

## **NOTICE OF POLICY DECISIONS**

The Policy & Finance Committee made the following decisions at its meeting on 7 April 2005:-

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Decision</u></b>
<b>Issues Arising from Overview &amp; Scrutiny</b> (Minute 145/05)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) That the Rochford and Rayleigh Association for Voluntary Services be encouraged to establish a Community Transport Trust as soon as possible.</li><li>(2) That, subject to (1) above, the Council commit to a five-year support plan for Community Transport as indicated in the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and subject to Essex County Council funding continuing at expected levels.</li><li>(3) That, for the present time, the taxi voucher scheme be retained and expanded, although, where necessary, an alternative provision be considered in six months time. (HRHM)</li></ul>
<b>National Non-Domestic Rate - Discretionary Rate Relief</b> (Minute 147/05)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) That Discretionary Relief be awarded based on the criteria set out in the report.</li><li>(2) That Discretionary Relief should be awarded for a fixed period for no longer than three years.</li><li>(3) That authority to award Discretionary Relief be delegated to the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services).</li><li>(4) That any case which the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) considers includes circumstances not covered by the criteria set out in the report, be referred to Policy &amp; Finance Committee for decision.</li><li>(5) That the working of the revised procedural arrangements be reviewed in one year's time. (HRHM)</li></ul>

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Decision</u></b>
<b>Retirement Age</b> (Minute 148/05)	(1) That the retirement age for employees remains at 65 years.  (2) That staff are permitted to work beyond the age of 65 (on an annual fixed-term basis) up to the age of 70 where a business case for this exists and subject to annual Performance Development Review.  (3) That this policy is kept under review in the light of changing legislation. (CD(LP&A))
<b>Housing Benefit Performance Standards – 2005 Review</b> (Minute 150/05)	(1) That the new Housing Benefit Performance Standards be adopted.  (2) That the reporting cycle be July/December until all Standards are met. (HRHM)
<b>Market Town Health Check Study</b> (Minute 151/05)	That in the planned future reviews of its own Strategies and Action Plans, particularly the Local Development Framework and the development of the Council's own vision as a District as a whole, the District Council considers the suggestions made in the Study and determines the most appropriate course of action for the Authority. (CE)
<b>Council Tax Improvement Plan</b> (Minute 152/05)	(1) That, subject to the deletion of actions 8.5, 16.5, 16.6 and 19.4, the revised action plan for Council Tax Service Improvement, as set out in the report, be endorsed.  (2) That the action plan be reviewed again in October 2005 and April 2006. (HRHM)
<b>Revenue &amp; Benefit – Capacity Building and Service Enhancement</b> (Minute 153/05)	That, subject to a specific clause precluding operation of the service overseas, the telephone calls management project, as set out in the exempt report, be adopted as a twelve month pilot with a review and report back to this Committee after six months operation. (HRHM)

The above decisions will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days after the publication of this Notice, unless referred to Full Council by a minimum of 3 Members or called in by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Signed** .....  
Head of Administrative and Member Services

**Dated**.....

**Note:** The Committee agreed to refer consideration of the item on the proposals for a green waste contract to Full Council on 28 April 2005.