

## **Forest Heath District Council**

Cabinet Decisions Notice (Published: Thursday 15 December 2016)

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet on **Tuesday 13 December 2016** and, if not called in by Councillors, will come into operation on Friday 23 December 2016. This procedure does not however, apply to decisions that have been recommended to Council for a final decision (and which are also indicated within the decisions below). An executive decision may be called in, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules contained within Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, by at least five Councillors submitting the required call-in request form to the Head of HR, Legal and Democratic Services (e-mail: <a href="mailto:democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk">democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>) by 5.00 pm on Thursday 22 December 2016.

Should you have a query regarding any of the decisions taken, contact should be made with the named officer in the first instance, either on the telephone number listed against their name, or via email using the format <a href="mailto:firstname.surname@westsuffolk.gov.uk">firstname.surname@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>. Alternatively, you may also contact the relevant Portfolio Holder on the telephone number listed against their name, or via email using the format <a href="mailto:firstname.surname@forest-heath.gov.uk">firstname.surname@forest-heath.gov.uk</a>. Contact may also be made via Democratic Services, Forest Heath District Council, District Offices, College Heath Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 7EY

Agenda Item and Report No.	Declarations of Interest/ Dispensations Granted	Decision(s) (including recommendations to Council)	Reason(s) for Decision(s)	Other Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection	Contacts
Item No. 5 CAB/FH/16/052	None	Report of the Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 20 October 2016  RESOLVED:  That the contents of Report No: CAB/FH/16/052, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.	The report set out the decisions which had been made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 20 October 2016.	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the options in detail at their meeting on 20 October 2016.	Chairman of Committee: Cllr Simon Cole 07974 443762  Portfolio Holder: Cllr Lance Stanbury 07970 947704  Officer: Christine Brain Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) 01638 719729

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Item No. 6 CAB/FH/16/053	None	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 10 November 2016  RESOLVED:  That the content of Report No: CAB/FH/16/053, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.	The report set out the decisions which had been made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 10 November 2016.	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the options in detail at their meeting on 10 November 2016.	Chairman of the Committee: Cllr Simon Cole 07974 443762  Officer: Christine Brain Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny)
Item No. 7 CAB/FH/16/054	None	Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 10 November 2016: Barley Homes Five Year Business Plan  RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: (21 December 2016)  That:- 1. The five year Business Plan, attached at Exempt Appendix A to Report No: OAS/FH/16/030, be approved.  2. A £3m revolving investment facility, to be added to the Council's capital programme, financed from the reallocation of the "Housing Company" pending capital budget of £3m, be	The Cabinet acknowledged that the primary function of Barley Homes was to generate profits through the development of new housing for sale and rent, on land owned by one of the Councils initially in West Suffolk. The establishment of the housing company was one of the many ways that the Council was looking to become self-sufficient through new income generation activities, as central government grants were reduced and would eventually be removed.  The Cabinet, therefore, supported the initial five year Business Plan and had recommended approval to Council so that the functions of Barley Homes could progress.	No other options have been considered or rejected as a Business Plan was required in order for funding to be approved.	Portfolio Holder: Cllr Sara Mildmay-White West Suffolk Lead Member for Housing 01284 702212 sara.mildmay. white@stedsbc. gov.uk  Officer: Rachael Mann Head of Resources and Performance 01638 719245

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		approved.  3. Delegation be given to the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Resources and Performance and Housing to issue equity and loan funding from the revolving investment facility (set out in 2. above) subject to state aid requirements.  4. The S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, be authorised to negotiate and agree the terms of such loans with Barley Homes and the funding and necessary legal agreements, taking into consideration the Council's loans policy and state aid requirements.			
		5. Approval of the Business Plan will constitute consent for Barley Homes to issue shares and enter into debt financing, in line with the Business Plan, be noted.			

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Item No. 8 CAB/FH/16/055	None	Report of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: 24 November 2016  RESOLVED:  That the contents of Report No: CAB/FH/16/055, being the report of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, be noted.	The report set out the decisions which had been made by the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 24 November 2016.	The Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee had considered the options in detail at their meeting on 24 November 2016.	Chairman of the Committee: Cllr Louis Busuttil 01638 810517  Portfolio Holder: Cllr Stephen Edwards 01638 660518  Officer: Christine Brain Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) 01638 719729
Item No. 9 CAB/FH/16/056	None	Recommendations of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee - 24 November 2016: Delivering a Sustainable Budget Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/2020 RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: (21 December 2016)  That:- 1. The proposals, as detailed in Section 5 and Table 2 at paragraph 5.1 of Report No: PAS/FH/16/032, be included, in securing a balanced budget for 2017-2018.	Having taken the current and future financial pressures and challenges facing Forest Heath District Council into account, including the budget gap, budget assumptions, proposed timetable, the methodology for securing a balanced budget in 2017/2018, pending project proposals and the capital programme 2017/2020, the Cabinet considered the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's recommendations were acceptable for putting forward to Council.	Other options for securing a balanced budget in 2017/2018 and sustainable Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/2020 could be proposed and considered by Members. They would however, need to take into account core principles such as deliverability,	Chairman of the Committee: Cllr Louis Busuttil 01638 810517  Portfolio Holder: Cllr Stephen Edwards 01638 660518  Officer: Rachael Mann Head of Resources and Performance

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		<ol> <li>The items as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of Report No: PAS/FH/16/032 are treated as pending budgets that will require the necessary approvals before they can be committed.</li> <li>The items as detailed in paragraph 5.5 and Table 3 of Report No: PAS/FH/16/032 be removed from the capital programme.</li> <li>The reserve transfers as detailed in paragraph 5.7 and Table 4 of Report No: PAS/FH/16/032, be approved.</li> </ol>		affordability and risk.	01638 719245
Item No. 10 CAB/FH/16/057	None	Recommendations of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee - 24 November 2016: Mid-Year Treasury Management Report and Investment Activity (April to September 2016)  RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: (21 December 2016)  That the Mid-Year Treasury Management Report 2016-2017, attached at Appendix 1 to Report No: PAS/FH/16/033, be	The Council was required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice to approve a current mid year review of the treasury services against the adopted annual strategy.	Options for the management of Council investments were formally considered within the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy. This included key strategies in respect of the	Chairman of the Committee: Cllr Louis Busuttil 01638 810517  Portfolio Holder: Cllr Stephen Edwards 01638 660518  Officer: Rachael Mann Head of

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		approved.		maintenance of the Council's debt free status, the continuation of inhouse management of funds and the approach to be adopted in establishing the creditworthiness of potential counterparties. The changing nature of the economic climate required that key areas were subject to on-going review.	Resources and Performance 01638 719245
Item No. 11 CAB/FH/16/058	None	Recommendations of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee - 10 October 2016: Training for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers  RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: (21 December 2016)  That the results of the recent consultation with Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Drivers and taxi customers on	The Cabinet considered it acceptable to require new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle drivers to undertake the complete BTEC Level 2 training course. However, the Cabinet considered it was too onerous to place the expectation on existing drivers to undertake this full courses, particularly if they had held their licence for a long period of years without	(i) It would be possible not to implement the requirements for training, however, this would man that taxi and private hire drivers were not trained to a consistent standard in	Chairman of the Committee: Cllr Michael Anderson 01638 601624  Portfolio Holder: Cllr Lance Stanbury 07970 947704

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		the proposal to adopt a BTEC Level 2 Certificate 'Introduction to the role of Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver', as detailed in Report No: LIC/FH/16/006, be noted and;  1. The change in requirements for all new drivers to complete the BTEC Level 2 Certificate be approved; and additionally  2. (a) Existing drivers be required to attend half- day training covering specific issues of concern including safeguarding vulnerable people, assisting customers with disabilities and customer care provided at no cost to attendees; and  (b) The Disciplinary Code for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles be amended to reflect that should existing drivers fail to comply with 2. (a)	incident or complaint.  To address some of the views that were expressed by Members in relation to the requirement for existing drivers to undertake the qualification, the Cabinet supported the additional recommendation put forward by the Officers, whereby existing drivers would instead be asked to attend a half-day training course, which would cover safeguarding of vulnerable people, customer care and assisting customers with disabilities.	various aspects relevant to the safe transportation of customers, as referred to in Report No: LIC/FH/16/006.  (ii) Only require taxi and private hire drivers to undergo safeguarding training. However, this would mean that drivers were not trained in the other relevant topics referred to in Report No; LIC/FH/16/006.	Officer: Peter Gudde Service Manager Environmental Health 01284 757042

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		above, this would constitute a contravention of this Code, and as a consequence, he/she will be required to obtain the full BTEC Level 2 Certificate referred to in 1. above.			
Item No. 12 CAB/FH/16/059	None	Recommendations of the Local Plan Working Group - 28 November 2016: Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR), Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) Submission Documents and Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)  RESOLVED: That:-  1. Responses to consultation and engagement on the Preferred Option Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR), Preferred Options Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) and Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) (Report No: LOP/FH/16/011) That:- (a) The responses, comments and actions as set out in Working	Report No: LOP/FH/16/011 The report set out the representations, responses, comments and actions which had been made on the Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR), the Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) documents and the Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), following the public consultation which had been held between April and July 2016.  Report No: LOP/FH/16/012 Working Paper 1 to this report was the final 'Submission' (Regulation 19) CS SIR consultation document. This statutory Local Plan document confirmed the district's overall housing need over the period 2011-2031 and how that housing need was distributed	Report No: LOP/FH/16/011  Options for progressing the SIR and SSA Local Plan documents were considered by the Local Plan Working Group on 16 October 2014.  Housing Options Paper was considered and endorsed by the Local Plan Working Group on 22 April 2015.  CS SIR and SSA Local Plan documents and	Chairman of the Working Group: Cllr Rona Burt 01638 712309  Portfolio Holder: Cllr Lance Stanbury 07970 947704  Officer: Marie Smith Strategic Planning Manager 01638 719260

and Report of Interest/ No. Dispensations Granted	recommendations to Council)	Reason(s) for Decision(s)	Other Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection	Contacts
	Paper 1 (Core Strategy Policy CS7 Single Issue Review), Working Paper 2 (Site Allocations Local Plan Preferred Options) and Working Paper 3 (Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan) to Report No: LOP/FH/16/011 be endorsed, subject to the following amendment to Working Paper 2:  • Representations 24341 (page 66) and 24342 (page 69) (The Trustees of the E G Lambton 1974 Settlement) (Site N/18 George Lambton Playing Fields)  The following sentence be deleted under the 'Council's Assessment':  "In addition, as located off Fordham Road, development of	among the settlements.  The final Regulation 19 consultation would be focused on whether the document was a 'legally compliant' and 'sound' document. The consultation would ask the public and stakeholders specific questions required by the Planning Inspectorate and required that representations considered whether the tests of soundness had been met. Subject to approval by Council, it was proposed for this consultation to take place from 10 January to 21 February 2017.  Report No: LOP/FH/16/013 Working Paper 1 was the Site Allocations Local Plan Submission document. It superseded and updated the 2015 and 2016 consultation documents and set out the Council's sites for housing, employment and other uses to 2031.  The final Regulation 19 consultation would be focused on whether the document was a	support documents were considered by the Local Plan Working Group on 15 and 18 February 2016 and agreed by Cabinet on 1 March 2016 for consultation Working Papers 1, 2, and 3 set out summary representations and responses to the Preferred Option Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR), Preferred Options Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) and Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) held concurrently between April	

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		this large site is likely to raise similar concerns to those recently upheld by the SoS for the development of Hatchfield Farm."  (b) The Head of Planning and Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Local Plan Working Group, be authorised to make any minor typographical, factual, spelling and grammatical changes to the Officer responses.  RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: (21 December 2016) (Decisions 2. and 3. below are not subject to call-in)  That:-  2. Core Strategy Single Issue Review (CS SIR) Submission Document (Regulation 19)	'legally compliant' and 'sound' document. The consultation would ask the public and stakeholders specific questions required by the Planning Inspectorate and required that representations considered whether the tests of soundness had been met. Subject to approval by Council, it was proposed for this consultation to take place from 10 January to 21 February 2017.	and July 2016.  Report No: LOP/FH/16/012 - Options for progressing the SIR Local Plan document were considered by the Local Plan Working Group on 16 October 2014 Housing Options Paper was considered and endorsed by the Local Plan Working Group on 22 April 2015 CS SIR Local Plan document and the accompanying SEA/SA and supporting documents were considered by the Local Plan Working Group on 30 June	

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		(Report No: LOP/FH/16/012)  (a) The Core Strategy Single Issue Review (CS SIR) Submission document (Regulation 19), as set out in Working Paper 1 to Report No: LOP/FH/16/012, be endorsed.  (b) The Core Strategy Single Issue Review (CS SIR) Submission document (as set out in Working Paper 1 to Report No: LOP/FH/16/012) and accompanying Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)/Sustainability Appraisal (SA), together with supporting documents, be approved for Regulation 19 consultation.  (c) The Head of Planning and Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for		2015 and agreed by Cabinet on 14 July 2015 for consultation.  - CS SIR Sustainability Appraisal of Housing Distribution Options were considered by the Local Plan Working Group on 19 January 2016.  - CS SIR Preferred Options Local Plan document was considered by the Local Plan Working Group on 15 February 2016 and agreed by Cabinet on 1 March 2016 for consultation.  Report No:  LOP/FH/16/013  - Options for progressing the	

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		Planning and Growth and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Local Plan Working Group, be given delegated authority to submit the Core Strategy Submission document, all representations received to it during the final consultation and supporting documents, to the Secretary of State for independent Examination, subject to there being no material issues raised by consultees at the final consultation stage which require further consideration/modificat ions to the CS SIR.  (d) The Head of Planning and Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the		SALP were considered by the Local Plan Working Group on 16 October 2014.  - Housing Options Paper was considered and endorsed by the Local Plan Working Group on 22 April 2015.  - SALP Local Plan Document and the accompanying SEA/SA and supporting documents were considered by the Local Plan Working Group on 30 June 2015 and agreed by Cabinet on 14 July 2015 for consultation SALP and	

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		Group, be authorised to make any minor typographical, factual, spelling and grammatical changes to the document, provided that it does not materially affect the substance or meaning.  3. Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) Submission Document (Regulation 19) (Report No: LOP/FH/16/013) (a) The Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) Submission document (Regulation 19) as set out in Working Paper 1 to Report No: LOP/FH/16/013, be endorsed.  (b) The Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) Submission document (as set out in Working Paper 1 to Report No: LOP/FH/16/013) and accompanying SEA/SA, together with supporting documents,		documents were considered by the Local Plan Working Group on 18 February 2016 and agreed by Cabinet on 1 March 2016 for consultation.	

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		be approved for Regulation 19 consultation.  (c) The Head of Planning and Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Local Plan Working Group, be given delegated authority to submit the Site Allocations Local Plan Submission document, all representations received to it during the final consultation and supporting documents, to the Secretary of State for independent Examination, subject to there being no material issues raised by consultees at the final consultation stage which require further consideration/modificat ions to the SALP.			

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		(d) The Head of Planning and Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Local Plan Working Group, be authorised to make any minor typographical, factual, spelling and grammatical changes to the document, provided that it does not materially affect the substance or meaning.			
Item No. 13 CAB/FH/16/060	None	Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Technical Changes 2017/2018  RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: (21 December 2016)  That no change be made to the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme or Council Tax Technical Changes for 2017/2018, as detailed in Section 5 of Report No: CAB/FH/16/060.	From 1 April 2015, the Government replaced Council Tax Benefit with a Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS), which meant that Forest Heath District Council had to decide upon a local means tested scheme to replace Council Tax Benefit.  Based on the overall findings of the scheme's review, as outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of the report, the Cabinet had	Looking at the scheme in isolation, changing the current LCTR scheme was not required from a financial perspective, as the current schemes were operating effectively, delivering a costneutral position.	Portfolio Holder: Cllr Stephen Edwards 01638 660518  Officers: Paul Corney Head of ARP 01842 756437 paul.corney@ angliarevenues.g ov.uk

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			recommended to Council that the LCTR scheme continued in its current form, including applying the current 2016/2017 level of applicable amounts within the LCTRS for 2017/2018.	Members could reduce the maximum level of discount under the LCTR scheme to generate additional revenue for the Council to assist towards delivery of Council services as a result of the wider financial pressures, Providing a maximum of 90% discount (a reduction of 1.5% discount for working age claimants as the current scheme was 91.5%) would generate an additional £2,900 for Forest Heath (based on 9.4% share).  Members could reduce the discount available for empty	Rachael Mann Head of Resources and Performance 01638 719245

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				properties and uninhabitable properties to generate additional revenue to generate additional revenue for the Council to assist towards delivery of Council services. Complete removal of the current discounts/exempti ons around Class A and C properties would generate £21,000 for Forest Heath (based on 9.6% share).	
Item No. 14 CAB/FH/16/061	None	Council Tax Base for Tax Setting Purposes 2017/2018  RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: (21 December 2016)  That:- 1. The tax base for 2017/2018, for the whole of Forest Heath is 17,575.33 equivalent Band 'D' dwellings, as detailed in paragraph 1.4 of Report No:	The Council was required to set out the basis of the formal calculation of the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2017/2018.	As it was a statutory requirement, no other options were considered.	Portfolio Holder: Cllr Stephen Edwards 01638 660518  Officer: Rachael Mann Head of Resources and Performance 01638 719245

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		CAB/FH/16/061.  2. The tax base for 2017/2018 for the different parts of its area, as defined by parish or special expense area boundaries, are as shown in Appendix 2 of Report No: CAB/FH/16/061.			
Item No. 15 CAB/FH/16/062	Cllr Robin Millar (Declared interest as Member of the Abundant Life Church; and Friend is associated with Our Special Friends)	Allocation of Community Chest Funding 2017/2018  RESOLVED:  That:- (1) The allocation of funding from the Community Chest be noted as follows: 1. Alumah 2017-2018 £3,700  2. Arts For Us 2017-2018 £9,520  3. Fresh Start: New Beginnings 2017-2018 £10,000  4. Our Special Friends 2017-2018 £6,000  5. Rural Coffee Caravan 2017/2018 £3,210	Applications for Community Chest Funding for 2017/2018 closed on 30 September 2016. A total of 23 applications were received from a wide variety of organisations.  In determining this year's allocation, each application was assessed against the Scheme's criteria and it was considered that 14 applications met this and should be allocated funding.	The Council could chose not to provide any grant funding. However, it was recognised that some support to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector was required. The Community Chest also enabled the Council to commission services to support the delivery of the Families and Communities priorities.	Portfolio Holder: Cllr Robin Millar 07939 100937  Officer: Davina Howes Head of Families and Communities 01284 757070

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		6. Suffolk West Citizens Advice (MoneySmart) 2017/2018 £27,192			
		7. The Volunteer Network 2017/18 £10,299.33 2018/19 £10,299.33 2019/20 £10,299.33			
		8. Unit Twenty Three 2017/2018 £5,000			
		(2) The Head of Families and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities (and in relation to Item 9. below (Abundant Life Church), in consultation with the Leader of the Council) to approve the funding allocated to the organisations listed below, with the total sum allocated being no more than £63,976.67:			
		<ol> <li>Abundant Life Church</li> <li>ActivLives</li> <li>FamilyCarersNet</li> <li>HomeStart         (Lakenheath)</li> <li>Sharing Parenting</li> </ol>			

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		14. YOPEY Befriending			
Item No. 16 CAB/FH/16/063	None	Location Filming in Suffolk  RESOLVED:  That delegated authority be granted to Film Fixer Ltd (trading as Screen Suffolk) to issue permissions for filming in West Suffolk and to collect film fees for activity on Council land and premises on behalf of Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council, as detailed in Report No: CAB/FH/16/063.	The Cabinet agreed that it was a sensible approach and had granted delegated authority to Film Fixer Ltd (trading as Screen Suffolk) to streamline and provide a common process for granting permissions for filming in the county on Council-owned land and premises. This proposal had been presented to the District, Borough and County Councils across Suffolk for approval.	The Council could choose to retain control of permissions to filming companies without Screen Suffolk. However, confusion for location managers could remain as they were not necessarily familiar with Council boundaries and were faced with a plethora of different permissions, processes and fee structures across the county.	Portfolio Holder: Cllr Lance Stanbury 07970 947704  Officers: Andrea Mayley Service Manager (Development and Growth) 01284 757343  Jonathan Miles Senior Growth Officer 01284 757128

Karen Points Head of HR, Legal and Democratic Services 15 December 2016