

*PART A

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting: 24 November 2011
Report of: Head of Legal and Property Services
Title: Forward Plan

1.0 **SUMMARY**

1.1 This report sets out the changes to the latest Forward Plan when compared to the edition presented at the last meeting.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviews the Forward Plan and considers whether there are any items it wishes to review further.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Sandra Hancock,
Committee and Scrutiny Officer
telephone extension: 8377 email: legalanddemocratic@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Jason McKenzie, Legal and Democratic Section Head

3.0 **DETAILED PROPOSAL**

3.1 Under the Local Government Act 2000, the Council is required to publish a Forward Plan of key decisions it is proposed will be taken within the next four months.

3.2 The Forward Plan indicates the nature of the key decision proposed; the contact officer; the proposed decision maker and those people and organisations who have been consulted.

3.3

New additions to the Forward Plan since the September – December 2011 edition

There are ten new items which have been added to the Forward Plan.

- Approval to appoint consultants to develop detailed design options for public realm improvements to the Parade and Town Hall Subway – added to the edition issued in September for consideration by Cabinet in November. (Also refer to paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5)
- To agree the Core Strategy for a further six week consultation – added to the edition issued in October for consideration by Cabinet in November. (Also refer to paragraph 3.5)
- Service Prioritisation (Year 1) update and approval of amendments to identified service prioritisation proposals – added to the edition issued in October for consideration by Cabinet in November. (Also refer to paragraph 3.5)
- To approve minor amendments to the Housing Nominations Policy as an interim measure to address current pressures on temporary accommodation – added to the edition issued in October for consideration by the Portfolio Holder for Community Services. (Also refer to paragraph 3.5)
- Authorisation of write off of any irrecoverable debt of £3001 and over in respect of Council Tax, National Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debts including Housing Benefit overpayments - added to the edition issued in October for consideration by Cabinet in November. (Also refer to paragraph 3.5)
- Report on the findings of the corporate channel shift project – added to the edition issued in October for consideration by Cabinet in December. (Also refer to paragraph 3.4)
- Delegated approval to select the preferred bidder in connection with the disposal of land at Gammons Farm Close at less than best consideration. For the purpose of providing affordable housing. – added to the edition issued in November for consideration by the Portfolio Holder for Community Services in December 2011.
- Croxley Rail Link: Proposed temporary works compounds and transfer of parcels of land to London Underground Limited (LUL) – added to the edition issued in November for consideration by Cabinet in December.
- Approval of the proposed Macdonnell Gardens Conservation Area – added to the edition issued in November for consideration by Cabinet in January.

- To award contract for maintenance of the Council's fleet of vehicles, plant and equipment for a 2 year period with the option to extend for a further 1 year plus 1 year – added to the edition issued in November for consideration by Chief Officer in December.

3.4 Amendments to the Forward Plan since the September – December 2011 edition

There have been seven amendments to the Forward Plan since the last edition published in the Scrutiny Committee's agenda for the meeting held on 21 September 2011.

- Approval of the Herts Waste Partnership Agreement – amended in the edition issued in September. The agreement to be considered by the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services in November instead of September 2011.
- To decide whether to approve the recommendations of the Housing Value of Money Review Phase 2 – amended in the edition issued in September. The outcome of the review to be considered by Cabinet in December instead of November 2011.
- Approval to appoint consultants to develop detailed design options for public realm improvements to the Parade and Town Hall Subway – amended in the edition issued in October. The decision-maker was amended from Cabinet to Chief Officer. (Also refer to paragraph 3.5)
- Approval of the Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy – amended in the edition issued in October. The policy is to be considered in February 2012 instead of November 2011.
- To approve the voluntary sector funding review for 2012/13 – amended in the edition issued in October. The date the report is due to be considered has been moved from November to December 2011.
- Adoption of the Framework and 5-year action plan for allotments across the Borough – amended in the edition issued in November. The report is to be considered by Cabinet in February 2012 instead of December 2011.
- Report on the findings of the corporate channel shift project – amended in the edition issued in November. The decision maker has been amended from Cabinet to Chief Officer.

3.5 Deletions from the Forward Plan

The following items have been deleted from the Forward Plan since the edition reviewed at the September meeting.

- Section 106 Spend 2010/11 and future projects for 2011/12 – considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 26 September 2011.
- To approve the Revenue and Capital Outturns for 2010/2011 – considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 26 September 2011.
- Approval to appoint consultants to develop detailed design options for public realm improvements to the Parade and Town Hall Subway – decision taken as a delegated decision by Executive Director (Services) on 1 November 2011.
- To agree the Core Strategy for a further six week consultation – considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 7 November 2011.
- Service Prioritisation (Year 1) update and approval of amendments to identified service prioritisation proposals – considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 7 November 2011.
- To approve the redesign of the play service commencing 1 April 2012 – considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 7 November 2011.
- Authorisation of write off of any irrecoverable debt of £3001 and over in respect of Council Tax, National Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debts including Housing Benefit overpayments – considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 7 November 2011.
- To approve minor amendments to the Housing Nominations Policy as an interim measure to address current pressures on temporary accommodation – decision taken by the Mayor as Portfolio Holder for Community Services on 14 November 2011.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 Whilst a number of reports considered by the Scrutiny Committee will have had financial implications, the scrutiny role in itself, should result in no additional external costs being incurred.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Head of Legal and Property Services comments that if Overview and Scrutiny wish to consider any proposed decision it needs to be mindful of when it is proposed that the decision be taken and ensure that it has

completed its work prior to that time in order to be able to contribute to the decision maker's deliberations.

4.3 **Potential Risks**
None identified.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report. If you wish to inspect or take copies of the background papers, please contact the officer named on the front page of the report.

September, October and November 2011 editions of the Watford Borough Council Forward Plan

File Reference

None