

SIGNIFICANT OFFICER DECISIONS

16 AUGUST TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

DECISIONS

-

DATE OF PUBLICATION:

16th September 2016

DEADLINE FOR MEMBER CALL-IN:

5.00pm on 23rd September 2016

CONTACT:

Neil Fraser

Democratic Services Officer

01753 875015

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 submitting 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

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>

16-12 – Stowe Road: Parking and Litter Issues

This petition was received on 19th July 2016

We, the residents of Stowe Road, Cippenham are suffering because of changes in the local area. Cippenham has been overdeveloped in recent years this has led to parking problems and an increase in rubbish and traffic.

Problems

1. Stowe Road is a cut through road off the A4. Cars speed down the road day and night with no regard for the residents personal safety.
2. Many local businesses on the Bath Road do not provide parking for their staff. One example is the Range Rover Showroom. Staff park down Stowe Road often double parking or parking on the pavement. This makes it difficult for the residents, many of whom are elderly, to pull out of their driveways safely.
3. The Bath Road end of Stowe Road is an eye sore with rubbish strewn all over the road and in the bushes. Cars are parked day and night along the road making it impossible for the road sweepers to sweep. Sports Direct leave their cages outside on the pavement overnight. It has become a fly tipping site and recently there was a vacuum cleaner and a bag of cement

dumped on the pavement. A man was living in his car for some weeks. The majority of the rubbish is from McDonalds, KFC and Greggs.

Solutions

1. Speed bumps installed or making the road one way.
2. Residents parking permits or parking restrictions.
3. The Retail Park owner to remove the bushes and take responsibility for keeping its grounds clean. For the food outlets to send litter pickers out to clean up their debris. Slough Borough Councils environmental department to visit on a more regular basis to clean this hot spot.

This petition was responded to by the Team Leader, Parking Services on 16th August, 2016.

Thank you for the submission of the above petition.

We are sorry that residents are experiencing these problems on Stowe Road, I have reported these to the various teams and they have provided the following responses:

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team is currently in contact with Sports Direct due to the litter and rats at the back of their building. The land owner has been served with a notice under Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 requiring that they clear the litter, and arrange and undertake effective pest control treatment to eradicate the rats. Neighbourhood Enforcement will be checking the site to ensure steps have been taken.

Regular visits are also being made to Stowe Road to see the amount of litter there is, where it is, and to establish where it is coming from. After gathering evidence, Neighbourhood Enforcement will look at taking enforcement action where possible. You can contact Neighbourhood Enforcement on 01753 875255 if you have any further concerns.

With reference to speeding vehicles, there is currently a speed table at the bend which slows vehicles down at this point, however the Integrated Transport Team have requested for some speed surveys to be carried out, and a report of the findings and any available solutions will be sent out directly to you.

I have considered the request for parking controls, any scheme that we consider would have to include Mason Road to avoid displaced parking to this area, for this reason and due to the limited number of signatories on this petition, the Parking Team will first carry out an informal survey of all residents of both roads in the coming weeks. The survey will include different options for restrictions and also give residents an opportunity to make suggestions; we will then make a decision on how best to proceed based on the results.

16-13 Proposal of Closure of Elliman Resource Unit

This petition was received on 18th July 2016

We, the undersigned are unhappy with the proposal to close Elliman Resource Unit. We understand as Slough residents that money has to be saved at these times but feel that hitting the most vulnerable is not the right move.

57 individuals and their families at Elliman will be affected by this plan, which could lead to the loss of friendships and support as the ones we love and care for could be placed in other units in Slough or at worse not receive a service at all.

We feel that the anti social behaviour has been exaggerated and there has been minimal effect on the service users due to the hard work of the staff team at Elliman. Will you be closing all buildings where anti social behaviour is an issue?

With those we care for maturing in years, some who have ongoing health issues do not want to be wandering around Slough to different activities we want then to have a base to come and go from or somewhere to feel safe at other than home. We value the support that Elliman and the team working within the building has given us over the years.

This petition was responded to by to the Head of Adult Safeguarding and Learning Disabilities on 24th August, 2016.

I would like to thank the people and families who have contacted me with their petition regarding the proposed closure of the Elliman Resource Centre. I acknowledge that this is a time of change and therefore uncertainty for you. However, I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that your welfare has and will continue to remain pivotal to the work of the Council of allowing individuals to tailor their own support services to meet their individual needs.

We have begun contacting the people using the Elliman Resource Centre and their families with a view to looking at their existing support networks, their interests and how these could be supported either in the community, a building or a combination of both. The thirty- seven people living with their families accessing Elliman will be contacted as part of this work. Some of the people we have already contacted have said that they are accessing activities within the community. However, they welcome the opportunity that the changes will give them to go straight to the activities at a time of their choosing with their own friends rather than having to go to Elliman first.

We know that it is important that existing friendship groups that have developed between people using Elliman are maintained and we will make every effort to support this. Safeguarding people whether they remain within a building or move to the community will continue to be a shared responsibility of everyone involved in supporting people with Learning Disabilities including families, support services and the Council.

The Council and its partners are investing in new facilities for local residents like the Curve and new leisure facilities. We are keen that people currently using Day Centres are given every opportunity to access all that is available from the local community safely and with support if needed.

16-14 Traffic Calming Measures – Grays Road, Queens Road and Stoke Gardens

This petition was received on 5th August 2016

We would like to invite you to consider signing a petition for traffic calming measures around Stoke Gardens, Grays Road, Chaucer Way and Queens Road.

I am sure you have seen cars speeding down these roads at all hours and its becoming hazardous walking along these streets. Several accidents have already happened due to speeding. There are many children in our area and it is time to try and secure their safety. A petition will be presented to The Transport and Highway Department of Slough Borough Council on August 5th 2016 so please help us to make our streets a safer place.

We were told by the Council that unless there is a fatality, nothing will be done and it should not have to come to that.

This petition was responded to by the Transport Team Leader on 16th August, 2016

Thank you for your petition submitted to Democratic Services regarding traffic calming measures on Stoke Gardens, Grays Road and Queens Road.

The first thing we always do when we receive requests regarding concerns about speeding/traffic calming is to carry out a speed survey to gather data on exactly how fast vehicles are travelling and how many of them are exceeding the speed limit. Introducing traffic calming measures such as speed humps or ramps can be very controversial, therefore before we go any further we need to make sure we can justify and identify the most effective traffic calming measures.

We will therefore undertake some speed surveys after the summer holidays so that we will be able to capture the true representation of the traffic situation. The data will include automatic traffic counters (black rubber loops) on the carriageway to check the speed of the vehicles.

I hope this information helps, and please do not hesitate to contact us with any further enquiries.