



PUBLICATION OF DECISION LIST NUMBER 01/19-20

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018/19

Date Published: 11 January 2019

This document lists the decisions taken by the Cabinet at its meeting on 8 January 2019. The list covers key and non-key decisions. These decisions will come into force within ten working days of the date of this document (i.e. 25 January 2019) unless the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee calls a decision in.

Cabinet decisions are subject to pre-implementation review through the following call-in procedure:-

Decisions that involve expenditure over £100,000 can be called in. "Call-in" requires at least a quarter of the Members of the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to request the "call-in", in writing, within four working days of the publication of the decision by the Cabinet, to be effective. Where the appropriate Committee has been previously involved in the decision which is being "called-in", the request should be made by Members of one of the other two Overview and Scrutiny Committees. A Notification of Call-in Form can be obtained from and should be completed, signed and returned to Graham Seal, Governance Services Manager. Either a special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the "called-in" item(s) will be convened within three working days of the call-in request or the item will be placed on the Agenda of the next available meeting of that Committee, depending on which can be achieved earliest. The Call-In procedure does not apply where the decision being taken by the Cabinet is urgent.

Where an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is of the opinion that an executive decision which relates to an area covered by that Committee yet to be made or made but not yet implemented would be, contrary to the policy framework, or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the Council's budget, then it should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer and/or Corporate Director (Resources, Environment and Cultural Services).

If you have any queries or wish to obtain further report information or information on a decision please refer to:

Graham Seal, Governance Services Manager at the Council Offices, Campus East,

Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6AE

Telephone number (01707) 357444 or e-mail g.seal@welhat.gov.uk

Cabinet Decisions

Tuesday 8 January 2019

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

Council Tax Base 2019/20

Part 1 or 2 (Relevant exempt Paragraph)	Wards affected by the Decision	Interest declared in respect of the Decision	Category of Decision (i.e. Key, Non- Key, Urgent)	Contact Details	Eligible for Call-In & Date to be called in by	Appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
1	All Wards	No	Forward Plan Reference FP880	Richard Baker Tel: 01707 357425 r.baker@welhat.gov.uk	No	Resources

DECISION:

- (1) The Council's taxbase for the year 2019/2020 was approved, incorporating a collection rate of 99.40%.
- (2) In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by the Borough Council as its taxbase for the year 2019/2020 shall be 41,889.6 and its constituent elements shall be:

	<u>100% TAXBASE</u>	<u>99.40% TAXBASE</u>
Welwyn Garden City	17,197.3	17,094.1
Hatfield	11,663.4	11,593.4
Welwyn	4,645.0	4,617.1
Ayot St Lawrence	70.5	70.1
Ayot St Peter	115.8	115.1
North Mymms	4,409.9	4,383.4
Essendon	433.2	430.6
Northaw & Cuffley	3,075.6	3,057.1
Woolmer Green	531.9	528.7
Total	42,142.6	41,889.6

Cabinet Decisions
Tuesday 8 January 2019

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

Budget Proposals and Medium Term Forecasts 2019/20

Part 1 or 2 (Relevant exempt Paragraph)	Wards affected by the Decision	Interest declared in respect of the Decision	Category of Decision (i.e. Key, Non- Key, Urgent)	Contact Details	Eligible for Call-In & Date to be called in by	Appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
1	All Wards	No	Forward Plan Reference FP881 / Budget and Policy Framework	Richard Baker Tel: 01707 357425 r.baker@welhat.gov.uk	No	Resources

DECISION:

Cabinet Decisions

Tuesday 8 January 2019

The Cabinet approved the following budget proposals and noted that any comments from the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 January will be returned to the Special Cabinet on 22 January for consideration before final recommendations were made to the Council meeting on 4 February 2019.

General Fund

The proposed General Fund Budget as summarised in Appendix A, and detailed in appendix B.
The inclusion of the savings and growth proposals into the budget as detailed in appendices C and D.
The approval of the 2019/20 fees and charges which have been incorporated into the budget proposals, as set out in appendix E.
The increase in the Council's Band D Tax of £5.16 (2.5%), taking the average Band D Tax to £211.77 for 2019/20.

Housing Revenue Account

That dwelling rents are reduced by 1% in accordance with Government legislation, resulting in an average rent of £103.37 per week.
The continuation of the policy charge formula rent minus 1% when vacant properties are re-let.
The approval of the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2019/20 as shown in appendix F.
The approval of the 2019/20 fees and charges which have been incorporated into the budget proposals, as set out in appendix H.
The Medium Term Financial Strategy to maintain Housing Revenue Account working balances to around 5% of rental income.

Capital Programme

The approval of the Capital Programme for 2019/20 to 2023/24 as set out in Appendix I.
The approval of the Capital Financing for the Capital Programme, for 2019/20 to 2023/24 as set out in Appendix J.

Medium Term Financial Strategy

The approval of the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2019/20 – 2021/22 as set out in appendix L.

Other Strategies

The approval of the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 as set out in appendix M.
The approval of the Investment Strategy for 2019/20 as set out in appendix N.
The approval of the Capital Strategy for 2019/20 as set out in appendix O.

BACKGROUND:

Cabinet Decisions
Tuesday 8 January 2019

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

Former Tenant Arrears Policy

Part 1 or 2 (Relevant exempt Paragraph)	Wards affected by the Decision	Interest declared in respect of the Decision	Category of Decision (i.e. Key, Non- Key, Urgent)	Contact Details	Eligible for Call-In & Date to be called in by	Appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
1	All Wards	No	Forward Plan Reference FP889	Simon Kiff Tel: 01707 357067 s.kiff@welhat.gov.uk	No	Social

DECISION:

The Former Tenant Arrears Policy was adopted, as recommended by the Cabinet Housing Panel.

BACKGROUND:

Cabinet Decisions

Tuesday 8 January 2019

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

Rent Arrears Policy - Council Tenants

Part 1 or 2 (Relevant exempt Paragraph)	Wards affected by the Decision	Interest declared in respect of the Decision	Category of Decision (i.e. Key, Non- Key, Urgent)	Contact Details	Eligible for Call-In & Date to be called in by	Appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
1	All Wards	No	Forward Plan Reference FP890	Simon Kiff Tel: 01707 357067 s.kiff@welhat.gov.uk	No	Social

DECISION:

The Rent Arrears Policy was adopted, as recommended by the Cabinet Housing Panel.

BACKGROUND:

Cabinet Decisions
Tuesday 8 January 2019

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT						
Risk Management						

Part 1 or 2 (Relevant exempt Paragraph)	Wards affected by the Decision	Interest declared in respect of the Decision	Category of Decision (i.e. Key, Non- Key, Urgent)	Contact Details	Eligible for Call-In & Date to be called in by	Appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
1	All Wards	No	Non-Key	Andy Cremer Tel: 01707 357169 a.cremer@welhat.gov.uk	No	Resources

DECISION:

The current Strategic Risk Register and top operational risks and comments in respect of each risk where shown was noted.

BACKGROUND:

Cabinet Decisions

Tuesday 8 January 2019

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

Gas Maintenance - Contract Award

Part 1 or 2 (Relevant exempt Paragraph)	Wards affected by the Decision	Interest declared in respect of the Decision	Category of Decision (i.e. Key, Non- Key, Urgent)	Contact Details	Eligible for Call-In & Date to be called in by	Appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
2	All Wards	No	Forward Plan Reference FP893	Andrew Harper Tel: 01707357371 a.harper@welhat.gov.uk	Yes 17 January 2019	Social

DECISION:

- (1) Lot 1 was awarded to Aaron Services Limited and Lot 2 was awarded to British Gas Social Housing Limited for an initial period of five years with an option to extend by up to a further four years in annual increments on the basis that these two Contractors submitted the best overall bids in terms of experience, price and quality.
- (2) The Third Party Gas Audit Contract was awarded to Gas Advisory Services Limited (trading as Phoenix Compliancy Management) which was co-terminus with the Gas Maintenance Contracts.

BACKGROUND:

Cabinet Decisions

Tuesday 8 January 2019

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

Purchase of Property

Part 1 or 2 (Relevant exempt Paragraph)	Wards affected by the Decision	Interest declared in respect of the Decision	Category of Decision (i.e. Key, Non- Key, Urgent)	Contact Details	Eligible for Call-In & Date to be called in by	Appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
2	Peartree	No	Forward Plan Reference FP894	Doug Livingstone Tel: 01707 357352 d.livingstone@welhat.gov.uk	Yes 17 January 2019	Social

DECISION:

Subject to the Council's approval of the Affordable Housing capital programme in February 2019 and to confirmation of the valuation by the independent valuer, the Cabinet approved the purchase of the development identified in the exempt report for the agreed price which would also be subject to satisfactory due diligence.

BACKGROUND: