

RECORD OF DECISIONS

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At the Meeting of the Finance and Management Committee held on 21st February 2006, the following decisions were taken.

Urgent decisions or those exempt from call-in are indicated in the third column of the table. These decisions cannot be called in and are effective immediately.

All other decisions may be called in until 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 6th March 2006.

A request to call in a decision must be made by at least three Members representing at least two political groups. The request must be made in writing to the Chief Executive¹.

If no request to call in a decision is received within this time limit then the decision becomes effective immediately.

<u>Agenda Item No.</u> ³	<u>OPEN REPORTS</u>	<u>Urgent/ Call-in Exempt</u>
7.	<u>AGENDA ITEM</u> MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE	
	<u>DECISION:</u> ² That the Committee declare the local average rate of interest at 5.13% for the period April 2006 to September 2006 and that the Council's mortgage rate remain unchanged at 6.28%.	
8.	<u>AGENDA ITEM</u> IMPROVEMENT PANEL – MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 15TH JUNE AND 27TH OCTOBER 2005	
	<u>DECISION:</u> That the Open Minutes of the Improvement Panel from its Meetings held on 15th June and 27th October 2005 be received.	
9.	<u>AGENDA ITEM</u> PLANNING GAIN SUPPLEMENT IN PLACE OF PART OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS CONSULTATION BY HM TREASURY, HM REVENUES AND CUSTOMS (HMRC) AND OFFICE OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER	
	<u>DECISION:</u> That the Leader of the Council, Chair of Environmental and Development Services Committee, Councillor Bell and a nominee from the Conservative Group meet with Planning Officers on Thursday, 23rd February 2006 at 4.00 p.m. to discuss and agree the content of a letter which would enable officers to respond on behalf of the Council to the Consultation Document on Planning Gain Supplement.	
10.	<u>AGENDA ITEM</u> CONSULTATION PAPER ON NEW PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 3 (PPS3) HOUSING	
	<u>DECISION:</u> (1) That the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister be informed that	

the Council considers that the draft Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) Housing:

- Contains ambiguities which if not resolved will lead to considerable public expense defending interpretation at future inquiries.
- Does not set out a clear and logical search sequence for the identification of housing sites.
- Does not provide clear guidance to enable decisions to be made on planning applications for residential development in the period prior to the adoption of Local Development Framework documents.
- Should place far greater weight on the need to protect the character of an area rather than establishing higher densities for new residential development. This is particularly important in rural districts such as South Derbyshire. A one size fits all policy requiring a minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare is not appropriate.
- Fails to provide a definition of 'sustainable'.
- Is unclear as to the weight that should be placed on bringing previously developed land back into beneficial use for residential purposes.
- Should not be issued in final form until all associated documents have been made available for comment.
- Should clarify the position with regard to green field land and agricultural buildings located within villages and urban areas. Consideration should be given to the exclusion of private gardens from the definition of "brownfield land". The Guidance could also usefully acknowledge the exceptional appropriateness of new dwellings in the countryside of outstanding quality and design.
- Should be published in a revised draft form for further consultation before being issued in its final form.
- Should permit Local Planning Authorities to include a modest windfall allowance as such sites exist and therefore should not be ignored.
- Runs the risk of undermining the process of planning for housing through its reference to the need to re-open the consideration of the level of housing provision in Local Development Frameworks. Such an unqualified policy would inevitably reduce certainty and lead to increased costs and delays in preparing local development documents as developers see an opportunity to re-open the debate that should have been concluded at the Regional Spatial Strategy stage.
- Appropriately continues to allow for the exceptional release of land for affordable housing, this is to be welcomed.

(2) That a copy of the Deputy Chief Executive's report on the consultation paper accompany the Council's letter of response and that a copy of both these documents be forwarded to the Local Government Association.

11.	<u>AGENDA ITEM</u> PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT QUARTER ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2005	
	DECISION: That having scrutinised the performance of the services that come within the purview of the Committee, Corporate Services (Finance and Property, IT and Customer Services, Revenues and Human Resources) and Legal and Democratic Services for the third quarter ending 31st December 2005, the report be noted.	
12.	<u>AGENDA ITEM</u> BUDGET MONITORING 2005/06	
	DECISION: That the latest budget monitoring figures and associated information having been considered be noted.	
13.	<u>AGENDA ITEM</u> SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS - RESULTS FROM SCORING PANEL	
	DECISION: That Committee note the content of the report and that it will receive further detailed information on Service Development Proposals in due course.	
14.	<u>AGENDA ITEM</u> IEG5 STATEMENT	
	DECISION: That Committee approve the Council's Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) 5 Statement as set out in the appendix to the report.	
15.	<u>AGENDA ITEM</u> REVISED ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2005/06	
	DECISION: That the Committee:- (1) Approve the revised Audit Plan for 2005/06. (2) Note the Assurance Statement for the 2004/05 account year.	
16.	<u>AGENDA ITEM</u> ASSET DISPOSALS POLICY	
	DECISION: That the Draft Asset Disposals Policy be approved and adopted by the Council.	

DATED: 27th February 2006

Chief Executive

¹ Although it is not necessary to use a prescribed form, copies are available from the Chief Executive.

² NOTE – this gives an outline of the committee decision for call-in purposes but it does not necessarily reflect the final wording for minute purposes.

³ Insert both the agenda item number and its heading.