

SIGNIFICANT OFFICER DECISIONS

16 APRIL TO 15 MAY 2016

DECISIONS

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DATE OF PUBLICATION:

17th May 2016

DEADLINE FOR MEMBER CALL-IN:

5.00pm on 24th May 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 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) 875015, email: neil.fraser@slough.gov.uk.

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

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>

16-02 - Hawker Court - New Communal Lighting

Petition Received: 13th April 2016

The following points are a concern for the residents of Hawker Court and we would like the Council to consider looking into the new lighting system installed in Hawker Court, High Street, Langley, Slough with the view of altering the functionality of the lighting.

The entrance door lighting does not come on until residents are literally to the path of the property. This makes walking to the entrance of each block after sunset unsafe and leaves residents feeling vulnerable.

Communal lighting comes on separately on the ground floor to the first floor so again walking into the communal block is very unnerving with the lack of sufficient lighting after dark. Considering most residents of Hawker Court are either elderly or sole occupants safety and wellbeing is paramount for us as residents. Eliminating any risk of potential hazardous incidents is also a concern. The new lighting system which has been in place for over a month or more now has proved to be inadequate in its functionality for lighting Hawker Court communal areas appropriately.

Would it be possible to have the system re-set so lighting comes on well before residents reach their path and the lighting for the end blocks sync in also so residents are not walking into outer darkness to get to their properties.

Your favourable resolve on these raised concerns would be much appreciated waiting your

response with anticipation.

Response received:

The lights were installed at Hawker Court on 2nd & 3rd March, 2016 and since that time Property Services has not received any complaints, telephone calls, emails or enquiries regarding the lighting; therefore this Petition is the first opportunity Property Services has had to respond and resolve these issues.

Technically there is no actual fault with the lights, it is just that they may need minor adjustments to the programming either by altering the level that the lights dim or alter the sensitivity of the inbuilt sensors. Lighting (as with heating) can be subjective in that everybody's perception can be different and what may work for one block, may not for another. We can advise that the installation contractor, Wiggintons, attended site on 13th April, 2016 and spoke with a resident who mentioned these concerns to him and the lighting was reprogrammed. Had we been made aware of residents' concerns at the time of installation the lighting could have been adjusted several weeks ago.

The Project Manager, has also telephoned a resident and agreed to attend the site which, given the light evenings at this time of year, will need to be after 8.30pm one evening so they can be tested in darkness. If necessary any further adjustments can then be investigated.

On Sunday 17th April at 9.45pm the Project Manager attended Hawker Court to assess the external and lighting and the lighting in the communal areas. He was only able to gain access to 2 of the blocks and all the internal lights were working, but he concluded that the sensors on the external lights were very sluggish and did not alter to intensity until he was close to the building. The sensitivity of the sensors therefore need adjusting so they come on as people approach from further away. Following this an instruction was given to the lighting contractor and we can confirm that a Thorlux Engineer will attend this site on Wednesday 20th April to check and programme the lights. We trust this is a suitable and satisfactory response to your Petition.

16-03 - Double Yellow Lines on Marlborough Road

Petition received: 15th April, 2016

'**The Pavement Protection Scheme**' adopted by Slough Borough Council, and currently in the process of being rolled out across Slough will result in Double Yellow lines being marked on the corner of all roads.

We the undersigned recognise that this initiative does not adequately address our '**Parking abuse**' issue', which has resulted in the refuse collection lorries being unable to gain access to our close on more than one occasion. This parking abuse would further hinder emergency vehicle if there was a need for them to attend.

We request that double yellow lines be extend from the junction with Marlborough Road to the start of the bulb of the close, on one side. We would like to see the final changes before they are implemented.

Response received: 12th May, 2016

Thank you for the paper petition submitted on Friday 15th April, 2016 requesting double yellow lines on Marlborough Road.

Marlborough Road has not been reviewed for the Pavement Parking Scheme, therefore

designs for proposed restrictions have not yet been drafted. The Pavement Parking Scheme will be introduced across the entire borough in the coming years, and is being rolled out ward by ward. We have introduced the scheme in the Central Ward only at present, and we are currently in the process of reviewing 4 further wards, Elliman, Chalvey, Wexham and Baylis & Stoke Wards.

The effect of this scheme is to introduce a ban on parking on the pavements and verges, unless a specified parking bay has been painted for vehicles to do so. The scheme will be designed to national design standards to promote the free movement of pedestrians on the pavement, and vehicles on the carriageway. Double yellow lines will be placed on all junctions, bends and any area where parked vehicles hinder access or visibility. We have logged this request and we will consider this when Upton Ward is reviewed. We will write to all residents in the ward, and consult with Ward Councillors when the scheme is due to be implemented in this area.