

Enquiries regarding this Agenda:-
Steven Lincoln (01284) 757108

Democratic Renewal Panel

***Thursday 12 February 2009 at 5.30 pm in the
Committee Room, Borough Offices, Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds***

CONSTITUTION: *Chairman: Councillor P S Farmer*
 Vice-Chairman: Councillor Mrs P A Warby

Conservative *Other*
Members (6) *Member (1)*

Clifton-Brown *Bradbury (Liberal Democrat)*
Cox
Farmer
Hale
Oliver
Mrs P A Warby

SUBSTITUTES:

Conservative *Other*
Members (2) *Member (1)*

Rout *Jones (Liberal Democrat)*
Stevens

QUORUM: *3 Members*

<p><i>Please switch off mobile phones during the meeting, unless exceptional circumstances require otherwise.</i></p>
--

Agenda

***This Panel is not covered by the Local Government (Access to Information)
Act 1985 or the Access to Information Rules in the Council's Constitution.
Therefore, there is no automatic right of access for the press or public to its
meetings.***

1. Substitutes

Any Member who is substituting for another Member should so indicate together with the name of the relevant absent Member.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2008 (copy attached).

4. Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached and, when appropriate, to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.

5. Community Governance Review: Hepworth Parish Council

Report **Z533** attached.

6. The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill

Attached as **Paper Z534** is a briefing note outlining the provisions of this Bill, several aspects of which are of relevance to the remit of the Panel. Members will note that the Government intends to publish additional guidance in relation to several of the provisions of this Bill. This briefing note is brought to the Panel for information so that Panel Members are aware of its existence. Officers will keep a watching brief and bring back to the Panel issues of relevance when further details are known or when changes to the Constitution or democratic practices are required.

The Panel is asked to **NOTE** Paper Z534, The Briefing Note on the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill.

7. Changing Council Governance Arrangements: Government Consultation Paper

Report **Z535** attached.

8. Member Development: Request from Bury St Edmunds Town Council

The Clerk to Bury St Edmunds Town Council has contacted officers to enquire whether, where suitable opportunities arise, consideration could be given to extending attendance at St Edmundsbury Member Development events to Members of the Town Council. Whilst there are clearly some types of development event to which it would not be appropriate to extend an invitation beyond St Edmundsbury Members other events, particular skills based workshops, could be easily opened up more widely if there is space available. An appropriate portion of the cost of staging the event (where costs are incurred) would then be recharged to the Town Council. Members of the Panel will recall that in the past there have been occasions when spare capacity at skills workshops has been shared with colleagues from other district councils. If the Panel endorses this approach, consideration should be given to establishing if other town and parish councils would also wish to be given the opportunity to take up places.

If the Panel are supportive of this approach it is asked to **RECOMMEND** to Council:- That

- (1) spare capacity at appropriate Member Development events be made available to Members of Bury St Edmunds Town Council and other town/parish councils on payment of a recharge for any costs incurred; and
- (2) where there is any doubt as to the appropriateness of extending such an invitation that officers consult with the Chairman of the Democratic Renewal Panel and the Portfolio Holder for Performance and Organisational Development.

9. Dates of Future Meetings

Thursday 19 March 2009 at 5.30 pm, as previously notified.
Tuesday 19 May 2009 at 5.30 pm.