

SIGNIFICANT OFFICER DECISIONS

16 JANUARY TO 15 FEBRUARY 2016

DECISIONS

01/16 – 03/16

DATE OF PUBLICATION:

17th February 2016

DEADLINE FOR MEMBER CALL-IN:

5.00pm on 24th February 2016

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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) 875015, email: neil.fraser@slough.gov.uk.

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

Ref	01/16
Title of decision	Appointment to the Police and Crime Panel
Date decision taken	20 th January 2016
Decision maker	Tracy Luck – Assistant Director, Strategy and Engagement
Portfolio	N/A
Details of decision taken	Following Cllr Munawar’s resignation from the Police and Crime Panel, Cllr Hussain was appointed as the Council’s representative to the Panel in accordance with Council Procedure Rules, part 4.1, Paragraph 1.2 (vi)
Reasons for taking decision	On 19 th January 2016, Cllr Sohail Munawar tendered his resignation from the Police and Crime Panel, citing increased work commitments contributing to his inability to guarantee 100% attendance at future meetings.
Options considered	None.
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None.
Reports considered	Council Procedure Rules, part 4.1, Paragraph 1.2 (vi)

Ref	02/16
Title of decision	Appointment to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority
Date decision taken	29 th January 2016
Decision maker	Tracy Luck – Assistant Director, Strategy and Engagement
Portfolio	N/A
Details of decision taken	Following Cllr Bal’s resignation from the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, Cllr Dar was appointed as the Council’s representative to the Panel in accordance with Council Procedure Rules, part 4.1, Paragraph 1.2 (vi)
Reasons for taking decision	On 28 th January 2016, Cllr Bal tendered his resignation from the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, citing other commitments.
Options	None.

considered	
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None.
Reports considered	Council Procedure Rules, part 4.1, Paragraph 1.2 (vi)

Ref	03/16
Title of decision	Determination by Slough Local Authority to amalgamate Our Lady of Peace Infant and Nursery School and Our Lady of Peace Junior School by closing Our Lady of Peace Junior School and expanding the age range of Our Lady of Peace Infant and Nursery School
Date decision taken	4 th February, 2016
Decision maker	Krutika Pau – Interim Director of Children’s Services
Portfolio	Education and Children
Details of decision taken	Our Lady of Peace Junior School will be closed, and the age range of Our Lady of Peace Infant and Nursery School will be expanded, and the two schools amalgamated. Over the last two decades Slough has supported the amalgamation of separate infant and junior schools where the opportunity has arisen, in the belief that combined schools can provide significant benefits to pupils and staff.
Reasons for taking decision	<p>There were a number of educational and organisational benefits to be gained by amalgamating the two schools, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two schools currently share an entrance and are collocated • The vast majority of the pupils transfer from the Infant to the Junior school. The amalgamation will ensure a seamless transition of pupils from Key Stage 1 (Infants) to Key Stage 2 (Juniors) • The Infant school headteacher is currently the acting headteacher of the Junior school • An amalgamated school will provide recruitment and retention providing greater opportunities for staff. • An amalgamated school will allow for a greater ability to track pupil progress between key stages, and

	<p>provide greater opportunities for curriculum development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An amalgamation will allow for greater flexibility with a larger budget to deploy staff and curriculum resources effectively
Options considered	A consultation on the proposal was published on 18 th December 2015, allowing four weeks from this date for objections and comments to be submitted. As no objections to the proposal were received, and all legislative requirements had been fulfilled, the details within the notice will therefore now be implemented.
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None.
Reports considered	Statutory notice of proposal to amalgamate Our Lady of Peace Catholic Junior School and Our Lady of Peace Catholic Infant and Nursery School, published 18 th December 2015

Petitions

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme and the schedule of Significant Officer Decisions please find below a list of petitions submitted to the Council and a summary the response provided. Further details of the petitions can be found on Slough's website:

<http://www.slough.gov.uk/moderngov/mgePetitionListDisplay.aspx?bcr=1>

None.