

*PART A

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting: 2 February 2012
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 information 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:

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Committee and Scrutiny Officer
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Report approved by: Carol Chen, Head of Legal and Property Services

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 December 2011 – March 2012 edition (issued 16 November)

There are four new items which have been added to the Forward Plan since the information published in the Scrutiny Committee's report for the meeting on 24 November 2011.

- Draft revenue and capital estimates for 2012/16 – added to the edition issued in December for consideration by Cabinet in January. (Also refer to paragraph 3.5)
- Delegated decision on the 2011-2012 Annual Funding Programme applications – added to the edition issued in December for consideration by the Portfolio Holder for Community Services by the end of January. (Also refer to paragraph 3.5)
- Agreement of the Council's equalities objectives 2012-15 – added to the edition issued in December for consideration by Cabinet in February. (Also refer to paragraph 3.4)
- Corporate Plan 2012-16 – added to the edition issued in December for consideration by Cabinet in February. (Also refer to paragraph 3.4)

3.4 Amendments to the Forward Plan since the December 2011 – March 2012 edition (issued 16 November)

There have been four amendments to the Forward Plan since the information published in the Scrutiny Committee's report for the meeting held on 24 November 2011. As Cabinet in February has been cancelled, a number of reports have slipped to March:

- Approval of the Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy – amended in the edition issued in January. The policy is to be considered by Cabinet in March 2012 instead of February 2012. Originally this decision was due to be considered in November 2011.
- Adoption of the Framework and 5-year action plan for allotments across the Borough – amended in the edition issued in January. The report is to be considered by Cabinet in March 2012 instead of February 2012. Originally this decision was due to be considered in November 2011.
- Corporate Plan 2012-16 – amended in the edition issued in January. The report is to be considered by Cabinet in March 2012 instead of February 2012.
- Agreement of the Council's equalities objectives 2012-15 – amended in the edition issued in January. The report is to be considered by Cabinet in March 2012 instead of February 2012.

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.

- Report on the findings of the corporate channel shift project – delegated decision taken by the Executive Director Resources on 21 November 2011.
- 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 – delegated decision taken by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Legal and Property Services on 5 December 2011.
- To decide whether to approve the recommendations of the Housing Value for Money Review Phase 2 – considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 5 December 2011.
- Approval of the Watford Character of the Area Study – considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 5 December 2011.
- To approve the voluntary sector funding review for 2012/13 – considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 5 December 2011. This decision was subsequently called in by Councillors Bell, Brodhurst and Khan. Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 22 December to consider the call-in and review the decision. The Scrutiny Committee agreed to ratify Cabinet's decision.
- Croxley Rail Link: Proposed temporary works compounds and transfer of parcels of land to London Underground Limited (LUL) – considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 5 December 2011.
- 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 – delegated decision taken by the Head of Environmental Services on 5 January 2012.
- Approval of the Herts Waste Partnership Agreement – delegated decision taken by the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services on 13 January 2012.
- Approval of the proposed Macdonnell Gardens Conservation Area – considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 16 January 2012.
- Draft revenue and capital estimates for 2012/16 – considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 16 January 2012 and recommended to Council for its meeting on 25 January 2012.

- Delegated decision on the 2011-2012 Annual Funding Programme applications – delegated decision due to be taken by the Portfolio Holder for Community Services by the end of January 2012. The Committee and Scrutiny Officer will provide further information at the meeting.

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.

November 2011, December 2011 and January 2012 editions of the Watford Borough Council Forward Plan

File Reference

None