

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Strategy and Resources Committee on Tuesday, 27 September 2016

This notice was published 28 September 2016.

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	<p>Disclosable pecuniary interests were declared by Councillor Eber Kington and Councillor Omer Kokou-Tchri respectively in relation to Item 5 on the Agenda (Horton Chapel). Councillors Kington and Kokou-Tchri left the Chamber and took no part in the debate on this item.</p> <p>In the interests of openness and transparency, Councillor Clive Woodbridge declared that he currently received an allowance from the LGA in respect of your membership of one of its boards (though not a board which was related to the proposals set out in Item 8). This was not considered a disclosable pecuniary interest and Councillor Woodbridge remained in the Chamber and participated in the debate on this item.</p>
3.	Audit Findings Report 2015/16	<p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Received the Audit Findings for 2015/16;(2) Received the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016;(3) Agreed the management action in response to audit recommendations;

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		<p>(4) Agreed that the Chairman of Strategy and Resources Committee and the Director of Finance and Resources sign the Letter of Representation on behalf of the Council;</p> <p>(5) Delegated any further amendments to the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2016 to the Director of Finance and Resources in consultation with the Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee.</p>
4.	External Audit Progress Report August 2016	The Committee received the External Audit Progress Report.
5.	Horton Chapel	<p>(1) That Horton Chapel Arts and Heritage Society (“the Society”) be selected as the preferred bidder for the refurbishment of Horton Chapel for community use;</p> <p>(2) That, subject to the Society being successful in its bid for funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund, Officers be authorised, in consultation with the Vice Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee, to conclude an agreement with the Society on such terms as thought fit, covering matters related to the above, to include:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a) Terms for the release of up to £1.45million in grant funding to support the refurbishment of the Chapel;</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">b) Terms for the transfer of the Chapel to the Society for nil consideration.</p>

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6.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	The Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 5 April 2016 and 21 June 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
7.	Release of Capital funds for LED lighting	<p>The Committee:</p> <p>(1) Approved the use of £19,100 previously approved under spend to save for LED lighting at the Town Hall;</p> <p>(2) Released the remaining capital funds of £11,800 for LED lighting to carry out replacement lighting as described at the Town Hall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend to Save £15,900 (over 8.65 years without contingency) • Business continuity £15,000
8.	Appointment of External Auditors	<p>The Committee agreed:</p> <p>(1) the approach of supporting the Local Government Association (LGA) in setting up a national Sector Led Body by indicating the intention to “opt-in”;</p> <p>(2) to receive a further report on the preferred option during December/January 2017.</p>

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9.	Budget Targets 2017/18	<p>The Committee:</p> <p>(1) Accepted the Four Year Settlement for Central Government in conjunction with the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) That the approved cost reduction plan is renamed the Efficiency Plan and the MTFS is retitled the MTFS and Efficiency Plan b) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee be authorised to make such further changes as they consider appropriate to the MTFS and Efficiency Plan, for example, to enable the Council to respond to any emerging guidance or good practice and meet the 14 October deadline; c) That Members and Leadership Team develop the Efficiency Plan during October to January as part of the 2017/18 budget setting process. <p>(2) The following overall revenue budget target for 2017/18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The preparation of estimates including options to reduce organisational costs by £556,000 to minimise the use of working balances and maintain a minimum working balance of £2.5m in accordance with the medium term financial strategy; b) The generation of at least £200,000 additional revenue from an increase in discretionary fees and charges, based on minimum overall increase in

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		<p style="text-align: center;">yield of 3% in 2017/18;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c) That a provision for 2017/18 pay award is made of £180,000 which represents a 1% pay increase and 0.6% progression;</p> <p>(3) That further efficiencies be identified to address the budget shortfalls of £220,000 in 2017/18, £374,000 in 2018/19 and £688,000 in 2019/20;</p> <p>(4) That Capital Member Group seek to limit schemes included within the capital expenditure programme that enable retention of agreed minimum level of capital reserves</p>
10.	ICT Datacentre and Infrastructure	<p>The Committee agreed:</p> <p>(1) Option 3C for the Joint Data Centre with Elmbridge Borough Council hosted at a third party datacentre;</p> <p>(2) The funding from existing capital budgets of £63,000 and the use of £139,600 additional capital funds as detailed in Table 3 contained in Annexe 1 to the report (considered exempt from publication);</p> <p>(3) The annual revenue saving of £17,800 be transferred into an earmarked reserve for future IT renewals and replacements as detailed in Table 3 contained in Annexe 1 to the report (considered exempt from publication).</p>

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11.	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 paragraphs 1, 2, and 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.
12.	Minutes of Previous Meetings - Acquisition of Land and Property; Payroll Solutions; The Ebbisham Centre and Land at Ashley Avenue	The Minutes of the Meetings of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 5 April 2016 and 21 June 2016, considered exempt from publication, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
13.	ICT Datacentre and Infrastructure - Projected Costs and Budget	Annexe 1 to Item 10 (ICT Datacentre and Infrastructure) had not been published on the grounds that it related to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party and the public interest in maintaining the exemption currently outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.