



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

The following decisions were taken in the week ending 9 December 2005 and, if not called in by Councillors, will come into operation on Monday 19 December 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 16 December 2005.

A. DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET – WEEK ENDING 9 December 2005

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
4	University Campus Suffolk (Dec05/14)	W412	(1) The development of University Campus Suffolk (UCS), and specifically the development of local learning centres in St Edmundsbury, be formally supported; (2) the resources and support already provided to the project, as set out in Section 3.3. of Report W412, be noted; (3) the Council's continued support for the development of West Suffolk College's Bury St Edmunds campus, as approved under Paper W246 to Cabinet on 21 September 2005, be confirmed; (4) the Council continues to work with West Suffolk College to provide and enhance education opportunities in	The Borough Council is making a considerable commitment in terms of officer time and other support, such as land transactions towards the UCS project. While this is being accommodated within existing resources, this supports carries a high opportunity cost in terms of others projects and functions.	A strong UCS will need the support of all local partners and as a leader in its community, the Borough Council will need to be seen to play a central and tangible role in the project. In addition, other partners in the project, such as East of England Development Agency (EEDA), are seeking reassurance from district councils as to their future support for the project. Given this, the Borough Council now needs to formalise its position with regard to support UCS and identifying sources of	There were several options considered, which are outlined below:- (1) the Council could consider not supporting or funding the project any further; (2) support the project as detailed in Report W246 cover but make it clear no further funding would be made available; (3) support the project and provide funding by means of a capital grant; (4) support the project and provide funding using the Councils own LPSA 1 reward grant money; (5) support the project and seek to provide	John Griffiths (01284-757136) Deborah Cadman (01284-757009)

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
			Haverhill; (5) the Western Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership (WSLSP) be approached with a view to using the Partnership's Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA1) reward grant towards supporting the UCS project; and (6) the Council continues to identify alternative and additional opportunities for external funding.		funding to enable the project's future development in West Suffolk.	funding via the WSLSP's LPSA 1 reward grant money; and (6) support the project and seek to provide funding via the LPSA 2 pump-priming money.	
5	Economic Development Strategy (Dec05/07)	W413	Subject to the approval of full Council, the Economic Development Strategy attached as Appendix A to Report W413 be adopted and be subject to regular review.	Approving this Strategy means that the Council approves the main direction, not that it approves every action contained within it, and therefore it does not commit the Council to financing individual initiatives. Any additional expenditure will be subject of individual reports.	The reasons why the Strategy has been produced are to:- (1) raise the profile of economic development in the Borough; (2) attract companies, funding, investment and research in the Borough; (3) provide a focus for discussions with partners; (4) help co-ordinate all the agencies involved in economic activity in the Borough; and (5) integrate economic development with other Council activities.	The other main option was not to produce an Economic Development Strategy, but the issue has been highlighted as crucial for the future of the Borough, and the production of a strategy is a useful way of assessing the current economic position of the Borough and giving a new direction impetuous to the Council's Economic Development work.	Nigel Aitkens (01284-735258) Nick Martin (01284-757102)
7	Hackney Carriage Fares (Dec05/11)	W415	Subject to the approval of full Council, that the table of fares for Hackney Carriages within the St Edmundsbury Borough Council district be amended in accordance with the proposals as detailed in Appendix A to	There are no direct financial implications arising for the Borough Council except that of public consultation, which	The fares were recommended by the Bury St Edmunds Taxi Drivers Association.	An option for no change was considered, however, it was recognised that Hackney Carriage Proprietors had absorbed additional costs since the last increase which was in	Frank Warby (01284-700678) Hilary Workman (01284-757113)

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
			Report W379.	was undertaken at a cost of £675.		September 2003. A further option was to make modifications to the proposed increases in fees. However it was also recognised that the Council would be required to re-consult with the Hackney Carriage drivers and depending on the response may require further formal public consultation.	
9	<p>Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 30 November 2005</p> <p>(a) Incorporating Sustainability into Council Decision Making</p>	W417	<p>(1) sustainability as defined in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy will be incorporated in existing work to embed project and risk management in corporate processes;</p> <p>(2) sustainability as defined in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy will be incorporated in existing work to develop the Council's procurement procedures;</p> <p>(3) when fully developed, the Council's project management approach, in particular the new risk management process, be applied to all new policy framework development, ensuring that the sustainability of major policies is considered at conception;</p> <p>(4) when these new processes are in place, where a new or revised policy is submitted to either scrutiny committee for</p>	There are no direct financial implications of implementing these processes into the Council's decision making.	Improved and explicit decision making.	Different approaches were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	<p>Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763)</p> <p>Peter Gudde (01284-757042)</p>

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
			<p>consideration, the risk assessment prepared for its development be provided for Members' information;</p> <p>(5) when developed, the Council's project management approach, in particular the risk management element, also be applied in all new strategic reviews, ensuring that the sustainability of major changes to services are considered at review conception;</p> <p>(6) where services with a significant environmental or social impact undergo re-design the implications of proposed changes be evaluated to ensure that legislative or policy requirements continue to be complied with;</p> <p>(7) the Environmental Management System be upgraded to cover sustainability across the Council to complement the project management and procurement systems, and to provide the element of compliance monitoring and public reporting;</p> <p>(8) the results of the Council's Vision 2025 consultation be used to develop a long-term vision of sustainable communities and how the Council intends to balance the</p>				

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
	(b) Implementation of Rural Services Action Plan	W417	<p>four central aims of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy;</p> <p>(9) the Council's environmental policy be upgraded to produce a "sustainability" policy which can then be embedded within any future corporate planning/community strategy; and</p> <p>(10) a programme of sustainability training for key staff and Members be drawn up as part of the planned project management, procurement or corporate business risk training in the Workforce Development Plan with supporting guidelines being incorporated into the intranet.</p> <p>(1) the progress in delivering the Rural Action Plan, as set out in Report W403, be noted;</p> <p>(2) the minor operational changes to the Action Plan, as detailed in Report W403, which reflect available resources and other Council decisions, be approved;</p> <p>(3) the development of a Suffolk Food Festival, as suggested under reference B.1.2 of Report W403, be investigated;</p> <p>(4) the aim to establish a</p>	Delivering the Rural Action plan will be funded from within existing budgets.	Monitoring the delivery of an approved plan and developing new initiatives.	Monitoring the implementation of a plan is good practise.	<p>Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763)</p> <p>Richard Livall (01284-757109)</p>

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
			Friday and Saturday night community transport service for young people residing in the rural areas, as set out under reference E.5 of Report W403, be supported; and (5) the Committee intends to carry out a further comprehensive review of progress on the Action Plan in early 2007, with an interim exceptions report at the halfway point be noted.				
11	Vision 2025: Draft Final Document and Action Plans (Dec05/08)	W419	That the format and content of the final Vision 2025 document and action plans as detailed in Appendix A to Report W419 be approved for debate by full Council on 13 December 2005.	The project to develop Vision 2025 has been contained within existing resources. The Action Plan indicates where additional resources will be required to implement schemes and this will be subject to separate decision making processes and reflect the budget constraints of the Council. Another purpose of the document will be to assist the Council and its partners to extract external funding.	To seek the adoption of a long term vision in the most appropriate format.	Not to develop a long term vision. However, the need to develop a long term vision for the Borough has been identified by the Council itself and is expressed in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Inspection Report.	John Griffiths (01284-757136) Deborah Cadman (01284-757009)

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
12	Review of Museum and Heritage Services	W420	<p>Subject to the approval of full Council,</p> <p>(1) the findings of the Heritage Services Review, as set out in Paper W393, be noted;</p> <p>(2) subject to (4) below, option two, as set out in Paper W393, be adopted with the intention of working towards option three in the future;</p> <p>(3) the Borough Council continues to engage with its funders, other partners and interested parties to ensure the successful delivery of a combined Museum and Heritage Service and to explore new ways of accessing the collections which are beneficial to Council Tax payers;</p> <p>(4) when he has made arrangements for the relocation and care of the collections, the Corporate Director for Community, in consultation with the Council Leader and the relevant Portfolio Holders, be authorised to close the Manor House as a museum; and</p> <p>(5) as set out in Paper W393 the position of the Gershom-Parkington Trust be noted and officers be authorised to meet with the surviving trustees to investigate the future</p>	<p>It is estimated that the saving for this option will be £212,200 in 2007/2008, which is a revenue saving of 30%.</p>	<p>The Cabinet requested that the Policy Development Committee review the Museum and Heritage Services in order to explore options for the service in order to prevent an increase in the net revenue costs from £673,800 in 2005/2006 to £804,150 in 2010/2011.</p>	<p>The following options were considered:-</p> <p>(1) keeping the service at current levels;</p> <p>(2) closing the services entirely;</p> <p>(3) closing the Manor House as a museum, renting a larger museum store in Bury St Edmunds and redisplaying the collections at Moyses Hall and West Stow Anglo Saxon Village through moving the archaeological collections to West Stow and the fine art, clock and textile collection to Moyses Hall;</p> <p>(4) merging the Museums Service and West Stow Country Park and Anglo Saxon Village to form an integrated service sharing expertise and providing services. This option would close the Manor House as a museum, provide a storage and study centre at West Stow. Moyses Hall would remain the Bury St Edmunds' museum with the inclusion of local fine art and horological collection; and</p> <p>(5) based on option (4) above but grant funding</p>	<p>Nigel Aitkens (01284-735258)</p> <p>Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580)</p> <p>Mike Dawson (01284-757060)</p>

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
			development of the Trust.			would be sought for the improvements proposed in option (4).	
13	Capital Financing: Prior Year Adjustment	W421	That the Cabinet approve the transfer of £7,060,000 to the Provision for Credit Liabilities from usable capital receipts in order to maintain the Council's current financial position with regard to revenue and capital reserves.	The transfer of usable capital receipts to the Provision for Credit Liabilities does not alter the overall position of the Council's balance sheet, being a transfer between reserves.	The transfer of usable capital receipts to the Provision for Credit Liabilities in the restated 2003/2004 accounts corrects an anomaly and means that 'adjustment A' figure under the 2003 regulations can be reconciled.	The adjustment to the accounts is of a technical nature and offers the only practical solution to correct the situation and enable the auditor to conclude the 2004/2005 audit.	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580) Graham Moore (01284-757252)
15	Review of Contaminated Land Strategy (Dec05/10)	W423	Subject to the approval of full Council, the revised Contaminated Land Strategy as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report W423 be adopted.	There are no financial or staffing implications arising from the revision of the strategy. However an annual budget of £10,000 has been allocated for work to carry out site inspections and other activities needed to achieve the statutory duties.	The Strategy needs to be adopted to meet the Council's legal obligations and the revised Strategy is now considered to be fit for purpose.	There were no other realistic options but to update the Strategy.	Frank Warby (01284-700678) Peter Gudde (01284-757042)
16	Waste Management: Changes to the Recycling Credit Scheme (Dec05/12)	W424	(1) the consultation paper on the changes to the Recycling Credits Scheme be noted; (2) the Department of the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) be advised that the Borough Council recognises the need for change in the current system but has concerns as outlined in paragraph 3.7 to	There are no financial implications in compiling the response to this consultation document. The resource implications will not be known until	It is considered essential that the Borough Council responds to the consultation on changes to the recycling credit scheme given the high level of the income received from recycling credits.	In compiling the response to the consultation various options were considered and this response has been agreed by the Suffolk Waste Management Group (SWMG).	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Sandra Pell (01284-757300)

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
			Report W424; (3) the views as outlined in Appendix 1 to Report W424 be supported; and (4) the consultation paper proposes that the yearly increase in the landfill tax element of the recycling credit be withdrawn, with the credit being held at the 2005/2006 levels be noted.	the new legislation is passed.			
17	Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse: Consultation (Dec05/19)	W425	(1) the consultation paper on the Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse be noted; (2) the response to the consultation document on the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, as attached in Appendix 1 to Report W425, be approved; (3) the Department of the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) be advised that the Borough Council supports the principles in the new Code of Practice; and (4) the if there are any resource implications in implementing the final Code that a further report will be brought to the Cabinet.	There are no financial implications in compiling the response to this consultation document. The implications of the legislation are not yet known.	It was considered essential that the Borough Council responds to the consultation as the Code is an integral part of how the Borough Council carries out its duties and responsibilities as the Principle Litter Authority.	Given the high profile attached to this subject by the Borough Council and the community, making the Council's views known is considered imperative.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Sandra Pell (01284-757300)

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
19	Grant Panel (Dec05/01) (a) Re-organisation of Grant Funding 2006/2007 Report W396	W427	<p>(1) the grant funding be amalgamated under the following headings, namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Core funding - revenue; (ii) Project Funding - capital; (iii) Project Funding - revenue; and (iv) Rural Funding - capital. <p>(2) the £12,000 DR-IVE savings in respect of SEAMS be made to the grant budget, as identified in Section 3.1 (a) of Report W396;</p> <p>(3) a saving of £16,663 be made by not increasing the budgets by the inflation factor, as detailed in Section 3.2 of Report W396;</p> <p>(4) a saving of £30,858 be made by reducing the budget by 5% on the 2005/2006 funding as detailed in Section 3.3 of Report W396;</p> <p>(5) the funding agreements already agreed by the Council remain unchanged as detailed in Section 4 of Report W396, apart from the grants to Abbeycroft Leisure and St Edmundsbury in Bloom, which would be subject to further reports; and</p> <p>(6) the accounts for the Gatehouse Recycling Project be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.</p>	Savings total £59,521.	The Grant Panel were asked to consider the total budgets for allocation against the Dynamic Review – Innovation, Value and Enterprise (DR-IVE) criteria.	Options were considered by the Grant Panel.	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580) Mike Dawson (01284-757060)

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
	(b) Abbeycroft Leisure Grant: 2006/2007 Report W397		(1) a grant of £652,800 be awarded to Abbeycroft Leisure for 2006/2007; (2) the net position be monitored during 2006/2007 and the Corporate Director for Community, in consultation with the Chairman of the Leisure Centres Liaison Group, the relevant Portfolio Holders and Corporate Director for Resources be given authority to approve further requests from Abbeycroft Leisure for additional funding subject to the £28,000 provision being made within the 2006/2007 budget; and (3) the 2006/2007 charging policy as detailed in Appendix 2 of Report W377 be endorsed.	The Borough Council's 5 year financial model had allowed for a grant of £652,800.	An additional £28,000 was requested by Abbeycroft Leisure, but due to the closure of the Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre it was difficult to establish Abbeycroft Leisure's requirements until it had fully operated in a full financial year.	Options were considered by the Leisure Centres Liaison Group and Grant Panel.	Terry Clements (01284-827161) Mike Dawson (01284-757060)
20	Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Affordable Housing (Dec05/13)	W428	(1) initiatives to provide affordable housing continue to be included as Key Activities for the Cabinet's Commitments when these are next reviewed; (2) given the Borough's affordable housing requirements, the outcome of the bids to the Housing Corporation for funds for 2006-2008 be taken into account by the Cabinet when developing future priorities for the Council's own capital programme; and (3) the Heads of Planning and Engineering and Environmental	The Housing Corporation had awarded £8.5 million to fund affordable housing schemes in 2004/2006 and this had been supplemented by £2 million capital from the Borough Council. Bids totally £7.3 million have been submitted to the Housing Corporation for the	Consideration was given to the future provision of affordable housing in the Borough: whether the present and future needs were likely to be met, and whether there was anything more that the Council could do to improve the situation.	Options were considered during the debate by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee before making recommendations to the Cabinet.	Frank Warby (01284-700678) Carole Herries (01284-757603)

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
			Health and Housing investigate the feasibility of reducing or deleting the public subsidy given to affordable housing schemes coming forward through Section 106 sites.	period 2006/2008.			
21	Housing Waiting List and Homelessness Issues (Dec05/06)	W429	(1) the acceptance of up to 12 families a year who have been granted 'leave to remain' who are referred from Ipswich Borough Council be approved. These families will be offered housing within the St Edmundsbury area. (2) the Head of Environmental Health & Housing be authorised, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and partners, to make the necessary changes to policies and procedures to implement the new arrangements set out in Report W429.	Up to 12 homes a year could be required to be supplied for these homeless families, which can be from the existing housing stock.	All district councils in Suffolk considered Ipswich Borough Council's proposal and all agreed, in principle, with the proposal, which will be further considered by the Suffolk Housing Officers Group and the Suffolk Chief Executives Groups.	Options considered were do nothing or agree to support Ipswich Borough Council.	Frank Warby (01284-700678) Carole Herries (01284-757603)
22	Responsibilities under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Dec05/05)	W430	That the actions outlined in paragraph 3.7 of Report W430 regarding the Council's responsibilities under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 be approved.	There are no immediate resource implications. The actions in paragraph 3.7 will initially be implemented by existing staff.	To ensure that all staff and Councillors are aware of their responsibilities with regard to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and to develop an Action Plan to implement and monitor progress.	Do nothing was not considered to be a realistic option, as this would mean that the Council would be unlikely to satisfy the requirements expected by the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and the Government.	Frank Warby (01284-700678) Carole Herries (01284-757603)

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
24	Home Computer Initiative	W460	That the Officer Working Group be authorised to select the most appropriate Home Computer Initiative provider and launch the scheme be approved.	No direct financial implications. Administering the Scheme will be undertaken within existing staff resources.	Easier access for staff to purchase home computers. Help to increase IT opportunities for staff.	Not to implement the Scheme.	Jeff Stevens (01440-762511) Louise Hammond (01284-757008)

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