



PUBLICATION OF DECISION LIST NUMBER 12/23-24

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

Date Published: 7 December 2023

This document lists the decisions taken by the Cabinet at its meeting on 5 December 2023. The list covers key and non-key decisions. These decisions will come into force within four working days of the date of this document (i.e. 13 December 2023) unless the 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 or that affect more than one ward can be called in. “Call-in” requires at least a quarter of the Members of the 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. A Notification of Call-in Form can be obtained from and should be completed, signed and returned to Governance Services. 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 the 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 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is of the opinion that an executive decision which relates to an area covered by the 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:
Clare Cade, Governance Services Manager at the Council Offices, Campus East,
Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6AE
Telephone number (01707) 357444 or e-mail c.cade@welhat.gov.uk

Cabinet Decisions

Tuesday 5 December 2023

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

FP2021 Biodiversity Duty - first consideration statement

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
Part 1	All	None	Key	Oliver Waring Landscape and Ecology Manager o.waring@welhat.gov.uk	Yes 13 December 2023

DECISION:

DECISION TAKEN:

RESOLVED:

Cabinet agreed to:

- a) Acknowledge the Council's responsibility to comply with the biodiversity duty as set out in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021); and
- b) Note the contents of the first consideration as set out in the covering statement in Appendix A, and the WHBC Biodiversity Duty Action Template in Appendix B.

Reason for the decision

Local authorities that operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. This is the strengthened 'biodiversity duty' introduced by the Environment Act 2021. Local authorities must complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024 and agree policies and objectives as soon as possible after that.

BACKGROUND:

Please note that a copy of the Part 1 report is available on the Council's website.

Cabinet Decisions

Tuesday 5 December 2023

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

FP2016 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy & Strategy

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
Part 1	All	None	Key	Janet Pilbeam Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager j.pilbeam@welhat.gov.uk	Yes 13 December 2023

DECISION:

DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED:

Cabinet agreed the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Strategy which would apply to all employees, councillors, contractors, consultants and partners of the Council.

Reason for the decision

The policy and strategy provides the framework for the Council in relation to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Inclusion is relevant to everyone; allowing everyone to access services and feel part of the Borough. Inclusion gives diversity impact, where all residents and council employees are empowered to thrive.

BACKGROUND:

Please note that a copy of the Part 1 report is available on the Council's website.

Cabinet Decisions

Tuesday 5 December 2023

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

Self Build and Custom Housebuilding Note

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
Part 1	All	None	Key	Matt Pyecroft Principal Planning Officer m.pyecroft@welhat.org.uk	Yes 13 December 2023

DECISION:

DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED:

(unanimous)

Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Assistant Director, Planning, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning, to update the Guidance Note, if required.

Reason for the decision

The Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 places a duty on local planning authorities to keep a register of individuals and associations of individuals who wish to acquire serviced plots of land for self-build and custom housebuilding projects, and to have regard to these registers when carrying out planning and other functions. The guidance note sets out the Council's expectations in terms of design, access and phasing and will provide information to potential purchasers of plots as to what they should expect from developers in terms of plots being offered to the market and information to be provided.

BACKGROUND:

Please note that a copy of the Part 1 report is available on the Council's website.

Cabinet Decisions

Tuesday 5 December 2023

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule

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
Part 1	All	None	Key	Matt Pyecroft Principal Planning Officer m.pyecroft@welhat.org.uk	Yes 13 December 2023

DECISION:

DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED:

(unanimous)

Cabinet agreed:

- a) The public consultation of the CIL Draft Charging Schedule and the Instalments Policy;
- b) That in the event of there being no changes to the charging schedule as a result of the consultation, delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director of Planning, in conjunction with the Executive Member for Planning, to submit the Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule and accompanying evidence base for examination; and
- c) That in the event of there being no changes to the charging schedule as a result of the examination, delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director of Planning, in conjunction with the Executive Member for Planning, to adopt the Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule.

Reason for the decision

In order to implement CIL the Council must follow a series of steps set out in the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended in 2019). CIL regulations now require that only one round of consultation on proposed levy charges is conducted as opposed to the previously required two rounds (Preliminary and Draft). Welwyn Hatfield's first consultation was a preliminary consultation, which would now no longer be required.

Cabinet Decisions
Tuesday 5 December 2023

BACKGROUND:

Please note that a copy of the Part 1 report is available on the Council's website.