

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

**Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 30 July 2008 at 5.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, Borough Offices, Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds**

PRESENT: Councillor J H M Griffiths (Leader of the Council) (in the Chair)
Councillors Aitkens, Mrs Alexander, Clements, Farmer,
Mrs Mildmay-White, Ray and Stevens

BY INVITATION: Councillor Oliver, Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny
Committee, and Spicer, Vice Chairman of the Performance and
Audit Scrutiny Committee

29. Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

30. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

31. Declarations of Interests

Members' declarations of interests are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

32. Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 9 July 2008

Forward Plan Reference: N/A Cabinet Members: All Portfolio Holders

The Cabinet received and noted Report Z132 (previously circulated) which informed the Cabinet of the following items discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 July 2008:-

- (1) Concessionary Fares;
- (2) Annual Report from Councillor Beckwith, the Council's representative on the Suffolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (3) Presentation from Portfolio Holder: Councillor David Ray, Portfolio Holder for Performance and Organisational Development;
- (4) Cabinet Forward Plan July to October 2008 and Committee's Work Programme; and
- (5) Corporate Asset Management Plan and Capital Management Strategy.

The Scrutiny Manager drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet.

33. Report of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: 21 July 2008
Forward Plan Reference: N/A Cabinet Members: All Portfolio Holders

The Cabinet received and noted Report Z133 (previously circulated) which informed the Cabinet of the following items discussed by the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee on 21 July 2008:-

- (1) Key Performance Indicators: First Quarter 2008/2009;
- (2) Best Value Performance Plan 2008;
- (3) Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report;
- (4) Corporate Risk Register: Quarterly Monitoring Report;
- (5) Audit Commission: Presentation of Audit and Inspection Plan 2008/2009; and
- (6) Review of the Effectiveness of the System of Internal Audit.

Councillor Spicer, Vice Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet. In particular he informed the Cabinet of the new reporting arrangements in respect of key performance indicators, issues associated with the Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report and the Review of the Effectiveness of the System of Internal Audit.

34. Report of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Council Improvement Plan 2008/2009

Forward Plan Reference: Aug08/08 Cabinet Member: Cllr David Ray

The Cabinet considered Report Z134 (previously circulated) which sought approval for the Council Improvement Plan for 2008/2009.

Each year the Council prepared an Improvement Plan which contained the key themes and actions for improvement across the Council. As well as being considered good practice for Councils to have such a plan, the Audit Commission use it as evidence to assess the 'direction of travel' as part of the Council's assessment. A number of drivers for improvement were taken into account when drafting the plan including the Cabinet Commitments, the new Local Area Agreement and Local Government Review. Progress against the plan would be regularly monitored by the Management Team and a report would be presented to the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee twice during the year.

Councillor Spicer, Vice-Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:-

That the 2008/2009 Council Improvement Plan, as set out in Report Z109, be approved.

35. Report of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Code of Corporate Governance

Forward Plan Reference: N/A Cabinet Member: Cllr David Ray

The Cabinet considered Report Z135 (previously circulated) which sought approval for the Code of Corporate Governance.

The Code of Corporate Governance was the framework within which the Council operated. Every activity, transaction and decision was made within a specific procedural framework, and this code brought these practices together. The Council first produced the Code in September 2002, and it had been reviewed annually, together with its compliance.

A review of the Code of Corporate Governance had recently been undertaken, taking into account new guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives. The Council's revised code now reflected the most up-to-date guidance and applied the six principles of good governance identified within the guidance.

Councillor Spicer, Vice Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:-

That the Code of Corporate Governance, as set out in Report Z114, be approved.

36. Report of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Annual Governance Statement 2007/2008

Forward Plan Reference: Aug08/01 Cabinet Member: Cllr Paul Farmer

The Committee considered Report Z136 (previously circulated) which sought approval for the Annual Governance Statement and the proposed additional areas for improvement and action plan to be issued with the Council's published accounts.

With effect from 2007/2008 the Council was required to produce and publish an Annual Governance Statement, which replaced the Statement of Internal Control, and covered six core governance principles. The governance framework was designed to facilitate the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives and to identify and manage risk to a reasonable level. The governance framework was embedded within the Constitution and the systems, policies, procedures and operations in place throughout the Council.

Councillor Spicer, Vice Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:- That

- (1) the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2007/2008, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report Z116, be recommended for approval and issued with the Council's published accounts; and
- (2) the Internal Control Assessment and proposed additional areas for improvement at Appendix 2 of Report Z116, and the Action Plan, at Appendix 3 of Report Z116, be approved.

37. West Stow Country Park: Catering Options

Forward Plan Reference: Aug08/09 Cabinet Member: Cllr Lynsey Alexander

The Cabinet considered Report Z137 (previously circulated) which sought approval for the Council to tender for the provision of a catering service at West Stow Country Park and Anglo Saxon Village.

The cafeteria at West Stow had been run in-house since 1999, and was under the direct control of the Heritage Services Manager. There were two permanent part-time staff providing the catering service. The current catering operation had traded at a deficit over the last three financial years 2005/2006 to 2007/2008. A review of the catering operation was undertaken and three options were considered:-

- (1) continuing to provide existing in-house service;
- (2) leasing the cafeteria to an external caterer; and
- (3) tendering for the provision of a catering service and entering into a 3 year contract.

The report concluded, and Cabinet endorsed, that Option 3 was the most appropriate. It had the advantage that the Council would have full control over the level and performance of the service provided and would retain possession of the whole building. The Council would grant the service provider access to the cafeteria by way of a licence to occupy. This was considered to be particularly advantageous to the Council because the museum was located on the ground floor of the same building as the cafeteria.

RESOLVED:-

That the Council tender for the provision of a catering service for 3 years and grant the successful service provider with a licence to occupy the cafeteria during that period in accordance with Option 3 of Report Z137.

38. Treasury Management: Annual Report 2007/2008

Forward Plan Reference: N/A Cabinet Member: Cllr Paul Farmer

The Cabinet received and noted Report Z138 (previously circulated) which reported on the investment policy and performance for the 2007/2008 financial year.

The report was submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management. It was reported that the interest earned on the Council's capital investments in 2007/2008 was £3,721,450 compared to the budget of £2,147,000, resulting in an excess of £1,574,450. This amounted to an income of £100.29 per Band D Council Tax equivalent property. It was noted that this total interest earned was before apportionment of £535,800 across the range of reserve accounts operated by the Council.

Councillor Farmer, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Efficiency, informed the Cabinet that the reasons for the surplus over budget included achieving a higher rate of interest than anticipated and slippage in the Capital Programme. The average rate of return on investments for the year was 5.53% compared to the target of 5.00%. The actual level of capital expenditure during the year was £16.06 million compared to an original gross budget of £34.601 million.

39. Treasury Management 2008/2009: 1 April to 30 June 2008

Forward Plan Reference: N/A Cabinet Member: Cllr Paul Farmer

The Cabinet received and noted Report Z139 (previously circulated) which reported on the investment activity for the first 3 months of the 2008/2009 financial year.

At the end of June 2008 interest earned amounted to £841,500 against a budget for the period of £524,100, resulting in an excess of £317,400. The over achievement of interest on investments during the period was due to higher than expected interest rates and to slippage in the Capital Programme. The target investment rate for the year was 4.75% and, in the 3 month period covered by the report, the average rate of interest achieved was 5.44%. The budget for investment income for 2008/2009 was £2,102,000, equivalent to £55.92 for each Council Tax Band D property.

40. Budget Monitoring 2008/2009: To 31 May 2008

Forward Plan Reference: N/A Cabinet Member: Cllr Paul Farmer

The Cabinet received and noted Report Z140 (previously circulated) which was the Budget Monitoring Report for the period ended 31 May 2008.

Page 1 of Appendix A to the Report was the General Fund Budget Monitoring Report, which showed an underspend of £388,000 as at 31 May 2008. Page 2 of Appendix A detailed the major variances between budgets and actual income and expenditure. Appendix B was the Capital Budget Monitoring Report, which showed that net capital expenditure for the period was £14,000, compared to a full year capital budget of £29,889,000.

Councillor Farmer, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Efficiency, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet. He explained that the substantial underspend on the Capital Programme was due to a number of factors, including delays in some major projects and some timing issues relating to the completion of staged payments. He also informed the Cabinet of the 'new' commitment accounting system which would assist managers in the monitoring of the budgets within their responsibility and would help to minimise the risk of committing the same resources twice. When the commitment accounting system was fully implemented throughout the Council, budget monitoring reports would be amended to reflect the commitments.

In response to a question the Cabinet was informed that the £196,000 outstanding in respect of recycling credits had now been received from Suffolk County Council.

(Councillor Aitkens arrived during the consideration of this item)

41. Boundary Committee Review of Suffolk

Forward Plan Reference: Aug08/02 Cabinet Member: Cllr John Griffiths

The Leader of the Council informed the Cabinet that the Boundary Committee was recommending that a Rural Unitary and a North Haven Unitary, incorporating Ipswich and Felixstowe, was their preferred option for Suffolk. In addition the Boundary Committee could see there was some merit in 'One Suffolk', a single unitary for Suffolk. Both these options involved Lowestoft being incorporated in Norfolk. He emphasised that, of the two consultation proposals, the Borough Council would support the Committee's preferred option. However, a West Suffolk Unitary, alongside a unitary solution that worked for the East of the County, was still felt to be the most appropriate option and the Borough Council was considering whether a new case for this model could be made to the Boundary Committee.

The Leader of the Council emphasised the considerable amount of work being undertaken by both Members and officers associated with meeting the requirements of the Boundary Committee. He stated that all Members would be kept informed and that they would have an opportunity to have an input in the process.

42. Bus Station, Bury St Edmunds: Provision of Cleaning Services

Forward Plan Reference: N/A Cabinet Member: Cllr Nigel Aitkens

The Cabinet received and noted a narrative item which informed the Cabinet of the exemption to the Contract Procedure Rules, as contained within the Constitution, in respect of the provision of cleaning services at the bus station in Bury St Edmunds.

Following the resignation of the cleaner of the bus station in Bury St Edmunds, discussions were held with Suffolk County Council Trading Services (SCCTS) as to whether it would be able to provide the cleaning service. SCCTS were already integral to the provision of cleaning services for West Suffolk House in Bury St Edmunds and

agreed to take on this commitment for an estimated value of the contract of slightly in excess of £5,000 per annum. However, in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the Council was required to obtain a minimum number of three quotations. Paragraph 2.2 of the Rules allowed for the exemption to the Procedure Rules in certain circumstances and, therefore, the Acting Chief Executive, authorised the exemption as it offered value for money and the cleaning service provision would be reviewed in January 2009 thereby allowing further time to consider cleaning arrangements.

43. Sustainable Development Panel: 8 July 2008

Forward Plan Reference: Aug08/03 Cabinet Members: Cllrs Terry Clements and Peter Stevens

The Cabinet considered Report Z141 (previously circulated) which contained the recommendations from the meeting of the Sustainable Development Panel held on 8 July 2008.

The Council had managed its environmental performance using an independently certified Environmental Management System since 2003, and produced an annual Environmental Performance Report. This was the fourth annual report and covered the Council's progress in 2007/2008 in meeting its seven corporate environmental targets.

The Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for Clare had been prepared in accordance with the latest guidance issued by English Heritage. Consultation on the draft document had taken place and as a consequence the Appraisal and Management Plan had been amended in light of the comments received.

RESOLVED:- That

**4th Annual Corporate Environmental Performance Report:
2007/2008**

The national indicators listed in Annex 2 to Report Z98 be reported in future annual environmental performance reporting.



RECOMMENDED:- That

Clare Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan

The revised draft Clare Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, attached as Appendix B to Report Z101, be adopted as planning guidance.

**44. Breckland Local Development Framework – Thetford Area Action Plan:
Issues and Options Consultation**

Forward Plan Reference: N/A Cabinet Member: Cllr Terry Clements

(Councillor Clements declared a personal interest as a Member of the East of England Regional Assembly Panel that had considered this document, and remained within the meeting for the consideration of this item.)

The Cabinet considered Report Z142 which sought approval for a consultation response to the Breckland District Council Issues and Options Report.

The Borough Council had been consulted by Breckland District Council on the Thetford Area Action Plan – Issues and Options Report. The closing date for comments was 5 August 2008. The scale of growth proposed for Thetford could, without careful planning, have a significant impact on the Borough. In responses to previous

consultation on the Breckland Core Strategy, the Borough Council had raised concerns on the level of growth proposed at Thetford and the potential impact of this growth on St Edmundsbury. The most recent consultation response in March 2008 raised concern about the increase in traffic along the A134 to Bury St Edmunds, associated employment opportunities, shopping, health, further education and leisure destinations. There was also concern that the increase in population growth would undermine rather than complement the role that Bury St Edmunds currently played in the area, and therefore, there was a need for careful planning to ensure the growth of Thetford was viable without placing undue pressure on the services and infrastructure of Bury St Edmunds and the associated impact on roads and communities.

The Cabinet was concerned that the potential growth was being proposed for three greenfields sites to the south of Thetford and this may have a significant environmental impact. Concern was also expressed that there must be employment opportunities built in to support this significant increase in the population, in addition to other infrastructure elements.

RESOLVED:-

That the comments contained within Section 4 of Report Z142 be endorsed and form the basis of the Borough Council's formal response to Breckland District Council on the Thetford Area Action Plan – Issues and Options Report.

45. West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee:
6 June 2008

Forward Plan Reference: N/A Cabinet Member: Cllr Peter Stevens

The Cabinet considered the unconfirmed minutes of the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee held on 6 June 2008, previously circulated as Paper 143, which included two recommendations for approval.

The Business Plan, drawn up as part of the initial negotiations between Forest Heath District Council and the Borough Council, set out the principles of the three stages of a phased approach, over the next four years, as the development of further joint working initiatives, the harmonisation of service standards and the implementation of a fully integrated single entity serving both authorities. It provided sufficient guidance on the wide range of work areas that could offer the potential for services to be integrated and it was envisaged that a more focused business plan would be developed for 2009/2010. A copy of the Business Plan was attached to the minutes.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs had issued a consultation document requesting responses as to what should be included in the regulation and guidance for the formation of Joint Waste Authorities.

RESOLVED:- That

(a) Business Plan

The Business Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Paper Z143 as Report JWC 08/002, be endorsed; and

(b) Consultation on draft regulations and draft guidelines for the proposals for establishing Joint Waste Authorities in England

That the Suffolk Waste Partnership response to the consultation on draft regulations and draft guidance for proposals for establishing Joint Waste Authorities in England submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, be endorsed.

46. Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party: 28 July 2008

Forward Plan Reference: Aug08/04 Cabinet Member: Cllr Sara Mildmay-White

(Councillor Mrs Alexander declared a prejudicial interest as a nearby resident to the Shire Hall Complex in Bury St Edmunds and left the meeting for the consideration of this item.)

The Cabinet considered Report Z144 (previously circulated) which contained the recommendations from the meeting of the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party held on 28 July 2008.

Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White, Chairman of the Working Party drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet. She stated that considerable consideration was given as to the installation of a Zebra Crossing in Westgate Street, close to the Crown Street junction and the change in priority of traffic flow at the junction of Westgate Street and Crown Street. The Working Party had concluded that the Zebra Crossing was in the correct location but that no alterations should be made to change the priority of traffic flows until an assessment was undertaken on the impact of traffic movements associated with the proposed development of the Shire Hall site and also the implications from the installation of the Zebra Crossing in Westgate Street.

Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White then informed the Cabinet that the Working Party was concerned as to the street furniture proposed for St Andrews Street South in Bury St Edmunds. The proposals were contrary to the Working Party's priority for the integration between the existing town centre and the Cattle Market redevelopment. Therefore, the Working Party was recommending that a steering group be set up to consider in detail the street furniture to be used in this prominent area of Bury St Edmunds. Finally, she emphasised that the Design Brief for the development of the Shire Hall Complex in Bury St Edmunds was to be approved by full Council as planning guidance and it would be the Development Control Committee that would determine the future detailed planning applications.

RESOLVED:- That

(a) Change of Priority: Junction Westgate Street and Crown Street, Bury St Edmunds:

That the change of priority not be made until:-

- (a) an assessment has been undertaken on the impact of traffic movements associated with the proposed development of the Shire Hall site and the installation of the zebra crossing in Westgate Street; and that
- (b) consultation be undertaken on any proposed changes.

(b) St Andrews Street South, Bury St Edmunds: Street Furniture Proposals

- (1) the new and existing bus shelter at the rear of Boots be painted black;
- (2) a Steering Group of up to 5 Members, be formed to consider the layout and style of the street furniture and make recommendations to the next meeting of the Working Party;
- (3) the Steering Group to consist of Councillors Mrs Alexander, Mrs Mildmay-White, Oliver, Rout, and F J Warby, with Councillor Everitt as a Substitute Member; and
- (4) Councillor Stevens be invited to meetings of the Steering Group as Portfolio Holder with responsibility for the Environment and Street Scene.

(c) Engineering Services: Changes to Contractor Permits and Health and Social Care Permits

- (1) a charge be levied for contractor permits as detailed in Paragraph 2.6 of Report Z126; and
- (2) changes be introduced to the design and use of Health and Social Care Permits as detailed in Section 3 of Report Z126.



RECOMMENDED:- That

(a) *Replacement St Edmundsbury Borough Local Plan 2016: Development brief for the Shire Hall Complex, Bury St Edmunds*

the Design Brief for the development of the Shire Hall Complex at Bury St Edmunds, as detailed in Report Z127 and as amended by replacement Page 18 and Figure 5, be adopted as planning guidance for the determination of future planning applications.

47. Haverhill Area Working Party: 24 July 2008

Forward Plan Reference: Aug08/05 Cabinet Member: Cllr Nigel Aitkens

The Cabinet considered Report Z145 (previously circulated) which contained the recommendations from the meeting of the Haverhill Area Working Party held on 24 July 2008.

Councillor Aitkens, Cabinet Member with the responsibility for Haverhill and implementing the Haverhill Area Master Plan, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet, and in particular the need to ensure that Queen Street was enhanced to the best standard possible. When approved, the Queen Street Enhancement Scheme would go out to public consultation. He also indicated that he considered it appropriate that, if no other funding options were available, the Borough Council allocate funding to set up a fund to assist the owners in improving the shop fronts.

During the discussion it was agreed that a future meeting of the Working Party would consider an item regarding the promotion of the utilisation of the flats located over the shops and that consideration would also be given to holding discussions with the Havebury Housing Partnership.

RESOLVED:- That

(a) Queen Street Enhancement: Draft Scheme and Delivery Programme

- (1) the Project Initiation Form, attached as Appendix A to Report Z129, be approved as a basis for managing the Queen Street Enhancement Scheme, Haverhill;
- (2) the draft Queen Street Enhancement Scheme Proposals, attached as Appendix B to Report Z129, be approved for public consultation to commence from September 2008; and
- (3) in the event that no other funding options are available, £50,000 be allocated from Haverhill Capital Allocation in the Capital Programme to fund a Shop Front/Shop Signage Improvement Grant Scheme, details of which to be worked up and further approval sought from the Haverhill Area Working Party.



RECOMMENDED:- That

(a) Haverhill Town Centre Public Realm Design Framework

the Haverhill Town Centre Public Realm Design Framework, be adopted as planning guidance for the determination of future planning applications; and

(b) Haverhill Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plan

the Queen Street, Haverhill and the Hamlet Road, Haverhill Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, attached as Appendices C and D (as amended) respectively to Report Z131, be adopted for planning guidance.

48. Emergency Panel: 22 July 2008

Forward Plan Reference: Aug08/06 Cabinet Member: Cllr Sara Mildmay-White

The Cabinet considered Report Z146 which contained a recommendation from the meeting of the Emergency Panel held on 22 July 2008.

On 22 July 2008 the Emergency Panel considered the following items:-

- (1) Suffolk Flood Review;
- (2) Joint Emergency Planning Unit (JEPU): Annual Report 2007/2008;
- (3) Major Incident and Response Plan: Status Report as at 14 July 2008;
- (4) West of Suffolk Major Incident and Response Plan;
- (5) Business Continuity Plan (BCP);
- (6) Emergency Planning Exercise 21 May 2008: SUFFEX 08;
- (7) West Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Training Programme: 2008/2009; and
- (8) Events, Exercises and Training Overview.

RESOLVED:-

**West Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Training Programme:
2008/2009**

That the 2008/2009 Training Programme, as detailed in Appendix 1 of Report Z123, be approved.

49. BT Public Payphone Removal: Consultation Response

Forward Plan Reference: N/A Cabinet Member: Cllr Sara Mildmay-White

The Cabinet considered Report Z147 (previously circulated) which sought approval for the Council's response to the notification received from British Telecommunications Plc of their intent to remove 42 public payphones within the Borough.

On 2 April 2008 the Council received a Notification of Intent from British Telecommunications Plc (BT) to remove 42 public payphones within the Borough. Under the Communications Act 2003 the Local Authority must be notified and given the opportunity to agree or object to the removal of any of the payphones within the proposal. Any objection to a payphone removal was known as a local veto, and had to be justified, and BT had a right of appeal through the Competition Appeals Tribunal where unreasonable local vetoes had been made.

Having considered information provided, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that a draft response be published for one month as the Council's draft decision on each of the payphones concerned and following the required one month publication the Cabinet make a final decision on the response taking into account any responses received to the draft decisions.

Representations had been made by the public, parish councils and Members in this consultation period. These were summarised in the appendix attached to the report and had been thoroughly considered in the recommendations made for the final notification to BT. A number of discrepancies in the information supplied by BT had arisen, most specifically these referred to 3 payphones in Rougham. Due to conflicting information from BT and the local knowledge of the Ward Member and Parish Council, alterations to the recommendations were considered appropriate.

RESOLVED:- That

- (1) the draft response to BT's Notification of Intent to remove 42 public payphones within the Borough, as set out in Report Z22, be amended to object to the removal of payphones located at the Downs and the Green in Rougham based on the consideration in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 of Report Z147; and
- (2) the draft response to BT's Notification of Intent to remove 42 public payphones within the Borough, as set out in Report Z22 (amended), be authorised as the final notification to BT.

**50. Transfer of Land following Suffolk Schools Organisation Review:
Clements Community Primary School, Haverhill**

Forward Plan Reference: N/A Cabinet Member: Cllr Nigel Aitkens

(The Leader of the Council agreed that this item could be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in order that this matter could be resolved within the necessary timescale.)

(Councillor Clements declared a personal interest as a member of Suffolk County Council and remained within the meeting for the consideration of this item.)

The Cabinet considered Report Z149 (previously circulated) which sought approval for the Head of Property Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Asset Management, to enter into negotiations with Suffolk County Council with a view to agreeing the terms for the transfer of land between the County Council and the Borough Council.

Suffolk County Council had undertaken a review of the schools structure in the Haverhill area. The proposal was to replace the current three tier system with a two tier structure. As a result, primary and upper schools would be enlarged where possible, to accommodate additional school years. The existing Clements Community Primary School did not have the capacity on site to accommodate an additional two school year groups and the County Council was looking at options to provide a new school in the vicinity of the existing school. One potential option proposed by the County Council was to negotiate a land transfer with the Borough Council that would enable the construction of a new school on land at Puddlebrook, adjacent to the Clements housing area, and the creation of a public open space on the existing Clements Community Primary School site that would then come into the Borough Council's ownership.

RESOLVED:- That

- (1) the Head of Property Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Asset Management, be authorised to enter into negotiations with Suffolk County Council with a view to agreeing terms for the transfer of land between the County Council and Borough Council to enable the relocation of Clements Community Primary School to the Puddlebrook playing fields and the creation of public open space on the existing Clements Community Primary School site; and
- (2) the outcome of these negotiations be reported and recommendations be made to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

The meeting concluded at 6.32 pm

**J H M GRIFFITHS
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**