

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORD OF EXECUTIVE / CHIEF OFFICER DECISION**

This form should be used to record key and other decisions made by individual Portfolio Holders and key decisions made by Chief Officers. The contact officer will ensure that the signed and completed form is given to Democratic Services as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision has been taken.

Unless permission has been obtained from the Chairman of Council and the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee that this decision be treated as a matter of urgency under Rule 12.19 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules, this decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision, unless called in under Rule 7 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules or Rule 12 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules.

Portfolio	Leader of Council
Subject Matter	Proposed bid to purchase the Mettle Hill site in Meldreth
Ward(s) Affected	Meldreth
Date Taken	Friday, 7 December 2012
Contact Officer	Alex Colyer, Executive Director, Corporate Services (alex.colyer@scambs.gov.uk)
Date Published	Friday, 7 December 2012
Call-In Expiry	
Key Decision?	Yes Is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area of the District comprising two or more wards.
In Forward Plan?	No
Urgent?	Yes

Purpose / Background
<p>Meldreth Parish Council at its meeting on 6 December 2012 resolved to raise funding and bid for the purchase of the Mettle Hill site in Meldreth.</p> <p>In accordance with Rule 16 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules (special urgency), a decision can be taken if the decision taker obtains the agreement of the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee that the taking of the decision cannot be reasonably deferred.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee has agreed that the taking of this decision cannot be reasonably deferred, in view of the deadline of 17 December 2012.</p> <p>Cabinet considered the acquisition and redevelopment of gypsy and traveller sites as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy at its meeting on 8 November, where it made a recommendation to Council to include funding within its Capital Programme for that purpose.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Council agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting of Full Council on 10 January 2013 to consider Cabinet's recommendation in relation to the acquisition and redevelopment of gypsy and traveller sites.</p>

Declaration(s) of Interest
<i>Record below any relevant interest declared by any executive Member consulted or by an officer present in relation to the decision.</i>
None

Dispensation(s) <i>In respect of any conflict(s) of interest declared above, record below any dispensation(s) granted by the Council's Standards Committee.</i>
None

Consultation <i>Record below all parties consulted in relation to the decision.</i>
Meldreth Parish Council.

Other Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection
Option 1 – to co-ordinate and submit a bid for the purchase of the County Council's Mettle Hill site in Meldreth by 17 December 2012.

Final decision	Reason(s)
<p>Not to submit a bid for the purchase of the County Council's Mettle Hill site in Meldreth.</p> <p>Reason decision taken outside of meeting:</p> <p>Cambridgeshire County Council on 3 December 2012 (with the letter being received on 5 December 2012) informed South Cambridgeshire District Council that any bid to purchase the Mettle Hill site at Meldreth has to be submitted by 17 December 2012. This deadline has not provided the Leader of the Council with sufficient time to hold a public Portfolio Holder meeting or a meeting of Cabinet to consider whether or not it intends to submit a bid to purchase this site.</p>	<p>It is inappropriate for the District Council to enter into a bidding war with the Parish Council in respect of this issue. The Parish Council has already agreed to submit a bid at a price which meets the current market value for the site.</p> <p>The timescale of the County Council's invitation to bid for the site at Mettle Hill in Meldreth does not allow for the District Council to properly consider or formalise a decision surrounding any potential bid.</p>

Signed	Name (CAPITALS)	Signature	Date
Portfolio Holder	Signed copy available upon request from Democratic Services (democratic.services@scamb.gov.uk)		
Chief Officer			

Further Information