

DECISION LIST

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING – 26 JANUARY 2006

AGENDA ITEM NO.	ITEM	DECISION	REASON	OFFICER
6	Capital Programme 2005/06 to 2008/09	RESOLVED that: 1 the Operations Committee be recommended to approve the proposed revised capital budget for 2005/06 together with the proposed revised capital budgets for each of 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09, for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account; 2 subject to the views of the Operations Committee on affordability, this Committee assesses the merits of the three options for remedial work at Thaxted Day Centre and that, once the principle had been agreed, the detailed implementation of the project be delegated to the East Area Panel; and 3 the Committee examine the equitable distribution between the three area panels of the earmarked sum of £52,000 allocated for community project grants.	To progress the annual budget setting process. There is a need to undertake urgent remedial work at Thaxted Day Centre. Members will decide the most appropriate option depending on the capital provision made. The allocation of community project grants will be determined by the relevant area panel once a suitable distribution of the overall sum has been decided.	POD/JD/RC
4	Housing Revenue Account Estimates 2006/07	RECOMMENDED to Council that: 1 the Housing Revenue Account draft estimates for 2006/07 be approved, as	To enable rent levels to be set in accordance with the statutory requirements for rent restructuring	POD/GG

		<p>presented, including the following items:</p> <p>(a) weekly dwelling rents increase by an average of 5%, or £3.14, in line with the Government's proposals;</p> <p>(b) charges for heating and sewerage charges are increased in line with inflation (2.7%);</p> <p>(c) Supporting People charges are increased from April 2006 in accordance with the contract with the Commissioning Body, and that protection be increased against the warden service charge for all those tenants at 31 March 2003 who were ineligible for Supporting People grant assistance;</p> <p>2 weekly garage rents be increased by 20p to £7.20.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Chairmen of this Committee and the Tenant Forum be authorised to agree the contents of a letter of representation to the Secretary of State at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister about the detrimental effects on Uttlesford of the rules on negative housing subsidy.</p>	<p>and convergence under the Formula Rents criteria.</p> <p>Members wished to draw to the attention of the Secretary of State the inherent unfairness of the effect of the housing subsidy rules on an area such as Uttlesford where notional 'surpluses' are taken from payments made by Council tenants and re-distributed to other districts.</p>	
5	General Fund Revenue Budget 220/07	<p>RECOMMENDED that the Operations Committee approve:</p> <p>1 the revised base budget for</p>	<p>As part of the budget cycle, base budgets have been prepared on the basis of current levels of service</p>	POD/DB/RC/MP/MB/TT

		2005/06 and the draft base budget for 2006/07; and 2 the spending pressures identified.	provision, and taking into account a refined list of spending pressures previously considered together with savings achieved to date.	
7	Saffron Walden Skate Park	RESOLVED that: 1 the operational management plan for the Saffron Walden Skate Park (One Minet Park) produced jointly by the Skate Group and Saffron Walden Town Council be approved, subject to it being made clear that this Council would not be involved in the management of the project; 2 a contribution of £45,000 be made towards this project, in three stage payments of £15,000 each, subject to the monitoring of the project so that only money required by the project group would be disbursed, or returned as appropriate.	The Council approved a motion in December 2005 to provide financial support to the Saffron Walden Skate Group and authorised the Committee to agree a capital grant up to a maximum of £45,000 subject to the completion of an operational management plan.	GB
8	First Aid – First Responder	RESOLVED that further investigations be made of other local authorities, surgeries and the ambulance service about the level of first aid provision that might be needed within the	The Committee noted that the Council presently met its obligations for first aid cover as an employer under health and safety legislation. Officers considered that steps	WC

		Council's own buildings and that the Operations Committee be advised of the possible need for further financial provision in the light of this information.	should be taken to increase the number of trained first aid personnel working within the Council's own premises. However, some Members expressed the view that provision over and above this requirement should be made and felt that further advice was needed before a decision could be made, particularly concerning the possible acquisition of a defibrillator.	
9	Rent Arrears Procedure	RESOLVED that a new rent arrears policy be adopted, as submitted to this meeting, to address the following aims: (a) to enable officers to become pro-active at an earlier stage to help tenants in arrears with their rent; (b) ensure that rent arrears are kept to a minimum.	To achieve the aims set out in the resolution.	EP
10	Allocations Process	RESOLVED that a change be made to the allocations procedure, with immediate effect, so that Members received monthly details of allocations/nominations within their own ward, on request, and that officers be requested to prepare a protocol covering the range of housing	The new policy is intended to streamline the allocations process so that there is no longer a three-day delay in offering tenancies when Members have asked to be notified.	EP

		information that could be made available to Members		
12	Housing Conference	RESOLVED that the Chairmen of this Committee and of the Tenant Forum, or failing that a substitute, be authorised to attend the Institute of Housing Conference 2006.	To enable the Council to be represented at this event, together with a senior officer.	RC
13	Great Dunmow Primary School – Eastern Boundary Housing Land	RESOLVED that the recommendation of the East Area Panel relating to a strip of housing land along the eastern boundary of the new Great Dunmow Primary School be adopted subject to the inclusion of a reference requiring the School to close the gate on the eastern boundary of the site directly accessing a strip of housing land and not allow it to be used as an access point to the School building.	There were significant problems relating to parking at this site as no specific parking area had been provided at the School. The strip of housing land on the eastern boundary was neither authorised nor appropriate to provide access and the Council might have to consider legal remedies to prevent this use.	RC