

Consent by Central Bedfordshire Council ("CBC")

This consent effective as from 1 May 2008 is granted to Bedfordshire County Council ("BCC") under the direction relating to Bedfordshire made under section 24 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the 2007 Act"). It should be read in conjunction with the consent granted Bedford Borough Council ("BBC").

General Consent

This general consent is in addition to the section 24 of the 2007 Act non-capital contracts limit.

This general consent gives consent to BCC to enter into any further non-capital contracts with a Service Area limit of £100,000 but subject to a cumulative limit of £1m for BCC overall. The consent is subject to the following conditions:

Any contract:

- must not have a termination date expiring on or after 1 April 2009;
- must not have any capital or revenue implications remaining effective after 1 April 2009 whether or not arising before that date;
- must be pursuant to
 - the implementation of the County Council's statutory functions;
 - the County Council's original 2008/9 (or earlier) approved revenue budget.

"Service Area" means any part of the County structure headed by an Assistant Director.

This general consent does not include contracts of employment.

Specific Consents

In addition to the general consent set out above a specific consent is also given to BCC in respect of the following:

1. The acquisition of land or land and buildings pursuant to a Compulsory Purchase Order made prior to 1st April 2008 whether or not the consideration payable by the relevant authority exceeds £1,000,000 in respect of the whole scheme.
2. The acquisition of land or the exchange of land pursuant to an agreement made under s.106 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or an agreement made pursuant to s.38 or s.278 of the Highways Act 1980 where no consideration is payable by the relevant authority.

3. The acquisition of a leasehold interest in land and/or buildings or taking a licence of land and/or buildings where in each case the consideration payable by the relevant authority is of a nominal value or for a term expiring or determinable on or before 31st March 2009.
4. To fill vacancies of permanent employment contracts for staff in customer facing roles up to scale point 30 (except for those in care roles which will be up to scale point 40) in approved establishments, where budget provision has been made for 2008/09 in the BCC's approved budget. For the avoidance of doubt, interim, temporary and agency contracts not going beyond 31 March 2009 are also included within this consent provided that the cost of any contract for such staff does not exceed £40,000 per annum or equivalent sum pro rata. (It should be noted that a Local People Protocol is being developed which may supersede this consent.).
5. Capital and non-capital contracts where the full costs of the contract are to be met by a third-party, whether by grant or otherwise, except where the contract results in an ongoing commitment for CBC which is not covered by the general consents within this document.
6. Disposals by way of the grant of an easement (freehold or leasehold) or the grant of a leasehold interest in land and/or buildings (non-operational and operational land) where the terms for the disposal were agreed and approved by the relevant authority prior to 1st April 2008 and subject to BBC and CBC approving a list of such BCC matters (relevant to their respective areas) as at 1st April 2008 and CBC approving a list of such Mid Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire District Councils matters as at 1st April 2009.
7. The grant of a licence to occupy land and/or buildings (the nature of which is temporary allowing the relevant authority and its successors in title to terminate the same on not more than 3 months notice) provided that a list of all such licences relevant to their areas is made and available for BBC and CBC
8. Disposals by way of the grant of a leasehold interest in land and/or buildings required to give effect to the terms of either an existing service contract or management agreement.
9. Land transactions where the BCC, MBDC or SBDC have entered into contracts to acquire or grant interests in land before 16 April 2008, but where the actual disposal has not yet taken place.
10. Temporary investments where the contract period ends before or on 31 March 2009, provided that it is in accordance with the BCC's existing agreed Treasury Management Strategy, Policy or Practices.
11. The extension of the existing contract with Hymans Robertson (Pension Fund Actuary) for 3 years from Oct 2008.

12. Payment of insurance claims where such payments have been calculated in conjunction with insurance industry are reached following appropriate negotiation and are supported by written legal advice.
13. Agreements to settle or compromise legal claims against BCC where the costs of settlement in any individual case do not exceed £250,000 and where the settlement is agreed following appropriate negotiation and is supported by written legal advice.
14. Contracts relating to service provision for individual children or adults/older people.
15. Essential responsive maintenance of buildings and highways.
16. Any contract for goods or services which is required as an essential response to a civil emergency.
17. Contracts for the supply of utilities up to 1 April 2009 (eg gas or electricity).
18. Office stationery and supplies for up to 1 April 2009.
19. Existing vehicle maintenance and repairs and fuel for up to 1 April 2009.

Revocation/Modification

CBC has the right to revoke or modify this consent in whole or part at any time.

Signed on behalf of CBC this first day of May 2008 by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Salisbury', written in a cursive style.

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Jaki Salisbury (Duly Authorised Officer)

Interim Head of Staff