

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Strategy and Resources Committee on Tuesday, 7 February 2017

This notice was published 09 February 2017

Decisions will come into force, and may be implemented, on the expiry of 5 working days from the date of this notice unless called in by the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee.

NOTE: The following represents a summary of the decisions taken by the Committee. It is not intended to represent the formal record of the meeting (for which reference should be made to the minutes) but to facilitate the call-in process.

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
1.	Question Time	No questions were asked or had been submitted by members of the public.
2.	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made by councillors regarding items on the Agenda.
3.	External Audit Update, Grant Certification and Annual Audit Letter	<p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Received the Progress and Update Report appended as Annexe 1 to the report;(2) Noted the Annual Audit Letter for 2015/16 appended as Annexe 2 to the report;(3) Noted the Grant Certification Letter appended as Annexe 3 to the report. <p><i>Note: Elizabeth Jackson, Associate Director, Grant Thornton was in attendance to present the report and answer any questions.</i></p>
4.	Establishment of a Company	<p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Noted and agreed in principle to the establishment of a company or companies to acquire, hold and trade in property;

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		<p>(2) Agreed that a working group be established comprising the Chief Executive and other Officers listed at the top of the report (Kathryn Beldon, Rod Brown, Lee Duffy, Mark Shepard and Simon Young) together with the Chairman of Strategy & Resources Committee and the Vice Chairman of the Community & Wellbeing Committee for the purposes set out in the report;</p> <p>(3) Agreed that any Member appointed to the working group who was unable to attend a meeting of the working group should be able to nominate another Member of the Council to substitute for them;</p> <p>(4) Agreed that an initial budget of £50k be established to meet the costs of procuring specialist legal, financial and other necessary professional advice and set up costs;</p> <p>(5) Agreed to recommend that Council increase the Commercial Property Acquisition Fund by a further £60m to be funded by Prudential Borrowing;</p> <p>(6) Agreed to recommend to Council a supplementary capital expenditure estimate of £60m in the financial year 2016/17 for (5) above;</p> <p>(7) Agreed to recommend to Council that the Council's Prudential Indicators be revised to reflect the additional £60m of Prudential Borrowing;</p> <p>(8) Noted that a mid-year appraisal update report would be made to the Committee on the strategy, portfolio performance and status of acquisitions made from the Commercial Property Acquisition Fund;</p>

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		<p>(9) Noted that a new regular update report would be made to the Financial Policy Panel on the financial status of the investment property portfolio and rental income profile.</p> <p><i>Note: Councillor Kate Chinn wished her disagreement to recommendations (5) and (6) be recorded.</i></p>
5.	Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Pay Award 2017/18	<p>The Committee:</p> <p>(1) Received and considered the recommendation of a 1.5% pay award for 2017/18 by the Joint Staff Committee;</p> <p>(2) Determined a pay award of 1.5% as appropriate and approved the inclusion in the budget for 2017/18 of the additional cost required to fund the higher pay award.</p>
6.	Replacement of Bourne Hall audio equipment	<p>The Committee supported the improvement work to the audio visual equipment at Bourne Hall and authorised the release of £16,687 from the Repairs and Renewals Fund.</p>

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7.	Corporate Plan: Performance Report Two 2016 to 2017	<p>The Committee:</p> <p>(1) Considered the performance reported in Annexe 1 to the report and did not identify any areas of concern;</p> <p>(2) Considered the actions that had been proposed or taken where performance was currently a concern as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report.</p>
8.	Fees and Charges 2017/18	Subject to the approval of Council, the Committee agreed the fees and charges for 2017/18 as set out in Annexe 1 to the report.
9.	Capital Programme 2017/18	<p>The Committee:</p> <p>(1) Submitted the Capital Programme for 2017/18 as identified in section 4 of the report to the Council for approval on 14 February 2017;</p> <p>(2) Confirmed that it supported all of the schemes included in the provisional programme for 2018-20 as identified in section 6 of the report;</p> <p>(3) Noted that schemes for 2018-20 were provisional pending an annual review of funds available for capital investment.</p>

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10.	Revenue Budget 2017/18	<p>The Committee:</p> <p>(1) Recommended the 2017/18 service estimates for approval at the budget meeting of the Full Council on 14 February 2017;</p> <p>(2) Agreed not to revise the current Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme which the budget proposals in this report reflect.</p>
11.	Street Scene CCTV	The Committee authorised the Chief Executive to concluded arrangements for monitoring and maintaining the Street Scene CCTV cameras in the Borough in such a way as she thought fit but with a view to implementing the proposals in section 3 of the report.
12.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	The Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 22 November 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
13.	Exclusion of Press and Public	The Committee resolved to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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14.	Write Off over £20,000: National Non Domestic Rates	The Committee agreed to write off debts totalling £34,181.59 for Business Rates.
15.	Write off over £20,000: Unilateral Undertaking Under S106	The Committee agreed to write of a debt totalling £22,262.28
16.	Minutes of Previous Meeting - Bourne Hall Kitchen; Transport Fleet Contract	The Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 22 November 2016 (considered exempt from publication at this time) were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.