



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

D126

Cabinet 12 September 2012

Report from the Shared Offices Joint Committee: 27 July 2012 (Sep12/04)

(The following is a summary of the decisions taken by the Joint Committee. This is for information only and no decisions are required by the Cabinet.)

Cabinet Member: Cllr John Griffiths

*Chairman of the Joint
Committee: Cllr David Ray*

1. Building Manager's Report (Report D95)

RESOLVED:- That

- (1) a report be submitted to the meeting of the Joint Committee on 21 September 2012 on the housekeeping issues of maintaining circulation areas free of obstructions and affixing temporary notices and posters to painted surfaces;**
- (2) the practice of supplying newspapers to Café West users be discontinued but enquiries be made as to whether a few newspapers can be made available for sale in this area or if Ocean FM wish to sponsor this service; and**
- (3) representations be made to HM Customs and Excise over the apparent unfairness of excluding elected Members from the Cycle 2 Work Salary Sacrifice Scheme as Members Allowances are taxable and some Councillors choose to cycle to their place of work, ie. the Council's offices.**

Arising from this report, the Building Manager gave an oral update on the meeting of the West Suffolk House Building User Group held on 20 July 2012, as follows:-

- (a) Overuse of multi-functional printers on the floor-plates. The User Group had been advised that this matter would be included in the Audit of Design and Print Facilities which was to be commissioned shortly;
- (b) Carpet cleaning. This matter had been discussed and the User Group had been advised that a costing exercise was being carried out into the benefits of either purchasing or leasing a suitable carpet cleaning machine;
- (c) Housekeeping issues. The problems of ensuring circulation areas were unobstructed and 'fly posting' of notices using 'Blu-tack' or other temporary fixings which damaged the paintwork were raised. In so far as West Suffolk House was concerned the latter-mentioned issue was not covered in the

'Rules of Occupation'. Officers advised that a report dealing with both matters would be submitted to the next meeting of the Joint Committee; and

- (d) Supply of newspapers in Café West. The User Group had questioned the need for the present practice of providing a free copy of newspapers for users of Café West to read. There had been a consensus of opinion that in the current time of financial stringency this should be discontinued.

In relation to the Cycle 2 Work Salary Sacrifice Scheme referred to in the Report, Councillor Everitt expressed concern that Councillors had been excluded from this incentive. It appeared that HM Inland Revenue had ruled that elected Members had a transient status and were ineligible for earnings related concessions.

2. Review of Available Space at West Suffolk House (Agenda Item 7)

RESOLVED:-

That further consideration of the review of available space at West Suffolk House be deferred at this time.

The Head of Property and Engineering Services tabled a report by Suffolk County Council Resource Management which gave the outcome of an initial review of space available at West Suffolk House. This indicated that with reconfiguration of allocated spaces, areas could be freed up which could be made available to other organisations interested in relocating to West Suffolk House. He suggested that with the ongoing review of the Borough Council's management structure it would be prudent to defer further consideration of this matter.