

Slough Borough Council Best Value Commissioners

Instruction Note 5 - Instruction under powers provided by the Best Value Directions

15 April 2025

Functions of the authority to be exercised by the Commissioners

The current Slough Borough Council Directions outline the following functions to be exercised by the commissioners in relation to decision making:

- 1. All functions associated with the governance and scrutiny of strategic decision making by the Authority.*
- 2. All functions associated with the financial governance and scrutiny of strategic financial decision making by the Authority.*
- 3. The requirement from section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of the Authority's financial affairs, and all functions associated with the strategic financial management of the Authority.*

With effect from April 2025, clearance of reports for decisions attributed to Council, Cabinet and Committees, will be designated to the Managing Director Commissioner and the Corporate Leadership Team. However, for the reporting categories below, which are integral to the on-going improvement and financial sustainability of the Council, and / or attributed to specific tasks as outlined in the Directions, clearance will be retained by the wider Best Value Commissioners.

Improvement and financial sustainability of the Council Strategic financial decision making

- Changes to the financial framework - Financial Procedure Rules, Scheme of Delegations for financial decisions, Budget, and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.
- Medium Term Financial Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy, Annual Budgets (all funds) and underpinning policies / strategies such as MRP, debt reduction, reserves strategies.
- Establishment of a Company or Special Purpose Vehicle.
- Subsidiary companies' annual business plans.
- Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation business case.
- Inclusive Economic Growth / Regeneration Strategy.

Operational financial management

- Reports approving unplanned (not reflected in the annual budget) drawdowns from reserves (general and earmarked).
- Any new borrowing or financial instruments (e.g. non-treasury investments, bonds, loans & equity ownership) attributed to the Council and / or, its subsidiaries.
- Asset backed vehicles, asset declared surplus or disposals (transfer or sale).
- Pension contribution or deficit prepayment.

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- Annual procurement forward plan.
- Severance payments of £100,000 and above.
- Statement of accounts.

Governance

- Internal Audit Annual Plan & Strategic Plans.
- Annual Governance Statement.
- Urgent decisions or key decisions that will not be subject to the call-in procedure (this excludes decisions taken by the Chief Executive under emergency or extreme urgency).

The current Slough Borough Council Directions include the following specific tasks:

1. To agree a new operating model and redesign of council services to achieve financial stability and the delivery of core services and priorities.
2. To deliver a comprehensive workforce strategy to foster and embed cultural change.

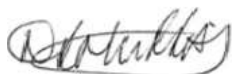
In addition to the list above, reports that seek to implement these two aspects of the Councils' improvement journey will continue to require Commissioner clearance.

For other Council, Cabinet and Committee reports, they will be marked with the following *"this report is outside the scope for pre-publication commissioner review; please check the [Commissioners' instruction 5 to CLT to sign off papers](#) for further details"*. We will introduce dip sampling as part of our Assurance Framework in relation to quality and evidenced based decision making. Commissioners will keep this matter under review and will update this Instruction as appropriate.

This Instruction will be published on the Slough Borough Council Commissioners web pages.




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Lead Commissioner



Denise Murray
Finance Commissioner



Gerard Curran
Commissioner



Will Tuckley
MD Commissioner and
Head of Paid Service

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