

Appendix B

KEY DECISIONS

Statutory definition of a Key Decision

A key decision is defined by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 as one that is likely either:

- (i) To result in the authority incurring expenditure or making savings which are significant in terms of the authority's budget for the service or function to which that decision relates; or
- (ii) To be significant in terms of its effects on those living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area.

It is for each authority to determine what is 'significant' in each case.

Wycombe's Existing Definition of a Key Decision

- (i) The decision is not in accordance with any one or more of the following:
 - (a) the overall Strategic Budget
 - (b) the Revenue Budget
 - (c) the Capital Programme
 - (d) the Housing Revenue Account
 - (e) Borrowing Limits set by the Council
- (ii) The decision is in conflict with or a departure from a policy, plan or strategy approved by the Council or any person or body of the Council authorised to set a policy, plan or strategy on the Council's behalf
- (iii) It raises new issues of policy
- (iv) It increases budgetary commitments
- (v) It proposes expenditure or savings in excess of £250,000, save in respect of land acquisitions or disposals (see (vi)(b) below)
- (vi) It requires any of the following:
 - (a) Staff for which there is no budgetary provision
 - (b) The acquisition or disposal of land or any interest therein in excess of a value of £1,000,000
 - (c) The entering into of a contract with an estimated value in excess of £100,000
 - (d) Requires a virement in excess of the limit set by the Cabinet

- (e) The making, approval or publication of any draft or final scheme which requires approval from a Minister of the Crown
- (f) Initiation of legislation
- (g) Is of such significance to all or a part of the area, that the person to whom the decision is delegated, considers that it should be treated as a key decision

NB Excluded from paragraphs (v) and (vi)(c) above are contracts for and expenditure on, repairs, maintenance and improvement works within budget provision and approved policy where the contract or expenditure has either been properly and specifically approved by or on behalf of the Cabinet or by an officer acting under delegated powers, save where Contract Standing Orders require the Cabinet itself to authorise acceptance of a tender and such acceptance has not previously been authorised or delegated by the Cabinet.

Proposed New Wycombe DC Definition of a Key Decision

- Proposals that fall outside the Council's budget and policy framework.
- Proposed expenditure or savings in excess of £250,000 for both revenue and capital budgets
- Acquisition or disposal of land in excess of a value of £1,000,000
- The entering into a contract with an estimated value in excess of £100,000
- A decision which has a significant effect on two or more wards in the District