



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# B367

## Council 14 December 2010

### Schedule of Referrals from Cabinet and Democratic Renewal Working Party

(A) Referrals from Cabinet: 20 October 2010

**1. St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework: Core Strategy –  
Inspector's Report and Final Core Strategy Document**

*Forward Plan Reference: Nov10/01  
Cabinet Member: Cllr Terry Clements*

*Report B256  
(Sustainable  
Development Panel  
Report B239)*

**RECOMMENDED:-**

***That the Core Strategy document as amended, (Appendix B);  
Proposals Map (Appendix C), Habitat Regulations Assessment  
(Screening), (Appendix D), and the Sustainability Appraisal  
(Appendix E) to Report B239 be recommended for adoption by full  
Council.***

In 2008 the Council commenced the preparation of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and in December 2009, following extensive consultation, the Council agreed to submit the document to the Government for independent examination.

The Planning Inspector's Report into the examination was received on 24 August 2010 and is attached as Appendix A to the Panel's Report B239. His report concluded that the Core Strategy document had been prepared within the appropriate legal framework, that all legal tests were met and that, subject to a number of mainly minor binding changes, the Core Strategy was suitable for adoption. The examination process requires that the changes required by the Inspector's report are binding upon the Council should it proceed to adopting the Core Strategy. The required changes are set out in three annexes to his report:-

Annexe A: Recommended Council changes;

Annexe B: Recommended minor changes proposed by the Council; and

Annexe C: Changes recommended by the Inspector.

The changes have been incorporated in the document and the amended version of the Core Strategy is attached as Appendix B to Panel's report. Suggested changes to the proposals map have been endorsed by the Inspector and an updated final version of this is attached as Appendix C.

As a result of changes required by the Inspector, the Habitat Regulations Assessment (Screening) and the Sustainability Assessment documents have been updated and are attached as Appendices D and E respectively.

The Panel were informed that the Council had two options now that the Inspector's Report had been received:-

- (i) to adopt the Core Strategy, as amended by the Inspector; or
- (ii) not to adopt the Core Strategy.

By choosing to adopt the Core Strategy, the Council will be putting in place a long term vision for the Borough and setting out the strategic directions of growth for the two towns in the Borough to 2031. The Core Strategy will also provide the basis for the provision of future infrastructure. It places the authority in a very strong position to manage development in its area and start the subsequent planning of the more detailed proposals in the Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill masterplans and in the Rural Areas.

There are a number of implications if the Council chose to not adopt the Core Strategy. The Council have used extensive resources, to develop the Core Strategy, the evidence base which supported it and to provide for an independent examination into the document. Should the Council decide not to adopt the Core Strategy this will in effect be directing the authority to start the process again for preparing a new Core Strategy. The Panel was made aware that this may result in both legal action against the authority and speculative planning applications due to a lack of up to date strategic planning policy guidance.

Upon adoption of the Core Strategy, under Section 36 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, the Council is required to give notice by local advertisement an adoption statement which provides details of the document which has been adopted and the places and times where the document can be inspected. This adoption statement **is attached as Appendix A** to this report for information. If the Core Strategy is adopted at Full Council on 14 December 2010 advertisements will be placed in the local press before Christmas.

Upon adoption of the Core Strategy, in accordance with Regulation 16 (3) and (4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the Council is also required to publish a Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Adoption Statement. This sets out how environmental considerations have been taken into account in the development of the Core Strategy. This Environmental Assessment Adoption Statement **is attached as Appendix B** to this report for information.

## **2. Heritage Service: Acquisition and Disposal Policy**

*Forward Plan Reference: Nov10/08  
Cabinet Member: Cllr Lynsey Alexander*

*Report B259*

**RECOMMENDED:- That**

- (1) the revised Acquisition and Disposal Policy, detailed in Paper B259, be approved; and**

- (2) ***the Corporate Director for Community, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Sport, be authorised to make minor typographic, grammatical and/or factual changes.***

The Government, through the Museum, Libraries and Archives Council, runs a scheme for accrediting museums. This accreditation is a quality mark and it allows museums to access certain funding streams. Moyses Hall Museum and West Stow are both accredited museums.

The Acquisition and Disposal Policy was first approved by the Borough Council on 27 June 2006 (minute 30(B)(1) refers) when it was updated from a previous version for the Museums Service. As part of the West Stow accreditation procedure it has now been further updated to reflect the latest technical changes concerning collections disposal criteria and procedures, and are detailed in Section 14.

The Acquisition and Disposal Policy is based on a model policy provided by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, which has set wording alongside additional information on the Heritage Service.

**(B) Referrals from Cabinet: 1 December 2010**

**1. Report of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Treasury Management**

***Forward Plan Reference: N/A***  
***Cabinet Member: Cllr John Griffiths***

***Report B334***  
***(Treasury Management***  
***Sub-Committee Report B249)***

***RECOMMENDED:-***

***That the proposals to vary the Council's lending criteria as set out in Section 7 of Report B249 be approved, subject to the maximum percentage limit of the Portfolio being reduced from 30% to 25% in the red colour code for both the Rated Banks and Institutions and the Rated Building Societies Sections.***

Sector, the Council's Treasury Management Advisors were continuing to provide support to the Treasury Management Team in balancing the requirement to maintain security and equity of funds with the necessity to maximum returns on investment. Its advice was for preference to be given to extending investment durations and limits with highly rated organisations and to retain current limits applicable to non-rated building societies. The Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2010/2011 was approved by Cabinet on 23 February 2010 (Minute 29 (B)(1) refers) and the above recommendation, if approved, is an alteration to that approved Strategy.

## **2. Overview and Scrutiny Structure**

**Forward Plan Reference:** N/A  
**Cabinet Member:** Cllr John Griffiths

**Report B336**  
(Overview and Scrutiny, Performance and Audit Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee Paper B270)

### **RECOMMENDED:- That**

- (1) the Council's scrutiny structure be amended, as soon as possible, along the lines of Option 2 as set out in Report B270, as amended in Recommendation (3) below, with the removal of the Policy Development Committee and policy reviews being carried out by "task and finish" groups of a new Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a membership of 16 Members;**
- (2) "task and finish" groups reporting periodically and at the end of reviews to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be encouraged as the preferred method of scrutiny for reviews;**
- (3) Option 2 of Report B270 be amended, with the budget responsibilities of the Policy Development Committee (including Dynamic Review – Innovation, Value and Enterprise (DR-IVE) and Policy Based Budgeting) transferring to the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee rather than the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**
- (4) an additional meeting of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee be set in November each year to consider the budget reports which were previously the responsibility of the Policy Development Committee;**
- (5) should the budget responsibilities of the Policy Development Committee be transferred to the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, consideration be given to increasing the number of Members on that Committee; and**
- (6) no Member should be a full Member of both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, although a full Member of one Committee may be a substitute Member of the other.**

The Council's Improvement Plan includes the following action for 2010/2011 'Review committee and scrutiny structure to ensure that it is fit for purpose'. The Council's current Overview and Scrutiny structure has been in place since the implementation of the Local Government Act 2000 in May 2002. Other than the introduction of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee in 2007 the structure has therefore remained largely unchanged for 9 years.

Report B270 reviews the structure of the Council's scrutiny committees, taking into account good practice from other councils and the changes to the focus of the Council's scrutiny work, which have been seen in recent years following the introduction of new legislation. The options outlined in this report also take into account the increased resource constraints upon the Council, and the achievement of value for money through reduction of bureaucracy.

Report B270 was considered in detail by the Performance and Audit Scrutiny, Policy Development and Overview and Scrutiny Committees in addition to the Cabinet. All four bodies were largely in agreement and concluded that the Policy Development Committee should be disbanded and its work be reallocated between a new Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee. The Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee would largely undertake the financial responsibilities of the Policy Development Committee.

### **3. Generating Income from Renewal Energy**

***Forward Plan Reference: Dec10/04***  
***Cabinet Member: Cllr Peter Stevens***

***Report B342***  
***(Sustainable Development***  
***Working Party Report B317)***

#### ***RECOMMENDED:- That***

- (1) subject to final survey, tender and further investigation of other sources of funding, up to £410,000 from the unallocated capital provision be allocated to fund renewable energy generation as identified in the investment models set out in Report B317;***
- (2) further analysis be carried out of a community-based investment model with the aim of realising an equitable return both for the Council and the community as well as energy and CO<sub>2</sub> savings; and***
- (3) the Cabinet be given delegated authority to approve the final scheme.***

The Council has been taking action over the past seven years to reduce revenue expenditure and develop new ways to generate income through the Dynamic Review – Innovation, Value and Enterprise (DR-IVE) programme. The Council is also committed to reducing Carbon Dioxide emissions arising both from the energy use within its own property and by encouraging others to do the same.

Report B317 outlines the business cases for two investment models utilising Council property either wholly operated by the Council or leased to partner organisations, which take advantage of the new Clean Energy Cashback Scheme. A third model, investing in community-owned buildings has been discounted at present, however, further analysis will be worthwhile.

Installing renewable energy generation systems will require an investment of approximately £410,000, with a minimum gross income of £873,950 producing profit of £394,252 over the twenty-five year life of the Clean Energy Cashback Scheme.

**4. Replacement Local Plan – Policy RA2(b): Land of Crown Lane, Ixworth Approval of Masterplan**

*Forward Plan Reference: Dec10/04*  
*Cabinet Member: Cllr Terry Clements*

**Report B342**  
(Sustainable Development and  
Rural Area Working Parties  
Report B300)

**RECOMMENDED:-**

***That the Masterplan for the development of land off Crown Lane, Ixworth, as contained in Appendix B of Report B300, be adopted as non-statutory planning guidance.***

Land at Crown Lane, Ixworth has been allocated for development in the Replacement Local Plan. The Local Plan states that development could not proceed until a Masterplan had been adopted for the site and this is to be informed by a Concept Statement. A draft Masterplan has subsequently been prepared by consultants on behalf of the proposed developer.

Public consultation took place in July and August 2010 and the Masterplan has been amended in the light of the comments received. The Masterplan and the proposals within it have been prepared in accordance with the adopted Replacement Borough Local Plan and the protocol for preparing Masterplans. The Council's approval of the Masterplan as planning guidance is now being sought.

**5. Amendments to Licensing Statement of Policy**

*Forward Plan Reference: Dec10/12*  
*Cabinet Member: Cllr Robert Everitt*

**Report B349**  
(Licensing and Regulatory  
Committee Report B279)

**RECOMMENDED:- That**

- (1) following the tri-ennial review and the public consultation undertaken earlier this year, the Licensing Statement of Policy, attached as Appendix A to Report B279, be approved; and***
- (2) the Corporate Director for Community, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for licensing, be authorised to make minor typographic, grammatical and/or factual changes.***

In Spring 2010, the evidence available for continuing the Cumulative Impact Area Policy (commonly known as Special Area Policy) for the historic core of Bury St Edmunds was reviewed, subjected to public consultation and subsequently considered by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 12 July 2010 (Report B111 and Minute 8 refers). The Committee resolved at that meeting that there was insufficient evidence to support the Cumulative Impact Area Policy within the Licensing Statement of Policy. Instead, the Committee resolved to undertake a public consultation on the draft Licensing Statement of Policy without the inclusion

of the Cumulative Impact Area Policy, and to set up a Licensing Forum for Bury St Edmunds, and subsequently Haverhill.

Taking into account the responses received during the consultation period, the revised Licensing Statement of Policy was attached as Appendix A to Report B279, with a summary of the proposed changes attached as Appendix B. The consultation responses received were attached as Appendix C. Of the submissions, five respondents had expressed concern that the Cumulative Impact Area Policy had been removed from the Licensing Statement of Policy.

On 8 November 2010, the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held a detailed discussion on the Cumulative Impact Area Policy, during which the Chairman allowed local residents present at the meeting to make further contributions. There was some discussion of how the crime statistics provided should be interpreted, with some Members and residents making a distinction between recorded crimes and incidents of anti-social behaviour, which would be far higher.

Councillor Farmer considered that due to the number of responses received from local residents in the historic core of Bury St Edmunds regarding the removal of the Cumulative Impact Area Policy, both in the consultation on the Cumulative Impact Area Policy and on the current Licensing Statement of Policy, that further public consultation should be undertaken on the Licensing Statement of Policy, incorporating the Cumulative Impact Area Policy. He emphasised that a Cumulative Impact Area Policy did not make it more difficult for a business to obtain a licence, as no licence had been refused in the past two years. He concluded by stating that approximately one thousand residents had benefitted from the Cumulative Impact Area Policy and no business had been denied a licence.

There was a consensus that the Committee should give serious consideration to the comments made by the residents and, on being put to the vote, Councillor Farmer's amendment in respect of additional consultation was approved, and is as follows:-

*Having reconsidered the evidence presented at its meeting of 12 July 2010, and taking into account the relevant responses to the recent public consultation, that a further public consultation be undertaken on the Licensing Statement of Policy, incorporating the Cumulative Impact Area Policy as set out in the current Statement of Licensing Policy, and that a decision on the inclusion of the Cumulative Impact Area Policy be made by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 21 March 2011, following consideration of the responses to that public consultation.*

## **6. Consolidation of Byelaws for Piercing Activities**

*Forward Plan Reference: Dec10/15*  
*Cabinet Member: Cllr Robert Everitt*

*Report B351*

**RECOMMENDED:- That**

- (1) all current byelaws, as annexed to Report B351 in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, be revoked;**
- (2) the new consolidated set of byelaws, annexed to Report B351 as Appendix 6 be adopted;**
- (3) the affixing of the common seal to the set of byelaws be authorised; and**
- (4) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out the necessary procedure and apply to the Secretary of State for confirmation.**

Report B351 provides details of draft byelaws regarding piercing activities carried out in the Borough. Persons providing these services should be registered by the Local Authority and must comply with byelaws relating to these activities. At present there are various byelaws for the different piercing activities and it is proposed that these are consolidated into one set of byelaws covering the activities. This will enable a streamlined approach when dealing with new registrations and for those that carry out more than one activity. It allows efficiency within the administrative side of the service and improved, clear communication on the website. On the current byelaws for cosmetic piercing and semi-permanent skin colouring some amendments have been made to the original document, which are now incorrect.

## **7. Haverhill Golf Club: Request for Extension of Loan Arrangements**

*Forward Plan Reference: Dec10/17*  
*Cabinet Member: Cllr John Griffiths*

*Report B352*

**RECOMMENDED:- That**

- (1) the request for an extension to the current loan agreement with the Haverhill Golf Club to assistance in financing the upgrading of its car parking and disabled access facilities be supported; and**
- (2) financial assistance be provided by means of an 18 month loan repayment holiday, as outlined in paragraph 5.2(b) of Report B352 and in accordance with the aspirations of the Borough Council's Cultural Strategy.**

Haverhill Golf Club occupies a 118 acre site, of which 62 acres are leased from the Borough Council. The Club is looking to upgrade their existing car parking facilities at an estimated cost of £77,000. These improvements are designed to enhance the aesthetics of the Golf Club; provide for improved disabled access and address concerns raised by the Club's insurers regarding the condition of the car park surface.



The Club has approached the Borough Council to provide assistance with financing this project, through either:-

- (a) £50,000 top-up to an existing Council loan to the club; or
- (b) a loan repayment holiday of 18 months.

**(C) Democratic Renewal Working Party: 25 November 2010**

**Chairman of the Working Party: Councillor Mrs P A Warby**

**1. Member Development Update (Report B320)**

***RECOMMENDED:- That***

- (1) the disappointing result of the reassessment for the Member Development Charter be noted and the Democratic Renewal Working Party be authorised to initiate the necessary actions to rectify shortcomings when the Inspectors' full report is received;***
- (2) the possibility of sharing training with neighbouring authorities, particularly on regulatory issues, and sharing learning through a Members only 'sharepoint' website be explored; and***
- (3) the Induction Programme to be put in place following the Borough Council elections in May 2011 to include items outlined in paragraph 5.3 of Report B320 and a draft programme be presented to the next meeting of the Working Party.***

The re-assessment of the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) Elected Member Development Charter took place on Wednesday 27 October 2010 and unfortunately the Inspectors felt unable to re-issue the Charter.

Whilst they were impressed at the amount of development offered to Members across the Council in a number of ways, they felt that as only 14 Members (31%) completed the Training Needs Analysis (TNA) this year, with similar numbers being completed in previous years, and very few Members actually attend the training offered, there was not sufficient engagement of a high enough number of Members in development activities to qualify for the Charter.

The Inspectors suggested that, following the elections in May 2011, and following the induction period, the TNA is issued, perhaps sitting down with any Members who need more help to complete them and putting together individual development plans for those Members who would like this. If the Inspectors see a 60 to 70% return of this Analysis, they will be likely to award the Charter.

At a recent meeting of the Suffolk Learning and Development Officers Group, officers were asked to discuss with Members whether jointly received training should become more widespread, in particular in the area of regulatory training, and to debate any issues, benefits and barriers to joint training. The Suffolk Learning and Development Officers Group also discussed the sharing of Councillor to Councillor feedback on training or conferences attended, and whether a joint Councillor 'sharepoint' website would be of use, where Members across Suffolk could discuss issues within a limited access website. The Working Party considered that these two initiatives were worth exploring.

Following Borough Council elections in previous years an extensive Induction period has taken place, where Members are introduced to the workings of the Council, specialisms of Committees and other essential information. At its next meeting in February 2011 the Working Party will be presented with a draft Induction Programme for 2011/2012.

## **2. Adoption of New Executive Arrangements (Report B321)**

This report and recommendations of the Democratic Renewal Working Party will be considered at the Special Meeting of Council on 14 December 2010, which is being held immediately before this ordinary meeting of Council.

## **3. Community Governance Review: Final Proposals (Report B322)**

The Democratic Renewal Working Party considered Report B322 and endorsed the recommendations contained therein. The Chief Executive will progress the decisions taken by the Working Party in accordance with the resolution of full Council on 29 June 2010 (minute 29(D)(1) refers) namely that:-

*'the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Renewal Panel, be authorised to progress the review in accordance with the timetable in paragraph 4.4 of Report B32.'*

The delegated authority was agreed because the lead-in time for the publication of the register of electors is such that the changes had to be made before this meeting of Council in order to be reflected in the new register.

## **4. Proposed Parishing of Bury St Edmunds: Consultation Costs (Report B323)**

***RECOMMENDED:-***

***That the consultation to create a new parish for Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds not be undertaken at the present time.***

The Working Party had requested that a report be presented on the resources that would be involved if a full consultation on the proposal to parish Moreton Hall should be undertaken.

The implications for creating a new parish of Moreton Hall will have an effect across the whole of Bury St Edmunds, as it would be a move away from a town wide Council and residents in other areas of the town may wish to propose creating a similar new parish where they live. To carry out separate consultations as each new proposal comes forward will not be cost effective and, therefore, it will be judicious to include the whole town in the consultation process to allow all residents to put forward their views.

The following table gives an indication of the anticipated costs involved in a consultation such as this:-

<b>Description</b>	<b>Estimated cost</b>
Printing costs	£ 3,000
Postage costs	£ 7,500
Temporary staff costs	£ 4,200
<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>£14,700</b>

The above costs do not include any allowance for the time provided by permanent members of staff of the Elections Section.

There is no current budgetary provision for this consultation process, therefore, a growth bid would need to be put forward for consideration as part of the budget setting process if a decision was made to proceed with the consultation. This growth bid would need to be considered alongside other growth bids.

The Working Party concluded that the costs and the workload on staff could not be justified at present, but that this issue be reconsidered a later date.

## **5. Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel (Report B324)**

### ***RECOMMENDED:- That***

- (1) the Council undertake a recruitment process as outlined in Sections 1.4 and 2 of Report B324;***
- (2) the Council appoint a Selection Panel of three Members, plus a substitute Member, to advise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on the appointment of Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the terms and conditions of appointment; and***
- (3) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to seek candidates for the Independent Remuneration Panel and to determine its terms and conditions.***

The current Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel were appointed by full Council on 27 February 2007 (Minute 103 (E)(1) refers) and their term of office will cease at the end of January 2011. Therefore, consideration needs to be given as to the process of appointing a 'new' Panel.

In appointing the current Independent Remuneration Panel the Council undertook the following process:-

- (a) appointed a three Member Selection Panel;
- (b) advertised in the Bury Free Press and Haverhill Echo;
- (c) contacted local representative groups for nominations, e.g. Chamber of Commerce;
- (d) candidates completed an application form; and
- (e) Selection Panel called candidates for interview.

## **6. Amendment to the Constitution**

### ***RECOMMENDATIONS:-***

***That the following addition to the Council's Constitution be made to Part 3: Responsibility for Functions: Scheme of Delegation to Officers: Section G1 (a) Head of Planning and Economic Development:-***

***38. In respect of Part 8 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 with reference to High Hedges:-***

- (i) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Chief Finance Officer, review and set the fees to be charged;***
- (ii) to serve High Hedge enforcement notices where determinations have not been complied with;***
- (iii) to enter land in the course of dealing with complaints, appeals and enforcement;***
- (iv) to prepare and deliver the Council's case where an appeal against a determination has been lodged; and***
- (v) to determine a complaint and to issue a decision.***

The amendment to the Constitution is the addition of (v) above.

For further information please contact:-

Steven Lincoln, Committee Services Manager

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**St Edmundsbury Borough Council  
Local Development Framework  
Core Strategy Development Plan Document**

**Adoption Statement  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

In accordance with Regulation 24(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and Regulation 36 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004, St Edmundsbury Borough Council resolved to formally adopt its Core Strategy Development Plan Document on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

The Core Strategy sets out a vision, objectives, spatial strategy and overarching policies to guide development in the borough up to 2031. This document forms part of the St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework.

An Independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government examined the Core Strategy, with hearings held in April and May 2010. The Inspector's Report, with its recommendations, was published on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2010. The adopted Core Strategy contains the Inspector's recommendations that are binding on the Council.

Copies of this Adoption Statement, the Core Strategy, the Habitats Regulations Assessment (Screening), the Sustainability Appraisal, the Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement and the Inspector's Report are available for public inspection on the Council's website at [www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk](http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk) and also at the following venues:

**St Edmundsbury Borough Council Offices**

- **West Suffolk House**, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3YU (Mon-Fri 8.45-5.00)
- **Haverhill Council Offices**, Lower Down Slade, Haverhill, CB9 9EE (Mon-Thurs 9.00-5.00 Fri 9.00-4.00)

**Public Libraries**

- **Bury St Edmunds Library**, Sergeants Walk, St Andrews Street North, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1TZ Tel 01284 732 255.

Bury St Edmunds Library Opening Times	
Monday	8.30am - 5.30pm
Tuesday	8.30am - 7.30pm
Wednesday	8.30am - 5.30pm
Thursday	8.30am - 5.30pm
Friday	8.30am - 7.30pm
Saturday	8.30am - 5.00pm
Sunday	10.00am - 4.00pm

- **Clare Library**, The Guild Hall, High Street, Clare, CO10 8NY Tel 01787 277 702

Clare Library Opening Times	
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10.00am - 1.00pm and 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Wednesday	10.00am - 1.00pm and 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	2.00pm - 6.30pm
Saturday	9.30am - 1.00pm
Sunday	11.00am - 4.00pm

- **Haverhill Library**, Camps Road, Haverhill, CB9 8HB  
Tel 01440 702 638.

Haverhill Library Opening Times	
Monday	9.00am - 1.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am - 7.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am - 1.00pm and 4.00pm - 6.00pm
Thursday	9.00am - 7.00pm
Friday	9.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday	9.00am - 4.30pm
Sunday	10.00am - 4.00pm

- **Ixworth Library**, Village Hall, High Street, Ixworth, IP31 2HH.  
Tel 01359 231 493.

Ixworth Library Opening Times	
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10.30am - 12.30pm and 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Wednesday	5.30pm - 7.30pm
Thursday	10.30am - 12.30pm and 2.00pm - 5.30pm
Friday	10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 5.30pm
Saturday	10.30am - 1.00pm
Sunday	11.00am - 4.00pm

- **Kedington Library**, Community Centre, Arms Lane, Kedington, CB9 7QQ  
Tel 01440 703 449.

Kedington Library Opening Times	
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	2.00pm - 5.00pm and 5.30pm - 7.30pm
Wednesday	9.00am - 1.00pm and 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Thursday	11.00am - 1.00pm and 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	9.00am - 1.00pm
Sunday	1.00pm - 5.00pm

Any person aggrieved by the Core Strategy Development Plan Document may make an application to the High Court under Section 113 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 on the grounds that:

- (a) the document is not within the appropriate powers, and/or;
- (b) a procedural requirement has not been complied with.

An application under Section 113 must be made no later than the end of the six weeks of the date of the adoption of this Core Strategy, i.e. by 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

**St Edmundsbury Borough Council Local Development Framework**

**Core Strategy Development Plan Document**

**Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Adoption  
Statement**

**(Statement under Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans  
and Programmes Regulations 2004)**

St Edmundsbury Borough Council adopted the Core Strategy Development Plan Document on 14th December 2010. In accordance with Regulation 16 (3) and (4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 the Council has produced this statement which sets out the following;

1. How the environmental considerations have been integrated into the Core Strategy;
2. How the environmental report has been taken into account;
3. How opinions expressed and results of public consultation have been taken into account;
4. The reasons for choosing the Core Strategy as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
5. The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Core Strategy.

**1. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Core Strategy**

- 1.1 One of the key requirements for the preparation of the Core Strategy was undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal was to promote sustainable development through the better integration of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) considerations in the preparation of the plan. This preparation of the Appraisal ensured that the requirements of EU Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 have been fully met and incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal.
- 1.2 The Sustainability Appraisal Report (SA Report), prepared to accompany the Core Strategy Submission Document, built on the earlier SA work undertaken by the Council for the SA Scoping Report, the initial SA of the Core Strategy Issues and Options document (March 2008) and the SA Report of the Core Strategy Preferred Options and Strategic Sites document (November 2008).
- 1.3 Following the Examination in Public, the Inspector reported on 24 August 2010 that, with the inclusion of a small number of changes to the policies, the Core Strategy Submission document would be found sound. These changes were relatively minor and do not materially alter the substance of the overall plan and its policies. For this reason it is considered that the original Sustainability Appraisal has not been undermined and is still valid. However, where there have been changes to the policies, the original sustainability assessment has been updated as necessary. This update forms Section 10 of

the final SA Report. The key stages in the preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal are summarised in Table 1 below;

**Table 1 – Key SA Tasks and Outputs**

<b>Task / Output</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Draft SA Scoping Report	October 2006	Report considered available data and experience of council officers/LDF and took into account responses to an informal consultation, undertaken between December 2004 and January 2005 with the statutory bodies, relevant Primary Care Trusts, EERA, Suffolk Development Agency, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and other local authority services.
Consultation	October 2006	Natural England, English Nature, English Heritage, Suffolk Primary Care Trust, EERA, East of England Development Agency, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk County Council and GO–East were consulted on the draft SA Scoping Report.
Updated SA Scoping Report	April 2007	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report completed.
Draft Core Strategy Issues and Options Initial Sustainability Appraisal	March 2008	The document included the compatibility assessment of the Core Strategy objectives and appraisal of five identified potential options for the distribution of growth in the borough.
Consultation	March/April 2008	A wide variety of public/stakeholder events. 30 responses made in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal.
Core Strategy Preferred Options and Strategic Sites Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal	November 2008	The document included the appraisal of draft Core Strategy policies and Development Control Policies including options for the location of strategic growth.
Consultation	November 2008 – January 2009	A wide public consultation. 40 comments were received in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal.
Submission Core Strategy Document SA Report	July 2009	The Submission Core Strategy SA Report reviewed and updated information previously presented in the SA Scoping Report, Issues and Options Initial SA and Core Strategy Preferred Options and Strategic Sites Issues and Options SA and presents the appraisal of the final set of the Core Strategy policies.
Consultation	August 2009 – October 2009	There was an eight week consultation on the Core Strategy and SA Report. Four comments were received.



Task / Output	Date	Comments
Examination in Public and Inspector's Report	Report received 24 August 2010	The Core Strategy underwent Examination in Public. The Inspector found the Core Strategy to be Sound, subject to some minor alterations.
Final SA Report	September 2010	Following minor amendments to the Core Strategy arising from the Inspector's comments, the SA Report has been updated

## 2. How the environmental report has been taken into account

2.1 There were a number of stages to the development of the Sustainability Appraisal throughout the production of the Core Strategy and at each stage in the process. At each stage the emerging Core Strategy was subject to a thorough assessment against the Sustainability Objectives, which were identified through the Sustainability Environmental Assessment framework prepared by the Suffolk Sustainability Appraisal Group for all Suffolk authorities, but were locally adapted to reflect the specific characteristics of St Edmundsbury. The final SA report demonstrates how sustainability objectives have been taken into account and integrated into the final Core Strategy. The stages followed in the preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal are set out in table 1 above and are supplemented by the additional information set out below:

### Stage 1 – Scoping

- Identifying other plans, programmes and sustainability objectives which inform and influence the development of the Core Strategy DPD;
- Establishing an understanding of the social, environmental and economic conditions of St Edmundsbury (the baseline);
- Identifying key sustainability issues in the borough;
- Outlining SA objectives against which to later evaluate the Core Strategy DPD policies;
- Gathering consultation feedback on the SA's proposed breadth of coverage and level of detail.

### Stage 2 – Issues and Options

- An assessment was carried out on a series of spatial strategic options and reported in the initial SA of Core Strategy Issues and Options document (March 2008).

### Stage 3 – Preferred Options

- An assessment was carried out on a set of draft policies and strategic sites and reported in the SA Report of the Core Strategy Preferred Options and Strategic Sites document (November 2008).

#### **Stage 4 - Submission Stage**

- Taking into account the revised policy wording resulting from the Preferred Options consultation, a further iteration of assessment of policies contained in the Core Strategy Submission document was undertaken and reported (see Section 9 of the final SA report).

#### **Stage 5**

- Following the Inspector's comments (received August 2010) and changes to policy wording a further assessment was undertaken (see Section 10 of the final SA report)

2.2 At each stage the sustainability appraisals were assessed and measures taken forward to refine and improve the sustainability of the plan. This is all recorded in the final SA report.

### **3. How opinions expressed and results of public consultation have been taken into account**

#### **Scoping Report**

- 3.1 To meet the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, local planning authorities must seek the views of the three statutory environmental consultation bodies on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information to be included SA report: English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency.
- 3.2 As a result of the Directive, Suffolk Sustainability Appraisal Group (SSAG) undertook informal consultation on its SA objectives, indicators and baseline data early on in December 2004 and January 2005. Consultation was also undertaken with the statutory bodies as well as Primary Care Trusts, East of England Regional Assembly, Suffolk Development Agency, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and other local authority services. Comments received were used to assist shaping the generic SA framework for Suffolk.
- 3.3 Consultation was also undertaken on the St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework draft scoping document with the three statutory bodies, other St Edmundsbury Borough Council services as well as other statutory consultees. These comments, and any amendments which were made to the scoping report, are attached at Appendix E in the Appendices section of the final SA report.

#### **Issues and Options Consultation**

- 3.4 The initial Sustainability Appraisal was published alongside the Issues and Options Core Strategy document for consultation in March/April 2008. A number of comments were received which, along with any amendments that were made, are attached at Appendix F in the Appendices section of the final SA report.

## **Preferred Options and Strategic Sites Issues and Options Consultation**

- 3.5 The Preferred Options Sustainability Appraisal and the initial appraisal of locations for growth were published for consultation in November 2008. The comments received and how they were dealt with is included in Appendix G of the Appendices section of the final SA report.

### **Submission Consultation**

- 3.6 The final Sustainability Appraisal was published alongside the Submission Core Strategy in August 2009 for consultation. Comments on the final SA were received from four organisations. These were sent to the independent Planning Inspector for his consideration during the examination of the Core Strategy.

## **4. The reasons for choosing the Core Strategy as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with**

- 4.1 At each stage the SA involved testing the options presented in the Core Strategy against the sustainability objectives. The results of the SA help to inform which of the options should be taken forward to the next stages of the document and formulated into policies. An outline of how the assessment was undertaken at each stage of the development of the Core Strategy is set out in section 8 of the final SA report.
- 4.2 During the early stages of the preparation of the Core Strategy a number of options were put forward in the Core Strategy Issues and Options document for the spatial growth of the borough. The SA of the Issues and Options Core Strategy identified varying degrees of sustainability across the options which are summarised in section 8 of the final SA. The conclusions were that a combination of growth in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill (option 2) and regeneration of Haverhill growth (option 3) with some elements of option 1 (Business as usual) to ensure some growth in the larger rural settlements would be the most sustainable. The strategy of locating most growth in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill was taken forward into the Core Strategy Preferred Options document and was subsequently followed through into the Submission Core Strategy document.
- 4.3 The Core Strategy Preferred Options and Strategic Sites Issues and Options document presented a range of options for the strategic growth around Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill. The Sustainability Appraisal of these options is summarised in section 8 of the final SA. All of the sites were found to have some sustainable and some unsustainable factors.
- 4.4 It is considered that the Core Strategy as adopted presents the most sustainable approach to the future planning of the borough. The Inspector's report, following the examination into the Submission Core Strategy states at paragraph 3.3 that 'reasonable alternatives have been considered' and that

'...there is a clear audit trail for the overall spatial strategy from the Issues and Options Document, through the Preferred Options Document to the Core Strategy with an assessment of the options included in the Sustainability Appraisal.'

## **5. The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme**

- 5.1 The process of Sustainability Appraisal has identified a range of sustainability effects and indicators which will require monitoring as part of the implementation of the document.
- 5.2 Appendix 7 of the final Core Strategy sets out monitoring targets and indicators through which the document will be monitored. This monitoring will be undertaken through the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) which is the monitoring framework to be submitted to the Government at the end of each calendar year.
- 5.3 The monitoring programme set out in Appendix 7 of the Core Strategy was based on the proposed monitoring programme set out in table 12.1 of the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal.
- 5.4 Where it can be shown through monitoring that a policy is not delivering what was intended or key targets are not being met, then remedial action may require a review of the Core Strategy or subsequent parts of the Local Development Framework.