

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

**Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 28 April 2010 at 5.00 pm
in the Dining Room, Samuel Ward Arts and Technology College,
Chalkstone Way, Haverhill**

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

BY INVITATION: Councillor Everitt (Chairman of the Bury St Edmunds Area
Working Party), Councillor Lockwood (Chairman of the Overview
and Scrutiny Committee), Councillor Thorndyke (Chairman of
Central Safety Panel and Rural Area Working Party), Councillors
Marks, Mrs Richardson and Mrs Rushbrook.

Howard Cook, Chairman, St Edmundsbury Branch of Unison and
Lynda Smith, Unison Representative for the Revenues and
Benefits Section of the Borough Council (for Agenda Item 5).

153. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence required.

154. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

155. Declarations of Interests

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

156. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 21 April 2010

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

The Cabinet received and noted Report A649 (previously circulated) which informed the Cabinet of the following items discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 April 2010:-

- (1) Support for Drug Users in St Edmundsbury;
- (2) Monitoring the West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership;
- (3) Presentation from Portfolio Holder for Culture and Sport, Councillor Lynsey Alexander;
- (4) Cabinet Forward Plan; and
- (5) Work Programme.

Councillor Lockwood, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet. He emphasised the useful discussions that were held in connection with Support for Drug Users in St Edmundsbury and monitoring the West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership. He also informed the Cabinet that following the discussion on the West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership, Chief Inspector Barnes-Smith had agreed to provide responses to issues raised at the meeting and that these were awaited.

(Councillor Stevens arrived during the discussion on this item.)

157. Revenues and Benefits Service Delivery: Options Appraisal

Forward Plan Reference: May10/12 Cabinet Member: Cllr Paul Farmer

The Cabinet considered Report A650 (previously circulated) which sought approval for the Borough Council's Revenues and Benefits Section to join the Anglia Revenues Partnership.

On 13 January 2010, the Policy Development Committee considered a report setting out the results of an Options Appraisal of the Revenues and Benefits Services in four councils in Suffolk (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and Ipswich and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils). The Committee recommended that a full business case should be undertaken for the delivery of a shared revenues and benefits service, either as a new, stand alone partnership, or by joining an existing partnership. Report A650 set out the findings of the work undertaken on the business case and developments which had taken place since January 2010.

Two options were under consideration; first, a new shared service between the four councils entitled Shared Revenues Partnership (SRP) and second, the Borough Council alone joining the existing Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP), as full members of their Joint Committee and effectively becoming a full partner of ARP. ARP currently consisted of three authorities, namely, Forest Heath, Breckland and East Cambridgeshire District Councils.

Both options would deliver significant savings for the authority, and both had different sets of risks and rewards, which were expounded in the report and annexes to the report.

A detailed discussion was held in which the Cabinet was informed that it was considered that joining the Customer Services Direct (CSD) operation, operated by Suffolk County Council, was not an option because one of its partners, Mid Suffolk District Council, was looking to become a partner in the SRP and, therefore, CSD would not have a revenues and benefits operation.

Some Members referred to the presentation received from the Manager of ARP and that this had allayed some of the fears and indeed indicated that there needed to be extensive negotiations in order that the Borough Council's requirements would be met. The Cabinet recognised that the Council having approved that Forest Heath District Council was the Borough Council's preferred partner it would be advantageous for the Borough Council to join ARP. As both options, whether to join either ARP or SRP, had similarities then the ARP option was preferable. Cabinet emphasised that the Borough Council would need to be a full and equal partner in ARP, and therefore, negotiations would need to continue prior to finalising any arrangements.

Howard Cook, Chairman of the St Edmundsbury Branch of Unison, voiced some concern at the late receipt of the Cabinet report. He reported on concerns of Unison members and indicated that the service to the public, especially residents of Haverhill, needed to be at least maintained, if not improved. He also informed the Cabinet that Unison members supported joining ARP rather than SRP. He emphasised that as there were still extensive negotiations before formally finalising any agreement with ARP that

Unison be kept informed throughout the process because discussions would centre around the detailed arrangements which would have significant implications for members.

Lynda Smith, the Unison representative for the Revenues and Benefits Section informed the Cabinet that the officers understood the reasons behind the Revenues and Benefits Service becoming part of a shared service. However, concerns were expressed that the officers wished to maintain a quality service to their customers and had continued to achieve high collection rates during economically difficult times. Officers had encouraged and fostered good relationships both with organisations, such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau and individual customers.

The Cabinet recognised the achievements of the Revenues and Benefits Service and wished to maintain a good service, if not improve the service, to its customers and would endeavour to allay the fears of the staff.

The Cabinet also recognised that there still needed to be detailed negotiations with ARP. However, there should be significant savings in the level of Council Tax levied. It was noted that ARP was performing very well for its customers in processing the relevant documentation. The change would be disruptive for staff but every endeavour would be made to manage the process to cause minimal disruption.



RECOMMENDED:-

That following a period of implementation planning and detailed due diligence, St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Revenues and Benefits Section join the Anglia Revenues Partnership.

(Howard Cook and Lynda Smith left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

158. Recommendations from the Central Safety Panel: 22 March 2010

Forward Plan Reference: May10/08 Cabinet Member: Cllr David Ray

The Cabinet considered Report A651 (previously circulated) which sought approval for amendments to be made to the Council's Health and Safety Policy.

On 22 March 2010 the Central Safety Panel considered a number of issues which included recommendations concerning amendments to the Health and Safety Policy. Councillor Thorndyke, Chairman of the Central Safety Panel, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet. In particular, he stated the importance to Councillors of the Personal Safety: A Guide for Councillors. The amendment to the Health and Safety Policy needed approval by full Council but this would not be given until the meeting of Council on 29 June 2010. It was concluded that an item be placed in the Members' Bulletin as soon as possible drawing this Guide to the attention of all Members of the Council.



RECOMMENDED:- That

(a) Proposed amendments to the Health and Safety Policy

Amendments 003 to 009 inclusive, as contained in Report A581, to the Health and Safety Policy be approved.

**159. Recommendations from Shared Services Steering Group:
29 March 2010**

Forward Plan Reference: May10/10 Cabinet Member: Cllr John Griffiths

The Cabinet considered Report A652 (previously circulated) which contained the recommendations emanating from the meeting of the Shared Services Steering Group held on 29 March 2010.

The Shared Services Steering Group had made recommendations in respect of:-

- (1) Partnership Organisation Development Programme;
- (2) Partnership People Management Protocol;
- (3) Communications; and
- (4) Information and Communication Technology Service.

A detailed discussion was held into the compilation of the business case for the Information and Communication Technology Shared Service. It was emphasised that it may be necessary to employ an expert to support the officers in producing a full business case, not only due to the current workload of the officers within both IT sections but also to act in a technical capacity to provide an independent view on two differing approaches to the delivery of ICT.

RESOLVED:- That

(a) Partnership Organisation Development Programme

- (1) The Partnership Organisational Development Programme, outlined in Appendix 1 to Report A611 be approved;
- (2) an estimated budget of £20,000 to roll-out the Programme be approved; and
- (3) following the holding of the 'Visioning to Blueprint Workshop', as outlined in the first item of Appendix 1 to Report A611, a robust project management structure be developed to support the roll-out of the Programme and that this be presented to a future meeting of the Steering Group.

(b) Partnership People Management Protocol

The Partnership People Management Protocol, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report A612, be approved.

(c) Communications

The internal communication proposals detailed in Section 4 of Report A613 be approved.

(d) Information and Communication Technology Service

- (1) The approach and vision detailed in Section 3.4 of Report A614 be supported;
- (2) the use of funds in the region of £30,000, divided between the two authorities, to employ an expert to support the officers in producing a full business case leading to the implementation of a shared Information and Communication Technology (ICT) service be approved; and

- (3) the single team to facilitate the convergence of user ICT systems within service areas as individual cases are constructed be moved forward.

160. West Suffolk House Joint Committee: 8 April 2010

Forward Plan Reference: May10/14 Cabinet Member: Cllr Nigel Aitkens

The Cabinet received and noted Report A653 (previously circulated) which informed the Cabinet of the outcome of the Tender for Facilities Management Services at West Suffolk House: Lot 1

Cabinet noted that as a result of a robust tendering process Ocean Contract Cleaning Limited had been appointed as the provider of Facilities Management Services at West Suffolk House.

161. County Constitutional Convention: Update

Forward Plan Reference: May10/04 Cabinet Member: Cllr John Griffiths

The Cabinet was informed that following a discussion at the Suffolk Leaders' and Chief Executives' Group it was agreed that it was most probably impractical to start with the County Constitutional Convention prior to the General Election being held since there would be some new MPs elected in Suffolk. It was also agreed that a briefing should be sent to the Department for Communities and Local Government indicating the work that was currently progressing in the County, such as Leadership Collaborative, and the Shared Services Agenda. Additionally, it was agreed that it would be wrong to do nothing and, to this end, a sub group of Chief Executives was preparing a paper to explore possible options and a way forward.

162. Exemption from Contract Procedure Rules: Seating in The Apex

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

The Cabinet received and noted a narrative item which informed of an exemption to the Contract Procedure Rules, as contained within Part 4, Rules of Procedure, of the Council's Constitution regarding the procurement of seating for The Apex.

The Constitution authorised that a member of the Management Team could authorise the exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules where procurement 'requiring the provision of goods, services or works of a specialist nature' was involved. It was considered that the procurement of the auditorium seats for The Apex was important in a number of respects and therefore this exemption would be the most appropriate course of action.

163. Recommendations from Sustainable Development Panel: 20 April 2010

Forward Plan Reference: May10/01 Cabinet Member: Cllr Terry Clements

The Cabinet considered Report A654 (previously circulated) which contained the recommendations emanating from the meeting of the Sustainable Development Panel held on 20 April 2010.

On 20 April 2010 the Sustainable Development Panel considered the following items:-

- (1) Local Development Framework: Core Strategy – Revised Infrastructure Delivery Plan;
- (2) Introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL);
- (3) Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for Historic Environment;
- (4) St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework: Process Update;
- (5) Probity in Planning - Code of Good Practice; and

(6) Local Development Framework: Rural Site Allocations.

Councillor Clements, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning and Vice Chairman of the Sustainable Development Panel, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet. He stated that the Infrastructure Delivery Plan was an important tool to support the implementation of the Local Development Framework. A draft plan was approved for consultation in November 2009 and, following that consultation, amendments had been made. He also provided background information concerning the Government regulations on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). However, the CIL could not formally be introduced by a Local Planning Authority until it had an adopted Core Strategy. The hearing for the Council's Core Strategy opened at West Suffolk House yesterday (Tuesday 27 April 2010). The delivery of infrastructure would be a key element of implementing the Local Development Framework policies. An indication at this time that the Council intended to become a charging authority would provide the Planning Inspector examining the Core Strategy and understanding as to how the Core Strategy could be delivered.

Councillor Clements then informed the Cabinet that when the Sustainable Development Panel met in March 2010 and considered the draft content of the Preferred Options for Rural Allocations some sites at Westley and Fornham St Martin had not been formally rejected, even though they were contrary to the Core Strategy. These sites had now been formally considered by the Panel and it was now recommending that they be now formally rejected.

RESOLVED:- That

(a) Local Development Framework: Core Strategy – Revised Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- (1) The revised Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan, attached as Appendix B to Report A632 be approved; and
- (2) the responses to the consultation contained in Appendix A to Report A632 be noted and that officers comments therein be agreed as the Council's response to comments.

(b) Introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- (1) St Edmundsbury Borough Council becomes a charging authority for the purposes of the Community Infrastructure Levy;
- (2) an officer working group be established to plan for and identify the external, corporate and service specific requirements for the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy in St Edmundsbury; and
- (3) the work of the officer working group be reported back to the Sustainable Development Panel at intervals advising on progress, implications and arrangements to be put in place.

(c) Probity in Planning – Code of Good Practice

- (1) The Sustainable Development Panel notes the overall guidance that has been prepared and suggests to the Development Control Committee that additional guidance covering the policy making process also be included in the Code of Good Practice; and

- (2) the Head of Planning and Economic Development be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, the Chairman of the Sustainable Development Panel and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to draft and finalise appropriate additional wording relating to planning policy making responsibilities for inclusion in the Code of Good Practice.

(d) Local Development Framework: Rural Site Allocation

That the reasons for the rejection of previously submitted sites in Fornham St Martin and Westley as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Report A665 be approved, excluding sites SS5, SS6, SS11, SS40, SS56, SS87, SS102, SS107, SS122 and WS56 which will be considered further as part of the preparation of the Bury St Edmunds Area Action Plan.

**164. West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee:
26 March 2010**

Forward Plan Reference: May10/05 Cabinet Member: Cllr Peter Stevens

The Cabinet received and noted Report A655 (previously circulated) which provided information on the meeting of the West Suffolk House Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee held on 26 March 2010 on the items discussed and decisions reached.

Councillor Stevens, Chairman of the Joint Committee, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet. He reminded the Cabinet of the achievements of the Joint Committee and that St Edmundsbury had achieved one of the highest rates of recycling within the country at one of the lowest costs.

165. Rural Area Working Party: 15 April 2010

Forward Plan Reference: May10/11 Cabinet Member: Cllr John Griffiths

The Cabinet considered Report A656 (previously circulated) which contained the recommendations emanating from the meeting of the Rural Area Working Party held on 15 April 2010.

On 15 April 2010 the Rural Area Working Party considered the following items:-

- (1) Delivery of the Local Development Framework (LDF) in the Rural Area and LDF Rural Housing Allocations;
- (2) Affordable Housing in the Rural Areas;
- (3) St Edmundsbury's Domestic Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth Programme;
- (4) Place Survey: Overview of Rural Responses;
- (5) Rural Area Working Party Programme 2010; and
- (6) Village of the Year Competition 2010.

Councillor Thorndyke, Chairman of the Rural Area Working Party, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet. He provided information concerning the Domestic Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth Programme. He considered that the results of the Place Survey were disappointing and out of date. Also, he encouraged wider publicity concerning this year's Village of the Year Competition. It was agreed that this competition should be publicised at the forthcoming Parish Conference.

A detailed discussion was undertaken considering the Rural Housing Needs surveys and it was recognised that there was a need for the Borough Council to facilitate a more systematic approach to providing these surveys.

RESOLVED:- That

Affordable Housing in the Rural Areas: Rural Housing Needs Surveys

That consideration be given to whether there are means within available resources towards adopting a more systematic approach to providing rural housing needs surveys on a three yearly programme as part of the budget and service planning process for 2011/2012, including investigating sources of external funding for this work.

(Councillor Thorndyke left the meeting at the conclusion of the discussion on this item.)

166. Recommendations from Haverhill Area Working Party: 22 April 2010
Forward Plan Reference: May10/02 Cabinet Member: Cllr Anne Gower

The Cabinet considered Report A657 (previously circulated) which contained the recommendations emanating from the meeting of the Haverhill Area Working Party held on 22 April 2010.

On 22 April 2010 the Haverhill Area Working Party considered the following items:-

- (1) Development Brief: Chantry Mills, Former Gurteen's Factory Site, Haverhill;
- (2) Haverhill Town Centre Management: Update and Proposed Activities to December 2010;
- (3) Public Art in Queen Street, Haverhill: Update;
- (4) Haverhill Community Football Project: Update; and
- (5) Haverhill Bus Station: Update.

Councillor Mrs Gower, Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Haverhill, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet. She was pleased to see that the development brief for Chantry Mills, the former Gurteens Factory Site, had now been completed. She paid tribute to Bidwells on the consultation exercise that they had undertaken in respect of the compilation of this Brief. She then provided detailed information as to the overspend in respect of the gates to be erected at both ends of Queen Street. Councillor Mrs Richardson, Chairman of Public Arts in the Town Centre of Haverhill (PATCH), provided a detailed explanation as to the construction and erection of the gates which was a very technical and intensive process for a bespoke set of gates.

Councillor Griffiths, Leader of the Council, announced that, at the instigation of Councillor Cox, Councillor Marks had replaced Councillor Cox as a full Member of the Haverhill Area Working Party.



RECOMMENDED:- That

(a) Development Brief: Chantry Mills, Former Gurteen's Factory Site, Haverhill (Report A645)

(1) The Development Brief for Chantry Mills, former Gurteen's factory site, Haverhill, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report A645, be adopted as non-statutory planning guidance for the determination of future planning and listed building applications; and

(2) delegated authority be given to the Senior Conservation Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, to make any minor typographical, grammatical and/or factual changes to the Development Brief for Chantry Mills.

**167. Recommendations from the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party:
16 March 2010**

Forward Plan Reference: May10/07 Cabinet Member: Cllr Sara Mildmay-White

The Cabinet considered Report A658 (previously circulated) which contained the recommendations emanating from the meeting of the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party held on 16 March 2010.

On 16 March 2010 the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party considered the following items:-

- (1) Evaluation of Christmas Fayre 2009;
- (2) St Andrews Street/Risbygate Street/Brentgovel Street Enhancement;
- (3) St Andrews Street South Access Review;
- (4) Engineering Update Report; and
- (5) Town Centre Lettings/Vacancies Update.

Councillor Everitt, Chairman of the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet. He informed the Cabinet that the Safer Neighbourhood Team had appointed a dedicated officer to address access and parking issues within Bury St Edmunds town centre and that this officer had issued a significant number of parking fines.

RESOLVED:- That

(a) St Andrews Street/Risbygate Street/Brentgovel Street Enhancement

- (1) a consultation meeting with the businesses and residents of Risbygate Street and St Andrews Street North be held; and
- (2) the outcome of that meeting be reported to a future meeting of the Working Party.

(b) St Andrews Street South Access Review

- (1) the response of the Police to the request for additional enforcement be noted; and
- (2) options 5.1.6, 5.1.8, 5.1.9, 5.1.11, 5.1.12 and 5.1.13 be further developed and brought back to the Working Party for further consideration.

(c) Engineering Services Work Programme

- (1) the changes to the loading/bus bay on the south side of Angel Hill, as set out in Paragraphs 3.1.1 to 3.1.2 of Report A579, be approved;
- (2) the changes to the management of parking in Cotton Lane, as set out in Paragraphs 3.2.1 to 3.2.4 of Report A579, be approved;
- (3) the changes to the waiting restrictions in Skyliner Way, as set out in Paragraphs 3.3.1 to 3.3.6 of Report A579, be approved and a further review of the road be carried out when it is fully adopted;
- (4) the outcome of the consultation into parking in the Queen's Road and York Road areas be noted, the decision be deferred to allow the Engineer and local Ward Members to consider the matter further and the issue be reported to a future meeting of the Working Party; and
- (5) the changes to the car park charges on Hardwick Heath, as shown at Appendix G to Report A579, be approved.

168. Nowton Park, Bury St Edmunds: Proposed Visitor Centre

Forward Plan Reference: May10/13 Cabinet Member: Cllr Lynsey Alexander

The Cabinet considered Report A659 (previously circulated) which sought approval for the replacement of the cluster of pre-fabricated buildings at Nowton Park by a single new building containing a café, public toilets, changing rooms, function room and office together, and other associated issues.

Nowton Park was one of the Council's most highly regarded and used leisure sites. The Council's Capital Programme included up to £525,000 for the provision of a new visitor centre in Nowton Park. As part of this process various options, around improving the visitor experience at the park had been considered, including a proposal to utilise existing buildings in the form of a Victorian walled garden, in the middle of the park. These investigations had established the favoured option as being a new build replacement in the north of the park alongside the existing car park area. In the process of investigating the best location to site the new visitor centre a number of other issues had been identified and it was proposed that these be progressed as follows:-

- (1) a review be undertaken regarding the future potential of Gardeners' Cottage and walled garden area;
- (2) investigation be undertaken of how best to meet the demand for additional car parking on site; and

- (3) officers seek third party funding to try and improve existing playground equipment.

RESOLVED:- That

- (1) the replacement of the current cluster of prefabricated buildings by the existing Nowton Park car-park with a single new building containing a café, public toilets, set of changing rooms, function room and staff office be approved and funded from the existing capital programme provision of £525,000;
- (2) the current asset disposal register be reviewed in relation to Gardener's Cottage, noting the need to maximise the potential of the Nursery area;
- (3) the issue of how best to meet the demand for additional car-parking on site be reviewed; and
- (4) third party funding grants be sought to try and improve the existing playground equipment on site and the provision of new play facilities which are better/more challenging for older children.

169. Tour of Britain Cycle Race 2010

Forward Plan Reference: N/A Cabinet Member: Cllr Lynsey Alexander

The Cabinet received and noted a narrative item which informed that on 16/17 September 2010 the seventh stage of the Tour of Britain was coming to Suffolk. It would start in Bury St Edmunds, route through Haverhill into Babergh and then Essex, culminating in Colchester.

The Tour of Britain was an ideal opportunity to showcase the Borough to many would be visitors from home and abroad. The race had a massive economic impact on an area. The race was also a great opportunity for the Borough to get the area engaged in cycling and being active as the tour start team arrived in Bury St Edmunds the day before the start to set up the race. This provided the chance to make use of the start date facilities and put on a community event which could involve schools and community groups. The Borough Council would work with the County Council, who had led the process to bring the tour to Suffolk, and other partners to organise these events in close consultation with residents, businesses and other partners.

Councillor Mrs Alexander, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Sport informed the Cabinet there would be some cost to the Borough Council of hosting this event but it was anticipated that this could be funded from within existing budgets and/or seeking external funding.

(Councillors Marks and Mrs Richardson left the meeting at the conclusion of the discussion on this item.)

170. Recommendations from the Public Venue (The Apex) Working Party: 25 March 2010

Forward Plan Reference: May10/09 Cabinet Member: Cllr Lynsey Alexander

The Cabinet considered Report A660 (previously circulated) which contains the recommendation emanating from the meeting of the Public Venue (The Apex) Working Party held on 25 March 2010.

On 25 March 2010 the Public Venue (The Apex) Working Party considered the following items:-

- (1) Review of Charging, Contracting and Ticketing Policy;
- (2) The Apex Project Status Report: Operational; and
- (3) The Apex Project Status Report: Construction.

The opening of The Apex meant that the Council's approach to the general management of its Public Halls and Arts Programme needed to change. It was proposed that a completely flexible and commercial approach to charging hirers of halls and patrons of the Council's arts events should be adopted. A review of the current delegation arrangements to officers in relation to management of public halls had been carried out in light of the proposed change of policy and amendments were put forward for consideration.



RECOMMENDED:-

(a) Review of Charging, Contracting and Ticketing Policy

- (1) the new charging, contracting and ticketing policy, as set out in Appendix A of Report A589, be approved; and**
- (2) the Council's Constitution be amended to take account of the revised delegation arrangements, as set out in Appendix B of Report A589.**

171. Air Quality Management Order: The Street, Great Barton

Forward Plan Reference: May10/15 Cabinet Member: Cllr Sara Mildmay-White

The Cabinet considered a narrative item which sought approval for the making of an Air Quality Management Order.

Local authorities were required to undertake reviews of local air quality to ensure compliance with the Government's air quality objectives in respect of seven prescribed pollutants. The Borough Council's review had identified that the annual mean air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide was at risk of being exceeded along a section of the A143 as it passed through the village of Great Barton. Government policy guidance stated that where a local authority identified the risk of an air quality exceedence, then that authority should carry out a detailed assessment to formally identify the need to designate an Air Quality Management Area. A detailed assessment was carried out which recommended that an Air Quality Management Area should be designated along the identified section of the A143. Detailed in Paper A661 was a copy of the map indicating the area of the Air Quality Management Order and also a copy of the Order.

RESOLVED:-

That the making of an Air Quality Management Order under the provisions of Section 83 (1) of the Environment Act 1995 designating an Air Quality Management Area along the A143, Great Barton as shown on the map attached to Paper A661, be approved.

172. Affordable Housing: Scheme at the Former Fireworks Factory Site, Bury Road, Chedburgh

Forward Plan Reference: May10/16 Cabinet Member: Cllr Anne Gower

(Councillor Clements declared a prejudicial interest as a Borough Council representative on the Havebury Housing Partnership Management Board and left the meeting for the consideration of this item.)

The Cabinet considered a narrative item which sought confirmation of the grant to the Havebury Housing Partnership of £400,000 to enable the delivery of 17 affordable homes.

On 21 October 2009 Cabinet approved an allocation of £400,000 from the Council's Housing Capital Budget to enable the delivery of 17 affordable homes. The grant was awarded to the Havebury Housing Partnership (Havebury) to develop the new homes on the condition that start on site would take place by the end of March 2010. Havebury had advised the Council that commencement of the development had not taken place by the due date due to further negotiations being undertaken with the developer and the local community to provide a safe footpath from the new scheme to the centre of the village. This issue had now been resolved and Havebury was confident that a start on site could be agreed with the developer in the near future.

RESOLVED:- That

- (1) The grant to the Havebury Housing Partnership of £400,000 to enable the delivery of 17 affordable homes at the former Fireworks Factory Site, Bury Road, Chedburgh, without compliance with the condition requiring start on site by the end of March 2010 be confirmed; and
- (2) the situation be kept under review and a further report brought to Cabinet if the development has not commenced within 3 months.

EXEMPT INFORMATION – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC TERMS OF FORMAL RESOLUTION

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

173. Business Support Package

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

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report A662 (previously circulated) which sought approval for a contribution to an overall East of England Development Agency (EEDA) Economic Support Package for a local company.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Suffolk County Council and the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), working together with EEDA as lead, had developed an integrated package of support. The package had been assembled to address a unique set of circumstances and it was considered that a precedent would not be set for future activity with other businesses. Funding would have conditions

attached to it to ensure that the funding was spent in agreed specified areas and there was no leakage to operations outside the local operation. The funding could be sourced from the Local Authority Business Growth Initiative.

RESOLVED:-

That the Borough Council's contribution to an overall East of England Development Agency (EEDA) economic support package to assist training and staff development, as set out in Exempt Report A662, be approved.

174. Industrial Portfolio Tenancy Issues

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

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report A663 (previously circulated) which sought approval for negotiations between the Council and a company regarding a one-off rent abatement for the next 12 months.

On 25 March 2009 Cabinet approved the rescheduling of the commercial rent payment. This was now being repaid. A recent review meeting at the company had highlighted the success of that support to the company. The company continued to look at ways to mitigate their operating costs and one option would be to surrender one of its four units, to reduce the burden of rent and rates. However, this was not without problems as it would be required to put the unit into good repair before handing it back and there would be diseconomies of scale and additional costs in having to send work out to be finished. The Company had asked for support from the Council in the form of a one-off rent abatement to trade out of the recession and not be forced to hand back a unit to cut costs generally, which would be counter productive in terms of competitiveness and result in the Council having a unit to market in a weak letting market.

RESOLVED:-

That the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Asset Management, be authorised to negotiate a reduction of rent for one year, subject to continued payment of all current rent and rates.

The meeting concluded at 7.23 pm

CHAIRMAN