

West Suffolk Council

Cabinet Decisions Notice

(Published: Thursday 20 October 2022)

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday 18 October 2022 and, if not called in by councillors, will come into operation on Friday 28 October 2022. 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 Director (Human Resources, Governance and Regulatory) (e-mail: democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk) **by 5.00 pm on Thursday 27 October 2022**. Should you have a query regarding any of the decisions taken, contact should be made with the named officer in the first instance, the relevant portfolio holder or via Democratic Services, West Suffolk Council, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk, IP33 3YU.

Agenda item and report number	Declarations of interest	Decision(s) (including recommendations to Council)	Reason(s) for decision(s)	Other options considered and reasons for rejection	Contacts
Item 10 CAB/WS/22/052	None	<p>West Suffolk Council Taxi Fees and Charges</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>That the new scale of fees for the granting of taxi licences for implementation from 3 April 2023, be approved.</p>	<p>West Suffolk Council, as the licensing authority, was responsible for processing and issuing licences for private hire and hackney carriage vehicles, as well as combined driver’s licences. The fees for the former Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Councils were different and had been aligned as part of the West Suffolk single council work in 2019. However, it was noted that that the fees had not been formally reviewed since</p>	<p>There was an option to maintain the current fee structure, but this would be contrary to the requirements as outlined in the overarching fees and charges policy and would also mean that the increased costs of running the service would wholly be met by</p>	<p>Portfolio holder: Andy Drummond 01638 751411</p> <p>Officer: Jen Eves Director (HR, Governance and Regulatory Services) 01284 757015</p>

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			<p>2015-2016.</p> <p>Therefore, the aim of this review was to ensure that the Council recovered the costs associated with the grant of any vehicle licences or combined driver's licences. This included the costs of issue and administration, as well as monitoring of compliance with conditions in line with legislation and best practice.</p> <p>Consultation with the Trade took place between 22 June and 1 August 2022. The purpose of the consultation was an opportunity for the trade to inspect the fees and raise objections, if they considered that these did not comply with legislative requirements or to raise objections if there were incorrect calculations and charges.</p> <p>Having undertaken the</p>	<p>the Council.</p>	

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			<p>review, which had been unpinned by a comprehensive methodology, as set out in Appendix A to Report number CAB/WS/22/052, it was proposed that the Council should introduce the new scale of fees as proposed, effective from 3 April 2023. Moving forward, it was the intention was to review these fees on a three year basis, in line with the West Suffolk Fees and Charges Policy.</p>		
<p>Item 11 CAB/WS/22/053</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Land at School Road (The Triangle), Great Barton: draft development brief</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>That the Land at School Road (The Triangle), Great Barton Draft Development Brief, as contained in Appendix A to Report number CAB/WS/22/052, be approved for public consultation by the Development Team.</p>	<p>This site was allocated in the Rural Vision 2031 document under Policy RV18, which was adopted in September 2014. Since the adoption of the document, a Neighbourhood Plan (GBNP) had been prepared and adopted. Within this Development Plan document, the site was allocated again with the GBNP adding another layer of detail on how the site should come forward.</p>	<p>Policy RV18 of the Rural Vision stated that the precise numbers "<i>The total capacity of the site should be determined through a site Development Brief, with up to 40 dwellings permitted in the period to 2031</i>". The policy</p>	<p>Portfolio holder: David Roach 01440 768966</p> <p>Officer: Marie Smith Service Manager (Planning Strategy) 01284 757613</p>

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			<p>It was noted that the submission version of the GBNP sought to limit the amount of development on the site to 150 dwellings. However, the Inspector had rejected this approach and the final wording in the Plan set out that a higher quantum of development could come forward if that was demonstrated to be acceptable in a Development Brief (DB).</p> <p>The proposals were set out in Section 2 of Report number CAB/WS/22/053. One of the main benefits of the development delivering a higher number than 150 dwellings was that the development would be able to deliver the community facilities, which included a MUGA, a new car park, extensive landscaping and land to allow the primary school to expand.</p>	<p>continued by saying <i>"The amount of land available for development, types and location of uses, access arrangements, design and landscaping will be informed by a Development Brief for the whole 12.4 ha site. The Development Brief should set out how the community uses on the site will be delivered. Applications for planning permission will only be determined once the development brief has been adopted by the local planning authority"</i>.</p>	

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			<p>Officers were satisfied that the higher density development was acceptable because it delivered the smaller types of units that the local housing need had identified, the scheme would deliver the maximum amount of non-residential uses that the GBNP sought and that the development would still be a well landscaped, vibrant, well designed scheme.</p>	<p>Policy GB 3 of the GBNP reiterated the DB process and said that <i>"12.4 hectares of land at School Road, known as The Triangle and identified on the Policies Map, is allocated for the following development: i) up to 150 dwellings (including 30% affordable housing) or any higher number of dwellings included in any future adopted development brief for the site pursuant to Policy RV18 of the Rural Vision Local Plan Document"</i>.</p> <p>In order to ensure that a</p>	

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				<p>comprehensive and policy compliant development came forward on this allocated site, it was necessary for a Development Brief to be prepared and adopted as informal planning guidance. Therefore, other options regarding the potential development of the site had not been considered as part of this process.</p>	

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<p>Item 13</p> <p>CAB/WS/22/055 (with Exempt Appendices)</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Revenues Collection Performance and Write-offs</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>That the write-off of the amounts detailed in the Exempt Appendices to Report number CAB/WS/22/055, be approved, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exempt Appendix 1: Council Tax totalling £17,333.70. 2. Exempt Appendix 2: Business rates totalling £23,747.71. 3. Exempt Appendix 3: Housing benefit overpayment totalling £6,940.00. 	<p>The detailed reasons for the decisions to write-off these amounts, were included in the Exempt Appendices to Report number CAB/WS/22/055.</p>	<p>There was an extensive and supportive recovery process prior to the engagement of an enforcement agency. The Council currently used the services of the ARP Enforcement Agency to assist in the collection of business rates and Council Tax and also had online tracing facilities. Although this service was suspended during the lockdown and up to more recently, enforcement was now reinstated in line with Government guidance. It was not considered</p>	<p>Portfolio holder: Sarah Broughton 07929 305787</p> <p>Officer: Rachael Mann Director (Resources and Property) 01638 719245</p>

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				<p>appropriate to pass the debts onto another agency.</p> <p>It should be noted that in the event that a written-off debt became recoverable, the amount was written back on, and enforcement procedures were re-established. This might happen, for example, if someone had gone away with no trace, and then they were unexpectedly 'found' again, through whatever route.</p>	

Jennifer Eves
 Director (Human Resources, Governance and Regulatory)
 20 October 2022