

Date of despatch: Tuesday, 13 September 2022

To the Members of Slough Borough Council

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend a Meeting of the Council of this Borough which will be held in the Council Chamber - Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, SL1 2EL on **Thursday, 22nd September, 2022 at 7.00 pm**, when the business in the Agenda below is proposed to be transacted.

Yours faithfully



GAVIN JONES
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PRAYERS

Apologies for Absence

- | | | <u>PAGE</u> |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1. | Declarations of Interest | - |
| | <i>All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary or other Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Section 9 and Appendix B of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed.</i> | |
| 2. | To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 21st July 2022 | 1 - 8 |
| 3. | To receive the Mayor's Communications. | - |

Public Questions

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 4. | Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9. | - |
|----|---|---|

Recommendations of Cabinet and Committees

[Notification of Amendments required by 10am on Wednesday 21 September]

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| 5. | Recommendations of the Cabinet from its meetings held on 18th July 2022 and 21st September 2022 | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Montem Site Appropriation• Financial Action Plan Update | 9-14

TO FOLLOW |

Officer Reports

- | | | |
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| 6. | Appointment of Returning Officer and Monitoring Officer | 15 - 20 |
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Motions

- | | | |
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| 7. | To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14. | 21 - 22 |
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Member Questions

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 8. | To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10 | - |
|----|--|---|

Press and Public

Attendance and accessibility: You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before any items in the Part II agenda are considered. For those hard of hearing an Induction Loop System is available in the Council Chamber.

Webcasting and recording: The public part of the meeting will be filmed by the Council for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website. The footage will remain on our website for 12 months. A copy of the recording will also be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy. By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

In addition, the law allows members of the public to take photographs, film, audio-record or tweet the proceedings at public meetings. Anyone proposing to do so is requested to advise the Democratic Services Officer before the start of the meeting. Filming or recording must be overt and persons filming should not move around the meeting room whilst filming nor should they obstruct proceedings or the public from viewing the meeting. The use of flash photography, additional lighting or any non hand held devices, including tripods, will not be allowed unless this has been discussed with the Democratic Services Officer.

Emergency procedures: The fire alarm is a continuous siren. If the alarm sounds Immediately vacate the premises by the nearest available exit at either the front or rear of the Chamber and proceed to the assembly point: The pavement of the service road outside of Westminster House, 31 Windsor Road.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Council Chamber - Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, SL1 2EL on Thursday, 21st July, 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (D.Parmar), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Akbar, Ali, Anderson, Bal, Bains, Basra, M. Bedi, P. Bedi, Begum, Brooker, Carter, Cheema, Dar, Gahir, Gill, Grewal, Hulme, Kaur, Kelly, M. Malik, Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mohammad, Muvvala, Nazir, Pantelic, S. Parmar, Qaseem, Sabah, Sandhu, Smith, Strutton, Swindlehurst and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Akram, J. Davis, R. Davis, Hussain and S. Malik

13. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bal declared that his daughters worked at the Council.

Councillor Gill declared that her niece worked at the Council.

Both Councillors remained and participated in the meeting.

14. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 19th May 2022

Resolved – That the minutes of the annual meeting held on 19th May 2022 be approved as a correct record.

15. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor welcomed Reverend Scott Lamb from St. Mary's Church, Chalvey to the meeting and thanked him for officiating the prayers on behalf of Father Darcy.

Members were informed that, in addition to supporting Slough Foodbank this year, the Mayor had also chosen Thames Hospice as his charity.

The Mayor presented former Mayor, Councillor Nazir, with his Past Mayor's badge.

16. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

Three elector questions had been received. Two of the electors were present and asked supplementary questions. A written copy of the replies would be sent to the electors following the meeting.

17. Recommendations of the Employment and Appeals Committee from its meetings held on 14th June and 12th July 2022

A) Finance Department Restructure

It was moved by Councillor Ali,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

- a) "That a new chief officer role of Executive Director of Finance and Commercial be approved.
- b) That two new deputy chief officer roles with remuneration of potentially over £100,000 to replace the one Associate Director – Finance and Commercial be approved and delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to amend Article 12, Part 3.6 and Part 7 of the Constitution accordingly."

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried with 35 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved -

- a) That a new chief officer role of Executive Director of Finance and Commercial be approved.
- b) That two new deputy chief officer roles with remuneration of potentially over £100,000 to replace the one Associate Director – Finance and Commercial be approved and delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to amend Article 12, Part 3.6 and Part 7 of the Constitution accordingly.

B) New Management Structure

It was moved by Councillor Ali,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

- 1. "The proposed new structure be noted.
- 2. To approve:
 - a. A new chief officer structure as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, to include an additional chief officer;
 - b. A new deputy chief officer structure as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, to include changes to existing Associate Director (AD) service responsibilities and the creation of new deputy chief officer roles, including a Chief Digital and Information Officer at a top salary range of over £100,000.
 - c. Delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to amend Article 12, Part 3.6 and Part 7 of the Constitution to reflect the changes.
- 3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to undertake consultation of the proposed structure and agree the final details for the ED and AD roles, including the services to be managed under each."

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried with 35 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved -

1. That the proposed new structure be noted.
2. That -
 - a. A new chief officer structure as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, to include an additional chief officer be approved;
 - b. A new deputy chief officer structure as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, to include changes to existing Associate Director (AD) service responsibilities and the creation of new deputy chief officer roles, including a Chief Digital and Information Officer at a top salary range of over £100,000 be approved.
 - c. Delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to amend Article 12, Part 3.6 and Part 7 of the Constitution to reflect the changes.
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to undertake consultation of the proposed structure and agree the final details for the ED and AD roles, including the services to be managed under each.

C) Pay Policy Statement Update 2022/23

It was moved by Councillor Ali,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“That the revised Pay Policy Statement 2022/23, as attached at Appendix A of the report, be approved”.

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried with 35 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved - That the revised Pay Policy Statement 2022/23, as attached at Appendix A of the report, be approved.

18. Recommendation of Cabinet from its meeting held on 18th July 2022

Financial Action Plan Update

It was moved by Councillor Anderson,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

- a) “That Council notes the progress and issues arising from the continued work to respond to the serious financial challenges and the recommendations made by external agencies.
- b) That Council notes the progress and current position on the Financial Action Plan.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried with 35 votes for and 2 abstentions.

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Resolved -

- a) That Council notes the progress and issues arising from the continued work to respond to the serious financial challenges and the recommendations made by external agencies.
- b) That Council notes the progress and current position on the Financial Action Plan.

19. Recommendations of the Standards Committee from its meeting held on 19th July 2022

a) Councillors Code of Conduct and Standards Committee Terms of Reference

It was moved by Councillor Mann,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“That the Constitution’s Article 9A and Part 5.1 Councillors’ Code of Conduct are amended as set out in Appendix 1 and 3.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried with 35 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved - That the Constitution’s Article 9A and Part 5.1 Councillors’ Code of Conduct are amended as set out in Appendix 1 and 3 to the report.

b) Confidential Whistleblowing Code

It was moved by Councillor Mann,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“That minor changes to the Confidential Whistleblowing Code as set out in the Appendix to the report be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried with 35 votes for and 2 abstentions.

20. Constitutional Changes to Executive Decision Making

It was moved by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor Mann

1. “That the amendments to the Constitution as set out in the appendices be adopted, namely:
 - a. Part 3.5 Responsibility for Executive Functions
 - b. Part 4.4 Executive Procedure Rules
2. That the amendments to the Constitution will come into effect on the day following the Council meeting.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried with 35 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved -

1. That the amendments to the Constitution as set out in the appendices be adopted, namely:
 - a. Part 3.5 Responsibility for Executive Functions
 - b. Part 4.4 Executive Procedure Rules
2. That the amendments to the Constitution will come into effect on the day following the Council meeting.

21. Update on Electoral Review of Slough Borough Council's Warding Arrangements

It was moved by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor Hulme,

- (a) "That the draft Council response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's second phase of consultation as set out in Appendices B to E be approved.
- (b) That the scope of the Working Group be extended to include the forthcoming polling district and place review."

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried with 35 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved -

- (a) That the draft Council response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's second phase of consultation as set out in Appendices B to E be approved.
- (b) That the scope of the Working Group be extended to include the forthcoming polling district and place review.

22. Appointments to Vacancies on Committees, Panels and Outside Bodies

It was moved by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor Mann,

"That the following changes to Committees, Panels and Outside Bodies be approved with immediate effect:

- a) Corporate Parenting Panel – Councillor Anderson to replace Councillor S Malik.
- b) Foster Panel – Councillor Brooker to replace Councillor S Malik.
- c) Outside body – Slough Urban Renewal – Councillor Matloob to be nominated to the vacant position on the SUR Board.

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried with 34 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved - That the following appointments be made to Committees, Panels and Outside Bodies with immediate effect:

- a) Corporate Parenting Panel – Councillor Anderson.
- b) Foster Panel – Councillor Brooker.
- c) Outside Body – Slough Urban Renewal – Councillor Matloob.

23. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

Standing Up for Responsible Tax Conduct

It was moved by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor Hulme,

“This Council believes that tax enables local authorities to provide services from education, health, and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies. As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.

Subject to any relevant statutory requirements or limitations, this Council therefore resolves:

1. To approve the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration.
2. To lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.
3. To ensure contractors implement IR35 robustly and pay a fair share of employment taxes.
4. Not to use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.
5. To undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.
6. To promote Fair Tax Mark certification for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.
7. To support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses who say what they pay with pride.
8. To support calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.”

The motion was put to the vote and carried with 35 votes for and 2 abstentions.

Resolved -

This Council believes that tax enables local authorities to provide services from education, health, and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies. As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are

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paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.

Subject to any relevant statutory requirements or limitations, this Council therefore resolves:

1. To approve the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration.
2. To lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.
3. To ensure contractors implement IR35 robustly and pay a fair share of employment taxes.
4. Not to use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.
5. To undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.
6. To promote Fair Tax Mark certification for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.
7. To support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses who say what they pay with pride.
8. To support calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.

24. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10

A Member question had been received within the relevant timeframe. The question and reply were noted.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.46 pm)

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report To: Council

Date: 22 September 2022

Chief Officer: Richard West, Executive Director Place and Community
Steven Mair, Executive Director Finance and Commercial (s151)

Ward(s): All

PART I
FOR DECISION**RECOMMENDATION OF CABINET FROM ITS MEETING HELD ON 18TH JULY 2022 - MONTEM SITE APPROPRIATION****1. Summary and Recommendations**

- 1.1 This purpose of this report is to consider the recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 18th July 2022 to appropriate the Montem site to planning.

Recommendation:

- 1.2 The Council is requested to resolve to appropriate the Montem site to planning (shown edged red in the plan at Appendix 1) under section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 on the grounds that the acquisition will facilitate the carrying out of development, redevelopment or improvement on or in relation to the land, and the proposed development, redevelopment or improvement is likely to contribute to achieving the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the whole, or any part, of their area.

Reason

- 1.3 Appropriation of the land to planning purposes will aid with the disposal of this key site for residential development.

Commissioner Review

- 1.4 There are no costs or risks associated with the appropriation process and the process de-risks future redevelopment of the land adding to deliverability and land value. The commissioners are therefore content with the report.

2. Report

- 2.1 Full planning permission for the proposed residential development of the Montem Lane site to include 212 new homes has been approved (planning reference: P/07383/010). Planning committee approval was granted in January '21 and the S106 Agreement was executed in April '22.

- 2.2 There are no costs or risks associated with the appropriation of the Montem site to planning (shown edged red the plan at Appendix 1) and the process de-risks future redevelopment of the land adding to deliverability and land value.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Financial implications

- 3.1.1 There are no financial costs or risks associated with the appropriation process and the process de-risks future redevelopment of the land adding to deliverability and land value.

3.2 Legal Implications

- 3.2.1 At the Cabinet meeting on 19 July Cabinet considered a report titled 'Slough Urban Renewal - disposals update'. Recommendation 11 (e) of the agreed decisions:

"Noted that those parts of the Montem site which belong to the Council are no longer required for the purposes for which they are presently held, and recommend to full Council that officers be authorised to take all necessary steps to appropriate the site (shown edged red on the plan in Appendix 5) for planning purposes to facilitate the carrying out of development, redevelopment or improvement on or in relation to that land"

- 3.2.2 The Council has a general power to appropriate land under section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 (LGA 1972).

Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA 1990) authorises the Council to acquire compulsorily any land in their area for planning purposes.

This acquisition can take place:

- If the Council thinks:
 - the acquisition will facilitate the carrying out of development, redevelopment or improvement on or in relation to the land (*section 226(1)(a), TCPA 1990*);
 - and
 - the proposed development, redevelopment or improvement is likely to contribute to achieving the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the whole, or any part, of their area (*section 226(1)(a) and (1A), TCPA 1990*).

A decision to appropriate land for planning purposes under section 226(1) of the TCPA 1990 must indicate that this is the purpose of the appropriation.

Under section 233(1) of the TCPA 1990, the Council can dispose of land appropriated for planning purposes to such person, in such manner and subject to such conditions as appear to the Council to be expedient to secure the best use of that or other land and any buildings or works which have been, or are to be, erected, constructed or carried out on it (whether by the Council or by any other person) (*section 233(1)(a), TCPA 1990*).

A disposal of land under section 233 of the TCPA 1990 includes a sale of the freehold interest, granting a lease, assigning any unexpired term of a lease or the granting of easements.

3.2.3 Under section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has a statutory duty to sell land at the best price reasonably obtainable.

3.2.4 A decision of the Council relating to the appropriation of land or its subsequent disposal can only be challenged if the Council has acted beyond its powers or has not carried out the correct legal procedures in making the order. Legal advice should be sought on the legal procedures for making the appropriation order, and the subsequent disposal.

3.3 Risk Management

3.3.1 There are no financial costs or risks associated with the appropriation process.

3.4 Environmental Implications

3.4.1 No environmental implications have been identified as a direct result of this report.

3.5 Equality implications

3.5.1 No equality implications have been identified as result of this report.

3.6 Procurement implications

3.6.1 No issues have been identified for the Council.

4. Appendices

4.1 Appendix 1 – Montem Appropriation Plan

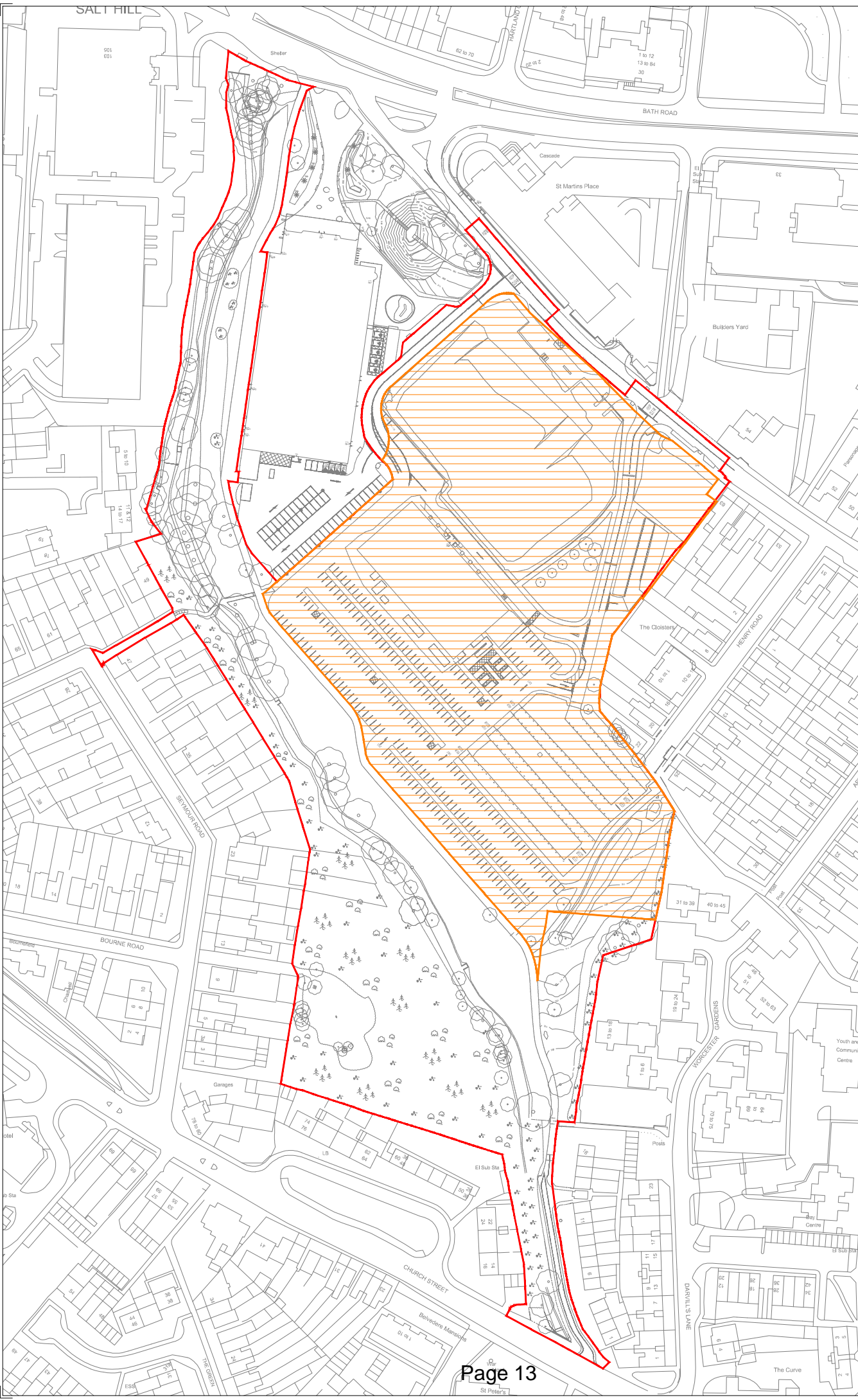
5. Background Papers

5.1 Montem Lane Summary

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The Designer is responsible for ensuring all necessary addresses and references are displayed on this plan in accordance with the relevant authorities. The Designer is responsible for ensuring that the plan is drawn in accordance with the relevant authorities. The Designer is responsible for ensuring that the plan is drawn in accordance with the relevant authorities.

Key
 Application Boundary
 Disposal Area



01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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MONTEM LANE, SLOUGH
SITE CONVEYANCE PLAN
AA5991C-12001 **REV 02**
FOR COMMENT
 Date: 22/09/2022 Scale: B 1:1000
PRP 020 7663 1000

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report To: Council

Date: 22nd September 2022

Contact Officer: Sarah Wilson, Monitoring Officer

Ward(s): All

PART I
FOR DECISION**APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND MONITORING OFFICER****1. Summary and Recommendations**

1.1 This report sets out arrangements for the appointment to two statutory roles.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:

- a) Approve the designation of the statutory post of Returning Officer, Acting Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer to the role of Chief Operating Officer;
- b) Note the decision by the commissioners to appoint and designate Stephen Taylor as Monitoring Officer from 1 October 2022.

Reason: The Council is required to have officers in place to cover the above statutory roles.

Commissioner Review

"The recommendations are supported."

2. Report**Introductory paragraph**

2.1 Effective, transparent, and equitable democratic and decision-making processes are an essential pre-requisite to the delivery of all the Council's priorities.

Options considered

With regard to recommendation a) (designation of Returning Officer, Acting Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer) there are three main options:

1. Chief Executive
2. Chief Operating Officer ('COO') (recommended)
3. Monitoring Officer

The Council is required to have in place officers to cover the above statutory roles. By designating the roles of Returning Officer, Acting Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer to an existing role, this means that the role attaches to the post, even if the post holder changes.

Previously in Slough the Returning Officer, Acting Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer roles were designated to the Chief Executive. However, this is not recommended in the current circumstances for reasons of capacity and focus; the current chief executive is part-time and also fulfilling the role of Assistant Commissioner, with a challenging improvement brief in both roles. Alternatively the role could be fulfilled by the new interim Monitoring Officer, but as he is working part-time and is to be employed on an agency arrangement, this does not provide the same level of stability as if the Chief Operating Officer role fulfilled the function. The Chief Operating Officer is a full time, permanent post holder. The current Chief Operating Officer has Electoral Services within their management span and the post holder is an experienced ex-chief executive who has fulfilled these electoral roles in the past. The Monitoring Officer, who also has significant experience in these roles, will be reporting to the Chief Operating Officer and will be able to support them in this. Both the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer will have key roles to play in the election process, but it is recommended that the responsibility sits with the current Chief Operating Officer as a full time, permanent post holder.

Background

2.2 The Council has agreed to move to a four yearly all out election cycle from May 2023. In addition, it is in the process of a local government boundary review and will in time be reviewing its polling districts and places. This is a major change to the election processes in Slough. It is therefore imperative that the Council has sufficient resources in place to deliver a lawful and fair election and this requires an experienced officer to lead the process.

2.3 The post of Chief Operating Officer was created as part of the senior officer restructure and this post holder will be responsible for the corporate operations services, excluding those sitting in the finance and commercial and strategy directorates. This includes the governance services and specifically the elections team.

2.4 Stephen Brown was recruited to the post of COO and has been working with senior officers and members on the improvement and recovery plans. He is an experienced local government professional and an ex-chief executive of a district council. He is held the role of Returning Officer and is experienced in election management. He will be assisted by senior officer capacity, including the new interims covering the monitoring, governance and scrutiny functions, as well as an experienced elections team.

2.5 The report also asks Council to note the decision by the commissioners to appoint Stephen Taylor and to designate him as the Council's Monitoring Officer. The designation will take effect from 1 October 2022, although Stephen may commence work earlier to ensure an effective handover. The Principal Lawyer from HB Public Law will remain designated as Monitoring Officer until this date and has agreed to deputise for Stephen as required and to continue to be the lead lawyer and attend the corporate leadership team to support the improvement and recovery work. Stephen Taylor will be employed on an agency basis for 3 days a week at an agreed daily rate.

2.6 Whilst the decision to designate an officer as the monitoring officer is normally a decision for full council, the power to appoint and dismiss the three statutory governance officers is covered by the DLUHC statutory direction. Stephen Taylor was interviewed by members of the Appointments Sub-Committee and this committee made a recommendation to the commissioners that he be appointed on an interim basis for 3 days a week.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 *Financial implications*

3.1.1 The interim monitoring officer is budgeted for up to 2 years as previously reported through the management restructure.

3.1.2 The position of Returning Officer carries with its fees which are determined from time to time in accordance with the Returning Officers Fees Order. The payment of fees for local elections are met by the Council and the payment of fees for parliamentary elections are met by central Government. There are no additional financial implications arising from designation of the Returning Officer, Acting Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer to the COO role.

3.2 *Legal implications*

3.2.1 The Returning Officer (local elections) and Acting Returning Officer (parliamentary elections) have statutory responsibilities in relation to the running of elections and the Electoral Registration Officer has statutory responsibility in relation to registration of electors. Section 35(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the Council to appoint one of its officers to the role of Returning Officer. A Returning Officer is personally responsible for the administration of local government elections and for ensuring that the experience of voters and those standing for election is a positive one.

3.2.2 The designation of a Monitoring Officer is a statutory requirement under Section 5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989. The Council has the right to designate and appoint the Monitoring Officer. Appointment of a Monitoring Officer would normally be a decision reserved to elected members in accordance with Part 4.7 of the Council's Constitution. However, under a statutory direction made by the Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities, certain functions are to be exercised by the appointed commissioners, either acting alone or jointly. This includes the function to appoint to the position of Monitoring Officer and to determine the terms and conditions of employment of such an officer.

3.2.3 The Secretary of State confirmed an expansion of the directions on 1st September 2022 to enable commissioners to exercise the following additional function: "All functions to define the officer structure for the senior positions, to determine the recruitment processes and then to recruit the relevant staff to those positions." Senior positions are defined as direct reports to the Chief Executive, their direct reports, and their Group Managers – tiers one, two and three.

3.3 *Risk management implications*

3.3.1 The posts of Monitoring Officer and Returning Officer are statutory posts. The former plays a key role in ensuring effective corporate governance. As the Council

continues its improvement journey, it is important that there is sufficient capacity and expertise in place to fulfil these functions.

3.3.2 The Council has a whole council election next year, following a local government boundary review. Significant election planning will be needed to ensure that those entitled to vote have an opportunity to register and registered electors are enfranchised to vote and understand the changes in next year's election compared to previous elections. It will also be important to ensure an effective count process, both to ensure a lawful result and to give confidence to candidates and their agents that the process was fair and transparent.

3.4 Environmental implications

3.4.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

3.5 Equality implications

3.5.1 Both statutory post holders should take account of the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010. This will be particularly relevant when planning for the election. The Council and the Returning Officer are bound by the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. This will include considerations in relation to reasonable adjustments to enable voters with disabilities to vote.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Decision of Best Value Commissioners dated 12th September 2022

5 Background Papers

None

Slough Borough Council Best Value Commissioners

To: Stephen Brown, Chief Operating Officer, Slough Borough Council [by email]

12 September 2022

Dear Stephen,

Commissioners' Decision on appointment of Monitoring Officer

On 4 August 2022, the Commissioners decided to appoint Stephen Taylor as Monitoring Officer for Slough Borough Council from 1 October 2022, or such other date as shall be agreed by the Commissioners acting jointly or individually. This appointment is made in accordance with Annex B, paragraph 4 of the Direction dated 1 December 2022.

The appointment was made following a recommendation from the Council's appointments sub-committee on 27 July 2022.

Stephen Taylor will be appointed on an interim basis at a daily rate of £950 for a period of between 12 to 24 months or such shorter period as the Commissioners shall determine.

As Stephen Taylor is currently monitoring officer for another local authority, there will be a phased handover with him attending meetings and undertaking tasks from the middle of September 2022 and formally commencing in the role from 1 October 2022.

Sarah Wilson has agreed to remain as Monitoring Officer until 1 October 2022 and to continue being the lead legal advisor and to act as Deputy Monitoring Officer as required by the new Monitoring Officer.

This appointment will be formally reported to the next full meeting of the Council where the Council will be invited to note the Commissioners' decision.

Yours sincerely,

Max Caller
Lead Commissioner

Margaret Lee
Finance Commissioner

Gavin Jones
Commissioner

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**REPORT TO:** Council **DATE:** 22nd September, 2022**CONTACT OFFICER:** Shabana Kauser
(For all enquiries) Principal Democratic Services Officer
07821 811 259**WARD(S):** All**PART I**
FOR DECISION**MOTIONS SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 14**

The following motions have been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14:-

A) Supporting Kinship Care in Slough

(Moved by Councillor Swindlehurst, seconded by Councillor Hulme)

“This Council notes-

- Kinship Care (also known as family and friends care) is any circumstances where a child is being raised by a friend or family member other than their parent.

This Council believes that-

- That Kinship Care should always be considered as an option, when there are concerns about whether a child can remain at home.
- Central Government should ensure that Kinship households are adequately supported including financially and through properly resourced local authorities to deliver local support.

Slough Borough Council therefore resolves:

- To listen to the voices of Kinship Carers and the children that they are raising when developing new policies.
- To work with our local authority Children’s Company (SCF) to ensure there is information for current and prospective Kinship Carers about the options available to them and any support that they may be eligible for, including access to benefits advice, therapeutic support via the Adoption Support Fund and where they can access specialist independent legal advice.
- To work with children and families and SCF to draw on best practice in formulating future local policy and practices relating to Kinship Care, including support services and financial support, ensuring these are consistent with legislation, statutory guidance, recent case law and Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman decisions.
- To ensure Kinship Carers are included in recognition and awareness activities, along with the children that they are raising.

- To write to the Secretary of State for Education to urge the government to implement the recommendations the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England has made for investment in early help for families and unlocking the power of family networks."

B) Awareness Suicide Prevention Month

(Moved by Councillor Akram, seconded by Councillor Kelly)

"This Council acknowledges the importance of Suicide Prevention Month and resolves to help to raise further awareness on suicide prevention.

We therefore resolve to:

- Encourage Council owned companies, contractors and partners to join the Council as members of the National Suicide Prevention Alliance; to improve awareness of mental health support, resilience networks and support offers to tackle the stigma associated with mental health issues and support suicide prevention across the borough for all ages ranges and communities;
- Write to the minister of State (Minister for Care and Mental Health) to ask that they review the national ambition of a 10% annual reduction in light of the current context for suicide prevention as set out by NCISH and others and aim for a "Zero Suicide" style approach focussed on the priority groups identified at national, Regional and local levels."