

RECORD OF DECISION: EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

Decision No: 23/C/2023
Decision taken by: Cabinet
Date: 06 November 2023

Topic: Draft report from Rosherville - Rosherville Pension Scheme - Terms of Reference

It was agreed:

That the principle of a pass-through approach between the council and Rosherville Repairs & Maintenance Limited be approved by the Shareholder.

It was also agreed that the Shareholder's Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) will continue to work with representatives from Rosherville Repairs & Maintenance Limited to determine the approach to setting contributions under the pass-through arrangement of the report, and for this to be reported back to the Shareholder to enable a final decision to be made.

REASON/S FOR THE DECISION:

The Shareholder Agreement, between GBC and Rosherville Limited (and its subsidiaries), requires the Shareholder (Gravesham Borough Council) to approve any arrangements that are to be put in place in respect of pension arrangements for any Rosherville entities.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Not applicable.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (if any)

Cllr John Burden declared an interest in this item. Cllr Burden left the meeting when this item was discussed and took no part in the decision. Cllr Shane Mochrie-Cox took on the role of Chair for this item.

DISPENSATIONS GRANTED (if any)

None.

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.

Decision No: 24/C/2023
Decision taken by: Cabinet
Date: 06 November 2023

Topic: Property Purchase to alleviate Temporary Accommodation Pressures

It was agreed:

Cabinet delegates authority to the Director (Housing) in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Lead Member to undertake all the necessary practical, financial and legal steps to purchase the new properties as outlined within the report.

Cabinet recommends to Council to agree to amend the 2023/24 Capital Programme.

REASON/S FOR THE DECISION:

The Council has a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018 to prevent and relieve homelessness. Where homelessness cannot be prevented and cases move to relief duty, temporary accommodation (TA) may be needed until alternative settled accommodation is secured or the relief duty ends. Due to several external factors, mainly affordability in the private sector, there is a reliance on expensive nightly paid temporary accommodation and with the increase in households requiring temporary accommodation over the last four years, that is creating unsustainable financial pressure on the Council. Therefore, to mitigate the impact of the increased demand in this area and to make revenue savings in the future, additional properties will be purchased to move households out of expensive nightly paid accommodation.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Discussions were held with various organisations that purchase and supply accommodation to local authorities on a leasing arrangement, but unfortunately, due to local property prices and the local housing allowance, each of the organisations contacted was unable to make the initial investment required payback within their specified timeframe whilst also generating a profit.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (if any)

Cllr John Burden declared an interest in this item. Cllr Burden left the meeting when this item was discussed and took no part in the decision. Cllr Shane Mochrie-Cox took on the role of Chair for this item.

DISPENSATIONS GRANTED (if any)

None.

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Decision No: 25/C/2023
Decision taken by: Cabinet
Date: 06 November 2023

Topic: Financial Update and Balancing the Budget

It was agreed:

Cabinet approves the implementation of the revised Car Parking Charges set out at Appendix One to the report and delegates authority to the Parking & Environmental Enforcement Services Manager to undertake all necessary action to implement these charges.

REASON/S FOR THE DECISION:

Gravesham's car parking fees for council-run car parks were last increased in February 2019. To ensure competitiveness and effective use of space, a complete review was required which created an opportunity to consider an increase in fees. This supports the delivery of the council's action in its Medium Term Financial Strategy to review the fees and charges it levies.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As noted within the report, a range of different tariff increases were modelled using current usage levels and, following this extensive exercise, a tariff was selected that applies an incremental increase to each tariff band across our short and long stay car parks whilst also ensuring the objectives as outlined in section 3 of the report could be met.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (if any)

None.

DISPENSATIONS GRANTED (if any)

None.

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Decision No: 26/C/2023
Decision taken by: Cabinet
Date: 06 November 2023

Topic: CIT Recommendations Report

It was agreed:

That the Cabinet agree the following options that they are minded to pursue, and for these to be further explored/taken forward as part of the council's 'Balancing the Budget' process.

- Community Safety - Refining the staffing structure to meet service demand
- CCTV - Consolidation of council CCTV contracts under one contract
- CCTV - Expansion of the shared service for CCTV
- Land Charges - Review of resource requirements
- Land Charges - Fees and Charges
- Property Services - Review of staffing structure
- Property Services - Income Generation - council-owned land
- Property Services - Review current contract for provision of Property Management System
- Public Conveniences - Income Generation – Advertising

REASON/S FOR THE DECISION:

The Council is facing a budget gap on its general fund balances. A five-year Medium Term Financial Strategy was approved by Full Council in February 2023 which contained initiatives to help reduce the budget gap in future years. The Corporate Improvement Team was established to review ways in which the council could reduce costs, increase income and to promote efficiencies in working practices as one of five initiatives intended to manage the financial challenges faced by the council. The report set out the first suite of proposals for consideration by Cabinet under this initiative.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

A number of options across Community Safety, CCTV, Land Charges, Property Services and Public Conveniences were considered by the Cabinet, who identified the options detailed above as those for further consideration.

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (if any)

None.

DISPENSATIONS GRANTED (if any)

None.

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.