

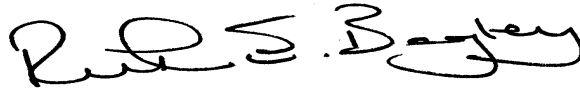
Date of despatch: Monday, 21 November 2016

**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 Venue at The Curve – William Street, Slough, SL1 1XY on **Tuesday, 29th November, 2016 at 7.00 pm**, when the business in the Agenda below is proposed to be transacted.

Yours faithfully



**RUTH BAGLEY**  
*Chief Executive*

**LEISURE PROJECTS DESIGN PRESENTATION**

**MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO NOTE THAT PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING A PRESENTATION WILL BE DELIVERED BY MARK GOWDRIDGE, GT3 ARCHITECTS, AT 6.15 PM IN THE VENUE AT THE CURVE, WILLIAM STREET.**

**(This session is not open to the Press and Public)**

**PRAYERS**

**AGENDA**

***Apologies for Absence***

**PAGE**

1. Declarations of Interest

*All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary or other Pecuniary or non pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Section 3 paragraphs 3.25 – 3.27 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 3.28 of the Code.*



*The Mayor will ask Members to confirm that they do not have a declarable interest. All Members making a declaration will be required to complete a Declaration of Interests at Meetings form detailing the nature of their interest.*

- |    |                                                                                       |       |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 2. | To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 27th September 2016 | 1 - 6 |
| 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 10 a.m. on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016]*

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                |                   |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 5. | Recommendations of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 21 November 2016                                                                                       |                   |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposed Strategic Acquisition Strategy</li><li>• Lease Slough Refugee Support, 28 Bath Road, Salt Hill Park</li></ul> | 7 – 12<br>13 - 16 |

**Officer Reports**

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| 6. | Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review | 17 - 30 |
| 7. | Appointment of Section 151 Officer         | 31 - 32 |
| 8. | Appointment of Monitoring Officer          | 33 - 34 |
| 9. | Appointment to Slough Wellbeing Board      | 35 - 38 |

**Motions**

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| 10. | To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14. | 39 - 40 |
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**Member Questions**

- |     |                                                                     |  |
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| 11. | To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10 (as tabled). |  |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at The Curve - William Street, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 1XY on Tuesday, 27th September, 2016 at 7.00 pm

**Present:-** The Worshipful the Mayor (Arvind Dhaliwal), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib, Anderson, Bains, Bal, Bedi, Brooker, Carter, Chahal, Cheema, Chohan, Dar, Davis, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, M Holledge, Hussain, Matloob, Morris, Munawar, Nazir, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem, Rana, Rasib, Sadiq, A Sandhu, R Sandhu, Sarfraz, Shah, Sharif, Smith, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Usmani and Wright

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillors Chaudhry, Coad, N Holledge and Mann

### 21. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bal declared that his daughter worked at Slough Borough Council.

Councillor Hussain declared that she was Chair of the Member Panel on the Constitution and Slough Wellbeing Board. (Agenda Item 6 & 10)

### 22. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 26 July 2016

**Resolved -** That the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016 be approved as a correct record.

### 23. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor announced that the Annual Civic Service would be held at St Mary's Church, on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016. Members were informed that the harvest contributions would be distributed to SHOC and Slough Foodbank.

It was noted that the Armistice Day two-minute silence would be held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in Slough High Street followed by Remembrance Sunday Services on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

### 24. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

The Mayor advised that a question had been received from a resident, a copy of which had been tabled. The questioner was in attendance and following a response to his question, asked a supplementary question. A copy of the question and reply would be forwarded to the questioner.

## Council - 27.09.16

### 25. Recommendations of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 5th September 2016

It was moved by Councillor Bal,  
Seconded by Councillor Sohal,

“That the provision of a temporary ice facility on the Montem site at a cost of £336,000 be agreed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

**Resolved** - That the provision of a temporary ice facility on the Montem site at a cost of £336,000 be agreed.

### 26. Recommendations of the Slough Wellbeing Board from its meeting held on 20th July 2016

It was moved by Councillor Hussain,  
Seconded by Councillor Munawar,

“That the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy 2016-20, as attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

**Resolved** - That the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy 2016-20, as attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

### 27. Statutory Report of the Council's Monitoring Officer Section 5 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 - Report on proposed unlawful re-designation of the Monitoring Officer role

As the Monitoring Officer was not present, the Mayor outlined the procedure for consideration of the item. The Mayor advised that in absence of the Monitoring Officer, he would move the report and recommendations as set out in the agenda. A supplementary report from the Head of Legal Services had been circulated to all Members of the Council that day, which comprised the Council's response and set out a number of legal implications.

*(The meeting was adjourned at 8pm to allow Members an opportunity to read the supplementary report)*

*(The meeting re-convened at 8.15pm)*

The Mayor put the recommendations as set out in the report.

In the ensuing debate a range of issues were raised including a concern that the Monitoring Officer was not present at the meeting and the conflicting legal advice that had been presented for Members consideration by both the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer's submissions. The Mayor stated that the Monitoring Officer had been given the opportunity to both attend the meeting and submit written information to Members at any time. A number of Members

argued that the report should be deferred for further clarification. The Head of Legal Services reminded Members that the Council had a statutory duty to consider the Monitoring Officer's report as submitted and that Members should make their decision based on the information available to them.

**Recommendation (a)**

“That the Council confirm that the Assistant Director, Procurement and Commercial Services remain the designated Monitoring Officer of the Council.”

A prior request having been made for the record of the voting:

There voted against:

Councillors Ajaib, Bal, Bedi, Brooker, Cheema, Dar, Hussain, Matloob, Munawar, Nazir, Qaseem, Rana, Rasib, Sadiq, A.Sandhu, R.Sandhu, Sarfraz, Shah, Sharif, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Usmani and Wright ..... 24

There abstained from voting:

Councillors Anderson, Bains, Carter, Chahal, Chohan, Davis, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, M Holledge, Morris, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Smith and The Mayor, Councillor Arvind Dhaliwal ..... 14

**Resolved –** That recommendation (a) that the Assistant Director, Procurement and Commercial Services remain the designated Monitoring Officer of the Council be rejected.

**Recommendation (b)**

“That the Council notes the legal advice which has been received by the Monitoring Officer from Weightmans LLP and Peter Oldham QC.”

A prior request having been made for the record of the voting:

There voted against:

Councillors Ajaib, Bal, Bedi, Brooker, Cheema, Dar, Hussain, Matloob, Munawar, Nazir, Plenty, Qaseem, Rana, Rasib, Sadiq, A.Sandhu, R.Sandhu, Sarfraz, Shah, Sharif, Sohal, Usmani and Wright ..... 23

There abstained from voting:

Councillors Anderson, Bains, Carter, Chahal, Chohan, Davis, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, M Holledge, Morris, Pantelic, Parmar, Smith, Strutton, Swindlehurst and The Mayor, Councillor Arvind Dhaliwal ..... 15

**Resolved -** That recommendation (b) that the Council notes the legal advice which had been received by the Monitoring Officer from Weightmans LLP and Peter Oldham QC be rejected.

**Recommendation (c)**

No vote was taken on recommendation (c) as set out in the report as this was provided for in the recommendations contained in Agenda Item 8 – Appointment of Monitoring Officer.

**28. Appointment of Monitoring Officer**

It was moved by Councillor Munawar,  
Seconded by Councillor Hussain,

“(a) That Linda Walker be appointed as the Council’s Monitoring Officer with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

(b) That Article 12 of the Councils Constitution be amended accordingly.”

Members sought clarification that consideration of this item would not prejudice the decision taken on the previous agenda item (Statutory Report of the Council’s Monitoring Officer). The Head of Legal Services confirmed that voting on this matter would not prejudice any decision taken on the previous agenda item.

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried unanimously.

**Resolved –**

(a) That Linda Walker be appointed as the Council’s Monitoring Officer with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

(b) That Article 12 of the Councils Constitution be amended accordingly.

**29. Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review**

It was moved by Councillor Munawar,  
Seconded by Councillor Hussain,

“(a) That the commencement of the BCE’s review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries be noted.

(b) That a cross party working group comprising the Leader and five other members (3 Labour Group Members, 1 Conservative Group Member and the UKIP Member) together with relevant officers be established to consider and make recommendations to the Council meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 on the BCE’s initial proposals.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried unanimously.

**Resolved -**

(a) That the commencement of the BCE’s review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries be noted.

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- (b) That a cross party working group comprising the Leader and five other members (3 Labour Group members, 1 Conservative Group member and the UKIP Member) together with relevant officers be established to consider and make recommendations to the Council meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 on the BCE's initial proposals.

### **30. Review of Constitution and Related Matters**

It was moved by Councillor Hussain,  
Seconded by Councillor Sadiq,

- “(a) That the proposed new process for meeting notes following Officer/ Member meetings, as set out in paragraph 6.4 of the report, be approved for implementation with immediate effect;
- (b) That the role of Caldicott Guardian be added to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers and that the role be fulfilled by the Head of Adult Social Care.
- (c) That the Terms of Reference for the new Joint Parenting Panel, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved for immediate implementation.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried unanimously.

#### **Resolved –**

- (a) That the proposed new process for meeting notes following Officer/ Member meetings, as set out in paragraph 6.4 of the report, be approved for implementation with immediate effect;
- (b) That the role of Caldicott Guardian be added to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers and that the role be fulfilled by the Head of Adult Social Care.
- (c) That the Terms of Reference for the new Joint Parenting Panel, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved for immediate implementation.

### **31. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.**

#### **A) Senior Management Structure**

It was moved by Councillor Wright,  
Seconded by Councillor Morris,

“This Council resolves to urgently review the structure of the senior management team at Slough Borough Council. The high number of “interim” directors and vacancies delivers no value for money for taxpayers and has led to a deterioration in some areas of service delivery. A review into a new senior management structure is needed that will drive permanent employment into key

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senior posts and deliver value for money, transparency, stability and quality services is critically required within the next 12 weeks.”

It was moved by Councillor Munawar, as an amendment,  
Seconded by Councillor Hussain,

“This Council resolves to urgently review the structure of the senior management team at Slough Borough Council. ~~The high number of “interim” directors and vacancies delivers no value for money for taxpayers and has led to a deterioration in some areas of service delivery. A review into a new senior management structure is needed that will drive permanent employment into key senior posts and deliver value for money, transparency, stability and quality services is critically required within the next 12 weeks.”~~

The amendment was agreed by the proposer and seconder and this became the substantive motion.

A prior request having been made for the record of the voting:

There voted for the Motion:

Councillors Ajaib, Anderson, Bains, Bal, Bedi, Brooker, Carter, Chahal, Cheema, Chohan, Dar, Davis, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, M Holledge, Hussain, Matloob, Morris, Munawar, Nazir, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem, Rana, Rasib, Sadiq, A.Sandhu, R.Sandhu, Sarfraz, Shah, Sharif, Smith, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Usmani and Wright ..... 37

There abstained from voting:

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Arvind Dhaliwal ..... 1

There were 0 votes against the motion ..... 0

**Resolved** – That this Council resolves to urgently review the structure of the senior management team at Slough Borough Council.

**B) Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review**

This motion was withdrawn.

**32. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10 (as tabled).**

None.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.59 pm)





potential to create a more balanced portfolio is achieved by buying investments outside Slough.

(b) That the scoring criteria associated with out-of-borough investment assets be amended.

(c) That the Capital Programme for 2016/17 be amended to increase the existing budget by an additional £25m.

### 3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

The introduction of a streamlined procedure to pursue strategic acquisition has created the conditions for the Council to maximise the value of its existing asset base, acquire land and property that will make a significant contribution to the town centre regeneration strategy and supply an income stream that could contribute to the provision of front line services.

#### 3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Individual acquisitions will be reviewed in line with the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy priorities.

#### 3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The introduction of the Strategic Acquisition Strategy has created a mechanism for the Council to assemble land and gain control of key sites that will facilitate broader regeneration and economic development objectives. The acquisition of income generating assets has increased the Council's revenue in 2016/17 and is also closely tied to Outcome 7, which seeks to maximise the value of the Council's assets and income.

### 4 **Other Implications**

#### a) **Financial**

SBC currently owns a portfolio of property and land assets that comprises investment (commercial) and service delivery (operational) assets. Commercial assets are held for the purpose of generating rental income and/or capital appreciation. The portfolio includes light industrial units and retail premises as well as 'minor' interests, for example wayleaves, easements and licenses. Whilst the investment portfolio has through the activities of the SAB reduced the Councils revenue pressure, its net financial contribution remains modest compared to other councils who have a more bullish approach to strategic investment and seek to dilute-risk by acquiring assets outside their boundaries.

It is anticipated that there will be a requirement to fund strategic acquisitions from a range of options including borrowing funds from the Public Works Loan Board and utilising internal balances.

b) Risk Management

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<b>Legal</b> – competing priorities could create delays.	Appoint external solicitors to undertake due diligence and provide comprehensive reports on title, deeds, leases etc, as required.	
Property market risk – property is a riskier asset than other asset classes because of its physical characteristics, which need to be managed and maintained together with the time needed to liquidate time The Council may not achieve its target returns if market conditions significantly worsen	Undertake appropriate due diligence and appoint specialist advisers as required. Target assets/locations where income is secured and rental growth identified.	Market conditions can go up as well as down, with the Council benefitting from increased returns during an upturn.
<b>Human Rights</b>	No risks identified	
<b>Health and Safety</b>	No risks identified	
<b>Employment Issues</b>	No risks identified	It is proposed to appoint agents to act on behalf of the Council as they offer investment expertise and market intelligence not held internally.
<b>Equalities Issues</b>	No risks identified	
<b>Community Support</b>	No risks identified	
<b>Communications</b>	No risks identified	
<b>Community Safety</b>	No risks identified	
<b>Finance</b> - Abortive costs including legal and survey fees, staff costs, initial feasibility costs.	Whilst efforts will be made to reduce abortive costs it is inevitable that the Council will on occasions incur costs on projects that do not proceed.	
<b>Timetable for Delivery</b> – The existing approach is cumbersome and has added to the inability to pursue strategic acquisitions.	Introduce a Strategic Acquisition Board with the specific remit of considering strategic acquisitions.	The proposed process would speed up timescales and enhance the Councils ability to compete for strategic acquisitions.
<b>Governance</b> – Poor performance	Introduction of specific procedures relating to Strategic Acquisitions, which set out objectives, criteria and delegated authority.	
<b>Performance</b> –	No risks identified	

b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

Under Section 120 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council may acquire by agreement any land whether situated inside or outside their area. It may do so for the purpose of (a) any of their functions under that or any other enactment or (b) for the benefit, improvement or development of their area. However, the reference in Section 120 to the benefit of the area requires some more direct connection with the property acquired than the mere fact that income from it could in future be applied to the provision of local services. Accordingly the Council may not rely on this provision to acquire property outside their area simply for the purposes of generating revenue to support services.

Under Section 12 of the Local Government Act 2003, however, the Council may invest (a) for any purposes relevant to its functions under any enactment or (b) for the prudent management of its financial affairs. Investment is generally considered to mean the acquisition of an asset to be used as a source income or alternatively the asset may be a source of capital gain. Accordingly the Council may invest in property, regardless of the location of the property under this provision if it does so for the purpose of the prudent management of its financial affairs.

The constraints upon the Council in exercising its investment powers under Section 12 of the Local Government Act 2003 are that it must always comply with ordinary “Wednesbury” principles i.e. it must act reasonably and have regard to relevant matters which, in this context, would include the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State relating to local government investments, which has statutory force under Section 15, and to regulations made under that section. This guidance calls in particular for the production of an appropriate investment strategy and the Council would then need to adhere to that strategy unless there are sensible reasons for not doing so.

The Council also have power to acquire land outside its area under the general power of competence contained in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. Under Section 4 of that Act, however, anything done for a commercial purpose in exercise of this general power of competence must be done through a company. For these purposes, acquisition of property for the purposes of generating profit would amount to doing something for a commercial purpose and would need to be done through a company if this power is to be relied upon.

c) Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no equalities issues associated with this report. However the accessibility of properties will be one of the factors for consideration in deciding between investments.

5 Supporting Information

**Background**

- 5.1 In approving the Strategic Acquisition Strategy in 2015, Cabinet noted the financial driver to acquire income generating assets to offset continued reductions in central government grant and the regenerative benefits associated with purchasing sites to bring forward housing and commercial development.
- 5.2 Cabinet delegated authority to the Strategic Director Regeneration, Housing & Resources following consultation with the Commissioner for Neighbourhoods and Renewals and the Leader of the Council, authority to:
- Introduce the proposed Strategic Acquisition Board (“SAB”), and thereafter,
  - Delegated authority to the SAB to make strategic acquisitions in line with the objectives, criteria and governance procedures set out in the report in consultation with the with the Commissioner for Neighbourhoods and Renewals and the Leader of the Council.
- 5.3 A strategic acquisition was defined as the acquisition of land or properties that will allow the Council to expedite key outcomes contained within the 5 Year Plan. To be considered strategic, it is agreed that an acquisition must make a significant

contribution towards regeneration objectives and/or provide a commercial return on investment that will improve the financial resilience of the Council

- 5.4 An initial budget of £25m has been agreed to make strategic acquisitions. To date, a total of £13.6m has been spent, generating additional gross income of £596,775 for 2016/17. The sum of £9.2m has been set aside for anticipated pipeline acquisitions in the current financial year (which will generate an additional initial income of circa £500,000 pre annum), leaving a balance of £2.2m to acquire additional assets. Working on the assumption that the pipeline of acquisitions will be secured, this report seeks approval for a second tranche of £25m to build the portfolio.

### **Economic Overview**

- 5.5 The recent vote by the UK to leave the European Union has triggered a large amount of uncertainty within the market. The instant effect of this has caused the financial markets to exhibit volatility. This in turn has pushed investors into a defensive position when considering their investments resulting in a slowdown in acquisitions.
- 5.6 Over the last five years, the United Kingdom has remained one of the fastest growing economies, with GDP growing marginally at approximately 1.8% p.a. which is a downward growth projection from 2.2%. The UK is expected to avoid recession.
- 5.7 Employment figures have looked encouraging with the current unemployment rate standing at 4.9% which represents a 11 year low
- 5.8 The base rate currently stands at 0.25% decreasing from 0.5% in August 2016. This is predominantly due to weaker UK economic growth forecasts, the decision to leave the European Union and global uncertainty.

### **Property Market Outlook**

- 5.9 Trading volumes in property for the first 8 months of 2016 totalled approximately £29.4 billion down by 39% compared to last year. Industrials were the only sector not to see a fall in volumes.
- 5.10 Overseas investors contributed £12.2 billion with UK institutions and private property companies investing £5.6b & £4.5b respectively.
- 5.11 Property fundamentals remain strong with a low base rate, weak sterling and stable yields. However, the uncertainty will cause the commercial property market to pause in the short term.
- 5.12 All property equivalent yields are expected to soften by the end of 2016 and move out slightly more in 2017 to circa ½% overall. The sharpest outward movement is projected for offices at ½% in 2016 and another ¼% in 2017.

### **Assessment Criteria – Investment Properties**

- 5.13 Whilst the SAB has already been delegated authority to consider investment opportunities outside Slough, all of the acquisitions undertaken to date have been located within the Council's area of operation. Although this could be argued to be a positive outcome, retaining a narrow focus has limited the growth and balance of the portfolio. Looking at examples from peers, it is clear that to reduce risk, maximise financial returns and widen the potential to create a more balanced portfolio, other

local authorities have flexibility to acquire investment assets outside their areas of operation.

- 5.14 In approving the Strategic Acquisition Strategy, Cabinet agreed to use a defined list of property specific criteria to score proposed acquisitions. It was also agreed that the minimum score should be at least 240 out of a maximum score of 400, which is equivalent to 60% of the maximum score. The only exception being that the Board should have the discretion to buy assets in Slough that may fall outside the investment criteria if there is an overriding strategic benefit to do so.
- 5.15 Whilst this report does not propose to change the potential to acquire assets outside Slough and highlights the portfolio and financial benefits of retaining this approach, it is suggested that out-of-Borough acquisitions should score a minimum of 300 (75%) out of 400.

## 6. **Comments of Other Committees**

- 6.1 The Cabinet will consider the matters detailed in this report at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016. Any amendments to the recommendations will be reported to Council.

## 7. **Conclusion**

- 7.1 The primary purpose of this report is to seek approval to allocate an increased budget to secure additional land and/or investment assets that improve the Council's financial resilience and brings forward sites for residential and commercial regeneration. Whilst the primary focus will remain on acquiring in-borough investments, the ability to realise growth and income targets will be enhanced by widening the scope of the SAB.
- 7.2 The report consequently seeks approval to amend the Capital Programme for 2016/17 and increase the existing budget by an additional £25m.

## 8. **Appendices**

None.

## 9. **Background Papers**

None.

## **B. LEASE SLOUGH REFUGEE SUPPORT, 28 BATH ROAD, SALT HILL PARK**

### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To consider the recommendation from the Cabinet made on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 in relation to a lease the letting of 28 Bath Road, Salt Hill Park to Slough Refugee Support (SRS).
- 1.2 The Council is required to determine this matter in its capacity as Trustee of Salt Hill Park.

### **2 Recommendation**

The Council is requested to resolve that a lease agreement be entered into with Slough Refugee Support for 28 Bath Road, Salt Hill Park as set out in Paragraph 4(f) of the report.

### **3 Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, The JNA and the Five Year Plan**

#### **3a Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The proposal meets the following priorities of the Joint Wellbeing Strategy

#### **Health**

Ensuring better community engagement to improve the wellbeing of our residents.

#### **Safer Slough**

A place where people feel safe to live, visit and play.

Safeguard and support vulnerable adults and children in our communities.

Promote cohesive open communities that value diversity, encourage a sense of belonging and engender a sense of local pride.

#### **3b Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The proposal also has the potential to make the following contributions to corporate objectives:

#### **Enabling and preventing**

Will contribute to deliver the Council's community cohesion strategy by providing a location from which SRS can provide its services and help refugees better acclimatise to life in Slough.

### **4. Other Implications**

#### **a) Financial**

There are no immediate financial revenue/capital spend implications as a direct consequence of this report.

#### **(b) Risk Management**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
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<b>Community</b>	None	
<b>Property</b>	None	
<b>Financial</b>	None	
<b>Legal</b>	None	
<b>Human Rights</b>	None	
<b>Employment</b>	None	
<b>Planning</b>	None	
<b>Public Consultation</b>	None	.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no immediate Human Rights Act and Other Legal implications as a direct consequence of this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need to carry out an EIA.

(f) Land and Property Implications

If approved, 28 Bath Road will be leased to SRS for a term of 5 years at an annual rent of £8,700. There is a tenant only right to break the lease on the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the lease.

**5. Supporting Information**

**Background**

- 5.1 28 Bath Road is a former park keeper's cottage located in the south eastern corner of Salt Hill Park, on the junction with Bath Road and Stoke Poges Lane.
- 5.2 SRS have been in exclusive possession of the building for sometime with the last lease being in place from 2006 to 2008. Terms for a new lease were agreed in 2008, but never formalised despite a rent increase at this time.
- 5.3 SRS is a registered charity focused exclusively on the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. It was established in 1997 in order to welcome and offer practical help to some of the most marginalised people in the local community. In addition to support the SRS also offers practical advice such as accessing initial benefits, how to access health and education services, job searching and IT/Life classes with crèche support.
- 5.4 Terms have been agreed with SRS for the granting of a 5 year lease with a rent agreed at £8,700 per annum. SRS will be responsible for the running costs of the building (business rates, utilities, insurance, etc). The Council will continue to maintain the external parts of the property given its age and prominent location within the park.
- 5.5 The rent agreed is supported by a District Valuer community use rental valuation carried out at the time terms were agreed.



**6. Comments of Other Committees**

- 6.1 The Cabinet will consider this matter at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 and any amendments to the recommendation will be reported to Council.

**7. Conclusion**

- 7.1 Regularising the lease agreement with SRS, who are already well established at 28 Bath Road, will give both the Council and SRS certainty and security with regards occupation of this site. In turn SRS will be able to continue to provide and fund the support services it already provides to the local refugee community.

**8. Appendices Attached**

None

**9. Background Papers**

None.

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**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Council **DATE:** 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Parliamentary Boundary Review Working Group  
Catherine Meek  
Head of Democratic Services

**(For all enquiries)** (01753) 875011

**WARD(S):** All

**PART I**  
**FOR DECISION**

**PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY REVIEW**

1 **Purpose of Report**

To seek approval to a Council response to the Boundary Commissions for England's (BCE) initial proposals for the review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries.

**Recommendation**

The Council is requested to resolve:

- (a) That the submission set out at Appendix A be agreed as Slough Borough Council's formal response to the BCE's initial proposals for the review of Parliamentary Constituency boundaries.
- (b) That the views of the Conservative Group as set out in Appendix B be noted.

3 **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There are no financial or risk management implications as the report is administrative in nature.

(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications associated with this report.

4 **Supporting Information**

**Background**

- 4.1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) published initial proposals for new constituency boundaries in England on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016. This publication marked the start of a 12 week period of consultation on the BCE's initial proposals ending on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- 4.2 The BCE's proposals are available on the Commission's website and the Commission has an interactive consultation website at [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk) . The

initial proposals for the Berkshire Sub Region were reported to the Council at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The Council established a cross party working group comprising the Leader and five other members (3 Labour Group members and 1 Conservative Group member and the UKIP member) to consider and make recommendations to this meeting on the BCE's initial proposals.

### **Parliamentary Boundary Review Working Group**

- 4.3 The Working Group has met on three occasions and consists of Councillors Swindlehurst (Chair), Munawar, Smith, Coad, Bedi and Usmani.
- 4.4 The working group sought to reach a consensus view on the initial proposals and there was initially general agreement that there may be viable alternatives to the transfer of the Slough Chalvey Ward into the Windsor Constituency. However the Working Group have been unable to reach a consensus on the relative merit of the alternative proposals and the Conservative Group have withdrawn from the Boundary Review Working Group. The Working Group's proposed Council response based on discussion to date is set out at Appendix A for the Council's agreement. The submission has the support of the Labour Group and UKIP member on the Working Group. A copy of the Conservative Group's views is attached at Appendix B.

### **Public Hearing – Guildford 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016**

- 4.5 The Chair presented the initial views of the Working Group at the public hearings for the South East held by the BCE on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

### **TIMELINE FOR THE REVIEW**

- 4.6 The review will take place over approximately two and a half years, with final recommendations submitted to Parliament in September 2018.
- Initial proposals for new boundaries were published on 13 September 2016, which began twelve weeks of public consultation, including holding public hearings in each region of England.
  - All feedback from the initial consultation will then be published in early 2017, followed by a four week consultation period during which the public are invited to comment on that feedback.
  - The Commission will then review all comments from the initial and secondary consultation to revise the proposed boundaries. In late 2017/early 2018.
  - There will be a third period of consultation lasting eight weeks, where the public will be invited to comment on the revised proposals.
  - After looking at whether any more changes need to be made, in September 2018 the Commission will make final recommendations in a report published and presented to the Parliament.

5 **Appendices**

- A - Parliamentary Boundary Review – Slough Borough Council response to the BCE Initial Proposals for the South East
- B Copy of E mail from Councillor Smith setting out the Conservative Group's comments.

6 **Background Papers**

None.

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**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL - RESPONSE TO INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES**

**Boundary Commission for England's Initial proposal**

- 1 The Boundary Commission for England's (BCE) initial proposal is to increase the number of electors in the Windsor constituency by transferring the Chalvey Ward to it from the Slough Constituency.
- 2 The Commission did consider whether other wards in Slough Borough Council could be included in the Windsor Constituency in order to ensure it met the electorate quota. However the Commission identified that including other Slough wards would result in the Slough constituency being detached or require the inclusion of multiple wards. The Commission considered whether to include a ward from Buckinghamshire CC in the Windsor constituency but were of the view that crossing the county boundary was not necessary.
- 3 The Commission has proposed that the Berkshire constituencies of Bracknell, and Maidenhead, both of which (like Slough) are within 5% of the electoral quota, remain unaltered.

**Council Views on initial proposals**

- 4 The Council notes the aims of the Review and the statutory rules for the Review as set out in the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.
- 5 The Council acknowledges that under the terms of the Review there is a need to increase the number of electors in the Windsor constituency. The Council accepts that it is not logical to cross the County boundary given the Berkshire electorate figures.
- 6 The Commission's report does not indicate whether any consideration was given to transferring a ward from Bracknell Forest Borough Council or the Bray Ward from the Maidenhead Constituency to the Windsor Constituency. The majority of the Working Group believes there are viable alternatives to the Commission's initial proposal to move the Chalvey Ward from Slough into the Windsor Constituency which would maintain the community identity and integrity of the Slough seat.
- 7 **In summary the submission is:**
  - **that the Slough Constituency remain unchanged as it is already within the required tolerance for electorate figures**
  - **That either the Bullbrook, Crowthorne or Priestwood and Garth Ward be moved from the larger Bracknell Constituency to the Windsor Constituency as a viable alternative.**
  - **The proposal would achieve a better outcome on the statutory electorate quotas with less variance from the median between the three**

**constituencies affected and maintain the community identity and integrity of the Slough seat.**

**Evidence to support submission**

- 8 The existing Slough Constituency has an electorate of 76,668. This is within the primary rule of the Review that constituencies must have no fewer than 71,031 electors and no more than 78,507 electors.
- 9 The existing Bracknell constituency at 76,917 electors is a very similar size to Slough. Both areas have significant housing growth and are likely to increase in electorate numbers similarly over time.\*
- 10 The Council considers that a viable alternative to moving the Slough Chalvey ward into the Windsor Constituency would be to move either the Bracknell Forest Borough Ward of Bullbrook, Crowthorne or Priestwood and Garth into the Windsor Constituency. Windsor Constituency already contains significant parts of Bracknell Forest Borough. There were changes to both the Maidenhead and Windsor Constituencies in 2005 and the Commission noted at that time that the proposed transfer of the Windsor and Maidenhead ward of Bray to Maidenhead Constituency necessitated some increase to the electorate of Windsor CC, which could only be achieved by adding wards from the existing Bracknell CC.
- 11 The Council acknowledges that moving Bray Ward from Maidenhead to Windsor would be an obvious alternative to the BCE current proposals in geographic terms but the consequent reduction in size of the Maidenhead Constituency would be problematic with further adjustment needed from neighbouring constituencies. Settlements within the Bray ward are also closer to, and have more affinities with, the town of Maidenhead than the town of Windsor and the Council has therefore not pursued this as a viable alternative.
- 12 Moving either Bullbrook, Crowthorne, or Priestwood and Garth Ward into Windsor would produce a lower disparity in terms of electorate numbers between Windsor and Bracknell – the key driver of the Review and would be viable alternatives to Chalvey. If the Commission were minded to keep the urban settlement of Bracknell town intact then it could look transferring the Crowthorne ward. Alternatively, as the Commission has already moved Warfield Harvest Ride into Windsor as part of the last review then the transfer of Bullbrook or Priestwood and Garth would be a logical continuation of that approach in order to reach the electorate numbers needed for the Windsor Constituency.

\*[www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

**Electorate Numbers**

- 13 If either the Bullbrook, Crowthorne or Priestwood and Garth Ward were to be moved from Bracknell to the Windsor Constituency the electorate figures for the three constituencies affected would be as set out below:

Constituency	Existing electorate	Electorate – BCE initial	Electorate – alternative proposal -	Electorate alternative proposal -	Electorate alternative proposal –



		proposals	Crowthorne	Bullbrook	Priestwood and Garth
Slough	76,668	71,317	76,668	76,668	76,668
Windsor	68,834	74,185	72,766	72,994	74,288
Bracknell	76,917	76,917	72,985	72,807	71,463

- 14 These alternatives leave Slough and Bracknell closer to the median number of 74,769 and Windsor within the tolerance. The Commission's initial proposals leave Slough well below the median (-3452) and Bracknell well above it (+2148). The alternative proposals produce a better outcome that more closely aligns to the statutory electorate range with less marked variances from the median.

## Geography

- 15 Four Bracknell Borough Wards to the north and east of central Bracknell (Ascot, Binfield with Warfield, Warfield Harvest Ride and Winkfield and Cranbourne) are already within the Windsor Constituency. Therefore to reach the required additional number of electors in the Windsor Constituency moving a further ward from Bracknell would be more logical than breaching the M4 to take the Chalvey ward from central Slough
- 16 Whilst Bullbrook has close ties with the town of Bracknell, its transfer would meet the necessary increase in the electorate of the Windsor Constituency and would be a logical extension to the Warfield Harvest Ride Ward which is already in Windsor Constituency. There is no physical boundary between the Wards. The transfer would also have the benefit of improving the Constituency boundary between Bracknell and Windsor by using main roads as boundaries which creates a more obvious boundary. (See Map 2 attached) (To follow)
- 17 Whilst Priestwood and Garth similarly has close ties with the town of Bracknell, its transfer would meet the necessary increase in the electorate of the Windsor Constituency and would be a logical extension to the Warfield Harvest Ride Ward which is already in the Windsor Constituency. There is no physical boundary between the wards. The A329 to the south and A3095 to the east would act as 'hard' physical boundary between the Windsor and Bracknell constituencies. (See Map 3 attached) (To Follow)
- 18 The inclusion of Crowthorne would have little or no effect on the urban settlement of Bracknell town and would simply extend the Windsor constituency at its south western tip. (See map 4 attached). Like Ascot, Binfield with Warfield, Warfield Harvest Ride and Winkfield and Cranbourne the Crowthorne Ward, being a semi rural ward to the south of Bracknell town, is out-lying from Bracknell town centre. It is therefore not illogical to group it with the other four Bracknell council wards within the Windsor Constituency. The Bramshill forest and heathland areas in the Ascot Ward run into Crowthorne and the wards share the green land/open space in the area. (See Map 4 attached) (To Follow)
- 19 The transfer of either Bullbrook, Crowthorne or Priestwood and Garth Ward would be an alternative to the transfer of Chalvey Ward and the Council wishes to draw the Commission's attention to the special factors relating to Chalvey.

## Community Identity

- 20 The Council acknowledges that the Commission's initial proposals take into account existing constituencies, local government boundaries and geographical features to produce a set of constituencies that are within the statutory electorate range and are what the BCE consider to be the best balance between those factors. The BCE acknowledges that it has not taken into account how proposals may break local community ties.
- 21 Slough has some of the most deprived communities in the South East. The IMD deprivation measure lists Slough as having an overall rank of 79, compared to 287 for Bracknell Forest and 306 for Windsor and Maidenhead. (Where 1 is most deprived and 236 is least deprived.)
- 22 It is vital that democratic representation of Slough's communities is as effective as possible. The Commission's initial proposals would result in the residents in Chalvey almost certainly having to travel several miles to Windsor to access their MP's surgeries.
- 23 Chalvey is one of the more deprived Wards in Slough, and is culturally and religiously diverse. This is in contrast to Windsor and the two areas share very little both socially and culturally. Chalvey has no identification with Windsor nor any meaningful connections with Windsor.
- 24 The statistics below detail some of the key differences between Chalvey and the Eton Wick and Eton & Castle wards (the two wards that physically abut Chalvey), as well as the Bullbrook, Crowthorne and Priestwood and Garth wards from Bracknell Forest:
- **Religious diversity:** Chalvey (and Slough as a wider borough) is far more diverse than the other areas. 37% of its residents are Muslim, 7% Hindu, 6% Sikh. By contrast the other 3 non-Slough wards and the two non-Slough Boroughs are largely populated by Christians or Atheists. There are three-and-a-half times as many Muslims living in Chalvey as in the whole of Bracknell Forest, and 80% of the total living in Windsor & Maidenhead.
  - **Ethnic diversity:** Just 16% of Chalvey residents are categorised as White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British – 78% of Eton Wick and 87% of the other two wards are from such a background. 48% are Asian / Asian British compared to a maximum of 6% in Eton & Castle Ward.
  - **Country of birth:** 90% of Eton Wick and 80% of Eton & Castle residents were born in the UK, compared to just 45% in Chalvey.
  - **Language issues:** Only 58% of Chalvey residents have English as their main language, and 11% either cannot speak English at all or cannot speak it well. For all the other comparison areas outside of Slough a

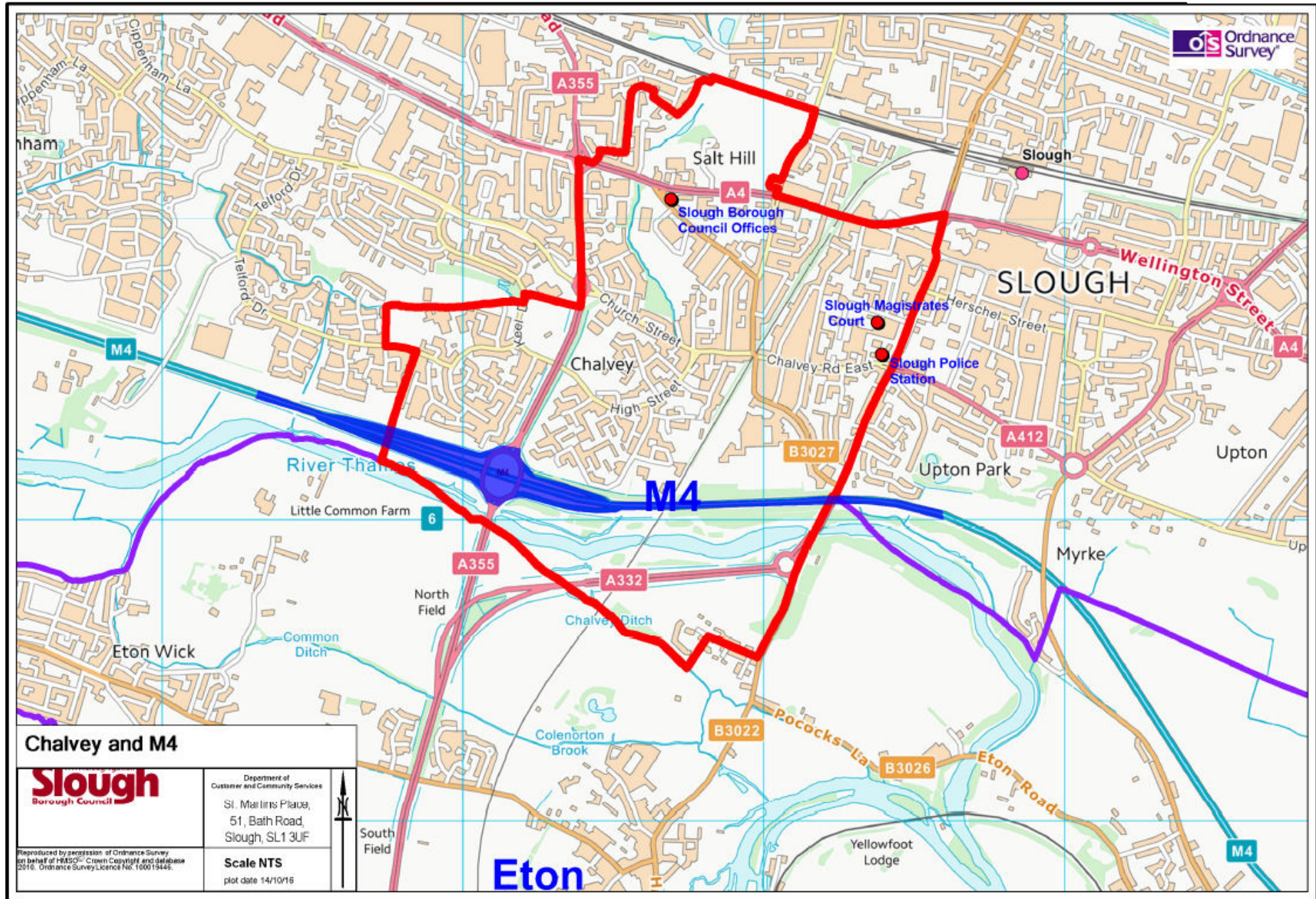
minimum of 93% of residents have English as their main language and only vanishingly small numbers cannot speak it with proficiency.

- **Qualifications / skills:** Identical proportions of Chalvey and Eton Wick residents have no formal qualifications, but this is considerably higher than the other comparators. These comparator areas have far higher proportions of residents with Level 3 or 4 Qualifications (equivalent to good 6<sup>th</sup> Form education or higher) than does Chalvey.
- **Housing stock:** A higher proportion of Chalvey residents are renting their homes either privately (40%) or from social letting agents (19%); just 37% own or are purchasing their own homes. Residents of Crowthorne and Eton Wick are far more likely to own their homes (73%, 67%). Whilst direct home ownership is low in Eton & Castle (28%), an equal portion (28%) lives rent-free here - a type of arrangement that is virtually unknown in all other areas. Linked to this is the fact that 41% of Eton & Castle residents have a second home elsewhere – in all other areas considered, second home ownership is low at around 4-5%.
- **Population by age:** ONS mid-year population estimates were released at ward-level. Chalvey has a much larger total population than the other wards – at 12,736 this is 2.2 times the number in Crowthorne, 4.5 times that in Eton and Castle, and 5.5 times that in Eton Wick. 29% of Chalvey were aged 17 or below i.e. were children – a higher proportion than Crowthorne (21%) or Eton Wick (17%) but less than Eton & Castle (41%). Eton & Castle ward does of course contain the famous Eton College with numerous boarding pupils.

- 25 The M4 acts as a 'hard' physical boundary between the Windsor and Slough Constituencies. Whilst there are link roads between Windsor and Chalvey, taking Chalvey in from north of the M4 is both illogical and impractical. (See Map 1 attached)
- 26 Slough is a cohesive urban area with distinct boundaries. Chalvey is one of the oldest most integral parts of the Slough settlement. This is evidenced by the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey forming the basis of the modern town of Slough.
- 27 Chalvey ward is in the central urban area of Slough, contains Slough High Street, Slough Borough Council Offices, the Slough MPs Office, the town's magistrates court and Slough Police station – all illustrative of it being part of the central urban core of the Slough Constituency. (See Map 1 attached)
- 28 Historically all of Slough Borough, (except Colnbrook and Poyle ward south of the M4), was in Buckinghamshire until the 1972 local government reorganisation, and consequently Slough's ties with the rest of Berkshire are recent. In parliamentary elections, the settlements of Eton and Eton Wick were briefly included in the old Slough & Eton constituency until 1983, but the river Thames was the physical boundary separating Slough from the town of Windsor. In terms of community identity, it would seem more logical to grow the Windsor constituency by adding a ward from its periphery with Bracknell than to reach north of the river and motorway to Chalvey.

## Conclusion

- 29 The Council established a cross party working group consisting of Labour, Conservative and UKIP councillors to give consideration to the BCE's initial proposals. There have been three meetings of the working group to date. Both Labour and UKIP object to Chalvey being transferred into the Windsor Constituency. The Conservative Group have noted the BCE's initial proposals and do not consider the alternatives produce better outcomes.
- 30 In summary the Council's submission is:
- That the Slough Constituency remain unchanged as it is already within the required tolerance for electorate figures
  - That either the Bullbrook, Crowthorne or Priestwood and Garth Ward be moved from the larger Bracknell Constituency to the Windsor Constituency as a viable alternative.
- 31 The proposal would achieve a better outcome on the statutory electorate quotas with less variance from the median between the three constituencies affected and maintain the community identity and integrity of the Slough seat.



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**Copy of e mail from Councillor Smith dated 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**Subject:** RE: Parliamentary Boundary Review Group - Draft Submission

Thank you for your email and the revised submission. I am sorry to say that the Slough Conservative Group cannot give its support to these alternative proposals as we do not see any evidence to suggest that they produce "better outcomes" than the BCE's Chalvey proposal, (paragraphs 7 and 29). I think we have reached a point of fundamental disagreement. The reasons are:

1. The Conservative Group previously stated that it did not consider that the Crowthorne proposal produced an outcome that was "as sustainable", let alone more sustainable than the Chalvey proposal. The same applies to the Bullbrook proposal (that likewise leaves all the Berkshire constituencies in the low end of the target range, except for Slough, which would be at the high end). If the Working Group discussed but chose not to address the impact of the current boundary review on the one that is would follow it 5 years hence, it shows that we are not looking at this from the same perspective.
2. No evidence is presented to support the statement that Bracknell Council has planned "similar housing growth" as Slough, (paragraph 9). It is also worth remembering that housing densities (the numbers actually living in comparable dwellings will be higher in Slough.
3. The close proximity of Chalvey to Windsor (compared to alternatives) is not acknowledged - the Ragstone Road area is in easy walking distance!
4. Likewise, the good transport links between Chalvey and Windsor, including public transport provisions, are still not acknowledged.
5. We agree that Chalvey has many special and challenging characteristics, but addressing these will still remain the responsibility of SBC even if Chalvey is transferred into the Windsor constituency - the implied suggestion that this task will become harder is not supported by any evidence.
6. It continues to be asserted incorrectly that Chalvey and Windsor have "no connections"; the previous existence of the parliamentary constituency of Slough and Eton spanning the area under consideration also remains unacknowledged.

I think the report should be put to the full Council on 29th November before any action on the Council's behalf.

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**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Council **DATE:** 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** Roger Parkin, Interim Chief Executive  
**(For all enquiries)** (01753) 875000  
**WARD(S):** All

**PART I**  
**FOR DECISION**

**APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 OFFICER**

1 **Purpose of Report**

To seek approval to the appointment of the Council's Section 151 Chief Finance Officer.

2 **Recommendation**

That Neil Wilcox, the Assistant Director of Finance and Audit, be confirmed as the Council's Section 151 Officer with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

3 **Community Strategy Priorities**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, there is a statutory requirement on the Authority to designate three statutory officers: Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer. The latter is required to be a suitably qualified individual. The Section 151 Officer, along with the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer combine to form the Council's Statutory Officer functions. These roles are key to ensuring lawfulness, fairness, probity and general good governance that support the council in achieving its aims. It is important that they work effectively together yet maintain appropriate independence and that the roles are undertaken by adequately skilled and experienced staff supported by appropriate resources. Typical arrangements in local authorities are for the Chief Executive to be Head of Paid Service whilst the other statutory roles are occupied at either Director or, as senior management structures shrink, increasingly at Assistant Director levels.

4 **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications.

(b) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

The appointment of a Section 151 Officer is a statutory requirement under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the post holder is a member of one of the CCAB accountancy bodies.

## 4 **Supporting Information**

### **ROLE AND DUTIES OF SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 4.1 The Council's Constitution sets out the main duties of the Section 151 Officer as:-
- Ensuring lawfulness and financial prudence of decision making;
  - Administration of financial affairs;
  - Contribution to corporate management;
  - Providing advice;
  - Providing financial information.
- 4.2 He/she should have a close working relationship with the other two statutory officers – the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer.

### **APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 4.3 At its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016 the Council confirmed the appointment of Stephen Fitzgerald, the interim Assistant Director Finance and Audit, as the Council's Section 151 Officer with effect from 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 pending a permanent appointment to the Assistant Director post.
- 4.4 Neil Wilcox took up his appointment as Assistant Director Finance and Audit in October 2016 and it is recommended that Council formally confirm the appointment of Neil Wilcox as the Council's Section 151 Officer with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Mr Wilcox holds the necessary professional qualifications to undertake the role. Stephen Fitzgerald has been retained until the end of November to ensure a smooth handover of all budgetary matters.
- 4.5 It is a requirement under the Council's Constitution that appointments to the three statutory posts (Head of Paid Service, S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer) are confirmed by Full Council.

## 5 **Conclusion**

The role of the Section 151 Officer is an important element in the Council's structure and processes. The arrangements outlined in this paper will ensure that the functions continue to be discharged appropriately.

## 6 **Background Papers**

Constitution.

**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Council **DATE:** 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** Roger Parkin, Interim Chief Executive  
**(For all enquiries)** (01753) 875207  
**WARD(S):** All

**PART I**  
**FOR DECISION**

**APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER**

1 **Purpose of Report**

This report seeks the appointment of the Council's Monitoring Officer.

2 **Recommendation**

The Council is requested to resolve:

- (a) That Amardip Healy, Head of Legal Services, be appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from 30th November 2016.
- (b) That Article 12 of the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.
- (c) That Linda Walker be thanked for her services and assistance in dealing with Monitoring Officer matters.

3 **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The Monitoring Officer, along with the Head of Paid Service and the Section 151 Officer combine to form the Council's Statutory Officer functions. These roles are key to ensuring lawfulness, fairness, probity and general good governance that support the council in achieving its aims. It is important that they work effectively together yet maintain appropriate independence and that the roles are undertaken by adequately skilled and experienced staff supported by appropriate resources.

4 **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

None. The Monitoring Officer role attracts an additional annual allowance of £5,000.

(b) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

The appointment of a Monitoring Officer is a statutory requirement under Section 5, Local Government & Housing Act 1989. The Council has the right to designate and appoint the Monitoring Officer and to give three months notice to the Monitoring Officer if it wishes to redesignate the post.

## 5 **Supporting Information**

- 5.2 At its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 the Council appointed Linda Walker as the Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 until further notice. Linda Walker has a track record working in local government legal services both within local authorities and in the private sector and had been appointed by the Council as Interim Monitoring Officer on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 until 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015.
- 5.3 The Council's Monitoring Officer has a number of functions which are defined within the Council's constitution. These include; ensuring lawfulness and fairness of decision making, supporting the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee, receiving reports, conducting investigations, ensuring access to information, advising whether executive decisions are within the budget and policy framework and maintaining the Constitution.
- 5.4 The Council is committed to appointing permanent officers to the statutory officer roles and the Council is requested to appoint Amardip Healy, the Council's Head of Legal Services as the Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Once appointed, the Monitoring Officer will make suitable arrangements in appointing a Deputy Monitoring Officer as soon as possible.
- 5.5 Linda Walker will complete current matters and ensure a proper handover.
- 5.6 This proposal/appointment will require Article 12 of the Councils Constitution to be amended accordingly.

## 6 **Conclusion**

The role of the Monitoring Officer is an important element in the Council's structure and processes. The arrangements outlined in this report will ensure that the functions continue to be discharged appropriately by a permanent member of staff.

## 7 **Background Papers**

None.

**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Council **DATE:** 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Nick Pontone, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
**(For all enquiries)** 01753 875120

**WARD(S):** All

**PART I**  
**FOR DECISION**

**APPOINTMENT TO SLOUGH WELLBEING BOARD**

**1. Purpose of Report**

To consider the recommendation of the Slough Wellbeing Board to appoint an additional member to the Board and to note a change to the Councillor representation for the remainder of the municipal year.

**2. Recommendations**

The Council is requested to resolve that;

- (a) That the Chief Executive of the Slough Children's Services Trust be appointed to the Slough Wellbeing Board; and
- (b) That the nomination of the Leader of the Council that the Commissioner for Health & Social Care is the sole councillor representative on the Slough Wellbeing Board be noted, and that the membership of the Board be adjusted accordingly.

**3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Council's Five Year Plan**

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

The appointment would contribute to the following priorities:

Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020:

- 1: Protecting vulnerable children
- 2: Increasing life expectancy by focussing on inequalities
- 3: Improving mental health and wellbeing
- 4: Housing

Five Year Plan Outcome 5:

- Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances

#### **4. Legal, Financial and Other Implications**

##### Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

##### Legal implications

Health & Wellbeing Boards were established under the Health & Social Care Act 2012. The Act specified the core membership of a Health & Wellbeing Board as follows:

- At least one councillor;
- The director of adult social services;
- The director of children's services;
- The director of public health;
- A Healthwatch representative;
- A representative from the Clinical Commissioning Group; and
- Any other members considered appropriate by the Council.

The Council is able to appoint other members as it thinks appropriate, following consultation with the Health and Wellbeing Board. In Slough, the Wellbeing Board includes several non-statutory members who contribute positively to the work of the partnership including Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service, Slough CVS and representatives of the business sector.

#### **5. Supporting Information**

##### Children's Services Representation

- 5.1 It is a requirement to appoint to the Committees, quasi-judicial and other bodies as set out in the Constitution and to consider recommendations from the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to its membership.
- 5.2 At its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the Slough Wellbeing Board agreed to recommend to Council that the Chief Executive of Slough Children's Services Trust become a member of the Board. The recommendation reflects the specific circumstances in Slough relating to the delivery of children's services and the priority that the Board has given to the protection of vulnerable children in the refreshed Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy.
- 5.3 The Board also noted that Jo Moxon, recently appointed as the Interim Director of Children's Services, would join the Slough Wellbeing Board as a statutory member.

## Councillor Representation

- 5.4 For Council's that operate executive arrangements, the Health & Social Care Act 2012 states that the Leader of the Council may nominate the councillor(s) to represent the authority on the Board. Since the inception of the Board in 2013, the Leader and relevant Commissioner have both been members.
- 5.5 The Leader of the Council has confirmed that he has nominated the Commissioner for Health & Social Care as the sole Councillor representative on the Board. The Commissioner was elected as Chair of the Slough Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016. Councillor representation will be reviewed at the end of the municipal year.

## **6. Appendices**

None.

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