

**Committee:** Finance and Administration  
**Date:** 25 March 2010  
**Title:** Lead Officer's report  
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**Agenda Item**

**5**

Item for information

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## Summary

This report updates Members on matters arising from the minutes that are not otherwise on this Agenda and other items of interest.

## Recommendations

That the report is noted.

## Background Papers

None

## Situation/Update

### **Council Offices, 46 High Street, Gt Dunmow**

At Full Council in February Members agreed to withdraw from the original sale and progress with the revised bid, which was both higher in value and not subject to survey.

At the beginning of March the remaining staff, who were primarily from the Street Services team relocated to Saffron Walden. On the 15 March 2010 the telephone system and remaining ICT equipment was disconnected and removed. This means that the Uttlesford part of the office is now empty and in effect mothballed pending the sale. There will still be a presence at the depot and the workshop will be the base for the management.

## Housing Finance Review

Members will recall that the Government has been proposing to abolish the housing subsidy system and replace it with a redistribution of historic local authority housing debt. The Council responded to the consultation in October

2009. Detailed Government proposals, including the specific implications for each local authority, are expected some time in March (not yet published as at 12 March). If proposals are published, careful financial analysis will be required and a detailed report will be brought to the next meeting of this committee. In the event that a response to the detailed proposals is required before the next committee, the Chief Finance Officer will prepare this in consultation with the Head of Housing and the Chairmen of Community & Housing and Finance & Administration Committees.