



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

The following decisions were taken in the week ending Friday 3 September 2004 and, if not called in by Councillors, will come into force on Monday 13 September 2004. 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 Friday 10 September 2004.

A. DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET – WEEK ENDING 3 SEPTEMBER 2004

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
10	Leisure Centres Transfer Steering Group: Recommendations	agenda item 10	(1) The Borough Council acts as guarantor to the Local Government Pension Scheme as administered by Suffolk County Council, on behalf of the proposed Leisure Trust; (2) it be noted that the pension scheme for the transferring staff will be open to new members of staff recruited to the Trust in the future; and (3) it be noted that the Council is responsible for any deficits in the pension fund relative to staff employed by the Leisure Centres as at the date of transfer to the proposed Leisure Trust.	The financial implications will only be determined if the Borough Council is called upon to act as guarantor to the Local Government Pension Scheme on behalf of the proposed Leisure Trust.	The Borough Council is likely to remain the prime source of funding to the Trust. It is also unlikely that an alternative guarantor will be found in the timescale, particularly as the Trust will have no assets of its own.	The Borough Council not acting as guarantor.	Terry Clements (01284-827161) John Hannah (01284-757262)

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11	Planning Delivery Grant 2004/2005 (Sep04/09)	V175	(1) The investment of the Planning Delivery Grant in Corporate Priority areas, and its impact on Administration Commitments for 2004-2007 be noted; and (2) subject to approval by full Council, the revised allocation for work to be financed from the Planning Delivery Grant outlined in Report V175 and Appendix A to the report be approved.	All the proposals contained within the report will be funded from the Planning Delivery Grant and, as such, there is no additional cost to the local Council tax payer. The Borough Council received £517,000 Planning Delivery Grant in 2004/2005.	To ensure that the grant is used to improve the delivery of planning services in the Authority and, by doing so, to assist in the delivery of the Administration's Commitments.	A wide range of options have been considered and selected for the proposed allocation of grant and these relate to the improvement of the service and, through that, the delivery of the Administration's Commitments for 2004-2007.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Jerry Massey (01284-757302)
12	Council Offices, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds: Reception Alterations	V176	Subject to the cost being met from working balances, the alterations to the Western Way Reception, as outlined in Report V176, be approved in view of the operational benefits achieved.	The estimated cost is £35,000, which is equivalent to 98p for a Band D Council tax payer. However, there will be no additional costs to the Council tax payer, as expenditure will be met from the Revenue Support Services Working Balance.	Altering the reception will improve the facilities for both the customers and staff, and meet the statutory requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, which comes into effect in October 2004.	Several options were considered in finalising the plans for the alterations, including carrying out no alterations.	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580) Graham Moore (01284-757252)
14	Clean Neighbourhoods Consultation (Sep04/12)	V177	(1) The proposals in the <i>Clean Neighbourhoods</i> consultation document be welcomed in principle as a positive contribution to the Cabinet's own commitment to tackle litter and other environmental	There are no direct financial implications in responding to the consultation document. However,	Supporting the Local Government Association's response to the government on the clean neighbourhoods consultation is a key part of implementing the	Given the high profile attached to this subject by the Borough Council and the community it was felt that not responding to the consultation exercise was not an option.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Sandra Pell (01284-757338)

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			<p>nuisances in the Borough;</p> <p>(2) the Local Government Association (LGA) be advised that, in respect of this Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) consultation, the Borough Council endorses the views and further measures outlined by the LGA in LGalert 242/04 (attached as Appendix 2 to Report V177);</p> <p>(3) the LGA be notified of the additional issues the Borough Council would wish to be raised with DEFRA, as outlined in paragraph 3.9 of Report V177;</p> <p>(4) the Heads of Waste Management and Environmental Health & Housing be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to respond direct to DEFRA in respect of the technical questions raised in the consultation document; and</p> <p>(5) in accordance with the Cabinet's Key Activities for 2004/2005 and its previous decision to implement the findings of the 2003/2004 Overview and Scrutiny Committee review, it be noted that growth bids to improve the Borough Council's existing responsive cleansing services</p>	<p>additional enforcement duties of the type proposed in this consultation document will increase the resource requirements upon local authorities further and, therefore, the Borough Council endorses the view of the Local Government Association that the government must close the existing funding gap in this area, and properly resource any new initiatives.</p>	<p>Council's shared commitment to tackle litter and other environmental nuisances.</p>		

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			will be prepared and assessed as part the Dynamic Review – Innovation, Value and Enterprise (DR-IVE) policy based budgeting process for 2005/2006.				
15	Report of Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Corporate Environmental Targets	V178	(1) Subject to their being accommodated within existing budgets, the corporate environment targets for 2004/2005 outlined in Appendix A to Report V178 be approved; and (2) the Overview & Scrutiny Committee be asked to monitor performance against these targets, including the financial implications, and report back to the Cabinet at appropriate intervals.	Costs should be accommodated within existing budgets.	The adoption of environment targets will demonstrate commitment to protecting and enhancing the environment.	No other options were considered. Setting targets is essential to implement the Council's adopted strategy.	Mary Martin (01440-763943) Peter Gudde (01284-757042)
16	St Andrews Street South, Bury St Edmunds: Traffic Management Changes (Sep04/01)	V179	(1) The proposals for changes to St Andrews Street South outlined in Options (i) to (iv) in paragraph 3.4 of Report V179 be agreed; (2) Option (i) be implemented in this financial year (2004/2005) and funded from the allocation in the Suffolk County Council Local Transport Action Plan; (3) funding be sought from Suffolk County Council to implement Options (ii) to (iv); and (4) further consultation on the implementation of a bus lane as outlined in Option (iv) be	The estimated cost of Option (i) of £18,000 will be funded from the existing capital allocation in the Suffolk County Council Local Transport Action Plan for Bury St Edmunds.	Options (i) and (ii) will significantly increase pedestrian safety. They will also improve vehicle flow along the street. Option (iii) creates additional on-street parking in the area, mitigating some of the impact from implementing Options (i) and (ii).	The options were as a result of extensive public consultation including meetings held with the local community.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Stephen Boor (01284-757323)

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			undertaken.				
17	Phase II Beetons Way to Spring Lane Cycleway/ Footway, Bury St Edmunds (Sep04/10)	agenda item 17	Subject to approval by full Council, Phase II of the Beetons Way to Spring Lane Cycle Path/Footway be constructed at a total cost of £90,000 funded from the existing Capital allocation of £47,000 together with £43,000 from the unallocated budget for Works Arising from Traffic Studies in Partnership with Suffolk County Council - Bury St Edmunds.	The total cost of this Phase is £90,000 which will be funded from the existing Capital allocation of £47,000 together with £43,000 to be taken from unallocated traffic budgets.	In 1997 the opportunity arose to construct a cycle/pedestrian link between Beetons Way and Spring Lane. The construction of Phase II of this project can now proceed as the developer has now made this land available and the route can be completed.	No other options were considered.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Stephen Boor (01284-757323)
18	River Linnet, Bury St Edmunds: Designation of River Linnet as 'Main' Watercourse	agenda item 18	(1) A contract be entered into to inspect the River Linnet between Friars Bridge and the confluence with the River Lark on behalf of the Environment Agency, costs to be met from existing budgets; (2) funding for this work be sought from Suffolk County Council; and (3) this policy be reviewed within three years.	The cost of the inspection will be met from existing budgets.	By inspecting the whole of the River Linnet where it runs through the urban area of Bury St Edmunds, the Borough Council is able to apply consistent standards and have direct knowledge of any problems.	An alternative would be for the Environment Agency to undertake the work.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Stephen Boor (01284-757323)
20	Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds: Community Review	agenda item 20	(1) A project team to examine issues in the Moreton Hall Ward of Bury St Edmunds be established; and (2) the initial approach to carrying out this work, as outlined in agenda item 20, be approved.	The project team, as part of its work, will determine any financial implications of its recommendations.	There is a need to examine the current position with various issues in the Moreton Hall Ward of Bury St Edmunds.	The project team will consider numerous issues in its deliberations, in consultation with the local community.	Terry Clements (01284-827161) Patsy Dell (01284-757306)

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21	Replacement of the CCTV System (Sep04/08)	agenda item 21	(1) The Corporate Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Crime, be authorised to agree the specification for the new CCTV system; and (2) a report be made to either the November or December 2004 meeting of the Cabinet to approve the location of the new cameras.	Financial provision has been made in the Mechanical Office and Equipment Fund, however, the exact costs will not be known until the formal tendering procedures have been completed.	The administration has given a commitment to replace, update and extend the CCTV system in 2004/2005.	The location and type of equipment will be determined at a later date.	Frank Warby (01284-700678) Jerry Massey (01284-757302)
22	Policy on Amenity Lighting (Sep04/03)	V180	Subject to approval by full Council, the Policy on the Provision of Amenity (Footway) Lighting, as set out in Appendix A to Report V180 be adopted.	An aim of the policy is that the Borough Council should be the funder of last resort for this service, and that the Borough Council will only accept responsibility for new amenity lighting on the basis of a financial contribution to cover estimated maintenance and running costs.	The policy will provide an opportunity for the Council to control illuminated areas income from developers and other organisations.	The Overview & Scrutiny and Policy Development Committees have considered the issue of amenity lighting at recent meetings at which several options were considered.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Jeff Horner (01284-757334)
23	The Children Bill: Director of Children's Services (Sep04/11)	V181	(1) Suffolk County Council be advised that the Borough Council endorses the principle of establishing a post of Director of Children's Services as outlined in paragraph 3.9 of Report V181; and	There are no direct resource implications in responding to this consultation document.	The Children Bill requires the establishment of a post of a Director of Children's Services and the County Council sought views on the operational implications.	Options are outlined in the Appendix to the report.	Frank Warby (01284-700678) Carole Herries (01284-757603)

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			(2) the contribution of St Edmundsbury to the Children Bill be noted.				
27	Car Parking Working Party: Minutes 27 July 2004	exempt report V185	<p>(a) Balance of Long and Short Stay Parking Provision Phase I (Report V124)</p> <p>(1) Prior to the commencement of development on the Cattle Market site, the Prospect Row car park be designated and effectively managed as short stay parking for a maximum stay of three hours as part of the first phase of a wider programme of short and long stay provision;</p> <p>(2) prior to the commencement of development on the Cattle Market site, a pricing regime be implemented on the St Andrews Street North car park to encourage short stay visits and not to preclude long stay parking as part of the first phase of a wider programme of short and long stay provision; and</p> <p>(3) the impact of alterations to the short and long stay provision be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.</p> <p>(b) Variable Message Systems – Car Park Management, Bury St Edmunds</p>	<p>The pricing structure for the newly designated car parks will be considered as part of the DR-IVE review (Dynamic Review – Innovation, Value and Enterprise).</p> <p>A bid will be made to Suffolk County Council for funding from the on-street</p>	<p>The designation of Prospect Row and St Andrews Street North as predominately short stay car parks comprises the first Phase of the proposed alterations to the management of the town centre car parks in response to the multi-screen cinema and Cattle Market developments.</p> <p>The changes in location of car park provision within Bury St Edmunds, planned as a result of the multi-</p>	<p>The Car Parking Working Party considered various options.</p> <p>Options for the location of these signs are required.</p>	<p>Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763)</p> <p>Stephen Boor (01284-757323)</p>

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			<p>(Report V126) (1) Subject to available funding, Variable Message Signing be introduced for the main off-street car parks in Bury St Edmunds; and (2) funding for this work be sought from the Suffolk County Council On-Street Parking Account.</p> <p>(c) Provision of Additional Car Parking Spaces at Ram Meadow Car Park (1) The bus and coach parking be relocated to Rougham Hill and the site be relined and used for short stay car parking in accordance with the plan circulated with the agenda, prior to the commencement of the development of the Cattle Market site; (2) approval be obtained to fund the cost of the work from the off-street car parking reserve; and (3) an examination be undertaken as to the arrangements for coaches to pick up and drop-off passengers at long-stay car parks.</p>	<p>parking account.</p> <p>The initial cost estimate for this work is £20,000, however, if a detailed survey indicates that more extensive works are necessary the revised cost will be reported to the Cabinet.</p>	<p>screen cinema and Cattle Market developments increases the need to ensure that all the available parking is brought into beneficial use. A key element of this is to provide timely and relevant information to drivers enabling them to easily find parking appropriate to their needs.</p> <p>Additional car parking spaces will be required at the commencement of the Cattle Market development.</p> <p>Decision (3) was inserted by the Cabinet in response to concerns from Members that there should still be an opportunity for local residents, especially those with mobility problems, to use long-stay car parks as the departure point for coach trips.</p>	<p>The recommendation emanates from the Car Parking Working Party who considered options for additional car parking spaces.</p>	

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28	Miscellaneous Write-Offs	exempt report V186	(1) The amounts detailed in the appendices attached to Report V186, being 22 accounts for business rates totalling £30591.82 (0.31% of debit) (Appendix 1), 43 accounts for council tax totalling £29137.66 (0.12% of debit) (Appendix 2) and 22 accounts for sundry debtors totalling £9,438.73 (0.14% of debit) (Appendix 3), be approved for write off; and (2) subject to approval of (1) above, it be noted that the Council's estimated collection rates be currently as follows:- (a) National Non Domestic Rates: 1999/2000 to 2003/2004 99.50%; (b) Council Tax: 1998/1999 to 2003/2004 99.64%; and (c) Sundry Debtors: 1994/1995 to 2003/2004 99.00%.	As detailed in the decision.	The reasons for recommending the write-offs are included in the details attached as Appendices to exempt Report V186.	It was not considered appropriate to pass the debts onto another agency for collection.	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580) Graham Moore (01284-757252)
29	Housing Benefits Overpayments: Proposed Write-Offs	exempt report V187	(1) Three cases of overpaid Housing Benefit totalling £2,222.39 and Council Tax Benefit of £480.94, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report V187, be approved for write-off.	As detailed in the decision.	Attempts to recover the overpayments from the claimants could have included involving the full appeal rights contains within benefits of administration law. However, officers considered that on balance, if the cases were heard by the Appeals Tribunal, the Authority	No other options were considered.	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580) Graham Moore (01284-757252)

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					would lose the appeal.		
30	Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds: Grant (Sep04/04)	exempt report V188	Subject to approval by full Council:- (1) Capital grant assistance towards the Theatre Royal's Restoration Project be approved in accordance with the proposals set out in Section 3.4.1 of exempt Report V188 and provision be made in the 2005/2006 Capital Programme; (2) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Arts and Culture, Leader of the Council, Corporate Director for Community and Chief Finance Officer to approve the Theatre Royal Restoration Project Business Plan and subsequent funding agreement prior to the release of the capital grant; and (3) the Theatre Royal's management be advised that the Borough Council will consider the potential for further financial assistance for the Restoration Project through the provision of appropriate loan arrangements.	The provision of a capital grant of up to £250,000 together with a corresponding reduction in the annual revenue support for the Theatre Royal from £88,400 to £75,000 means that there is no detrimental effect upon the Council tax payer.	The decision provides significant capital grant support for the Theatre Royal Restoration Project and ensures that there is no effect upon Council tax payers arising from the loss of interest on the capital.	Discussions and consultations with the Theatre Royal have been ongoing since the Theatre Royal applied to the Borough Council for a grant in September 2003.	Andrew Varley (01284-753135) Mike Dawson (01284-757060)

Joy Bowes, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
3 September 2004

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