

## Minutes

**Executive Scrutiny Committee**  
**Thursday, 20 December 2012**  
**Meeting held in Committee Room 7 - Civic Centre,**  
**High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW**



	<p><b>Members Present:</b> Councillors Henry Higgins (Chairman), Wayne Bridges, Brian Crowe, Peter Curling, Paul Harmsworth, and John Riley.</p> <p><b>Representative Member for Education Issues:</b> Tony Little – Roman Catholic Diocesan Representative.</p> <p><b>Officer Present:</b> Khalid Ahmed, Democratic Services Manager</p>	
27.	<p><b>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN</b></p> <p>Councillor Henry Higgins was appointed Chairman of the Committee for the rest of the Municipal Year.</p>	
28.	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>Councillor Crowe declared Non-Pecuniary Interests in Cabinet Agenda Item 9 (Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2013/14) and Cabinet Agenda Item 23 (Carers Respite at Home Service). He remained in the room and took part in discussions.</p> <p>Councillor Peter Curling declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Cabinet Agenda Item 9 (Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2013/14). He remained in the room and took part in discussions.</p>	
29.	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2012</b></p> <p>Agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
30.	<p><b>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <p>It was agreed that all items of business be considered in public.</p>	
31	<p><b>CONSIDERATION OF ANY CALL-INS OF DECISIONS MADE AT THE CABINET MEETING ON 20 DECEMBER 2012</b></p> <p>Members gave consideration to the Cabinet reports of 20 December 2012 and after careful consideration Members decided not to call-in any decision. The Committee endorsed all decisions made by the Cabinet at their meeting.</p> <p>However the following questions were asked by the Committee:</p>	

**Cabinet Agenda Item 8 - Council Tax Reduction Scheme - A Localised Scheme to Replace Council Tax Benefit**

Questions

In relation to page 295 of the agenda, and the impact assessment which was carried out, reference is made to the stakeholders in the assessment and their interest in the assessment. Officers were asked for details of which community groups were consulted?

In relation to page 297 of the agenda and the leaflet which is being included in letters to Council tax payers and Council Tax Benefit claimants, officers were asked when was this letter being sent to residents.

*[Subsequent to the meeting it was agreed that questions on this item be withdrawn and the issues be raised at the Council meeting when this item was to be discussed].*

**Cabinet Agenda Item 12 - Houses in Multiple Occupation in the Uxbridge South and Brunel Wards - Interim Planning Policy Document**

Question:

What are the implications of the changes in Housing Benefit on this declaration of an Article 4 Direction?

*[Subsequent to the meeting officers provided the following response:*

*“There are new overall benefit caps of £500 a week for families and £350 a week for single claimants with no children, coming into effect in April 2013. In this Borough it will only affect larger families with a 3 bed or higher housing need so should not have any impact on HMO's or HMO residents. Also with most of the HMO's around Brunel consisting of students, there will be little impact to benefits as very few students or single professionals (which is the main HMO market) will be claiming any benefits.”]*

**RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the decisions made by Cabinet at their meeting on 20 December 2012 be endorsed and noted and no call-in be made of any decision.**
- 2. That officers be asked to supply the Committee with the information as requested.**

The meeting, which commenced at 8.25pm, closed at 8.45pm  
**Next meeting: 24 January 2013 at 7.30pm or at the rising of Cabinet**

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Khalid Ahmed on 01895 250833. Circulation of these minutes are to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.