set out in Financial Procedure Rules
11. Consultancies over £5,000 (excluding cover for established posts) or any consultancy/employment offered to former Senior Officers of the Council of 3rd tier and above.
12. Other decisions such as those with political, media or industrial relations implications that Directors consider Members should be aware of.
13. Appointments to casual vacancies on committees, sub committees, Panels, Working Parties and outside bodies
14. Specific decisions that have been delegated to a particular officer by resolution at a Cabinet meeting to be taken following consultation with the relevant Commissioner

*Decisions taken on the Redundancy/Early Retirement of a senior level officer to be reported to Group Leaders, Cabinet and Employment and Appeals Committee.

Call-in

Any Member of the Council may call-in an officer decision specified in this Schedule by following the procedure set out in paragraph 21 of Part 4.5 of the Council's Constitution. Member call-ins must be submitted in writing to the Head of Democratic Services and state the reasons why the request to have the matter considered by Scrutiny has been made. The call-in must be received within five working days of delivery of the publication of the decision (by 5.00pm). Members call-ins of officer decisions will be submitted to the next Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration and dealt with in the same way as other post decision call-ins.

Exempt information

Any supporting reports considered by the decision-maker will be published on the website in a separate appendix, unless they contain exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

Further information

The schedule will be published monthly. A copy can be obtained from Democratic Services at St Martin's Place, 51 Bath Road on weekdays between 9.00 a.m. and 4.45 p.m. or Tel: (01753) 875015, email: neil.fraser@slough.gov.uk.

A copy will be published on Slough Borough Council's Website: www.slough.gov.uk

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| Ref | 11/16 |
| Title of decision | Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies |
| Date decision taken | 17 th June 2016 |
| Decision maker | Tracy Luck, Assistant Director Strategy & Engagement |
| Portfolio | All |
| Details of decision taken | Councillor Bal has been appointed to the Thames Valley Athletic Centre Management and Trust Committees. |
| Reasons for taking decision | The appointment has been made in accordance with Council Procedure rules, Part 4.1, Paragraph 1.2 (vi) to fill a vacant seat within the Committees. Councillor Bal was named to the committees following his appointment as Commissioner for the Environment & Leisure. |
| Options considered | N/A |
| Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared | None |
| Reports considered | Council Procedure rules, Part 4.1, Paragraph 1.2 (vi). |

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Ref | 12/16 |
| Title of decision | Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies |
| Date decision taken | 17 th June 2016 |
| Decision maker | Tracy Luck, Assistant Director Strategy & Engagement |
| Portfolio | All |
| Details of decision taken | Councillor Parmar has been appointed as a deputy to the Thames Valley Athletic Centre Management and Trust Committees. |
| Reasons for taking decision | The appointment has been made in accordance with Council Procedure rules, Part 4.1, Paragraph 1.2 (vi) to fill a vacant seat within the Committees. |
| Options considered | N/A |

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| Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared | None |
| Reports considered | Council Procedure rules, Part 4.1, Paragraph 1.2 (vi). |

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| Ref | 13/16 |
| Title of decision | Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT) Sustainable Urban Drainage project – Working Wetlands |
| Date decision taken | 20/06/2016 |
| Decision maker | Roger Parkin, Director Customer and Community Services. |
| Portfolio | Environment and Leisure. |
| Details of decision taken | <p>To agree provision of council office facilities and officer contributions to support the delivery of a Slough Sustainable Drainage Project by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) through partnership and inter agency working.</p> <p>The report recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the project as set out in the report is endorsed and supported by the council to facilitate project development and further fund raising initiatives. ii) office (hot desk) space at St Martin's Place is provided by the council at the council's expense for the two part time WWT officers to be engaged on the project. iii) consideration is given to incorporation of SuDS as set out in the context of this report in the design of schemes to improve parks and other council open spaces/facilities wherever opportunities are identified to utilise the existing council funds to further the shared council/WWT objectives of the SuDS project. iv) officers throughout the council work in a spirit of partnership with the WWT to identify opportunities to develop ongoing community engagement opportunities where these are consistent with council five year plan objectives and will contribute positively to local flood alleviation and associated environmental enhancement. |

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| <p>Reasons for taking decision</p> | <p>Refer also to detailed covering report held by Parks and Open Spaces (ref; Wildfowl and Westlands Trust (WWT) – Transforming Lives and Landscapes – Working Wetlands Project).</p> <p>The WWT requires formal recognition of the Council's commitment to the project as a partner.</p> <p>The WWT SuDS project is dependant upon SBC enabling works on its land and providing facilities in support of the WWT project officers so they are able to work locally. The project will bring wide ranging social, economic and environmental benefits to Slough. The decision has been taken to formalise the Council's support as a partner to the project and underpin a Memorandum of Understanding to be drawn up between the council and WWT.</p> <p>The report, Wildfowl and Westlands Trust (WWT) – Transforming Lives and Landscapes – Working Wetlands Project) was considered by the Council's Corporate Management Team on 18th May 2016, when it was agreed to provide this partnership support.</p> |
| <p>Options considered</p> | <p>The decision considered two options, to either support or to not support the project. The decision to support reflects the benefits the project will bring to the town through external funding and partnership working.</p> |
| <p>Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared</p> | <p>There are no conflicts of interest. No officer or member has any known or declared association with the WWT (other than potentially as an ordinary member of the charitable organisation) nor does any member or officer of the council have any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in the project.</p> |
| <p>Reports considered</p> | <p>Please refer to report: Wildfowl and Westlands Trust (WWT) – Transforming Lives and Landscapes – Working Wetlands Project)..</p> <p>The report was considered by CMT in May 2016. This record of decision reflects the decision of CMT (CMT minutes 18th May 2016 refer).</p> |

Petitions

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme and the schedule of Significant Officer Decisions please find below a list of petitions submitted to the Council and a summary the response provided. Further details of the petitions can be found on Slough's website:

<http://www.slough.gov.uk/moderngov/mgePetitionListDisplay.aspx?bcr=1>

16-10 Winvale Residential Parking

Petition Received: 23rd May 2016

There has been parking issues for a long period of time. Between Mondays to Friday 8am to 6pm there are a number of non residents parking their vehicles on our road, which is becoming difficult for the residents of Winvale to park their vehicles especially when returning back from the school runs, work and general day to day outings.

We believe the people who are parking on our road are members of staff that are working closely to the area. We would like to forward our petition to the Council, as residents we have agreed the best solution would be to issue residential parking permits. We hope the Council can support us with the current difficult situation as they have done with other areas in Slough facing the same issues.

Response Received: 17th June 2016

Thank you for the submission of the above petition.

Slough Borough Council is pleased to advise that this request has been placed on our waiting list along with other requests for new and amended parking restrictions around the borough. When the list is reviewed, we will investigate the request by carrying out site visits to assess the area and consider factors such as, capacity against potential numbers of permits and any road safety implications. Some parts of Winvale are managed by our Housing Department so we will also liaise with them. We will then carry out a formal public consultation of the proposal, and a decision will be made on how best to proceed based on the results of the consultation.

If a scheme is appropriate and we gain approval to carry out a formal consultation, a public notice will be placed in the local press and displayed on street with details of how to view plans and make representations. We will also write to any resident directly affected by the proposed restrictions. Unfortunately we cannot provide timescales at present, and must advise that the process to introduce new restrictions can be a lengthy one due to the legal process involved.

16-11 Proposal for CCTV on Merton Road

Reption Received: 13th June 2016

We, the residents of Merton Road, sign this petition for 3 reasons:

- 1) To install a CCTV camera to monitor our street and the alleyway.
- 2) To appeal the decision that rejected the initial petition submitted on (11th February, 2014) on the grounds that,
- 3) All residents from Merton Road were allegedly consulted, by a representative from the Slough Council whether they felt they required a CCTV camera, when that was not the case, and only one or two of the residents had been consulted.

Response Received: 7th July 2016

In June 2016, a petition was received from residents in Merton Road asking for CCTV to be put up due to crime and anti- social behaviour.

CCTV cameras are installed within areas of the Borough where crime and disorder and community safety priorities exist. This is done by a bidding system that the Police (working in partnership with the Council and other partners) use if they have an area they believe is a hot spot for crime and disorder.

In order to determine if an area is suitable for a camera, the Police and Council will look at how many reports of crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder have been received. If the numbers do reflect the problems, then a camera is considered, but as **a last resort** – this is because your local neighbourhood policing team and Slough Borough Council will

look at all other options they can put in place to deal with the nuisance before a camera is considered.

Over the past 12 months, Slough Borough Council have received 6 reports of various anti-social behaviour on Merton Road. Over the same 12 months, the Police have received 7 calls to report various crime and anti-social behaviour and 5 crime reports from residents in Merton Road.

Having monitored Merton Road due to previous requests and petitions made by residents, and collated data from the Police and Council on how many reports of crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder have been received for the past 12 months in Merton Road, there is unfortunately insufficient evidence of crime and/or anti-social behaviour to justify a CCTV camera in Merton Road at this stage.

Residents can however put up private CCTV on their properties, as you have - provided it only covers the bounds of their property. However, the rules regarding how you use CCTV to protect your home have been updated (2015). If your CCTV system is capturing footage of individuals outside your property, then you will no longer be exempt from the Data Protection Act. You can find further information on the Council's website <http://www.slough.gov.uk/crime-prevention-and-emergencies/cctv.aspx>

However, regardless of whether your CCTV system is exempt, the Information Commissioners Office [ICO] recommends that you use CCTV in a responsible way to protect the privacy of others. More information on residents installing their own private CCTV can be found on the Information Commissioners website <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/cctv/>.

Merton Road remains on the patrol plans for Police, who will be patrolling the area on a regular basis in order to deter any future incidents of crime and/or anti-social behaviour. Please continue to report any criminal activity to the Police by calling the new nonemergency number 101. If a crime is in progress or a person is in immediate danger the emergency services should be alerted by calling 999. Anti-social behaviour can be reported to the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour hotline on 01753 875298.