



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

The following decisions were taken in the week ending 6 May 2005 and, if not called in by Councillors, will come into force on Tuesday 17 May 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 @stedsb.gov.uk) by 5 p.m. on Monday 16 May 2005.

A. DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET – WEEK ENDING 6 May 2005

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
5	Rougham Centre of Sporting Excellence (May05/09)	V643	(1) Support be given in principle to the major centre of sporting excellence project at Rougham Hill, Bury St Edmunds; and (2) the role of the officers in facilitating the project partnership be noted.	The Council will be allocating officer time to assist in the development of this project. The Council has allocated £288,000 in the capital programme for a Hockey Centre of Excellence at Rougham Hill.	By encouraging the partnership and offering professional support it may be possible to deliver a centre of major sporting excellence in Bury St Edmunds without exposing the Council to significant capital investment or revenue expenditure risk. The Centre will be of regional and national significance, assisting in the economic development of the Borough and will provide further opportunities for community involvement in sport.	(1) Not to support the project and leave the partnership to develop in its own way. (2) Support the partnership but not allocate officer time to assist in its development.	Terry Clements (01284-827161) Neil Anthony (01284-757064)

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6	High Hedges: Implementation of Part 8 of the Anti – Social Behaviour (ASP) Act 2003	agenda item 6	<p>(1) The fee level of £300 per complaint, with 50% fee discount for applicants on benefits be approved;</p> <p>(2) the Head of Planning and Engineering Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Chief Finance Officer be given delegated authority to review and set the fee structure to take account of complaints experience and costs;</p> <p>(3) all officers involved in dealing with High Hedge complaints, appeals and enforcement to be given the requisite authority to enter land under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003;</p> <p>(4) delegated authority be given for officers to prepare and deliver the Council's case where an appeal against High Hedge complaint determinations has been lodged; and</p> <p>(5) the Head of Planning and Engineering Services be given delegated authority to serve High Hedge enforcement notices where determinations have not been complied with.</p>	The administrative arrangements for dealing with complaints about high hedges arise out of new regulations in respect of the ASP Act. Therefore, the Council has had to estimate the time involved in determining a complaint and the resultant fee to be levied. This will be reviewed when complaints have been received and resolved.	The Government has provided no additional funding to the Borough Council for providing this service, therefore, costs have had to be estimated until claims experience has been assessed.	A best estimate of fee levels has been made at this moment in time.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Patsy Dell (01284-757306)

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7	Planning Policy Panel: Recommendations (May05/04)	V644	<p>(a) Replacement St Edmundsbury Borough Local Plan 2016 Progress Report and Work Programme</p> <p>(1) the contents of Report V654 be noted; (2) the commissioning of additional studies, as outlined in Report V654 be agreed; (3) the draft list of meetings of the Planning Policy Panel listed in paragraph 3.5 of Report V654 be agreed and the issue of delegated powers to make decisions relating to Council evidence to the Inquiry be investigated further and brought back to the next meeting of the Panel; and (4) the staffing issues and financial implications identified in Report V654 be noted.</p>	The cost of taking the Local Plan through a Public Inquiry is significant. The Borough Council is required to pay for the Planning Inspector, as well as the appointment of the Programme Officer, and courses required to support officers at the Inquiry. In addition, Consultants will need to be employed to undertake some studies. The cost of meeting these expenses can be met from within the budget for the preparation of the Local Plan and the Planning Delivery Grant.	Taking the Local Plan through a Public Inquiry is a statutory requirement.	The Government provides detailed guidelines.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Ian Poole (01284-757350)

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			<p>(b) Local Development Scheme (1) the revised Figure 1 of the Local Development Scheme circulated at the meeting be approved and incorporated within the Local Development Scheme; and (2) the Local Development Scheme (as amended) will take effect on Monday 9 May 2005, or when the Secretary of State has notified the Borough Council of his decision to issue a Direction under Section 15/(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, whichever is sooner.</p>	This decision made an amendment to one previously taken and did not have any financial implications.	The production of a Local Development Scheme is a statutory requirement.	Options were considered through the Local Development Scheme process.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Ian Poole (01284-757350)
12	Asset Management and the Lyons Report (May05/11)	V648	(1) The achievements of and proposals for asset management by the Borough Council, in relation to the key points and recommendations of the Lyons report for the better management of public sector assets be noted, and (2) where appropriate, to incorporate Lyons' recommendations into the Asset Management Plan Action Plan.	The resource implications of implementing the Asset Management Plan Action Plan are reported to Members at the appropriate time.	Practical adoption of the Asset Management Plan Action Plan, incorporating the recommendations of the Lyons Report and Gershon Review, will facilitate the Council in identifying the ideal and sustainable property portfolio to meet service delivery needs. Using the AMP as an integral tool in policy based budgeting is in accordance with sound financial management and prudential spending.	Option appraisal is an integral element of Asset Management Planning.	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580) Betty Albon (01284-757307)

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13	Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) 3 and 4: Approval of Spending Plan (May05/12)	V649	(1) The Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) 3 and 4 spending plan, set out in Appendix A to Report V649 be approved. (2) Subject to consultation with, and the agreement of, the appropriate Portfolio Holders, the Corporate Director for Resources be authorised to approve and submit all IEG Statements and Assessments in accordance with the Council's approved budgets and adopted policy framework.	The Council has received Government Grants totalling £500,000 in respect of IEG 3 and 4 and the Report details the allocation of this sum.	IEG money is being prioritised towards those actions that best support the Council's customer priority areas and those actions that meet the Best Value Performance Indicator 157 target in respect of electronic delivery of services. Delegating the approval of detailed technical documents to the officers and Portfolio Holders will improve the efficiency of the Cabinet process.	IEG funding is granted to assist the Council in meeting mandatory e-Government targets issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. However, there are a substantial number of options available concerning the selection of e-Government Projects.	Jeff Stevens (01440-762511) Chris Woodhouse (01284-757230)
15	Miscellaneous Write-Off Report	V650	The amounts detailed in the exempt Appendix to Report V650, being 9 accounts for Sundry Debtors totalling £19,485.62 be approved for write-off.	£19,485.62 is written off.	The reasons for recommending the amounts to be written off are detailed in the exempt Appendix to the Report.	The reasons for the accounts recommended for write off are detailed in the exempt Appendix. The recovery action taken is in accordance with current procedures, which is intended to be firm, fair and cost effective.	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580) Graham Moore (01284-757252)

Joy Bowes, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
9 May 2005