



## Epping Forest District Council

### DECISIONS

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>Thursday, 11 March 2021</b>

<b>Date of Publication:</b>	<b>17 March 2021</b>
<b>Call-In Expiry:</b>	<b>23 March 2021</b>

This document lists the decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on Thursday, 11 March 2021, 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 Cabinet meeting held on 21 January and 11

February 2021 be taken as read and would be signed by the Leader as a correct record.

**7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCAL PLAN: UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

**Decision:**

That the progress of Masterplans and Concept Frameworks, including the use of Planning Performance Agreements and the progress of other proposals at pre-application and application stage be noted.

**8. SUSTAINABILITY GUIDANCE FOR THE DISTRICT AND HARLOW AND GILSTON GARDEN TOWN**

**Decision:**

(1) The Cabinet noted the public consultation process and outcomes and endorsed the Epping Forest District Sustainability Guidance and Checklist documents (Volume 1: Major Developments Appendix A and Volume 2: Minor Developments Appendix B) as material planning considerations for the preparation of masterplans, pre-application advice, assessing planning applications and any other development management purposes within the District.

(2) The Cabinet noted the public consultation process and outcomes, and endorsed the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town (HGGT) Sustainability Guidance and Checklist (Strategic Sites) (Appendix D) as a material planning consideration for the preparation of masterplans, pre-application advice, assessing planning applications and any other development management purposes within the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.

(3) The Cabinet agreed that the Planning Services Director, in consultation with the Planning and Sustainability Portfolio Holder be authorised to make minor amendments to the EFDC Sustainability Guidance and Checklist documents (Volume 1: Major Developments and Volume 2: Minor Developments) and HGGT Sustainability Guidance and Checklist prior to their final publication.

(4) The Cabinet noted progress made on the Draft EFDC Sustainability Guidance and Checklist Volume 3: Extensions and Refurbishments (Appendix F), and gave delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder to approve the Guidance for public consultation for a six week period.

(5) The Cabinet noted that, following consultation and any subsequent revisions, it was intended that the final EFDC Sustainability Guidance and Checklist Volume 3 would be considered by Cabinet for endorsement as a material planning consideration for assessing householder planning applications (for extension or refurbishment work to an existing building), pre-application advice, and any other development management purposes within the District.

## **9. DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS FOR ECONOMIC RESILIENCE**

### **Decision:**

(1) The Cabinet noted and endorsed the contribution of the digital infrastructure investment approach, developed and pursued by the Essex + Herts Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ) and EFDC Economic Development team, to the economic resilience of Epping Forest district and the district's ongoing recovery response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(2) The Cabinet agreed, in principle, to the potential investment of up to £35,000 of partnership funding to explore an IoT project with the Connected Places Catapult and Digital Catapult to monitor air quality at and on route to school gates, the funding to come from existing Capital Budget allocations for environmental and climate change related projects.

## **10. UPDATE ON BUSINESS DATABASE DEVELOPMENT**

### **Decision:**

Cabinet noted and endorsed:

1) the progress in development of a corporate business database to assist the council to engage with and support local businesses; and

2) Plans to develop an online, monthly economic newsletter, sent directly to local businesses, including information on grants and other support, new initiatives, surveys etc.

## **11. CALENDAR OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2021-22**

### **Decision:**

That Cabinet recommended the draft Calendar of Council Meetings for 2021/22 to the Council for adoption.

**12. AMENDMENTS TO THE ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT POLICY FOR BUSINESS SUPPORT**

**Decision:**

The Cabinet approved:

1. That those businesses already awarded a grant under the Additional Restrictions Grant Policy received a further payment for the same amount;
2. That the ARG scheme was extended to:
  - a) taxi drivers licensed by EFDC who would receive a single payment of £500 each;
  - b) driving instructors with Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) registration who would receive a single payment of £1,000 each;
  - c) kennels and catteries.
3. The use of up to £500,000 to fund key programmes in the priority areas identified in the report as part of an Economic Resilience Fund.
4. That future changes to the ARG scheme are delegated to the Customer Service Director in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Customer and Corporate Services and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development.

**13. COVID 19 - DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - TRAVEL LOCAL DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT (DRT) TRIAL**

**Decision:**

- (1) The Cabinet noted the good progress being made on the commencement of trial flexible Demand Responsive Transport (DaRT87) bus service which commenced on 2 January 2021 and the challenges posed by ongoing restrictions due to Covid-19;
- (2) The Cabinet agreed to extend the trial for a full year from 1 April 2021 to enable the service to build on experiences in the lock down period and benefit from higher number of journeys and vehicle capacity once the lockdown eased;

(3) The Cabinet agreed, to allocate £85,000 from the Sustainable Travel Projects for a full year trial of the Demand Responsive Transport (DaRT87) bus service to be operated by Epping Forest Community Transport (EFCT); to be offset by fare revenue returned by EFCT;

(4) The Cabinet agreed that a report be presented to Cabinet post election with the progress of the trial and opportunities to extend the DRT service to other parts of the District to improve connectivity; and

(5) The Cabinet agreed to set aside Procurement Rules to enable the extension of the Contract with EFCT.

