

## OFFICER DECISIONS

Below is a list of decisions taken by Officers which they have classed as significant:-

### REF: OD.12/03 CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF HOUSING CONFERENCE

**Decision of** Town Clerk and Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader in accordance with Paragraph 15.1.2 of the Leader's Scheme of Delegation.

**Portfolio** Health and Wellbeing

#### **Subject Matter**

To consider representation at the above Conference to be held in Harrogate from 17 to 20 June 2003, funding to come from the Conferences and Courses Budget.

#### **Summary of Options Rejected**

None

#### **DECISION**

That Councillor Bloxham be authorised to attend the Chartered Institute of Housing Conference to be held in Harrogate from 17 to 20 June 2003.

#### **Reason for Decision**

Attendance at this Conference is relevant to Councillor Bloxham's position as Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder.

#### **Date Decision Made**

20 March 2003

### REF: OD.13/03 MEMBER ATTENDANCE ON A COURSE

**Decision of** The Head of Member Support and Employee Services

**Portfolio** Corporate Resources

**Subject Matter**

To consider Member attendance on a transfer of liquor licensing course to be held on 29 April 2003 at Tullie House.

**Summary of Options Rejected**

None

**DECISION**

That Councillors Morton, Bowman, McDevitt, Parsons, K Rutherford, Bloxham, Joscelyne, Atkinson, Guest and Aldersey attend the course "Transfer of Liquor Licensing to Local Authorities" to be held on 29 April 2003 at Tullie House.

**Reason for Decision**

This is an appropriate training course which the Councillors have expressed an interest in attending. There was sufficient budget in the Member Training Budget to accommodate the requests.

**Date Decision Made**

7 April 2003

**REF: OD.14/03 APPOINTMENT OF STAFF****Decision of The Head of Planning Services****Portfolio** Infrastructure Environment and Transport**Subject Matter**

The Planning Delivery Grant has been awarded to enable Local Authorities to improve their planning performance. There were a number of areas in which the grant could be used including new equipment, additional staff, a contribution towards implementation of GIS and a contribution towards Inquiry costs.

Consideration is given, following discussion with the Infrastructure Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder and with the agreement of CMT to use part of the Planning Delivery Grant to appoint a year out planning student.

**Summary of Options Rejected**

None

**DECISION**

That part of the Planning Delivery Grant be used to appoint a year out Planning Student.

**Reason for Decision**

There has been a significant increase in the number of planning applications over the past two years and the Council's performance against Best Value Indicators has declined. The additional student planner will help address this problem, improve the Council's performance and so increase the amount of grant awarded next year.

**Date Decision Made**

8 April 2003

**REF: OD.15/03 MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE****Decision of The Head of Finance****Portfolio** Finance and Resources**Subject Matter**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 438 of the Housing Act 1985, to declare the local mortgage interest rate for the period 1 April to 30 September 2003.

**Summary of Options Rejected**

None

**DECISION**

1. That, in accordance with Schedule 2, paragraph 5.2.23 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, a local interest rate for the period 1 April to 30 September 2003 be declared at 7.90%.

2. That as the National Rate is lower than the present Local Rate, in order to comply with the Housing Act 1985, new and existing borrowers be charged the local rate of 7.90% from 1 April 2003.

**Reason for Decision**

Under the provisions of Section 438 of the Housing Act, 1985, the City Council is obliged to charge on its mortgages the higher of its local interest rate or the National rate as prescribed by Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the

Regions. It is also obliged to declare twice a year its local interest rate.

The local interest rate is fixed for a period of six months. The previous rate of 8.61% expired on 31 March 2003 and a new rate is required for the period 1 April 2003 - 30 September 2003.

The local interest rate is calculated as the cost of a local authority's borrowing plus 1/4%. The average cost of the City Council's external borrowings in the period April - September 2003 is estimated at 7.65%. Therefore the local rate of interest would be 7.90% for this period.

The Secretary of State declared that with effect from 1 January 2002, the National Rate of interest was reduced to 5.19% from 6.06%. Thus this rate remains below the City Council's own local rate of interest.

### **Date Decision Made**

9 April 2003