

SIGNIFICANT OFFICER DECISIONS

16 JULY 2013 TO 15 AUGUST 2013

DECISIONS

35/13 – 39/13

DATE OF PUBLICATION:

Monday 19th August 2013

DEADLINE FOR MEMBER CALL-IN:

5.00pm on 26th August 2013

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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 submitted 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	35/13
Title of decision	Appointment to the Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee (Outside Body)
Date decision taken	29th July 2013
Decision maker	Assistant Director, Professional Services
Portfolio	Performance & Accountability
Details of decision taken	That Councillor Minhas be appointed to Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee with immediate effect, under Council Procedure Rule 1.2 (vi).
Reasons for taking decision	N/A
Options considered	N/A
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None
Reports considered	None

Ref	36/13
Title of decision	Appointment to the Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee (Outside Body)
Date decision taken	29th July 2013
Decision maker	Assistant Director, Professional Services
Portfolio	Performance & Accountability
Details of decision taken	That Councillor Swindlehurst be appointed as a Deputy Member to Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee with immediate effect under Council Procedure Rule 1.2 (vi).
Reasons for taking decision	N/A
Options considered	N/A
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None
Reports considered	None

Ref	37/13
Title of decision	Appointment to the Foster Panel (Other Body)
Date decision taken	30th July 2013
Decision maker	Assistant Director, Professional Services
Portfolio	Performance & Accountability
Details of decision taken	That Councillor Brooker be appointed to the Foster Panel with immediate effect, under Council Procedure Rule 1.2 (vi).
Reasons for taking decision	N/A
Options considered	N/A
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None
Reports considered	None

Ref	38/13
Title of decision	London Road 20mph, Colnbrook
Date decision taken	August 2013
Decision maker	Assistant Director, Enforcement & Regulatory Services
Portfolio	Social & Economic Inclusion
Details of decision taken	To report on the results of the consultation and to seek authority to seal and advertise the Traffic Regulation Order for the 20mph zone and undertake associated highway works introducing a 20mph zone to relevant guidance. Implementation of the scheme will cost approx £14,000.
Reasons for taking decision	As part of the council's objective of promoting safer roads, the council proposes to introduce a 20mph zone in the vicinity of the pedestrian crossing in London Rd, Colnbrook.
Options considered	Formal consultation period ended 19th April 2013. No representations received.
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None
Reports considered	None

Ref	39/13
Title of decision	Termination of the Raising Participation Partnership (RPP)
Date decision taken	30th July 2013
Decision maker	RPP Joint Committee
Portfolio	Education & Children
Details of decision taken	<p>That the RPP should terminate (cease to operate as a Partnership) with effect from 31 March 2014.</p> <p>Services currently delivered by the RPP will need to be delivered by individual participating Local Authorities and staff will be subject to either redeployment into one of the four participating Local Authorities or redundancy if no suitable vacancies are available.</p>
Reasons for taking decision	<p>Following the notice to withdraw from the RPP from Wokingham BC with effect from 31 March 2014 (31 August if this was in the interests of all parties) both Slough BC and West Berkshire Council agreed that the service should terminate with effect from 31 March 2014. In the interests of reaching agreement Reading also agreed to the termination though this was not their preferred option.</p>
Options considered	<p>Option 1: Whether a new Business Model should be developed for the RPP so that it incorporates only Slough Borough Council, Reading Borough Council and West Berkshire Council.</p> <p>Option 2: Whether the RPP should be terminated with effect from 31st March 2014.</p> <p>Option 3: Whether the RPP should be terminated with effect from 31st August 2014.</p>
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None received.
Reports considered	Copy of Minutes from Joint Committee available on request from 01753 875120.

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/services/2026.aspx>

Ref: 13/06 Langley Broom / Traffic Issues

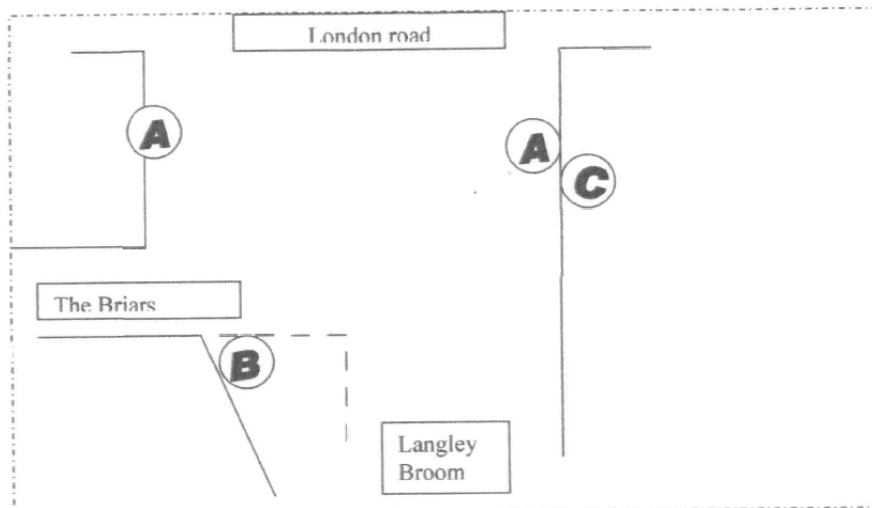
Petition Received – 16th July 2013

We, the residents of Langley Broom, The Briars and Fieldhurst would be most grateful if you would urgently address the serious problems that are regularly occurring at the junction of The Briars & Langley Broom leading onto The London Road. On numerous occasions there have been near misses and this continues on a regular basis which becomes a danger to road users and pedestrians.

With reference to the junctions map below, we recommend you seriously consider the following points in order to improve the junction's safety:

- Vehicles are regularly parked at point A causing vehicles to continuously take evasive action to prevent accidents when using the junction. It would be safer for all if there were yellow lines or a parking restriction imposed to keep the junction clear.
- At Langley Broom junction B, there is no clear stop or give way sign and therefore the vehicles coming out of Langley Broom often do not slow down or stop to give right of way to vehicles entering or leaving The Briars. We recommend clear signage at this junction.
- At point C the tree branches have overgrown into the road which causes an obstruction. Vehicles have to manoeuvre around the branches.
- We have concerns regarding the drop off and pick up of Langley Grammar school children. Parents are often parked on the corners of these junctions causing restricted access and visibility for other drivers. Perhaps the parents could be reminded about the dangers of parking at junctions as this is just a disaster waiting to happen.

The residents would be most grateful for a prompt response to our concerns and an urgent and amicable action plan to be put into place to make all our lives safer.



Response Provided – 14th August 2013

Thank you for your petition regarding the various concerns you have raised about parking and access on the above roads.

The first point you have raised is regarding vehicles parked at the junction of London Road with Langley Broom, and have requested that parking restrictions to help improve safety when using this junction. We have added this request to our waiting restrictions request list to consider double yellow lines at this junction. The list is due to be reviewed at the end of the year, when we will design a scheme and put the proposal out to a formal consultation.

With regards to the junction of Langley Broom with The Briars, there are currently 'give way' lines on the carriageway on Langley Broom; this is the appropriate marking for a minor road, and therefore we are unable to erect a sign at this location. However, we can have the markings refreshed to make them clearly visible to drivers.

The overgrowth of tree branches on Langley Broom has been reported to the relevant department, and they will take the necessary action to have these trimmed back.

Unfortunately increased traffic and inconsiderate parking around school times is a problem we have throughout the Borough. The Council works with the local schools to try to help educate both parents and children about alternative methods of travel to school and also about being considerate of other road users if using a car. Hopefully if the proposal to implement the double yellow lines at this location is successful, this will help alleviate some of the problems.

I hope this information helps, and please do not hesitate to contact us with any further enquiries.