

DECISION LIST

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – 24 JANUARY 2008

Agenda Item No	Item	Decision	Reason	Officer
4	Lead Officer's Report	<p><u>Post Office Closures:</u> To register the Committee's formal opposition to the proposed closure of the Henham Post Office, further to the objections made by the South West Area Panel .</p> <p><u>Negative housing subsidy</u> To request the assistance and intervention of the local MP Sir Alan Haslehurst following the refusal of the Minister to meet and discuss the Council's negative housing subsidy issue.</p>	<p>The closure decision is to be taken before the postperson has been consulted; the post office is an important part of a thriving volunteer and community run shop and therefore economic gains from closure of the post office are minimal; the Community run shop will be adversely affected since its customers use finance and other facilities at the post office. To progress the matter.</p>	DB
5	Stray Dogs	To provide a kennelling facility at an animal rescue site to be available around the clock for an initial outlay of up to £1,000, and to appoint the Head of Environmental Health as the officer for the purposes of discharging this function.	To provide for the needs which will arise on the demise of the Police responsibility with respect to stray dogs.	WC
6	Review of Fees and Charges – Environmental Health	<p>To recommend</p> <p>1 That the Council does not introduce a charge for the treatment of rats in domestic properties.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	No charge in domestic premises because of the importance to all residents of control of rats.	GS

		<p>2 That the Council approve the introduction of a service to deal with nuisance grey squirrels in properties at a charge of £54 per hour.</p> <p>3 That the table of revised charges for Environmental Health Division be approved.</p>	<p>To provide the public with an enhanced service at a competitive price.</p> <p>To increase charges in balance with inflation and costs.</p>	
7 with 13	Capital programme 2007/08 – 2010/11 with item 13 Thaxted Day Centre replacement.	<p>1 To recommend to the Finance and Administration Committee the proposed revised capital budget for 2007/08 together with the proposed capital budgets for each of 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11.</p> <p>2 As regards Thaxted Day Centre replacement that members note the actions that have so far been taken towards the procurement of a replacement Day Centre.</p> <p>3 To recommend that approval be given for this project to proceed under “exemption to standing orders” KK12 Specialised Nature of the Works.</p>	<p>The proposed programme for the General Fund schemes relevant to the Community Committee was set out with explanatory notes in the Appendix to the report which was augmented by the advice of the Electrical Surveyor regarding Thaxted Day Centre.</p> <p>In the light of advice from the Electrical Surveyor about the current situation for the procurement of the new Day Centre and a request for approval to proceed under exemption to standing orders KK12 Specialised Nature of Works</p> <p>To enable officers to negotiate with two of the most favoured specialist contractors for a final scheme, firm price and early start and completion date.</p>	AW/MS

8	Hra Capital Programme 2008/09 – 2010/11	1 To recommend to the Finance and Administration Committee the proposed revised capital budget for 2007/08 together with the proposed capital budgets for each of 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11.	The proposed programme for the Housing Revenue Account capital schemes relevant to the Community Committee was in the report. Members also took into consideration the notes accompanying the list of schemes.	TC
9	Housing Revenue Account Estimates And Rent Levels 2008/2009	<p>That the Committee accept the draft estimates as presented for 2008/2009 and recommend that:</p> <p>The weekly dwelling rents be increased by an average of 6.6%, in line with the Government's proposals for rent restructuring;</p> <p>Garage rents increase from £7.40 to £7.60p per week (2.7%) and that heating and sewerage charges be increased in line with actual costs, capped at 5%.</p> <p>Charges for warden services are set from April 2008 in accordance with the contracts with the Commissioning Body, and that protection be continued for tenants at 31st March 2003 who are ineligible for supporting people grant assistance. Charges for lifeline services are similarly to be set from April 2008 in line with the contract with the Commissioning Body.</p>	Members took into consideration the explanations given by Mr Clanchy at the previous meeting of the Housing Initiatives Task Group and the sheet of further financial information distributed at the Community Committee meeting. The Tenant Forum had reluctantly accepted the increased rents which should allow repair to housing stock.	DB AW
10	General Fund Budget 2008/09	<p>1 To approve and submit to the Finance and Administration Committee:</p> <p>a The revised General Fund Revenue Budget for Community Committee</p>	To progress the budget setting process.	AW

		<p>for 2007/08 as set out in Appendix 1.</p> <p>b The draft General Fund Revenue Budget for Community Committee for 2008/09 (Appendix 1).</p> <p>c Any comments regarding the Committee's Budget, particularly in the light of the Council's financial situation.</p> <p>2 that it be noted that the Committee recognises the valuable work of the Tourist Information Centre in promoting the Uttlesford District</p>		
11	Land at Great Dunmow	The Committee indicates that it is prepared to enter into negotiations regarding the sale of the area of land at Rosemary Crescent in Great Dunmow to provide an access road to a new development at Buildings Farmhouse.	Rosemary Crescent is the preferred option and the Council's Legal Services consider the District Valuer would recommend quite a high price, require a contribution to road maintenance and the provision of parking for existing residents	EE
12	Recommendations From Housing Initiative Task Group	<p>That the Committee approve the recommendations set out in the Minutes of the Housing Initiative Task Group (Appendix I) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a stock options appraisal be funded from the HRA during 2008/09. • That the following two options for Holloway Crescent are investigated further: 	To progress the Housing Schemes.	RM

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Utilise the sheltered block and the garage area to create a mixed site for general needs use and elderly accommodation – the preferred option. - Dispose of the site to raise a capital receipt, to include the garage area but not the green (to be retained as an open space), and obtain a valuation from the District Valuer’s office to give some indication of the implications of pursuing the different options being examined. • That investigations should also include the principle of redeveloping Mead Court at Stansted, with the first preference being the redevelopment of the sheltered block and garage area at Holloway Crescent for general needs housing, in conjunction with a housing association and/or a private developer • That residents at Holloway Crescent be given the opportunity to comment upon the options under consideration. 		
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