



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## DECISIONS NOTICE

The following decisions were taken in the week ending Friday 18 February 2005 and, if not called in by Councillors, will come into force on Monday 28 February 2005. A decision may be called in, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure contained within Part 4 of the Constitution, by Councillors submitting a request in writing to Democratic Services (e-mail: democratic.services @stedsbc.gov.uk) by 5 p.m. on Friday 25 February 2005.

### A. DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET – WEEK ENDING 18 FEBRUARY 2005

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
6	Reports for Information from Policy Development Committee and Overview & Scrutiny Committee	V506	(1) The reports of the Committees be noted; (2) in respect of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's recommendations, it be noted that the Cabinet has already made provision in its budget proposals to continue the Vanguard redesign work and to increase the funding of the Housing Waiting List; and (3) the officers be requested to investigate the feasibility of a revised means of funding the Housing Waiting List which is more closely linked to the size of the list as part of future DR-IVE programmes.	Provision has been made in the draft budget submitted to Council on 24 February.	To implement the recommendations of the Committees.	The Committees have considered a variety of options.	Mary Martin (01440-763943)  Adriana Shooter (01284-757613)
7	Haverhill Area Working Party Minutes –	V507	Authority to submit the formal comment of the Cabinet on the planning application for Station	The Working Party considered the financial	In view of ongoing developments, the Cabinet wished to defer this matter	The Working Party have considered various options during lengthy discussions.	Jeff Stevens (01440-762511)

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	15 December 2004 (Feb05/05)		Yard, Haverhill be delegated to the Corporate Director for Community in consultation with the Chairman of the Haverhill Area Working Party.	implications during a presentation by the Principal Planning Officer.	and to re-examine the Working Party's recommendations before submitting formal comment, to the Planning Authority.		Mike Dawson (01284-757060)
8	Haverhill Masterplan Funding (Feb05/14)	V508	Subject to the approval of final budget and Capital Programme proposals by the full Council on 24 February 2005:- (a) an allocation of £10 million be made within the Capital Programme, ring fenced to support the delivery of the Haverhill Masterplan; and (b) the revenue implications be included within the Council's five year financial model as they are identified following scheme development.	The loss of interest in spending £10 million over a 10 year period is £450,000 per annum, which is equivalent to £1.24 per Band D taxpayer. Additional sources of partnership investment would be sought and investment return investigated on a site by site basis, which would reduce the revenue implications.	To support the aims of the Haverhill Masterplan.	Not allocating funding to support the delivery of the Masterplan would not demonstrate the necessary commitment to the vision for Haverhill and compromise the effectiveness of the Masterplan process. A range of investment options would be considered on a site by site basis.	Jeff Stevens (01440-762511)  Mike Dawson (01284-757060)
9	Haverhill Town Council Revenue Support (Feb05/20)	V509	(1) The three year funding proposal to support Haverhill Town Council events, set out in Section 3 of Report V509 be approved; (2) the Corporate Director for Community be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Resources and Arts and Culture, to enter into funding agreements with the Town Council to stipulate the	The proposed funding in 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 can be met from within existing resources for Haverhill projects. An additional provision of £7,500 would need to be included in the	The loss of revenue support grant could have impacted detrimentally upon a range of services and events provided by the Town Council. The recommendations would provide part funding to protect a range of events which are important to the people of the town and which support the	Officers have negotiated with the Town Council on the basis of a full Council resolution. There are a range of funding levels which could be agreed given the circumstances, however, the options outlined in paragraph 3.3 would protect a range of events from the effects of the reduction and loss of the revenue support grant.	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580)  Andrew Varley (01284-753135)  Mike Dawson (01284-757060)

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			use of the funding and the nature of recognition to be given to the Borough Council's financial support; and (3) the budgets included in the Five Year Model submitted to full Council for approval on 24 February 2005 allow for a sum of £7,500 in 2007/2008 to meet the additional cost of this funding.	budget estimates for 2007/2008.	Council's corporate objectives.		
10	Leisure Centres Transfer Steering Group – Final Recommendations (Feb05/04/06)	V510	<p><b>Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre: Capital Programme and Fire Re-instatement Works</b></p> <p>(1) The re-instatement work undertaken and the capital investment works be noted;</p> <p>(2) £55,000 be allocated from the uncommitted Leisure Centres capital programme allocation to fund the provision of a health suite at the Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre; and</p> <p>(3) £60,000 be allocated from the uncommitted Leisure Centres capital programme allocation to fund Disability Discrimination Act and reception improvement works at the Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre.</p> <p><b>Leisure Centres Transfer: Financial Issues</b></p> <p>(1) The projected financial savings that should arise from the transfer of the</p>	The Leisure Centres Transfer Steering Group have considered the financial implications regarding the proposed transfer in great detail.	To assist in the transfer of the Leisure Centres to a Trust.	The Transfer Steering Group have considered various options over a period of time.	Terry Clements (01284-827161)  Neil Anthony (01284-757064)

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			<p>management of the two Leisure Centres to Abbeycroft Leisure be noted; and  (2) the level of grant funding to Abbeycroft Leisure for 2005/2006 in the sum of £1,031,500 be agreed.</p> <p><b>Approval to Transfer</b>  That subject to confirmation from Abbeycroft Leisure that they will take on the leisure centres' service, the following be recommended to full Council:-  (1) the management and operation of Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill Leisure Centres and associated facilities and activities be transferred to Abbeycroft Leisure from the 1 April 2005 or at such later date as detailed in the Business Transfer Agreement;  (2) that an amount of £1,031,500 for the financial year 2005/2006 be paid to Abbeycroft Leisure in accordance with the Funding Agreement;  (3) the sum of £31,000 be retained by the Borough Council from the Leisure Centres existing budgets and be allocated to establish a new post within Leisure Services to undertake client-side monitoring and development</p>				

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			<p>work; and  (4) authority be delegated to the Corporate Directors for Community and Resources and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Leisure and Sport and Resources, to approve the final arrangements to transfer the services, staff and assets identified in (1) above to Abbeycroft Leisure.</p> <p><b>Leisure Centres Transfer Steering Group/Post Transfer Liaison</b>  The Leisure Centres Transfer Steering Group be reconstituted as the Leisure Centres Liaison Group with the same membership and following terms of reference:-  (a) to liaise with the Abbeycroft Leisure Board to recommend the allocation of the remaining funds for capital investment works at the two leisure centres; and  (b) to identify partnership working and development opportunities.</p>				
11	Moreton Hall Youth Action Group (Feb05/09)	V511	(1) Approval be given for the construction of a new facility for use by the Moreton Hall Youth Action Group subject to:- (i) the completion of a	The total estimated cost of the Youth Action Group project has increased to £220,000 which	The Youth Action Group have worked successfully during 2004 to develop their business plan, involve the Community Education Service and undertake	(1) Management of the building by the Borough Council; (2) management by the Community Education Service of Suffolk County Council; and	Terry Clements (01284-827161)  Howard Cook (01284-757097)

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			<p>management agreement between the Council and Moreton Hall Youth Action Group;</p> <p>(ii) confirmation of the external funding grants for the project;</p> <p>(iii) appropriate planning permissions being received and completion of land transfer agreements; and</p> <p>(iv) satisfactory completion of the remaining constitutional issues of the Group;</p> <p>(2) subject to the approval of the full Council, the cost of the scheme up to £220,000 be met from the 'Section 106' funding allocation for Moreton Hall, and the Capital Programme be amended accordingly;</p> <p>(3) the Corporate Director for Community be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Sport, to give final approvals for the project and release the necessary funding on being satisfied of the resolution of the issues in recommendation (1) above; and</p> <p>(4) officers undertake further investigations into the possibility of including football changing facilities as part of the Youth Action Group building and report further proposals on completion of the investigations.</p>	<p>can be met from the Section 106 allocation for recreational facilities at Moreton Hall. Therefore, there are no revenue implications to the local taxpayer.</p>	<p>needs assessment. Officers are of the opinion that the group is viable and able to take a long-term view of managing this project.</p>	<p>(3) management by Moreton Hall Youth Action Group.</p>	

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12	Suffolk Supporting People Strategy 2005 to 2008 (Feb05/01)	V512	(1) Cabinet recommend to full Council the adoption of the Suffolk Supporting People Five Year Strategy; and (2) Cabinet delegate authority to the Head of Environmental Health & Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health & Crime, to agree any changes to the Strategy in the light of the county wide consultation that is taking place.	All District Councils in Suffolk and the Suffolk County Council have signed up to a 'risk sharing protocol' for any deficits in funding for the Supporting People Programme across Suffolk.	The ODPM requires the Supporting People Strategies to be approved by participating authorities by 31 March 2005.	None. It is a statutory requirement to produce a Supporting People Strategy.	Frank Warby (01284-700678)  Carole Herries (01284-757603)
13	Queen's Close, Bury St Edmunds – Future Asset Management Options (Feb05/16)	V513	Subject to final approval by the Cabinet:- (a) a development partner be selected to work with the Council to produce the optimum outcome in terms of capital receipt, number of affordable units and quality development; and (b) the freehold of the site be sold to the development partner when an acceptable scheme is produced.	Option 1 requires a substantial capital input whereas the other options would generate varying capital receipts.	In order to consider properly options for the future use of property assets, it is important that decisions taken follow a full assessment in accordance with adopted procedures.	Option 1 – refurbish building and restore to original use; Option 2 – redevelop site for affordable housing; Option 3 – redevelop site solely by a private developer; and Option 4 – redevelop site in partnership with private sector developer.	Frank Warby (01284-700678)  Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580)  Carole Herries (01284-757603)
14	Sale of Reeve Lodge, Ixworth for Social Housing (Feb05/17)	V514	(1) The sale of land at Reeve Lodge, Ixworth to Havebury Housing Partnership, who are working in partnership with Orwell Housing Association, be approved; and (2) following the sale of the land, the existing building be demolished and 16 units of affordable housing be built in accordance with the affordable housing development	The total costs for the Reeve Lodge scheme is £1,968,614 and funding from the Housing Corporation's AHP funding of £886,000 has been secured. The remaining costs would be met by	There is an urgent need for more affordable housing in St Edmundsbury, and in particular for rented accommodation for waiting list applicants. Information from the housing waiting lists confirms that there is a need for general needs rented accommodation in	Local residents in Ixworth were keen to redevelop the site for elderly people again and this option was considered. A scheme for frail and elderly people, including both refurbishment and new build, is underway at Ixworth Court and Reeve Lodge is directly across the road.	Frank Warby (01284-700678)  Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580)  Carole Herries (01284-757603)

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			programme.	Havebury Housing Partnership. A value of £400,000 for purchase of the site for social housing purposes has been agreed through negotiations and this sum would be paid to the Council on the sale of the land.	Ixworth.		
15	Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II (Feb05/08)	V515	Subject to the approval of full Council, the provisional programme of events, including the granting of the Freedom of the Borough to veterans' associations, be approved and further reports be forwarded to Cabinet as appropriate when further details are available.	The sum of £25,000 has been included within budget estimates to fund the World War II anniversary events. Detailed costings would be developed for events, however, the cost of all the events included within the provisional programme can be met from the proposed budget provision.	The recommendations support the Council's commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II and would allow officers to undertake the detailed planning to deliver the events.	A variety of potential events were considered. However the selected events in the provisional programme were made on the basis of feasibility, cost and existing commitments.	Andrew Varley (01284-753135)  Mike Dawson (01284-757060)
17	Anglia Polytechnic University (APU) – Consultation on Possible Change of Name	agenda item 17	St Edmundsbury Borough Council indicates its support for:- (1) the principle of changing the current name of APU; and (2) the preferred option of <i>Anglia University</i> .	None.	To respond to the consultation exercise. 'Anglia University' is the preferred option of APU. APU is a major provider of degrees at West Suffolk College.	To not respond to the consultation. Three possible names were suggested by APU.	John Griffiths (01284-757136)  Deborah Cadman (01284-757001)

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18	Budget & Council Tax Setting: 2005/2006	V518	The final budget proposals, as set out in Paper V518, were approved and will be considered by full Council on 24 February 2005.	The Cabinet approved proposals which will result in an increase of 3.9%, equivalent to £5.85 per Band D Council taxpayer.	Full Council is required to set budgets for the year ahead on 24 February 2005. At this stage in the budget process the options have been considered and their financial effects assessed by Cabinet.	All the proposals have been considered by the Portfolio Holders, following a rigorous and detailed examination of savings options and growth bids by the Policy Development Committee's DR-IVE teams and the Budget Panel. In consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and the Leader of the Council, all Members of the Cabinet have contributed to the development of the budget report.	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580)  Graham Moore (01284-757252)
19	Local Area Agreement and Local Public Service Agreement 2 for Suffolk (Feb05/21)	V519	(1) The implications for the Council in entering the Suffolk Local Area Agreement and associated Local Public Service Agreement 2 Partnership be noted; and (2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be given delegated authority to sign the Local Area Agreement document on behalf of the Council.	It is not currently possible to determine all resource implications. Some redirection of existing resources may be required in future at both local and County level. Further reports will be brought to Cabinet when this information is known.	Delegated authority to sign and agree the LAA/LPSA2 documents is required if the agreements are to be completed in time for the April deadline. All of the outcomes and targets are consistent with the Council's corporate priorities and strategies.	Not entering the partnership would exclude the Council and the Borough's community from the benefits offered by the improved service outcomes and pump priming and performance reward grants. It would also significantly weaken the existing partnership agreements in Suffolk.	John Griffiths (01284-757136)  Mike Dawson (01284-757060)
20	Annual Reporting and Corporate Planning Cycle (Feb05/11)	V520	(1) In order that the Cabinet can present final documents to the full Council on 28 June 2005, the Policy Development Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (as appropriate) be asked to	There are no resource implications. The corporate planning cycle itself is used to guide financial planning systems.	The Council needs to have regard to the findings of the Audit Commission. However, the Council had already recognised in early 2004 that, if it were to maintain the momentum of	The Council has already committed to the review, the needs for which is recognised in the Council's CPA report from the Audit Commission. The options for the new cycle and documentation would be	Jeff Stevens (01787-280284)  Alex Wilson (01284-757002)

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			review the Council's annual reporting and corporate planning processes in accordance with the objectives outlined in paragraph 3.6 to Report V520; and (2) it be noted that detailed service plans for 2005/2006 will not be published pending clarification of the new format arising from the review.		its improvement agenda, it would need to refresh the corporate planning cycle before 2005/2006.	examined with the scrutiny committees prior to adoption by Cabinet and full Council.	
22	Bury St Edmunds Quality Bus Partnership	V521	Subject to full Council approval, the Borough Council, together with Suffolk County Council, enter into a Quality Bus Partnership with First Eastern Counties Buses Limited for the provision of bus services and associated infrastructure in Bury St Edmunds.	The Borough Council, in partnership with the Suffolk County Council, has obligations to improve the supporting infrastructure. This would require capital investment from the Borough Council in relocating, replacing and providing new shelters and revenue expenditure to maintain electronic information and call centres.	To provide a framework for the improvement of bus services in Bury St Edmunds.	The Borough Council is not obligated to enter into the Quality Bus Partnership. The option of a formal contract between First and the Highway Authority was proposed but this approach is not appropriate for commercial services.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763)  Jerry Massey (01284-757302)
23	Maintenance Issues in Abbey Gardens (Feb05/15)	agenda item 23	Subject to the approval of full Council, the maintenance work schemes within the Abbey Gardens, the cost of which is to be met by virement of	The cost of the work is £43,000 of which £13,000 would be met by English Heritage.	Existing netting to prevent birds resting and nesting in the Abbey Gate is no longer effective and requires renewing. The	Doing nothing was considered but the Abbey Gate is a national monument.	Terry Clements (01284-827161)  Mike Dawson (01284-757060)

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			£30,000 from accumulated income from investments, be approved.	The £30,000 remaining can be met from additional income from investments which have accrued as a result of the underspend on the Capital Programme.	feeding of birds in the Abbey Gardens is a popular pastime and creating an accessible wildlife sanctuary, with an alternative nesting site, will allow this to be managed effectively.		
24	Housing Benefit Overpayment – Proposed Write-Off	V522	One case of overpaid Housing Benefit totalling £2,230.68 as detailed in exempt Appendix 1 to Report V522 be approved for write-off.	The failure to recover housing benefit has an impact on the level of subsidy received. Taking into account this decision, five cases totalling £6,725.22 have been written-off to date in 2004/2005.	The reasons for making the recommendation are included in the information provided in the exempt Appendix 1 to Report V522.	Attempt to recover the overpayments from the claimants, which could have included involving the full appeal rights contained within benefits administration law. Officers consider that on balance, if the cases were heard by the Appeals Tribunal, the authority would lose the appeal.	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580)  Graham Moore (01284-757252)

Joy Bowes, Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
18 February 2005

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