



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

The following decisions were taken in the week ending Friday 4 June 2004 and, if not called in by Councillors, will come into force on Monday 14 June 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 @stedsbc.gov.uk) by 5 p.m. on Friday 11 June 2004.

A. DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET – WEEK ENDING 4 JUNE 2004

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
6	Report from Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Home Energy Efficiently – Review of Targets (Jun04/03)	U560 (Overview & Scrutiny Cttee)	(1) The annual increase in overall home energy efficiency in the Borough's housing stock of 2.70% representing a total achievement of 13.53% in the seven year period to March 2003 be noted; (2) the date for achieving the 30% home energy efficiency target be revised from March 2006 to 2011 in accordance with Government guidance; and (3) it be noted that a further update on the revised work plan will be added to the scrutiny work programme for the coming year.	No additional resource implications were identified in Report U560.	Changing the date for achieving the 30% reduction to March 2011 would produce a more realistic date and be in line with recent Government findings on national progress.	To continue on the old timetable or to extend the period for achieved the 30% target from 10 years to 15 years.	Frank Warby (01284-704138) Geoff Bouttell (01284-757043)
7	66 Mill Road, Haverhill (Jun04/05)	V2	Subject to the approval of full Council, the Capital Programme be adjusted to allow the proceeds of the sale of 66 Mill	A 50% portion of the sale of the property, an estimated £30,000-	The transaction would result in an additional four units of affordable housing. This would	(1) The property could be renovated and offered to a applicant on the housing waiting list at a cost of around	Frank Warby (01284-704138)

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			Road, Haverhill to be reinvested into further affordable housing at 17b and 17c High Street, Haverhill, on the basis outlined in Paper V2.	£35,000, will be granted to Havebury to provide an additional four affordable housing units. Loss of interest on £35,000 represents 5p per Band D equivalent property.	release much needed accommodation for single homeless people, thereby reducing the Council's bed and breakfast costs.	£70,000 to Havebury; and (2) the property could be sold and St Edmundsbury Borough Council could retain the 50% of the proceeds of the sale, around £30,000-£35,000.	Carole Herries (01284-757603)
8	Affordable Housing for 2004 – 2006 (Jun04/07)	V3	As outlined in section 5 of Paper V3, £1,104,270 of the Council's capital funding for affordable housing for 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 be committed to the following urgent schemes to deliver affordable housing within the Borough:- (a) Cotton Lane, Bury St Edmunds; (b) Abbotsford, Moreton Hall; and (c) Moreton Hall, flats over shops.	The total cost of delivering the three urgent schemes identified is £1,104,270. This can be met from within the £2 million allocation for affordable housing and will deliver 32 additional units of accommodation over the next two years.	Failure to deliver affordable housing on the three identified sites may weaken future negotiations with developers. There is also an urgent need for more affordable housing in St Edmundsbury as the number of people on the West Suffolk Housing Register is more than 3,000, an increase of over 500 applicants since March 2003.	A number of options have been considered and the implications of not funding these schemes have been explored. The three sites have Section 106 Agreements in place and have planning permission so developers are ready to start on site.	Frank Warby (01284-704138) Carole Herries (01284-757603)
9	Registered Social Landlord Partnership List (Jun04/08)	V4	(1) The Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) outlined in paragraph 3.6 of Report V4 be approved as St Edmundsbury Borough Council's preferred partners for 2004/5 and 2005/6; (2) the monitoring spreadsheet developed with RSLs be approved as the Council's method of monitoring its RSL partners; (3) in consultation with the Corporate Director for	The reduction of the partnership list will enable staff to build better links and allow closer monitoring.	The new focus on fewer RSLs delivering the affordable housing programmes means that it is imperative that St Edmundsbury also works with fewer RSL partners, and that its monitoring ensures they are meeting their delivery targets. Delegated approval to select specialist RSL partners and undertake	(1) To only work with RSLs that are on the Housing Corporations List of Approved Partners; and (2) to monitor current RSL partners for a period of time and then select those who perform best.	Frank Warby (01284-704138) Carole Herries (01284-757603)

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			Resources, the Head of Environmental Health and Housing be given delegated authority to assess which affordable housing schemes in receipt of grant from St Edmundsbury Borough Council need to be financially appraised by Internal Audit; and (4) the Head of Environmental Health and Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, be given delegated authority to authorise work with RSLs outside of the partnership list, where specialist housing providers are required, or where other RSLs are offering value for money as schemes that do not require grant funding.		financial appraisals will enable officers to react quickly to any opportunities that should arise.		
10	Closure of Haverhill Skate Park (Jun04/11)	V5	(1) Officers use best endeavours to urgently explore the possibility of sound attenuation works to the skate park equipment but it be recognised that the closure of this site may have to take place if these measures are ineffective; (2) in the event of closure, the mobile skate park be made available in Haverhill as soon as practicable and a programme of locations and dates be drawn up advertising its availability; (3) the officers examine the implications of providing alternative permanent sites in Haverhill, having due regard to costs and site locations; and	The closure of the skate park will necessitate the dismantling of the equipment and the reinstatement of the land to its former use. It is anticipated that this cost can be met from within existing budgets.	To reduce the noise disturbance currently being experienced by occupiers of properties living close to the skate park and to find alternative provision for skate park users.	(1) To implement the recommendations insofar as anti social behaviour only and not address the noise disturbance. However this would leave the local authority open to legal action by those affected by noise; and (2) to implement the recommendations insofar as anti-social behaviour and conduct a trial as to the effectiveness of retrofitting acoustic damping to the ramps and, therefore, reconsider the future of the skate park.	Terry Clements (01284-827161) Richard Whitehead (01284-757037)

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			<p>(4) in addition to its existing scheduled work on skateboarding, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider:-</p> <p>(a) the process by which the existing site was chosen and what can be learned from this; and</p> <p>(b) the officers' findings in respect of new sites and report back to the Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.</p>				
11	Shopmobility Premises, Bury St Edmunds (Jun04/09)	V6	<p>(1) The Corporate Director for Economy & Environment assess the implications of transferring the Bury St Edmunds Shopmobility Service from Angel Hill to the Bus Station;</p> <p>(2) the assessment, which should be completed within two months, to consider the financial and operational implications of the transfer and to include consultation with staff and their union representatives, service users and the volunteer centre;</p> <p>(3) subject to there being no overriding operational reason why the function should not transfer, the Corporate Director be authorised to implement the relocation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and within existing budgets; and</p> <p>(4) in the event that the former bus shelter on Angel Hill is vacated, the officers be authorised to find another</p>	<p>The initial indications are that change could achieve a service enhancement at reduced cost. However, there would be a need for minor works to be undertaken to the Bus Station to accommodate any transfer and this proposal would need to be assessed as part of the Operating and Capital Cost Review.</p>	<p>The review would allow the Council to investigate how it could address immediate service issues and provide scope for the future development of this important service.</p>	<p>Doing nothing would be an option, however, this would not allow the service to expand or address concerns raised. The only other option, given budget pressures, would be to relocate shopmobility with another service, namely the bus station.</p>	<p>Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763)</p> <p>Jerry Massey (01284-757302)</p>

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			occupier for the building in accordance with normal asset management processes.				
12	Housing & Council Tax Benefits Fraud Strategy (Jun04/02)	V7	Subject to full Council approval, and any comments of the Policy Development Committee, on 9 June the Housing & Council Tax Benefit Fraud Strategy and revised Prosecution Policy, attached as Appendices A and B of Report V7, be approved.	There are no new resource implications. It is a national priority to publicise benefit fraud detection and there are subsidy incentives to encourage local authorities to have a Comprehensive Fraud Strategy and Prosecution Policy.	The new policy reflects the period of the fraud or dishonesty as opposed to just the value.	Leaving the current policy in place.	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580) Sue Archer (01284-757271)
13	Traffic Management and Highways Maintenance Programme of Works: 2004/2005 (Jun04/10)	V8	(1) The programme of agreed traffic management and highway maintenance works for 2004/2005, as detailed in Paper V8 and its appendices (as amended), and including those schemes funded by the Suffolk County Council, be approved; (2) subject to the availability of funding, individual schemes in the programme be progressed in accordance with any provisions for local consultation and delegated authorities contained in the Council's Constitution; and (3) the Portfolio Holder be authorised to write to the County Council regarding the condition of highways and footways in rural areas and Haverhill.	The capital allocation for the projects listed in Appendices A and B (as amended) have been approved by either the County Council or St Edmundsbury Borough Council. As such there are no additional resource implications arising from the report.	To target the limited traffic management resources available to delivery of the Local Transport Plan.	The options for establishing the priorities were based on the requirements of Suffolk County Council (the client for the work) and previous commitments.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Jerry Massey (01284-757302)

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14	Minutes of the Car Parking Working Party, 27 April 2004		The decisions of the Working Party be endorsed and approved.	There are no new resource implications arising from the report.	As considered by the Working Party.	As considered by the Working Party.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Jerry Massey (01284-757302)
15	Lark Valley Broadband (Jun04/04)	V10	(1) In the light of the substantially changed circumstances in the delivery of Broadband locally, no further action be taken to implement the Borough Council's offer of grant and loan funding to the Lark Valley Broadband Community Partnership; and (2) the Borough Council, as soon as a clear picture emerges of which areas of the Borough cannot be served by BT exchange Broadband, consider further what assistance they can give in the procurement of Broadband for those areas.	There are no new resource implications arising from the report.	The announcement by BT to set RFS dates for all the remaining exchanges in the Borough is a major step forward. All capital investment is made by BT and it merely remains for subscribers to choose their ISP in the open, competitive market-place.	The Borough Council could invite the Lark Valley Broadband Community Partnership to submit a new application in the light of the substantially changed Broadband landscape.	John Griffiths (01359-268881) Nick Martin (01284-757102)
16	Best Value Performance Plan	V11	It is recommended to full Council that:- (1) subject to the addition of the information tabled at the meeting and to any minor changes by officers, the publication of the Best Value Performance Plan 2003/2004 be approved; and (2) the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as part of its scheduled work programme, be asked to examine the performance information contained in the plan against the national data which is due to be published at the end of the year.	None from this report.	Publication of the Plan is a statutory requirement.	N/A	Jeff Stevens (01440-762511) David Butler (01284-757030)

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19	Treasury Management Report for the period 1 March 2004 to 30 April 2004	V13	(1) The information on the operation of the Treasury Management function during the period 1 March 2004 to 30 April 2004 be noted; and (2) the Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) outlined in Appendix 3 to Report V13 be formally adopted.	Internally managed funds show a surplus in excess of the budget of £282,883 for 2003/2004. Externally managed funds were in deficit by £176,416 giving an overall surplus at the end of 2003/04 of £106,467. In the current financial year, interest earned is marginally below budget but it is anticipated that this position will be rectified by the end of the year.	To inform Members of performance up to 30 April 2004, and to secure formal adoption of Treasury Management Practices.	N/A	Sara Mildmay-White (01359-270580) Harry Last (01284-757262)
21	Annual Review and Appointment of Cabinet Working Parties and Panels	V14	(1) The terms of reference of the following working parties and panels be approved as set out in Paper V14:- (a) Cattle Market Redevelopment Working Party; (b) Joint Staff Consultative Panel; (c) Central Safety Panel; (d) Council Offices & Depot in Bury St Edmunds Working Party; (e) Grant Panel; (f) Broadband Panel; (g) Car Parking Working Party; (h) Haverhill Area Working Party;	None.	It is good practice for the Cabinet to review its panels and working parties annually.	N/A	John Griffiths (01359-268881) Alex Wilson (01284-757002)

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			<p>(i) Leisure Centres Transfer Steering Group; and (j) Emergency Planning Panel and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make appointments to them in accordance with the political groups' nominations and normal political balance rules; (2) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services also be authorised to appoint a Bury St Edmunds Town Council Working Party of up to six Members (in accordance with the political groups' nominations and normal political balance rules) with the following terms of reference: To consider the potential devolution of services to the Bury St Edmunds Town Council; (3) the following working parties be disbanded:- (a) Guildhall Working Party; and (b) Centre for the Visual Arts Working Party; and (4) a letter of thanks be sent to the external representatives on the disbanded working parties by the Portfolio Holder.</p>				

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22	Investment in Leisure Centres – Recommendation from Leisure Centres Transfer Steering Group (Jun04/01)	exempt report V15	The recommendation of the Steering Group be approved.	As considered by the Steering Group.	To progress the project to transfer the leisure centres to a Trust.	As considered by the Steering Group.	Terry Clements (01284-827161) Mike Dawson (01284-757060)

B. DECISIONS TAKEN BY OFFICERS – WEEK ENDING 4 JUNE 2004

Item No.	Subject (Forward Plan Ref)	Report No.	Decision	Financial Implications	Reason(s) for Decision	Other Option(s) Considered	Contact(s)
N/A	Confirmation of Article 4 Directions in the Honington Conservation Area (Jun04/06)	N/A	As no objections have been received, the Article 4 Direction made on 20 April 2004 be confirmed.	None.	Article 4 Directions are used to protect street frontages of houses in conservation areas by preventing the loss of important features such as original windows and doors and encouraging the reinstatement of lost features. They therefore help to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of conservation areas, which is a statutory duty placed on all local authorities.	To not confirm the Article 4 Direction.	Jeremy Farthing (01440-820763) Christine Leveson (01284-757356)

Joy Bowes, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
4 June 2004