
Council



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title of Report:	Schedule of Referrals from Cabinet and Joint Development Management Policies Committee	
Report No:	COU/SE/15/001	
Report to and date:	Council	24 February 2015
Documents attached:	Appendix A: Cabinet Report No: CAB/SE/15/017 – Special Meeting 24 February 2015	

(A) Referrals from Cabinet: 10 February 2015

1. Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Statements

Cabinet Member: Cllr David Ray

Report No:
CAB/SE/15/003
(Treasury
Management Sub-
Committee Report No:
TMS/SE/15/002)

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Statements 2015/2016, as contained in Appendix 1 to Report TMS/SE/15/002, be adopted; and**
- (2) the Head of Resources and Performance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance and the Chairman of Treasury Management Sub-Committee, be given delegated authority to make amendments to the Treasury Management Investment Strategy, taking into account advice of the Council's Treasury Management Advisors in response to changes to credit ratings resulting from**

the implied removal of sovereign support in the Bank of England's 'bail-in' regulations.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management requires that, prior to the start of the financial year that Council formally approves an Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy, setting out the Council's treasury management policy and strategy statements for the forthcoming year.

The proposed Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Statements 2015/2016 (including treasury related prudential indicators) was attached as Appendix 1 to Report TMS/SE/15/002. The Cabinet had noted that no major changes had been made to the Strategy since it was presented to the Treasury Management Sub-Committee on 20 January 2014.

The Cabinet also noted that the Treasury Management Code of Practice had been updated accordingly, to reflect the proposed Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Statements 2015/2016. No major changes had been made to the Code of Practice since it was presented to the Sub-Committee on 20 January 2014.

However, subsequent to the above, on 10 February 2015, the Cabinet was informed that the Council's Treasury Management Advisors had advised that since the Bank of England announced 'bail-in' regulations in late 2014 which implied removal of sovereign support for banks, rating agencies may recalculate credit ratings. As the implications of this for the Council need to be considered, this has resulted in proposing the additional recommendation provided above to allow amendments to be made to the Treasury Management Investment Strategy, as necessary.

2. Budget and Council Tax Setting: 2015/2016 and Medium Term Financial Strategy

Cabinet Member: Cllr David Ray

Report No:
CAB/SE/15/005

The recommendations emanating from the Cabinet's consideration of this report are contained within Report No: COU/SE/15/002, 'Budget and Council Tax Setting: 2015/2016 and Medium Term Financial Strategy', for consideration as Agenda Item 8 on this full Council agenda.

3. West Suffolk Homelessness Strategy

Cabinet Member: Cllr Anne Gower

Report No:
CAB/SE/15/008

RECOMMENDED:

That the West Suffolk Homelessness Strategy 2015-2018, as contained in Appendix A to Report No: CAB/SE/15/008, be adopted.

The Homelessness Strategy sets out how St Edmundsbury Borough and Forest Heath District councils, along with their partners, will address and prevent homelessness over the next three years, ensuring that there is sufficient suitable temporary accommodation and support for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires all councils to produce a Homelessness Strategy at least every five years, which must:

- (1) address the causes of homelessness in the area;
- (2) introduce initiatives to prevent homelessness wherever possible;
- (3) provide sufficient temporary accommodation for those households that are or may become homeless; and
- (4) ensure that appropriate support is available for people who have previously experienced homelessness in order to prevent it happening again.

Report CAB/SE/15/008 sets out the revisions made to the Strategy following a six week stakeholder and public consultation from 10 December 2014, ending on 21 January 2015.

4. Pension Discretions Policy

Cabinet Member: Cllr David Ray

Report No:
CAB/SE/15/010

RECOMMENDED:

That the Pensions Discretion Policy, as contained in Appendix A to Report No: CAB/SE/15/010, be approved.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) changed to a career average ('CARE' – career average revalued earnings) scheme in April 2014. The new pension regulations gave employers a number of discretionary options. We are required to agree and publish our decisions in relation to these discretions in a written Statement of Policy that has to be approved by Full Council.

Appendix A attached to Report No: CAB/SE/15/010 contained the Pension Discretions Policy, with a summary of the recommended discretions contained in Appendix B.

5. West Suffolk Shop Front and Advertisement Design Guide

Cabinet Member: Cllr Terry Clements

Report No:
CAB/SE/15/013
(Sustainable
Development Working
Party Report No:
SDW/SE/15/003)

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the West Suffolk Shop Front and Advertisement Design Guide with suggested amendments, as contained in Appendix A to Report SDW/SE/15/003 be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document subject to it being noted in the Glossary on page 28 in respect of the second item 'Building of Local Interest', reference to 'Birmingham' be deleted and 'the areas' inserted therefor; and**
- (2) the Head of Planning and Growth be given delegated authority to edit/insert appropriate images as part of the final document publishing process.**

The West Suffolk Shop Front and Advertisement Design Guide (SFDG) has been drafted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to support the policies of each local planning authority's (LPA) Core Strategy and the Development Management Policies Local Plan Document which in themselves relate to all three priorities contained within the West Suffolk Strategic Plan, (2014-2016).

This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will provide detailed guidance on the design of new and replacement shop fronts throughout West Suffolk. The guidance covers matters such as general design principles; materials and colour; signage and lighting; blinds and canopies; and security measures for retail and other commercial properties.

Public and stakeholder consultation took place between 24 November 2014 and 9 January 2015. The consultation was carried out in line with the adopted Joint Statement of Community Involvement.

Nine responses were received to the consultation. The comments have been summarised in Report No: SDW/SE/15/003 followed by a suggested Council response and amendment.

(B) Referrals from Cabinet: 24 February 2015 (Special Meeting)

(This section (B) has been compiled before the special meeting of the Cabinet on 24 February 2015 and is based on the recommendations contained within

the relevant report. Any amendments made by the Cabinet to the recommendations will be notified following the meeting of the Cabinet and will be tabled at the meeting of the Council held that same evening.)

1. Suffolk Business Park Land Assembly

Cabinet Member: Cllr John Griffiths

Report No:
CAB/SE/15/016

Recommendations emanating from this report will be referred to full Council at a special meeting of Council on 25 March 2015, and therefore do not require consideration at this meeting.

2. Eastern Relief Road, Bury St Edmunds: Update

Cabinet Member: Cllr John Griffiths

Report No:
CAB/SE/15/017

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) subject to the approval of full Council and the satisfaction of the Section 151 and Monitoring Officers, a commitment be made to the full £4,528,871 million programme of works for the provision of electricity to serve Suffolk Business Park, including an immediate financial allocation of £356,186 currently due on 27 February 2015, as detailed in Section 3 of Report No: CAB/SE/15/017;**
- (2) subject to the approval of full Council and the satisfaction of the Section 151 and Monitoring Officers, delegated authority be given to the Head of Planning and Growth in consultation with the Leader of the Council to enter into an agreement or agreements to be entered into by St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) and the developer/landowner to enable the development of Suffolk Business Park and Eastern Relief Road to enable SEBC to realise a return on its investment in line with the principles approved in the Medium Term Financial Strategy; and**
- (3) Council be asked to approve the financial allocation of £150,000 towards the costs of specialist advice for this project from reserves.**

For ease of reference, a copy of the full Cabinet report (CAB/SE/15/017) is attached as Appendix A to this report. Council is also requested to note that Cabinet has also been asked in Report No: CAB/SE/17/017 to:

'Approve the amendment and clarification of resolutions (1) and (2) at its meeting on 2 September 2014 (minute 42 refers) in accordance with paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of Report No: CAB/SE/15/017.'

(C) Referrals from the Joint Development Management Policies Committee: 11 February 2015

1. Joint Development Management Policies Document: Planning Inspector's Report and Adoption

Cabinet Member: Cllr Terry Clements

Report No:
JDM/JT/15/001

RECOMMENDED:

That the following documents attached to Report No: JDM/JT/15/001, be adopted:

- (1) The Joint Development Management Policies Document (Appendix B);***
- (2) Habitats Regulations Screening Assessments for Joint Development Management Policies Document, (Appendix C);***
- (3) Sustainability Appraisal for Joint Development Management Policies Document, (Appendix D); and***
- (4) St Edmundsbury Borough Policies Map and Inset Maps 1-4 (Appendix E)***

Officers further RECOMMEND that the following appendices attached to the Sustainability Appraisal for the Joint Development Management Policies Document (Appendix D to Report No: JDM/JT/15/001) be approved:

Appendix G – Summary of Assessment of alternatives to the Joint Development Management Document Policies; and

Appendix H – Assessment of reasonable alternatives to the policies set out in the Joint Development Management Policies Document.

National legislation and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) set out a requirement for Councils to maintain an up to date set of local Planning policies for their areas. For St Edmundsbury, the Replacement Local Plan was adopted in 2006 and provides planning policy until 2016 or until superseded by national or more up to date local policy. St Edmundsbury commenced the preparation of a new Local Plan in 2008 with the preparation of the Core Strategy which was adopted in December 2010. Following this, three site allocation documents, Vision 2031, were adopted in September 2014. For Forest Heath, a number of policies have been retained from the Local Plan, (1995). Subsequent to

the adoption of the 1995 Local Plan, the Council prepared, published and ultimately adopted its Core Strategy in May 2010.

Following the adoption of both authorities' Core Strategies, work commenced in 2011 on a joint document of Development Management Policies following the work already undertaken separately in the two authorities. Two consultations held in early and late 2012 were undertaken leading to approval from both Councils in 2013 to submit the document for examination (Papers D309 (St Edmundsbury) and COU13/617 (Forest Heath) refer). The document, together with all of the comments received during the final round of consultation, was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by an independent Planning Inspector on 13 December 2013.

Examination hearings into certain matters were called and conducted by the Inspector during July 2014. During this time objectors were able to put to the Inspector why they considered the Joint Development Management Policies Document should be changed. Following the hearings, the Inspector asked that his recommended main modifications be the subject of public consultation. The Councils conducted this consultation for period of six weeks ending in November 2014.

The Inspector examining the Joint Development Management Policies Document produced a report (dated 21 January 2015) with an appendix setting out main modifications he recommends to make the document sound and legally compliant. A copy of the Inspector's report is attached at Appendix A to Report No: JDM/JT/15/001.

On 28 January 2015, Forest Heath District Council's Local Plan Working Group and St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Sustainable Development Working Party considered the Inspector's report and the documents proposed for adoption, and no changes were made to the recommendations.

The Joint Development Management Policies Committee has formally noted the recommendations of the Forest Heath Local Plan Working Party, and the St Edmundsbury Sustainable Development Working Party to accept the main modifications set out in the Inspector's report (Appendix A) dated 21 January 2015 in their entirety, and has proposed four recommendations, as detailed above.

Following the meeting of the Joint Development Management Policies Committee, officers have identified that two appendices, already published in the public domain and attached for completeness to the Sustainability Appraisal for the Joint Development Management Policies Document (Appendix D) also require approval, namely:

Appendix G – Summary of Assessment of alternatives to the Joint Development Management Document Policies; and

Appendix H – Assessment of reasonable alternatives to the policies set out in the Joint Development Management Policies Document.

These can be found online at:

http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning_Policies/local_plans/jointdevelopmentmanagementpoliciesdocument.cfm

These additional recommendations are therefore included for consideration above.