

**EXECUTIVE – 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008 AT 6.00 P.M.**

**THEME: FINANCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Simmons (Chair); Councillors Ashraf, Bailey, R. J. Davis, M. Hussain, Khan, Roden, Shaw and Worlring.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Harris

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillors Franks, Pantling and Rutstein

**DECISIONS SHEET**

***Exemptions from the call-in process:***

- (1) If the Council would be likely to suffer legal prejudice***
- (2) If the Council would be likely to suffer financial prejudice***
- (3) Where the calling-in of the decision would result in the decision not being capable of implementation at all***
- (4) Where the decision is to incur or forego expenditure of £5,000 or less except where the decision has been taken otherwise that in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework or any policies, practices, or procedures adopted by the Executive***
- (5) Where the decision results from a reference or report or recommendation from a Scrutiny Committee, a Scrutiny Panel or the Scrutiny Board***
- (6) Where the decision will be the subject of a recommendation to the Full Council***

<b>AGENDA ITEM/ WARD(S) AFFECTED</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DEC. NO.</b>	<b>DECISION AND REASONS FOR DECISION</b>	<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
2.1	Published decisions of the Executive held on 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2008.	EX/64/08	That the published decisions of the meeting of the Executive held on 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2008 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting.  Reason: Administrative	

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4.1 Biscot, High Town, Icknield & Leagrave	Sale of Surplus Sites	EX/65/08	<p>(i) That the freehold disposal of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Former recreation centre, Old Bedford Road</li> <li>b. Former open air pool site behind Wardown Swimming and Leisure Centre</li> <li>c. Former elderly person home, Warden Hill</li> <li>d. The Oaks/The Acorns site</li> </ul> <p>be approved.</p> <p>(ii) That the Director of Customer and Corporate Services and the Head of Capital and Asset Management in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance be authorised to select the successful tenderer for each of the four sites (identified above).</p> <p>Reason: To resource the Council's capital programme for 2008/12.</p> <p><b>(Note: the above item is exempt from call in – category 2)</b></p> <p>(Note: The above item was considered by the Executive in compliance with Regulation 15 of the Local Authorities</p>	<p>(i) To Proceed with leasehold sales. This would vastly increase the risk of receiving a materially smaller receipt than for freehold sales and may inhibit the construction of houses (including affordable units) on the sites. This would not confer much benefit to the Council. This option is not recommended.</p> <p>(ii) Do not proceed with some or all of the sales. Postponing sales in a falling market is highly risky and may ultimately result in a lower receipt as well as impacting on the capital receipt. There are also costs in securing vacant property. This option is not recommended</p>

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			(Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (General Exception)).	
4.2 All	Revisions to the Housing Assistance Policy	EX/66/08	<p>(i) That the Head of Housing (Strategy and Private Sector) be authorised to amend the existing Housing Assistance Policy, as agreed at Decision No. EX/226/07 to:</p> <p>(a) Introduce repayable grant options as set out at paragraph 6 of the report of the Head of Housing (Strategy and Private Sector) (Ref: 4.2)</p> <p>(b) Amend the existing Housing Assistance Policy as set out at paragraph 6 of the report of the Head of Housing (Strategy and Private Sector) (Ref: 4.2) and publish it in accordance with the Government guidance.</p> <p>(ii) That Officers be instructed to investigate energy companies contributing to or paying for home insulation grants in the Luton area and report back to the Portfolio Holder for Housing as a matter of urgency.</p>	Executive could reject the views above and instruct the Head of Housing (Strategy and Private Sector) to prepare alternative policy options.

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			Reason: Statutory  (Note: The above item was considered by the Executive in compliance with Regulation 15 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (General Exception)).	
6.1 All	Reference from Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee – Primary School Expansion Strategy	EX/67/08	That the Executive confirms that measures to resolve the shortage of primary school places in Luton are being treated as a high priority.  Reason: To receive the recommendations of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.  <b>(Note: the above item is exempt from call in – category 5)</b>	To note or modify the recommendations.
6.2 All	Reference from Audit and Governance Committee – Internal Audit Plan 2008/9	EX/68/08	That the Annual Audit Plan 2008/9 attached at Appendix A to the report of the Chief Executive (Head of Local Democracy) (Ref: 6.2) be approved.	To note or modify the recommendations.

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			Reason: To accord with the Audit Strategy.	
6.3 All	Reference from Audit and Governance Committee – Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2006/7	EX/69/08	<p>That the 2006/7 Annual Audit and Inspection Letter attached at Appendix A to the report of the Chief Executive (Head of Local Democracy) (Ref: 6.3) be received.</p> <p>Reason: To advise the Executive of the conclusions and significant issues arising from recent audit and inspection work.</p>	To note or modify the recommendations.
6.4 Challney, Leagrove and Lewsey	Reference from West Luton Area Committee – Request withdrawal of Co-operation on the proposed M1 Widening Project	EX/70/08	<p>That cooperation with the Highways Agency be withdrawn until their attendance at a meeting of the West Luton Area Committee to discuss the available options and address concerns of local residents.</p> <p>Reason: To concur with the recommendations of the West Luton Area Committee.</p>	To note or modify the recommendations.
8.	Significant Business Risks	EX/71/08	That the significant business risks facing	Make specific recommendations for

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All			<p>the Council as set out in the report of the Head of Corporate Finance (Ref: 8) be noted and it be confirmed that appropriate action was being taken to ensure those risks were adequately managed.</p> <p>Reason: To enable significant business risks to be adequately addressed.</p>	future changes.
9. HighTown	Disposal of Bloomfield Avenue, High Town Garage Site to Luton Community Housing Association (LCHA) for Redevelopment of Social Rented Housing.	EX/72/08	<p>(i) That the disposal to Luton community Housing Association (LCHA) of a 125 year lease in land at Bloomfield Avenue garage site (at nil premium and a peppercorn rent) for redevelopment of social rented housing be approved.</p> <p>(ii) That a new 125 year right of way be granted to E. Ryan and S. Rafferty to permit access to the bungalow on the adjacent site.</p> <p>Reason: To establish a portfolio of sites for housing development in Luton to provide more affordable housing.</p>	Do nothing, not to approve the proposal, would prevent the redevelopment scheme producing 4 new dwellings proceeding, along with the use of £240,617 of approved Housing Corp funding. Leaving a derelict and unused site.
10	Disposal of Kimberley Close,	EX/73/08	(i) That the disposal to Luton community	Do nothing, not to approve the

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Lewsey	Lewsey Farm Garage Site to Luton Community Housing Association (LCHA) for Redevelopment of Social Rented Housing		<p>Housing Association (LCHA) of a 125 year lease in land at Kimberley Close garage site (at nil premium and a peppercorn rent) for redevelopment of social rented housing be approved.</p> <p>Reason: To establish a portfolio of sites for housing development in Luton to provide more affordable housing.</p>	<p>proposal, would prevent the redevelopment scheme producing 2 new dwellings proceeding, subject to approval of Housing Corporation funds. Leaving a derelict and unused site.</p>
11 None	Council Constitution – Part 6	EX/74/08	<p>The following revised recommendation tabled at the meeting was agreed:</p> <p>That the revised Part 6 of the Council's Constitution – Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Executive Functions) as attached as an Appendix to the report of the Head of Legal Services (Ref: 11), be approved, subject to the following amendment at Paragraph 10.3 to Schedule 1:</p> <p>Deletion of 'Head of Leisure and Community' and replacement with 'Corporate Director of Housing, Community Living and Adult Social Services'.</p>	<p>(i) To reject the report and the changes to Part 6 (ii) To defer consideration of the matter and give further instructions.</p>

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			Reason: To receive an update to the Council Constitution.	

The meeting ended at 6.25 p.m.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 9<sup>th</sup> April 2008

CALL IN DEADLINE: 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008