

Notice of NON KEY Executive Decision containing exempt information

This Executive Decision Report is part exempt and Appendices A is not available for public inspection as it contain) or relates to exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. It is exempt because it refers to financial and business affairs of the Tenant and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

Subject Heading:	<p>Subject Property: 57 White Hart Lane, Collier Row, Romford RM7 8JB (“the Property”)</p> <p>Event: Assignment of lease</p>
Decision Maker:	Mark Butler- Assistant Director of Regeneration and Place Shaping
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Paul McGeary – Cabinet Member for Housing &Property
SLT Lead:	Neil Stubbings - Strategic Director of Place
Report Author and contact details:	<p>London Borough of Havering (LBH) Helen Gardner Senior Estates Surveyor Property Services Town Hall Main Road Romford RM1 3BD</p> <p>Tel: 01708 434 123 E: helen.gardner@havering.gov.uk</p>
Policy context:	Asset Management Plan

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Financial summary:	The financial aspects for the transaction are detailed in the <u>EXEMPT Appendix A</u> to this Report
Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee:	Place
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	The decision will be exempt from call in as it is a Non key Decision

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

- People - Things that matter for residents ()
- Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy (x)
- Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place ()

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

To note the exercising of delegated authority by the appropriate property officer to instruct legal to prepare and complete a licence to assign as per the details in Appendix A.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Havering Council's Constitution Part 3.3, Scheme 3.3.5 (2 April 2024 - current)

8.1 To be the Council's designated corporate property officer, responsible for the strategic management of the Council's property portfolio, including corporate strategy and asset management, procurement of property and property services, planned and preventative maintenance programmes, property allocation, security and use, reviews, acquisitions and disposals, and commercial estate management.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Background

This Property is leased to the tenant on a 15 year lease that is protected by the Landlord & Tenant Act 1954 commencing 17th November 2021. The Property is a near end of terrace shop and is used as an Off licence.

The tenant wishes to assign their leasehold interest which is permitted under the terms of the lease, subject to landlord's consent which cannot be unreasonably withheld. The proposed assignee has provided accounts for their business, proof of ID and address and they are the director of an off licence business, however the lease will be taken in their individual name. Property Services has also secured a good existing landlord's reference, and a 6-month rent deposit as extra security for the Council as landlord. Therefore, it is recommended that landlord's consent is granted to this assignment by way of a licence to assign.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council agrees that the Estates Surveyor, London Borough of Havering - Property Services instructs the Council's legal team to draw up a licence to assign as per the details in Appendix A.

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OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option: Not to consent to the assignment.

Rejected: Under the terms of the lease, the landlord (the Council), cannot withhold consent to an assignment unless there is a reasonable reason to do so such as the assignee does not have sufficient financial strength. Property Services has collated evidence to show the propose assignee will be able to maintain the rent payments and a good business.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

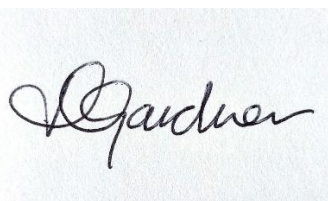
None

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Helen Gardner

Designation: Senior Estates Surveyor

Signature:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'H. Gardner'.

Date: 22/04/26

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Pursuant to clause 2(11) of the lease, the tenant is permitted to assign the lease provided that the Council's consent is obtained. Property Services has conducted their due diligence and confirmed that the assignee is of good covenant strength. The Council has agreed to the assignment and will formalise their consent by way of a licence to assign. The recommendation is to instruct legal services to prepare a licence in accordance with appendix A.

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The Council has a general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, which gives the power to do anything an individual can do, subject to any statutory constraints on the Council's powers.

The recommendation in this report is in keeping with the aforementioned power.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The rental amount will not change upon assignment and the due diligence completed suggests that this assignee will be able to pay the rent on an ongoing basis, as well as laying down a six-month rent deposit, so there should be good continuity in receiving this rental income, meaning no impact on the rental income budget.

The incoming tenant will bear all the costs associated with getting the licence in place.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

No human resources implications and risks have been identified.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

An EqHIA (Equality and Health Impact Assessment) is usually carried out and on this occasion this isn't required

The Council seeks to ensure equality, inclusion, and dignity for all in all situations.

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There are not equalities and social inclusion implications and risks associated with this decision.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

No Environmental and Climate Change implications identified.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICES

Appendix A Landlord's Proposals for Licence to Assign - Exempt

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Details of decision maker

Signed 

Name: Mark Butler

Position: Assistant Director – Regeneration & Place Shaping

Date: 23.04.2026

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____