



## Epping Forest District Council

### DECISIONS

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>Thursday, 6 February 2020</b>

<b>Date of Publication:</b>	<b>11 February 2020</b>
<b>Call-In Expiry:</b>	<b>17 February 2020</b>

This document lists the decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on Thursday, 6 February 2020, which require publication in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000. The list specifies those decisions, which are eligible for call-in and the date by which they must be called-in.

Those decisions that are listed as being “recommended to the Council...”, or request the Chairman of the Council to waive the call-in, are not eligible for call-in.

The wording used might not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes, which will take precedence as the minutes are the official record of the meeting.

If you have any queries about the matters referred to in this decision sheet then please contact:

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### **Call-In Procedure**

If you wish to call-in any of the eligible decisions taken at this meeting you should complete the call-in form and return it to Democratic Services before the expiry of five working days following the publication date. You should include reference to the item title. Further background to decisions can be found by viewing the agenda document for this meeting at: [www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/local\\_democracy](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/local_democracy)

<b>Decision No:</b>
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### **3. MINUTES**

#### **Decision:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be taken as read and signed by the leader as a correct record.

**7. COUNCIL HOUSEBUILDING CABINET COMMITTEE - 19 DECEMBER 2019**

**Decision:**

The Cabinet noted and agreed the minutes of the Council Housebuilding Cabinet Committee meeting of 19 December 2019.

**8. GROUP COMPANY GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT**

**Decision:**

- (1) The Cabinet approved the Qualis Group Shareholder Agreement.
- (2) The Cabinet noted the Directors Roles and Responsibilities.
- (3) The Cabinet noted the terms of reference for the Qualis Group Board Meetings.
- (4) The Cabinet approved the selection and recruitment process for Group Board Members.
- (5) The Cabinet appointed the Interim Board on the recommendation of the Leader in consultation with the LRA Group Leader and operate in accordance with the Shareholder Agreement.

**9. COUNCIL'S BUDGET REPORT**

**Decision:**

In general

The Cabinet:

1. noted that the Financial Strategy of the Authority had been further developed and consisted of four linked papers. The papers and figures were subject to final review because of Government announcements and final due diligence;
2. noted the current reports reflected the suggestions of Cabinet and Members in general made in early January, later and better information, minor presentation improvements and the inclusion of a summary balance sheet statement;
3. allowed for this level of final change before presentation of the Financial Strategy to the Full Council in February adjustments with a cumulative net impact of £500,000 could be made on the

direction of the Leader in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Section 151 Officer and reported back to the Council; and

4. noted that adjustments to the papers with a value more than £500,000 were brought back to the Cabinet.

#### Paper A, Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Cabinet:

1. approved the approach set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, particularly in respect of inflation of cost and charges and fees and the aim to maintain the financial strength of the Authority as evidenced by reserve balances; and
2. supported the increase in the importance of the income from Qualis in respect of the medium term financial strategy and the budget.

#### Paper B, Budget 2020/21

The Cabinet:

1. approved the 2020/21 budget in outline and confirmed the approach to cost and income inflation at 3.0%, noting that rents would rise per the national formula at 2.7% and car parking income would not rise at all pending the outcome of the review;
2. approved the 2020/21 budget in outline and confirmed the list of developments for which funding would be released on implementation;
3. approved the general and HRA capital spend of £26,119,250 in total;
4. approved the loans to Qualis that with total up to £120m in 2020/21 as set out in the report; and
5. approved the 2020/21 budget in outline and confirmed that the overall funding adjustments for the District Development Fund and savings and contingency were as set out, i.e. a net draw from DDF of £846,660 (£2m forecast last year), £500,000 of savings, the formation of a contingency fund assumed spent of £1,095,540.

## Paper C, Prudential Indicators

### The Cabinet:

1. noted the intent of keeping the financial strength of the Authority at current levels;
2. noted the impact of taking loans and onwardly granting loans to Qualis with a margin of profit for the Authority;
3. noted the general risk price approach to the loans granted to Qualis; and
4. noted that the full set of prudential indicators along with the treasury strategy would be taken to the Full Council in February.

## Paper D, Council Tax Increase

### The Cabinet:

1. to recommend the council tax increase of 1.5% (half the predicted inflation rate) for 2020/21 to full Council; and
2. noted that in 2021/22 the options to cease or reduce council tax rates exists (though the Government expectation on what should be raised from council tax should be noted).