

Cabinet was informed that at the 9 July 2009 Local Economy & Housing Select Committee meeting, the Head of Environment and Street Scene had presented the Prioritisation of Parking Related Projects report. The Select Committee wished to advise Cabinet that they endorsed the proposals, as set out in minute TB008/09, including the addition of Good Station Road in the Parking Review.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations of the Joint Transportation Board dated 6 July 2009 be agreed.

APPROVAL OF CABINET MINUTES DATED 30 JULY 2009

CAB061/09 The minutes of the Cabinet meeting dated 30 July 2009 were considered and confirmed as a correct record.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

CAB062/09 There were no questions submitted from members of the Council.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

CAB063/09 There were no questions submitted from members of the public.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEES – CALL-IN OF CRANBROOK COMMUNITY FACILITIES

CAB064/09 Cabinet decision CAB040/09, Cranbrook Community Facilities, had been called-in by three Councillors as it was considered that Cabinet had insufficient information on which to base its decision and on the financial grounds that spending the £120,000 would seriously fail to provide value for money for the taxpayer.

In accordance with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 13.6, the Chief Executive, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Services Select Committee, having sought legal advice, agreed that the request for call-in had been valid and on 18 August 2009, the Corporate Services Select Committee met to consider the Cabinet's decision (CAB040/09) and the reasons for call-in.

At that meeting, the Select Committee, after a lengthy discussion, had resolved that the challenge to decision CAB040/09 should be taken no further. The Select Committee also noted that partial demolition of the Cranbrook Offices would be considered if deemed to benefit any future rebuild costs.

RESOLVED – That the Select Committee's decision not to challenge decision CAB040/09 further be noted.

CABINET DECISIONS

DECISION NO. CAB065/09

NON-EXEMPT

PORTFOLIO:

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Horwood
REPORT TITLE:	Consideration of the Forward Plan (090910/CAB002)
PRIORITIES:	Confident – Developing the Government’s ‘localism’ agenda.
DECISION MADE:	<p>That the Forward Plan be approved subject to the following changes/additions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medway Depot Redevelopment – changed date of submission from 13 November 2009 to 8 October 2009. • Community Infrastructure Levy – Detailed proposals and draft regulations for the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation – new entry/submission to 8 October 2009. • The Tunbridge Wells Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026 – changed date of submission from 8 October to 17 December 2009. • Proposed Disposal of Land at 37 Quarry Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells - new entry to the Forward Plan, being submitted to 8 October 2009 – Housing, Health & Wellbeing and Finance & Governance Portfolio Holders. • Engagement with the Public regarding Budget Consultation - new entry to the Forward Plan, being submitted to 13 November 2009 – Finance & Governance Portfolio Holder.
REASONS FOR DECISION:	To comply with Access to Information Procedure Rule 14.

Contact Officer: Samantha Timms, Senior Committee Administrator
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DECISION NO. CAB066/09 **NON-EXEMPT**

PORTFOLIO:	PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Mrs Thomas
REPORT TITLE:	Local Development Framework: Primary Shopping Area Thresholds – Planning Policy Advice Note (090910/CAB003)

PRIORITIES:

The adopted Local Plan and the emerging Local Development Framework are central to the delivery of the objectives of the Borough Council's Sustainable Community Plan, setting out how its spatial aspects can be delivered in a sustainable way through the planning process. The Primary Shopping Area Thresholds – Planning Policy Advice Note will support Policies CR5, CR7, CR9, CR11 and CR12 of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan – adopted March 2006. It will ensure that the Borough's Primary Shopping Areas maintain their vitality and viability and continue to function to serve the community with retail and other complementary town centre uses.

DISCUSSION:

Cabinet was informed that the Primary Shopping Area Thresholds – Planning Policy Advice Note, provided policy guidance for those involved in the determination of planning applications relating to the Primary Shopping Areas within the Borough.

The Senior Planning Officer stated that it was prudent to review the policy at the current time due to the existing prevailing economic circumstances, which had resulted in an increase in applications and pre-application enquiries for change of use within the Borough's Primary Shopping Areas in Royal Tunbridge Wells, Southborough, Paddock Wood, Cranbrook and Hawkhurst.

It was explained that there might be circumstances in which the Council might wish to consider more carefully any planning applications for a change of use from an A1 use to other non-retail uses within the Primary Shopping Areas. This consideration might result in the Council applying a degree of flexibility to take account of the difficult economic circumstances and not be unnecessarily restrictive during the current period, until the adoption of the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document, scheduled for late 2011.

The report sought Cabinet's approval to adopt the Primary Shopping Area Thresholds – Planning Policy Advice Note for use in determining planning decisions across the Borough

In response to members' questions, the Performance and Improvement Manager advised that out of the 531 retail properties in the town centre, 63 were vacant and this figure included those situated on the cinema site. He agreed to provide members with further details at the next meeting, including comparisons with other similar town centres, and supply a geographical map illustrating the vacant retail premises within the town centre area.

DECISION MADE:

1. That the Primary Shopping Area Thresholds Planning Policy Advice Note be approved for use by Planning Services in providing advice to the public and agents in considering planning applications for the change of use within the Borough's defined Primary Shopping Areas; and
2. That delegated authority be given to the Head of Planning Services to make any amendments necessary to finalise the Primary Shopping Area Thresholds Planning Policy Advice Note for publication, including amendments to wording, formatting, and the addition of appropriate images.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To be able to adopt the Primary Shopping Area Thresholds – Planning Policy Advice Note for the use of determining planning decisions across the Borough.

Contact Officer: Sharon Banks, Senior Planning Officer
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DECISION NO. CAB067/09**NON-EXEMPT****PORTFOLIO:****LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****PORTFOLIO HOLDER:****Councillor Bullock****REPORT TITLE:****Appointment to Outside Bodies – Kent Transport Board (090910/CAB004)****PRIORITIES:**

Delivering high quality services to our customers and improving customer service and satisfaction.

DISCUSSION:

The Cabinet was asked to consider nominating a representative to sit on the Kent County Council's Kent Transport Board for a one year appointment. Following consultation with members of the Council one nomination had been received from Councillor Weeden, the current representative.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Weeden be nominated.

DECISION MADE:

That Councillor Weeden be appointed as this Council's representative to the Kent Transport Board for a period of one year.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To ensure that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council continues to have representation on the organisation.

Contact Officer: Samantha Timms, Senior Committee Administrator
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DECISION NO. CAB068/09**NON-EXEMPT****PORTFOLIO:****FINANCE & GOVERNANCE****PORTFOLIO HOLDER:****Councillor Horwood****REPORT TITLE:**

**Basket of Economic Indicators for Tunbridge Wells
 Borough Council – June and July 2009
 (090910/CAB005)**

PRIORITIES:

The monitoring of these economic indicators will help the evaluation of strategic risk across all services and therefore supports all corporate priorities and commitments.

DISCUSSION:

The Performance and Improvement Manager submitted a report updating members on the economic performance of the Borough. The report covered the latest data available and aimed to help members evaluate and mitigate strategic risks.

A selection of performance indicators, known to be sensitive to economic conditions, had been put together, including a number that were new. The trend charts for these indicators were illustrated for members in Appendix A to the report.

Cabinet was informed that the current economic conditions were still affecting certain areas of performance, which were subject to close monitoring by officers and members. However, it appeared that the downturn had now bottomed out and signs of recovery were being seen. The Performance and Improvement Manager stated that the degree of sustainability of a possible recovery was unclear, but the borough was starting to see some early signs of encouragement.

Further to the discussion in decision CAB066/09 above, the Performance and Improvement Manager agreed to provide a map identifying the vacant retail premises within the four town centre areas of the borough at the next Cabinet meeting.

DECISION MADE:

- (1) That the report be noted; and
- (2) That the Performance and Improvement Manager include in his report to Cabinet in October, the geographical location of the vacant retail premises within the four town centre areas of the borough.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

In response to previous Cabinet recommendations.

Contact Officer: Raymond Warren, Performance and Improvement Manager
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DECISION NO. CAB069/09**NON-EXEMPT****PORTFOLIO:****POLICIES AND PARTNERSHIPS****PORTFOLIO HOLDER:****Councillor Williams****REPORT TITLE:****Community Grants' Programme Applications 2009-2010 (Round 2) (090910/CAB006)****PRIORITIES:**

Confident: the Community Grants' Programme contributes primarily to the Council's aim of developing safer and stronger communities.

DISCUSSION:

Following the legal advice given by the Legal Services Manager/Monitoring Officer, Cabinet agreed not to discuss the grant requested by the Friends of Dunorlan Park, and agreed to delegate the approval of this to the Policies and Partnerships Portfolio Holder, in consultation with the Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder. This would then enable Councillor Mrs Mayhew to participate in the discussion of this item and not have to declare any interest as she was a member of the Friends of Dunorlan Park.

Members were reminded that the Community Grants' Programme's main aim was to assist organisations with projects that helped to achieve the Borough Council's corporate priorities and contribute to the borough's Sustainable Community Plan. Cabinet noted that applications had been submitted for revenue grants in 2009/2010 (round 2) from voluntary and community organisations working to help develop safer and stronger communities and provide leisure opportunities.

The Policies and Partnerships Portfolio Holder explained that the cross-party Community Grants Assessment Panel considered all the applications and a summary report and the amount of grants recommended by the Panel was attached as Appendix A to the report for members' approval. Cabinet noted that the total amount requested by applicants in the second round (including the £2,000 already awarded to the Civic Society) was £13,250. This equalled the total recommended by the Assessment Panel. It was noted however, that should the allocations be approved, it would leave an unallocated budget of £7,190 for any emergency funding requests that might arise during the remainder of 2009/2010.

Members requested that a report be presented to a future Cabinet meeting evaluating the success of the organisations who had been awarded grants from the Council, which might also assist the Assessment Panel when determining future applications.

DECISION MADE:

1. That the applications for grants be approved for the amounts indicated below:

Hi Kent	£1,250
RTW Symphony Orchestra	£2,500
Bewl Bridge Rowing Club	£3,500
TW Tigers in-line Hockey Club	£1,100
Family Matters	£2,400
Civic Trust	£2,000
2. That the grant payable to the CAB be reviewed in February/March 2010 to take into consideration any increase in the rent payable for the lease of the Wesley Centre in Paddock Wood;
3. That the decision to approve the grant to the Friends of Dunorlan Park be delegated to the Policies and Partnerships Portfolio Holder, in consultation with the Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder;
4. That a further report be submitted to Cabinet later in the year reviewing the effectiveness of the revised Community Grants' Programme for 2009/10, with recommendations for any potential changes to be introduced prior to the launch of the 2010/11 programme; and
5. That a further report be submitted to Cabinet evaluating the success of the organisations awarded grants from the Council and identifying how their projects help to achieve the Borough Council's corporate priorities.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To assist voluntary and community organisations with projects that help to achieve the Borough Council's corporate priorities and contribute to the borough's Sustainable Community Plan.

Contact Officer: Nick Green, Community Development

Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: nick.green@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO. CAB070/09**NON-EXEMPT****PORTFOLIO:****POLICIES AND PARTNERSHIPS****PORTFOLIO HOLDER:****Councillor Williams****REPORT TITLE:****Update on the National Equality Framework
(090910/CAB007)****PRIORITIES:**

Our commitment to promoting equality supports our Corporate Priority of a 'Confident' borough and our three customer service commitments.

DISCUSSION:

The Director of Change and Business Support informed Cabinet that there had been some changes to the performance and legal framework which had implications for the Council's equalities agenda and that a new Equality Framework for Local Government had been introduced in April 2009. The Equality Bill was currently being considered by Parliament.

A summary of the changes and implications was highlighted to members and was shown in paragraphs 9 to 12 of the report.

Cabinet was informed that the proposals for enforcement of the duties would remain the same, in that enforcement of the general duties was by judicial review or through the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and enforcement of specific duties by the EHRC only. Statutory guidance would be given to support the implementation of the duties.

The new Equality Framework for Local Government had reduced focus on process and would allow a more proportionate approach. It was based on a broader definition of equality; three levels of performance were now present, namely: Level 1: Developing, Level 2: Achieving and Level 3: Excellent.

Cabinet was reminded that the Council was currently at Level 3 which allowed the Council to be treated as 'achieving' under the new Equality Framework. The Council was now required to undergo an external assessment by April 2011 in order to validate its claim at 'achieving' level.

It was proposed to Cabinet that the external assessment be not sought until June 2010. Alternative options for external assessment were currently being identified that would utilise the Council's partnership working arrangements with Sevenoaks District Council.

It was noted that the changes to the legal and performance framework for the equalities' agenda would permit a more flexible approach in how the Council delivered equality for its local communities, service users and employees. The Council needed to ensure that it continued to meet its existing statutory obligations whilst also preparing for the new duties.

The Policies and Partnerships Portfolio Holder stressed the importance of advancing equality of opportunity and, regardless of whether this was a legal requirement, he firmly believed in providing training for the relevant officers.

Discussion took place on the specific duties that were currently subject to consultation, and the responses that were set out in paragraph 14 of the report. It was agreed that the reason for each response should be expanded upon to highlight the areas where the Equality and Human Rights Commission was failing to assist.

DECISION MADE:

1. That in view of its links with CAA and the forthcoming Equality Bill, that the new Equality Framework for Local Government be adopted and, i) address the outstanding requirements at 'achieving' level and ii) seek further improvement;
2. That the Council continue using a relevant and proportionate approach in meeting the existing public equality duties and in preparing for the Equality Bill; and
3. That the Policies and Partnerships Portfolio Holder and the Interim Head of Community and Corporate Planning expand upon the section regarding the Equality and Human Rights Commission when responding to the consultation on the Equality Bill.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To ensure we continue to provide equality of opportunity for our communities and staff. To ensure we continue performing strongly in this area and to meet our legal requirements, making sure we are in a strong position should any challenges arise.

Contact Officer: Sarah Andrews, Equality Policy Officer

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DECISION NO. CAB071/09

NON-EXEMPT

PORTFOLIO:

HOUSING, HEALTH & WELLBEING

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Mrs Mayhew

REPORT TITLE:

**Access Works – Museum and Library Building
(090910/CAB008)**

PRIORITIES:

The access work at the Museum and Library Building supports the Prosperous, Green, Healthy and Confident priorities as well as the Council's three corporate commitments.

Prosperous	Regenerating our town centres: The scheme will make Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery a more attractive destination, encouraging visitors to the town. Many visitors, including school groups outside the borough, are currently put-off visiting Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery due to the lack of a lift and public toilets. The scheme will redress this issue.
Green	The Museum has a reputation for providing exhibitions and events that promote awareness of environmental issues. By providing access to the Museum for all, more people will be encouraged, educated and inspired to think about their environment and actions they can take. The scheme will encourage local visitors to Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery who may otherwise have travelled beyond the borough.
Healthy	The Museum provides positive activities that are known to improve mental well-being and have a positive effect on health. In the current building, many are prohibited from taking part in these activities

	<p>due to access issues. For example, older people who take part in outreach activities are prevented from visiting the Museum or Reference Library. The scheme will encourage older people to use the building and services with associated benefits to mental and physical well-being.</p>
Confident	<p>By improving access, the Museum and Art Gallery will be able to deliver positive activities to all younger and older people – those with mobility issues or families with heavy pushchairs are currently excluded due to access problems. Exhibitions and events that promote safer and stronger communities will be accessible to all.</p> <p>Volunteer opportunities will be available to all – those with mobility issues are currently not able to access some parts of the building.</p>
Corporate Commitments	<p>The scheme to improve access to Tunbridge Wells Museum, Library and Art Gallery contributes to the delivery of high quality services and improved customer service and satisfaction. The scheme will be project managed and 50% funded by KCC as landlord of the building, ensuring good value-for-money.</p>

DISCUSSION:

Cabinet was reminded that the Library and Museum was a joint use building owned by Kent County Council. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council had an agency agreement to occupy designated areas of the building and a responsibility for shared costs.

Members were advised that, to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), a lift and accessible toilets would need to be installed to meet the minimum requirements for people with physical disabilities. However, it was noted that the building was Grade 2 listed and listed building consent would need to be sought together with planning consent.

A feasibility study had been carried out by Faber Maunsell Consultants and their proposals were outlined within the report for members' information. The shared cost for the projects would be £220,000, a cost of £110,000 to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

Cabinet was informed that Kent County Council, as the building owner, would lead on this project.

Members sought assurance that no further requests for funding for this project would be necessary. The Head of Leisure and Wellbeing advised that some contingency funds had already been included and he was confident that the level of funding requested would be sufficient.

The Museum Manager advised Cabinet that consultation on the proposed works had taken place with the Access Group, Friends of the Museum and users of the Museum and Library.

DECISION MADE:

1. That the works set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report, be implemented;
2. That additional capital funding of £40,000 be allocated; and
3. That the procurement and project management be carried out by Kent County Council.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To meet the Council's obligations under DDA legislation. To meet the Council's commitments as stated in the Comprehensive Equality Scheme 2007 -10 to provide equal access to all service users and potential service users according to need. To meet the Council's corporate commitment to improving customer service and satisfaction.

Contact Officer: Jo Wiltcher, Museum Manager
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DECISION NO. CAB072/09

NON-EXEMPT

PORTFOLIO:

HOUSING, HEALTH & WELLBEING

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Mrs Mayhew

REPORT TITLE:

Affordable Housing Delivery Update (090910/CAB009)

PRIORITIES:

Promoting the delivery of affordable housing supports the following corporate priorities:

- Prosperous
- Green
- Healthy

- Confidential

Affordable housing provides high quality homes for local people, thereby contributing to their health and well-being, and supports the economy of the borough by providing affordable housing solutions for households with low wages.

DISCUSSION:

The Head of Housing and Health presented a report advising members that the Council was now unlikely to meet its targets for affordable housing delivery of 500 new affordable homes over the five-year period of the current Housing Strategy 2006-2011, primarily due to the effects of the current economic downturn.

He provided members with an update on the report at the meeting, namely:

- (a) the number of affordable homes to be completed in 2009/10 had reduced to 18;
- (b) Orbit Housing Association had now commenced building 23 new affordable homes in Hawkhurst; and
- (c) Town and Country Housing Group had recently received planning consent for 6 new affordable homes in Matfield.

In addition, members noted that the Council had recently received a draft Organisational Assessment from the Audit Commission which mentioned that the delivery of affordable housing had been affected by the economic downturn. The Head of Housing and Health explained that the major factor for housing associations was not funding but acquiring suitable sites.

The Housing, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder advised members that she had recently attended a rural housing meeting which had discussed the fact that highways and planning policies hindered building affordable housing in rural areas. She asked that the Director of Planning and Development discuss these constraints with Kent County Council's highways officers and explain how they were affecting development of affordable housing in rural areas.

The Senior Overview and Scrutiny Officer updated members on the concerns expressed by the Corporate Services Select Committee at its meeting on 8 September 2009 regarding the sale of the Medway Depot. She explained that the sale had been discounted by £500,000 to ensure appropriate provision of affordable homes. However, due to the economic climate, it was possible that the agreed number would now no longer be delivered. The Select Committee had requested that the Monitoring Officer investigate the legal process necessary to claw back this money.

Members considered alternative options available to the Council to further support the delivery of affordable housing that were identified in the report, namely: providing Council owned land to Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) at low or no cost, and providing grant funding to RSLs to support affordable housing developments. It was agreed that the Council already had sufficient policies and resources in place to allow for both these options to further assist the delivery of affordable housing.

DECISION MADE:

1. That the contents of the report be noted; and
2. That the Council's existing commitment to support the delivery of affordable housing be reaffirmed, namely:
 - Consideration of the provision of Council-owned land to Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) at low or no cost;
 - Consideration of the provision of grant funding to RSLs to support affordable housing developments; and
 - Consideration of lending direct to RSLs be investigated in line with Cabinet approval of investing with other public bodies (decision reference CAB048/09).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To enable the Council to continue to support the delivery of affordable housing in accordance with its targets under the Housing Strategy 2006-2011 and the Kent Local Area Agreement 2.

Contact Officer: Sarah Lewis, Affordable Housing Officer
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DECISION NO. CAB073/09

NON-EXEMPT

PORTFOLIO:

HOUSING, HEALTH & WELLBEING

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Mrs Mayhew

REPORT TITLE:

Temporary Accommodation for Homeless Households (090910/CAB010)

PRIORITIES:

The provision of temporary accommodation for homeless households is a statutory duty under the homelessness legislation and supports the Council's corporate priorities of 'Healthy' and 'Confident'.

DISCUSSION:

Cabinet was provided with an update on the management of the Council's temporary accommodation for homeless households and progress towards meeting the Government's target to reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation by half by the end of March 2010.

A schedule of the current portfolio of temporary accommodation was illustrated for members' information at Appendix 1 of the report. Members noted that good progress had been made towards meeting the Government's target as over the past five years the Council had achieved a year-on-year reduction in the number of homeless households for whom a full rehousing duty had been accepted.

The homelessness prevention activities were identified by the Head of Housing and Health within the report. In addition, the number of households in temporary accommodation at financial year end had also reduced in recent years. Members were pleased to note that on current forecasts it was anticipated that the target would be achieved.

Cabinet was reminded of its decision in November 2007 to consider out-sourcing the provision and/or management of temporary accommodation for homeless households to a third party with a specialism in housing.

The Head of Housing and Health suggested that any final decision to out-source this function should be put on hold pending the current review of the Council's structure and consideration of the future delivery of Council services.

DECISION MADE:

1. That the progress towards meeting the Government's target to reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation by half by the end of March 2010 be noted; and
2. That no further action be taken to out-source the provision and/or management of temporary accommodation for homeless households to a third party pending consideration of the future delivery of Council services including Housing Services.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- To ensure that the Council:
- meets its statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation to homeless households;
 - meets the Government's target to reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation by half by 2010;

- provides temporary accommodation for homeless households of a satisfactory standard;
- provides a higher standard of housing management in respect of its temporary accommodation for homeless households; and
- delivers better value-for-money in the provision of temporary accommodation.

Contact Officer: David Crosby, Head of Housing & Health
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EXEMPT ITEM

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100A (4)

RESOLVED – It was proposed and seconded that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the item of business referred to below on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Act namely: -

DECISION NO CAB074/09 Paragraph (3) - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

DECISION NO. CAB074/09

EXEMPT

PORTFOLIO:

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Horwood

REPORT TITLE:

Banking Contract (090910/CAB011 Exempt)

PRIORITIES:

The report fully supports the Council's commitment "Prosperous" in that it reflects that the Council is well managed, proactive and delivers value for money services.

DISCUSSION:

The Head of Finance and Governance submitted a report informing Cabinet that the present banking contract extension expired in March 2007. HSBC were the Council's current bankers and had been asked to submit proposals to provide banking facilities from 1 October 2009 for an eighteen month period, which would ensure that the Council had in place a legal contract for banking services. During this time, arrangements could be made for an open tender process with a start date of 1 April 2011.

Cabinet was informed that the bank's proposals had been examined by independent consultants who had assessed whether they represented value for money.

The consultants had concluded that HSBC's proposal represented value for money based on the current banking environment and the circumstances of the Council.

Members suggested that a contracts register should be established for the future.

DECISION MADE:

1. That the proposed HSBC tariffs and charges be accepted for a period of 18 months from 1 October 2009;
2. That the use of Contract Procedure Rule Exception 10.1.7 be agreed; and
3. That the Chief Executive be requested to establish a contracts register.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To formalise the provision of banking services.

Contact Officer: Lee Colyer, Head of Finance and Governance (s151 Officer)
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(NOTE: The meeting closed at 12.00pm)