



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL  
**DECISIONS NOTICE**

The following decisions were taken in the week ending 13 February 2009 and, if not called in by Councillors, will come into operation on Monday 23 February 2009. 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@stedsbcc.gov.uk) by 5 pm. on Friday 20 February 2009.

**A. DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET ON 11 FEBRUARY 2009**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Subject (Forward Plan Ref)</b>	<b>Report No.</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Financial Implications</b>	<b>Reason(s) for Decision</b>	<b>Other Option(s) Considered</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>
5	Revenues and Benefits Service Prosecution Policy (Feb09/06)	Z510	Subject to the approval at full Council, the updated Prosecution Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report Z460, be adopted.	There are no direct financial implications in updating the Prosecution Policy.	The Policy has been brought up-to-date with current thinking incorporating some practices that have been developed within the Enquiry Team, and actions taken in respect of offences in connection with Council Tax fraud.	Options were considered in detail by the Policy Development Committee.	Paul Farmer (01284-768777)  Liz Watts (01284-757252)
6	Review of Vision 2025 Action Plan: Housing (Feb09/07)	Z511	The revisions to the Vision 2025 Housing Action Plan, as outlined in Report Z461, be approved.	There are no direct financial implications in reviewing the Vision 2025 Action Plan.	Following adoption of the St Edmundsbury Vision 2025 document by full Council in December 2025 it was agreed that monitoring and development of the Action Plans aligned to each of the six themes of the document would be ongoing.	Options were considered in detail by the Policy Development Committee.	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580) Carol Herries (01284-757603)

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7	Fees and Charges Policy	Z512	Subject to the approval of full Council, the Fees and Charges Policy, as set out in Report Z458 (as amended) be adopted.	There are no direct financial implications in producing the Fees and Charges Policy.	This new Policy will ensure that Fees and Charges support the Council's objectives and are set at a level that maximises income generation where appropriate.	Options were considered in detail by the Policy Development Committee.	Paul Farmer (01284-768777)  Liz Watts (01284-757252)
9	Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service draft Fire Action Plan 2009/2010	Z514	(1) A joint motion from the Borough Council and the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service be put to the Local Government Association, "that developers should be encouraged to install sprinkler systems in new buildings as a matter of practice" where appropriate; (2) through its work with developers, the Council encourage the increased installation of sprinkler systems in new buildings and homes where appropriate; (3) through its work and contact with Housing Association partners, the Council promote fire safety issues and support for tenants in making their homes as safe as possible; and (4) the Council, through its contact and work with partners, support the delivery of the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's Fire Action Plan 2009/2010 as attached to Report Z470.	There are no direct financial implications in writing to the Local Government Association and working with developers, housing association partners.	As a result of a presentation from the Director of Public Prosecution and Chief Fire Officer for Suffolk County Council, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that the Council raises the profile on certain issues.	Options were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580)  Mike Dawson (01284-757060)

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10	West Suffolk House Joint Committee: 6 February 2009 (Feb09/10)	Z515	Subject to the approval of full Council:- (1) the overall budget provision for West Suffolk House (£19.66 million) be increased by 5% (£980,000 or £490,000 for each Authority) to provide an increased contingency to cover current uncertainty over the estimated project cost; and (2) the Programme Director and the officers of both Authorities continue to investigate ways to minimise the final outturn figure.	The Borough Council's additional contribution totals £490,000.	To provide an increased contingency sum to cover current uncertainty over the estimated project cost.	Options were considered by the West Suffolk House Joint Committee.	Nigel Aitkens (01284-735258)  Alex Wilson (01284-757695)
13	Treasury Management Performance and Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2009/2010	Z517	Subject to approval by full Council:- (a) the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2009/2010, together with the Prudential Indicators, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report Z517, be approved; (b) the upper limit on fixed and variable rate exposures be set at 95% and 40% respectively of the Council's total investments; and (c) the upper limit for principal sums invested for more than 364 days be set at £20million.	It is estimated that in 2009/2010 Treasury Management activity will generate income of £751,000, which is equivalent to £19.87 for each Council Tax Band D property. It is estimated that the Council's non-operational property and assets portfolio will generate income of £2,641,450 during the year, which is equivalent to £69.90 for each Council Tax Band D property.	Council is required to approve the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Statement prior to the commencement of the given financial year.	Not to produce a Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy was not considered an option.	Paul Farmer (01284-768777)  Chris Barber (01284-757241)

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14	Annual Review of Car Parking Charges: 2009/2010	Z518	Subject to the budget setting process:- (1) to implement Option 1: increase long stay charges: all charges over 3 hours be increased by 10p with all other charges remaining the same, be applied to all off-street car parks in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill for 2009/2010; and (2) the charges for the Cattle Market/arc lower level car park be the same as the surface car park until fully operational, when they will be reviewed.	Increasing the revenue received from off-street car parks recognises the need to maintain a good quality service and make a suitable return on these facilities.	Charges are reviewed on an annual basis in order to maintain a good quality service, keep pace with rising costs and ensure car parks operate effectively in accordance with the Council's policy on the provision of off street car parks. In carrying out this review regard was given to the financial needs of the Council, recognising the current difficult economic conditions, and the majority views of the stakeholders and public consultees.	5 options were the subject of consultation with stakeholders and the Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill Area Working Parties.	Terry Clements (01284-827161)  Stephen Boor (01284-757323)
17	Budget and Council Tax Setting: 2009/2010 (Feb09/01)	Z521	That, subject to the approval of full Council,:- (i) the revenue budgets attached at Appendix A, together with the additional revenue requirements summarised at Appendix C and the 'Dynamic Review – Innovation, Value and Enterprise' (DR-IVE) savings and new income detailed at Appendix D be approved; (ii) the revised capital programme attached at Appendix B, including minor changes noted at 4.1.11, be approved;	The Borough Council has frozen the Council Tax for 2009/2010 at the same levels as that levied for 2008/2009. A Band D Council Tax payer will still pay £171.99 per annum.	On 9 December 2008 the Council determined to freeze the Council Tax for 2009/2010 at 2008/2009 levels and therefore this decision finalised individual budgets.	Detailed consideration of individual budgets was undertaken by the Policy Development Committee as part of the budget setting process in addition to the Cabinet.	Paul Farmer (01284-768777)  Liz Watts (01284-757252)

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			<p>(iii) having taken into account the conclusions of the Chief Finance Officer's report including the Risk Assessment attached at Appendix F, together with the Medium Term Financial Strategy ('Five Year Model') attached at Appendix E and all the other information contained in this report, Cabinet establish the level of Band D Council Tax for 2009/2010 at £171.99, ie., freezing the 2008/2009 council tax level for St Edmundsbury Borough Council; and</p> <p>(iv) the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Efficiency, be authorised to transfer any surplus on the 2008/2009 revenue budget to the General Fund, and to vire funds between existing Earmarked Reserves (as set out at Appendix G) as deemed appropriate throughout the year.</p>				

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18	Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party: 3 February 2009 (Feb09/04)	Z522	<p><b>(a) Car Park Name Change: Bury St Edmunds</b> The name change from Cattle Market Car Park to Cattle Market/arc Car Park be approved.</p> <p><b>(b) Engineering Services Work Programme: Bury St Edmunds</b> (1) The introduction off an extension of the Zone A Neighbourhood Parking Scheme in Bury St Edmunds to include Bishops Road and Blomfield Street, as detailed in paragraph 2.2.4, of Report Z501, be approved. (2) Suffolk County Council be requested to change the priority of the schemes listed in Appendix C of Report Z501 to enable the Pedestrian Crossing Scheme in West Road to be undertaken in 2009/2010 and that the Cullum Road toucan crossing be deferred to 2010/2011.</p>	<p>Any financial implications from this decision can be met from existing budgets.</p> <p>The cost of the scheme is met from charges.</p> <p>These works are funded by Suffolk County Council.</p>	<p>There was a need to recognise the historical use of the site and also the present occupants in order that new visitors can find the appropriate car park.</p> <p>The overwhelming majority of residents supported the introduction of this scheme.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council have announced the programme of strategic highway works.</p>	<p>Options were considered in detail by the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party.</p> <p>Options were considered in detail by the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party.</p> <p>Options were considered in detail by the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party.</p>	<p>Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580)</p> <p>Mark Walsh (01284-757300)</p> <p>Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580)</p> <p>Stephen Boor (01284-757323)</p>
19	Greater Cambridge Partnership Sub-Regional Economic Strategy 2009/2012	Z523	Subject to the approval of full Council, the Greater Cambridge Partnership Sub-Regional Economic Strategy 2009/2012, as outlined in Paper Z523, be endorsed.	There are no direct financial implications in responding to consultation on the Sub-Regional Economic Strategy.	It is an objective of the Council's Economic Development Strategy that St Edmundsbury should develop closer links with Cambridge and be eager to play a full role in the Greater Cambridge Partnership.	Not to respond to the consultation document was not considered an option.	<p>Nigel Aitkens (01284-735258)</p> <p>Carol Rowntree (01284-757683)</p>

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20	Sustainable Development Panel: 10 February 2009 (Feb09/09)	Z524	<p><b>Breckland Local Development Framework: Submission Core Strategy Consultation</b></p> <p>(1) The contents of Report Z532 form the basis of a response to the Breckland Local Development Framework Submission Core Strategy, subject to an amendment to add a request that a Strategic Traffic Impact Assessment be carried out for the planned growth at Thetford in view of the effect of the proposed expansion of Thetford will have on traffic movement through St Edmundsbury; and</p> <p>(2) the Borough Council be represented at the Examination in Public should it be invited to do so by the Planning Inspector.</p>	Responding to this consultation document is undertaken within existing resources.	There are concerns that the expansion of Thetford will have a significant impact on the infrastructure of St Edmundsbury.	Detailed options were considered by the Sustainable Development Panel.	<p>Terry Clements (01284-827161)</p> <p>Ian Poole (01284-757350)</p>
21	Public Venue Working Party	Agenda Item 21	<p>(1) A Public Venue Working Party be formed with the Terms of Reference as detailed in Paper Z525; and</p> <p>(2) the Working Party will consist of at least 5 Members appointed by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on nominations from the Portfolio Holders for Culture and Sport and Community.</p>	There are no direct financial implications in the formation of the Public Venue Working Party.	The Council had already a Venue Steering Group but it was now considered that the project was entering Phase 2 and needed a new body, with a revised Terms of Reference, that reported direct to the Cabinet.	Options concerning the Terms of Reference and membership were considered.	<p>Lynsey Alexander (01284-765054)</p> <p>Neil Anthony (01284-757064)</p>

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22	Asset Management Plan: Reassessment of the Council's Ground Lease Portfolio (Feb09/12)	Z526	That the proposals identified in Exempt Appendix 3 attached to Report Z526 which relate to individual assets, as amended, be approved.	The financial implications for each individual property are detailed in Exempt Appendix 3 of Report Z526.	In accordance with the Asset Management Plan Action Plan, all of the Council's property assets are being systematically assessed.	Options concerning individual properties were considered in detail.	Nigel Aitkens (01284-735258)  Betty Albon (01284-757307)

Joy Bowes,  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
13 February 2009