

SIGNIFICANT OFFICER DECISIONS

16 NOVEMBER TO 15 DECEMBER **2014**

DECISIONS

18/14 – 19/14

DATE OF PUBLICATION:

18th December 2014

DEADLINE FOR MEMBER CALL-IN:

5.00pm on 24th December 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	18/14
Title of decision	Approval of a name for terraced houses
Date decision taken	26-11-2014
Decision maker	Sanjay Dhuna – Head of Planning & Building Control
Portfolio	Neighborhood & Renewals
Details of decision taken	To approve the proposed names of Blacklead Mews for 4 terraced houses within Nixey Close, Slough
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	The developer suggested two names for 4 new terraced houses however both were already in existence within Nixey Close which does not comply with the current street naming and numbering guidance. The history of the site was investigated and it transpired Nixey Close was named after W.G. Nixey, the inventor of 'blacklead', (used to clean and polish kitchenware), he bought the 'Old Vicarage' in 1856 and built Springfield House, which was later referred to as 'Blacklead Castle'. The building was later renamed Upton Towers and is now Elvian House. The terrace is within close proximity to Elvian House which is in turn being converted into flats by the same developer.
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None.
Reports considered	Slough Borough Council's Street Naming & Numbering Guidance

Ref	19/14
Title of decision	Approval of a name for terraced houses
Date decision taken	16-12-14
Decision maker	Sanjay Dhuna – Head of Planning & Building Control
Portfolio	Neighborhood & Renewals
Details of decision taken	To approve the proposed names of Parliament Mews for 4 terraced houses off St Laurence Way, Slough
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	The new terraced houses form part of the Parliament House site. Parliament House is a former office building currently being converted into flats. The flats have already received postal addresses of flats 1-16 Parliament House. The developer wished to keep the naming within the site consistent hence the choice of Parliament Mews.
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None.
Reports considered	Slough Borough Council's Street Naming & Numbering Guidance

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>

14-14 Slough Mass Rapid Transit (SMaRT)

Petition Received – 10th November 2014

We the undersigned of London Road oppose the Slough Mass Rapid Transport scheme because:

- increase in noise and pollution
- more congestion
- loss of footpath making it dangerous for pedestrians
- ruin pleasant landscape
- fall in property value
- scheme will add no value as we already have 12 buses per hour

Response Provided – 10th December 2014

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the SMaRT scheme and its potential impacts on the Upton Court area.

Please note below my response to your concerns raised regarding pollution, congestion, changes to footpaths, landscapes, property value and the local economy.

Noise and Air Pollution.

The SMaRT scheme proposes to address the existing problem as it will reduce congestion by moving existing bus services onto dedicated bus lanes. In turn, this will reduce traffic waiting time as vehicles will be stationary for shorter periods in the borough.

Congestion.

Congestion is one of the biggest causes of air and noise pollution. Relieving traffic congestion and reducing stop-start traffic will also have a beneficial effect on air quality. Therefore this will result in a reduced exposure to the pollution produced on the road network.

Changes to the existing footpath.

The changes to the footpath will only affect the public highway, which will be improved as part of the proposed works. The footpath will not be reduced, and is affected only in so far as being rerouted in some areas. We have taken a lot of care to design the proposals, and during construction there will be minimum disruption.

Changes to the existing landscape.

The planned changes to the landscape will take place on the councils existing public highways, however your concerns will be taken onboard for successive design phases of this scheme.

Property Value.

It is generally accepted that properties closely located to good transport links have a higher value than those located further away. Slough Borough Council expects the SMaRT scheme to have a similar effect, and we believe that the scheme will help to increase the value of surrounding properties.

Local Economy.

The scheme helps to reduce congestion, improve journey time reliability, and enhances access to the Town Centre, Trading Estate and Heathrow. In doing so, the scheme will make Slough a more attractive location for business investment, thus contributing to the local economy.

By tackling congestion, SMaRT also has the potential to reduce the current £34 million that Slough loses each year in wasted travel time alone and will therefore create more opportunities to improve the borough.

Should you have any additional queries do not hesitate to contact me.