

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Notification of Call-In of Cabinet or Portfolio Holder Decision under Paragraphs 45-52 of Article 6 (Overview & Scrutiny) of the Constitution

This form must be signed and completed and the original returned to the Proper Officer in person no later than the fifth working day following the publication of the decision to be called-in

Decision to be called-in:

Relocation of Housing Repairs and Housing Assets to Oakwood Hill Depot

Decision reference:

Cabinet Decision (7 September 2017)
Report reference: C-015-2017/18

Portfolio:

Housing Portfolio

Description of decision:**Decision:**

- (1) That the Housing Repairs Service and the Housing Assets Team be relocated to the Oakwood Hill Depot, Loughton to co-locate with the existing Fleet Operations and Grounds Maintenance Services at an estimated cost of the works (excluding fees) of £755,000 funded from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA);
- (2) That the Capital costs of the relocation be funded from the existing 4 budget allocation of £3.2million for the provision of the Repairs and Maintenance Hub;
- (3) That, once assessed by Price Waterhouse Coopers as part of the Stage 2 Accommodation Review, the fit-out costs of the open plan area, based on an agile working environment, be also funded from the existing Capital budget provision;
- (4) That the remaining existing Capital budget provision be deleted from the Capital Programme to realise a Capital saving;
- (5) That a separate report be considered by the Housing Portfolio Holder on the appointment of a multi-discipline Consultancy Service to oversee the detailed design, procurement process and contract management, with any fees being funded from the existing Capital provision;
- (6) That the Council's Country Care Service and Nursery Service no longer be relocated to the Oakwood Hill Depot as previously planned and that an alternative venue be sought elsewhere in the District for these services;
- (7) That a planning application be submitted for the required off-site parking for staff and visitors at the Oakwood Hill Depot during working hours;
- (8) That the off-site parking be made available to residents of the Oakwood Hill Estate and visitors to the Roding Valley Nature Reserve free of charge outside office hours; and
- (9) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet by the Director of

Neighbourhoods on the most appropriate future use for the Council's land at Blenheim Way in North Weald.

Reason for call-in

We agree with most of the decision. It is clearly better to make good use of the Oakwood Hill depot rather than spend large capital sums on a so-called hub at North Weald. The points we are questioning are:

- (1) The printed decision is incomplete, in that the Leader stated at the end of the Cabinet debate that alternatives to taking green recreational land for a staff car park would be fully explored, yet the printed decision sets out parameters for the use of such a car park, thereby making it appear a foregone conclusion; and
- (2) The process and timetable by which the undertaking to investigate alternatives to the car park are to be undertaken is not stated, and this will need to be clearly established before any planning application is even considered

We are confident that points 1 and 2 could be cleared by an informal meeting as provided for under the Constitution. We do not envisage at present that a full Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting will be needed.

**Members requesting call-in
(3 members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or 5 other members)**

Member:	Signed:
Councillor C C Pond (lead member)	
Councillor C Roberts	
Councillor S Murray	
Councillor D Roberts	
Councillor C P Pond	
Office Use Only: Date Received: 14 September 2017	