

SIGNIFICANT OFFICER DECISIONS

16 OCTOBER TO 15 NOVEMBER 2014

DECISIONS

16/14 – 17/14

DATE OF PUBLICATION:

20th November 2014

DEADLINE FOR MEMBER CALL-IN:

5.00pm on 27th November 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

Slough Borough Council Record of Significant Officer Decision

Ref	16/14
Title of decision	Appointment to Independent Chair – Slough Local Safeguarding Children’s Board
Date decision taken	26/09/2014
Decision maker	Ruth Bagley (Chief Executive), Jane Wood (Strategic Director Wellbeing)
Portfolio	Education & Children
Details of decision taken	Following a competitive recruitment process, Mr Phil Picton was appointed as the new Independent Chair of the Slough Local Safeguarding Children’s Board. The contract will be for a three year period.
Reasons for taking decision	<p>It is nationally recognised best practice for LA’s with statutory responsibility for children and education services to appoint an independent person as Chair of the Board.</p> <p>Consideration was given to a number of appropriately qualified candidates before a short list of three were selected for interview, and the offer made to Mr Picton on merit.</p> <p>The interview panel also consisted senior officers from TVP and the NHS. The offer was endorsed by the DfE.</p>
Options considered	N/A
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	N/A
Reports considered	N/A

Ref	17/14
Title of decision	Proposed Adoption of the Slough Trading Estate Simplified Planning Zone 2014-2024
Date decision taken	06/11/2014
Decision maker	Planning Policy Lead Officer
Portfolio	Neighbourhoods and Renewal
Details of decision taken	<p>Cabinet agreed in their meeting of July 2014 that the adoption of the Simplified Planning Zone Scheme 2014-2024 for the Slough Trading Estate be delegated to the Planning Policy Lead Officer subject to the signing of a Section 106 Legal Agreement.</p> <p>The S106 Legal Agreement has now been agreed with SEGRO and the SPZ can now proceed to adoption.</p>
Reasons for taking decision	The SPZ enables the construction of specified industrial development on the trading estate. This will deliver economic and employment benefits to Slough, as well as using planning team resources more efficiently. The current SPZ expires in Nov 2014.
Options considered	<p>i) Not to renew SPZ. Both parties agreed this would impact negatively on the economic viability of the trading estate.</p> <p>ii) Produce a Local Development Order. Both parties agreed this mechanism was not suitable or reliably able to deliver the benefits provided by the SPZ process.</p>
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None
Reports considered	Report to Cabinet 14.07.14 :Available online, Item 20 : http://www.slough.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=109&MId=5142

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>

E-Petition:

Against 'The Assembly' Public House opening directly next door to Turning Point (Slough Drug & Alcohol Misuse Treatment Centre)

Petition Received – 9th October 2014

We the undersigned petition the council to Revoke the licensing agreement to a pub setting up camp next door to/below an alcohol and drug treatment centre.

Turning Point is the Drug & Alcohol Treatment Centre in Slough that has only been moved to its current position BY THE COUNCIL 3 years ago and now they have given the go ahead to opening a new bar called 'The Assembly' directly next door to/below the Centre itself. Funding for Drug & Alcohol Misuse has already been cut to next to nothing over the previous few years and now this. As a former client of Turning Point and 2 and a half years clean from the help of the centre I think this is a disgrace to Slough as a supposed 'community led Council'

This ePetition ran from 09/10/2014 to 07/11/2014 and has now finished.

54 people signed this ePetition.

Council response

The premises concerned have held a valid Premises Licence issued under The Licensing Act 2003 since 2005. Although the Premises Licence is still in existence the premises have not operated as a business since at least 2007, however the Premises Licence remains valid and is in existence.

It is proposed to re-open the premises under the name of 'The Assembly' this is not due a new Premises Licence application being made, but to re-open under the terms of the existence licence with the same Licensable Activities.

Once a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate has been granted the only course of action to revoke the licence or certificate is by way of making a Review Application under either Section 51 (premises) or Section 87 (certificates).

Any Responsible Authority or any 'Other Person' may at any time after the grant of the licence or certificate apply to the Licensing Authority for a Review of the Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate. The review application must relate to a matter or matters arising at the premises in connection with any of the four Licensing Objectives, which are, the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety, the Prevention of Public Nuisance and the Protection of Children from Harm.

Responsible Authorities are statutory authorities as defined under the 2003 Act and 'Other Person' is now defined as 'Persons who live, or are involved in a business, in the relevant licensing authorities area, or in an adjoining area and who are likely to be affected by the grant of the application'.

As the premises have not been in operation there are no grounds relating to any of the four Licensing Objectives that would justify a Review application being made.