

RECORD OF DECISION: EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

Decision No: 1/C/2024 Decision taken by: Cabinet Date: 29 January 2024
Topic: Member Induction Programme/Member Training 2024/25 It was agreed that the draft Member Training and Development Plan for 2024/25 be approved taking into account the comments and suggestions made by the Cabinet as well as the Overview Scrutiny Committee. REASON/S FOR THE DECISION: To ensure that Members receive appropriate training to equip them to carry out their roles and that the ongoing training of Members throughout their term of office be catered for and planned appropriately.
Alternative options considered and rejected: None.
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.

Decision No: 2/C/2024
Decision taken by: Cabinet
Date: 29 January 2024

Topic: Cessation of the HR Shared Service

It was agreed to cease the remaining elements of the HR Shared Service with Medway Council and to instruct the Chief Executive to make all necessary arrangements to action this approval, including necessary actions to facilitate delivery of these residual functions in-house.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION:

It is felt that the current shared working arrangement is no longer providing effective value for money of money and bringing the service back in-house will not only be more efficient but will also allow GBC the flexibility to amend policies to meet GBC needs, procedures for recruitment etc which previously, have tended to follow those set by Medway Council.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (if any)

N/A.

DISPENSATIONS GRANTED (if any)

N/A.

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Decision No: 3/C/2024
Decision taken by: Cabinet
Date: 29 January 2024

Topic: General Fund Budget Monitoring - Q3 2023/24

It was agreed that the addition of the Tech Hub Flexible Working Space to the current year capital programme be approved.

REASON/S FOR THE DECISION:

Section 4.4.6 of the Financial Procedure Rules permits Cabinet to incur, without Council's prior approval, expenditure not within the approved budget where the cost is to be met from external funding, a contingency or reserve set up for the purpose. This decision ensures that the project is treated as an in-year addition to the capital programme.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

None.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (if any)

None.

DISPENSATIONS GRANTED (if any)

None.

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Decision No: 4/C/2024
Decision taken by: Cabinet
Date: 29 January 2024

Topic: General Fund Revenue and Capital Estimates 2024-25

It was agreed that a resolution be placed before the meeting of the Council on Tuesday, 20 February 2024, specifying the Council Tax to be levied in the Borough of Gravesham for the year 2024-2025.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION:

To enable preparation of a resolution to be put before Full Council specifying the Council Tax to be levied in the Borough of Gravesham.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

None.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (if any)

None.

DISPENSATIONS GRANTED (if any)

None.

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Decision No: 5/C/2024
Decision taken by: Cabinet
Date: 29 January 2024

Topic: Acquisition of Land Assets

It was agreed:

1. that the purchase of Hazell's Farm, Durndale Farm and Wingfield Bank Farm be approved and that the Council enter into the necessary legal agreements to give effect to the purchase.
2. that, following purchase, plans be progressed for the site to be used for delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) capture for a period of up to 35 years, alongside complimentary uses such as agriculture.
3. that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Communities & Inclusive Growth, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Executive, Director (Corporate Services) and Monitoring Officer, to take all necessary practical, financial, and legal actions required to complete the purchase of the land and progress plans for the subsequent management of the site for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) capture and any complimentary uses.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION:

The purchase of this land provides a unique opportunity for Gravesham Borough Council to further the council's Corporate Plan objectives to enhance our unique natural environment, nurture and increase pride of place in open, attractive parks and green spaces and deliver against the wider borough objectives within the Climate Change Strategy.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The proposed transaction would be funded through capital receipts. Alternative uses for this funding have been explored, including adding the funding to the Council's existing treasury investments. It was concluded that the anticipated yield (if using this site for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)) would be broadly equivalent to, or exceed, that expected from treasury investments whilst furthering the council's Corporate Plan objectives to enhance our unique natural environment, nurture and increase pride of place in open, attractive parks and green spaces and deliver against the wider borough objectives within the Climate Change Strategy.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (if any)

The Leader declared a non-fiduciary, non-prejudicial interest in the decision as a resident of Istead Rise. He therefore withdrew from the meeting and did not take part in the decision. During this part of the meeting the Deputy Leader took the Chair.

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DISPENSATIONS GRANTED (if any)

None.

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