

SIGNIFICANT OFFICER DECISIONS

16 DECEMBER 2013 TO 15 JANUARY
2014

DECISIONS

01/14 – 02/14

DATE OF PUBLICATION:

Thursday 16th January 2014

DEADLINE FOR MEMBER CALL-IN:

5.00pm on 23rd January 2014

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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 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) 875120, email: nicholas.pontone@slough.gov.uk.

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

Ref	01/14
Title of decision	Approval of street and building names for Castlevue Redevelopment
Date decision taken	14th January 2014
Decision maker	Head of Building Control and Planning
Portfolio	Neighbourhoods & Renewal
Details of decision taken	To approve the proposed 23 street names as shown listed
Reasons for taking decision	The developer did not wish to use the street/building names from the Council's pre-approved list of names.
Options considered	Following two suggestions put forward by the developers in respect of the naming of streets and blocks of flats within the Castlevue development, the preferred choice was to use names taken from war memorials throughout the borough. It was felt fitting as 2014 is the centenary of the First World War. One exception is the use of Kings Reach for the main road running throughout the development. Kings Reach was suggested by the developer for its Royal connection. The developer's alternative option was to name streets after members of the Royal Family owing to the sites proximity to the Castle. This was felt inappropriate as some of the suggested names related to living member of the Royal Family – our guidance advises names of the living will not be considered. A layout drawing of the development is attached showing the position of the approved street names.
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None.
Reports considered	Slough Borough Council's Street Naming and Numbering Guidance.

LIST OF STREET/FLAT NAMES

Meredew

Litten

Florence

Willis

Dumbarton

Kings Reach

Blackwell

Eldridge

Piggott

Spicer

Starling

Hicks

Oxlade

Akerman

Mendham

Boxall

Summersby

Thorn

Edgson

Lyford

Alsford

Poppy

Fisher



Ref	02/14
Title of decision	Procurement of external expertise for Fit for Future Project
Date decision taken	25th October 2013
Decision maker	Chief Executive
Portfolio	Performance & Accountability
Details of decision taken	<p>An exception was made to the Council's agreed procedure regarding receiving three written quotations for contracts under £50,000 as set out in the Financial Procedure Rules.</p> <p>Commissioning of external expertise to enable to design, development and delivery of a Council wide 'Fit for the Future' project. This project aims to support leaders to review and further develop the Council's strategic direction, develop the capability of leaders and managers, identify the role to organisation development (OD), HR (human resources) and L&D (learning and development) can take in enabling and sustaining improved service delivery. The overall aim of this project is to help Slough Borough Council to function effectively in a changing environment for their customers, residents, businesses and those who do the work. The project will leave a legacy of development programmes and internal skill and capacity which will enable the approach to be sustainable in the longer term.</p>
Reasons for taking decision	The project runs from October 2013 – April 2014 and will require a high level of design, facilitation, training and coaching. These skills are not currently available within the Council because existing staff do not currently have the capability, capacity or confidence to deliver these solutions in order to facilitate transformational change. External consultancy support is therefore needed to complement the skills of the Interim OD Manager in order to build this internal capability and create the capacity to deliver this ambitious programme that is required so urgently so as to preclude the invitation of tenders.
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider use of in house resources – as above existing staff do not currently have the capability, capacity or confidence to deliver these solutions in order to facilitate transformational change. 2. Consider alternative suppliers from the wider market of OD and change suppliers: - research was conducted into the market for OD, leadership and management development and it appears that the consultancy day rates vary, but work upwards from around £1,200 per day + VAT. This route would incur significant extra cost and delay.
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None.

Reports considered	Exemption Business Case counter signed by the Assistant Director Commissioning, Procurement and Shared Services, the Council's senior procurement advisor, who confirmed that the Exemption Business Case route was appropriate in these circumstances.
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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>

None.