

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

CABINET – 5 April 2011

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

REFERENCES FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 Cabinet is asked to consider references from the Audit Committee meeting on 25 March 2011 in regard to the following items:

- Match Funding Application – Diss Rugby Club
- Variation to the Environmental Services

2. VARIATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT

2.1 The Cabinet at its meeting on 19 October 2010 recommended that the Environmental Services (SERCO) Contract be deferred and the Audit Committee be commissioned to investigate the financial aspects of the settlement of invoices for the Gross Annual Services Charges of the Serco contract (Cabinet Minute No. 107/10 refers).

2.2 The Audit Committee discussed the implications of the variation of the contract in great detail and felt that it was too much of a risk for the Council to take in the present economic climate. However, a one month settlement was proposed, and following a vote, it was:

2.3 **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that the Gross Annual Service Charges for the contract be settled **one** month in advance in order to realise a 1% discount from Serco.

3. MATCH FUNDING APPLICATION – DISS RUGBY CLUB

3.1 The Cabinet at its meeting on 30 November 2010 recommended that the Diss Rugby Club Match Funding application be deferred (Cabinet Minute No. 121/10 refers), subject to:

- i) a review by the Audit Committee to look at the number of residents from the Breckland area benefiting from these projects;
 - ii) confirmation of financial commitments from other sources; and
- (ii) the protocol being reviewed in terms of cross local authority boundary funding to ensure that Breckland Council was getting value for money.

3.2 The Audit Committee has considered and reviewed the current eligibility criteria of Breckland Council's grant schemes and the Diss Rugby Club Match Funding application. The Chairman and Members fully supported what the Club was trying to achieve and recommended that no changes be made to the eligibility criteria subject to all applications being value for money to Breckland residents.

3.3 Accordingly, the Audit Committee

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET that:

- 1) the funding application for Diss Rugby Football Club Match Funding totalling the amount of £20,000 be approved;
- 2) no changes be made to the eligibility criteria for Match Funding applications; subject to it being value for money for Breckland residents;
- 3) a protocol be implemented to ensure that the local authority within which the organisation is based matches or exceeds the grant requested from Breckland;

and

- 4) each case to be judged on its merits.