

SHADOW EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE

23 July 2019

The following decisions were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **23 July 2019:-**

6 AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(a) Decision

That Rachael Shimmin be offered the role of Chief Executive of the Buckinghamshire Council with a salary of £210,000 on a personal contract.

(b) Reason for Decision

This candidate was the recommendation of the Senior Appointments Sub-Committee following a robust recruitment exercise.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

None.

(d) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensations

None.

7 AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

CHIEF OFFICER RESOURCING AND DESIGNATION

(a) Decision

That the following be implemented:-

- All second tier Officers be designated as Chief Officers
- Any Deputy Chief Officer appointments (Tier 3) be Officer only appointments
- The process for resourcing the second tier of the Buckinghamshire Council be endorsed
- The process for resourcing Statutory Officers whose role may be in the third tier of the Buckinghamshire Council be endorsed
- A smaller Senior Appointments Sub-Committee for Chief Officer and Statutory Officer appointments be established.

(b) Reason for Decision

To ensure that the new council starts to deliver the benefits of Unitary status from day one, the Shadow Executive Nominees had agreed the new Senior Leadership team should be in place in advance of Vesting Day.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

None.

(d) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensations

None.

8 AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

TIER 2 AND TIER 3 LEADERSHIP REWARD, TERMS & CONDITIONS

(a) Decision

That the following be endorsed:-

- Leadership Pay Broad Band
- The Proposed terms and conditions of employment for the leadership team
- The Pay Governance process through a Senior Appointments and Pay Committee.

(b) Reason for Decision

Arrangements for Tier 2 and Tier 3 reward and T&Cs are required to enable the resourcing timeline for the new senior leadership to be achieved.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

None.

(d) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensations

None.

10 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

HARMONISATION OF COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEMES

(a) Decisions

That the underspends and overspends for the three policies (Council Tax Reduction; Council Tax Discounts & Premiums; and Discretionary Rate Relief) be ring fenced.

That Option 3 (as outlined in the report) be implemented as the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the Buckinghamshire Council.

(b) Reasons for Decisions

Ring fencing would allow variations arising from any one policy to be offset against the others thereby ensuring cost neutrality.

The decision on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was the best fit that balanced costs and would provide minimal impact on claimants in line with the principles.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

Six options were presented in the report.

(d) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensations

None.

11 AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

HARMONISATION OF COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS AND PREMIUMS

(a) Decision

That the Buckinghamshire Council's policy on Council Tax Discounts and Premiums be as follows:-

- Unoccupied and substantially unfurnished properties (Class C) to receive a discount of 100% for one month. There will also be a minimum occupation period of 12 weeks before another discount can be awarded.
- Unoccupied and substantially unfurnished property which is empty due to it requiring structural alterations or major repairs to make it habitable (Class D) – 50% discount (these properties will receive a class C discount as above).
- Second Homes – 10% Discount
- Long Term Empty Premiums as per the report.

(b) Reasons for Decisions

The decision met the policy aims detailed in the report.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

None.

(d) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensations

None.

12 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY

(a) Decisions

- That the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy as set out in the report be agreed.
- That standing orders for the Buckinghamshire Council incorporate delegated authority for Officers to administer the scheme.
- That delegated authority is given to the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Finance to agree technical changes in respect of the policy for discretionary rate relief.

(b) Reason for Decisions

The decisions met the policy aims detailed in the report.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

Continuing with the four existing schemes was a possibility however it was felt this would not be equitable.

(d) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensations

None.

13 AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

DEVOLUTION OF HIGHWAYS SERVICES TO LOCAL COUNCILS

(a) Decision

That funding be extended for a further two years for the devolution of highway services on the current terms due to expire on 31 March 2022.

(b) Reason for Decision

The extension would enable Town and Parish Councils to plan for the next financial year. Extending for two years would allow for benefits already achieved through the current localism agenda to be maintained while allowing for further devolution to be developed.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

As per report.

(d) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensations

None.

15 AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

SPADE OAK LAKE

(a) Decision

That the decision of Wycombe District Council's Cabinet be endorsed in the acquisition of Spade Oak Lake, Little Marlow.

(b) Reason for Decision

The site comprised an area of approximately 50 ha, mostly water, and formed a key part of Wycombe District Council's long-standing plan for the creation of Little Marlow Lakes Country Park, between Marlow and Bourne End.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

The proposed acquisition was opportunistic so not acquiring was an option.

(d) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensations

None.

16 AGENDA ITEM NO. 16

WOODLANDS AND EASTERN LINK ROAD SOUTH

(a) Decision

That the funding from AVDC and BCC be approved to allow the ELRS and Woodlands development to progress. Also to support the establishment of a Member and Officer Stakeholder Board to represent the interests of AVDC, BCC and the future Council and provide a steer on the member representation on the Board.

(b) Reason for Decision

Requires Shadow Executive approval as the investment is above the £500,000 de minimis level as per the agreed spending protocol across the five Buckinghamshire councils.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

To wait until the outcome of the HIF funding bid is known although this would jeopardise the timescales for completion of the infrastructure requirements and potentially compromise the funding conditions.

(d) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensations

Councillors S Bowles, I Darby, N Naylor and M Tett declared personal interests and did not take part in the debate or vote on the item.

Councillor C Harriss declared a prejudicial interest and left the room during the item.

17 AGENDA ITEM NO. 17

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

(a) Decision

The proposed purchase investment property by South Bucks District Council be approved subject to due diligence.

(b) Reason for Decision

The purchase offered making a return on investment.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

Not purchasing the investment property.

(d) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensations

None.

CALL-IN TIMESCALES

Any requests for call-in must be received by the Monitoring Officer by 5pm on Thursday 1 August 2019. The request must be made by 20 or more Shadow Members, who are not members of the Shadow Executive, provided those Shadow Members include members from more than one political party.