

FINANCE AND STAFFING PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S MEETING

TUESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2009

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on Tuesday, 6 October 2009. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Guy Moody.

1. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES: LAND CHARGES

The Portfolio Holder **APPROVED** the introduction of a 'refresher' search at a fee of £45.

Other Options Considered: No other options were considered.

Reason For Decision: The fee was set at a level proportionate to the charge for a full 'official' search in order to encourage solicitors to carry out an 'official' search initially rather than using a Personal Search Company. This could potentially help the Council regain some of the market share that has been lost to Personal Search Companies.

2. BALSHAM - PRECAUTIONARY ITEMS

The Portfolio Holder **APPROVED** the drawing of £3,900 from Precautionary Items to meet the associated costs of the Balsham by-election held on 4 June 2009.

Other Options Considered: No other options were considered.

Reason For Decision: To prevent an overspend on the election budget.

3. RURAL RATE RELIEF

The Portfolio Holder **AGREED** the Rural Settlement list for 2010/11 as follows:

Designated Rural Settlements in South Cambridgeshire with a Population Less Than 3,000 2010/2011		South Cambridgeshire District Council
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Settlement	Settlement	Settlement
Great Abington	Fen Ditton	Steeple Morden
Little Abington	Fen Drayton	Newton
Abington Pigotts	Fowlmere	Oakington
Arrington	Foxton	Orwell
Babraham	Little Gransden	Over
Balsham	Grantchester	Pampisford

Barrington	Graveley	Papworth Everard
Bartlow	Hardwick	Papworth St Agnes
BARTON	Harlton	Rampton
BASSINGBOURN	Harston	Little Shelford
Bourn	Haslingfield	Shepreth
Boxworth	Hatley	Shingay-Cum-Wendy
Caldecote	Hauxton	Shudy Camps
Carlton	Heydon	Stapleford
Castle Camps	Hildersham	Stow-Cum-Quy
Caxton	Hinxton	Swavesey
Childerley	Horningsea	Tadlow
Chishill	Horseheath	Teversham
Comberton	Ickleton	Thriplow
Conington	Kingston	Toft
Coton	Knapwell	Weston Colville
Croxton	Landbeach	West Wickham
Croydon	Litlington	West Wratting
Dry Drayton	Lolworth	Whaddon
Duxford	Longstanton	Whittlesford
Elsworth	Longstowe	Great Wilbraham
Eltisley	Madingley	Little Wilbraham
Great Eversden	Meldreth	Wimpole
Little Eversden	Guilden Morden	

Other Options Considered: No other options were considered.

Reason For Decision: Qualifying properties situated within a designated rural settlement are eligible for relief from payment of the National Non-Domestic Rates.

4. **PAY AWARD 2009/10**

The Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to the implementation of a 1% increase to conclude the 2009 pay negotiations, and to backdate the award to 1st April 2009.

Other Options Considered: Other options considered were:

1. Agree a lower settlement figure.
2. Implement a higher percentage increase.

Reason For Decision: To award an increase of less than 1% could adversely impact on staff morale, while an increase greater than 1% would exceed the amount included in the Council's financial estimates.

Additionally the amount of 1% is in line with the increase agreed by other employers and unions covered by the NJC scheme.

5. **RELOCATION ASSISTANCE POLICY**

The Portfolio Holder **AGREED**, subject to agreement from the unions:

1. the proposed amendments to the relocation policy and procedure;
2. an uplift in the total amount to £7000.

Other Options Considered: Other options considered were:

1. Maintain the status quo.
2. Agree the revisions to the policy but retain current levels of allowance to a maximum value of £6,910.

Reason For Decision: To make financial assistance available to new employees.

The amendments to the policy should make the policy easier to follow and more consistent in its application.

