

9 April 2008

Chief Executives
Mid Bedfordshire District Council,
South Bedfordshire District Council,
Bedfordshire County Council.

Dear Chief Executive,

CONTROL OF DISPOSALS, CONTRACTS AND RESERVES

1. I enclose a direction to your authority made under section 24 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and which must be read in the context of sections 24 to 30 of that Act.
2. I also enclose a Guidance Note which contains an explanation of the direction together with guidance on how the Government sees the arrangements, brought into effect by the direction, might best work in practice.
3. The direction comes into effect on 16 April 2008. From that date, your authority, and all other authorities to which the direction relates, will be required to seek consent for a wide variety of transactions as provided for in the direction. To remove any uncertainty around the obtaining of consent for a disposal that a local authority is required to make by law, the Secretary of State has, simultaneously with this direction, issued a general consent for any disposal which is required under an enactment. A copy of the general consent is enclosed.
4. A number of routine transactions that authorities undertake on a regular basis will be covered by the direction. In order to ensure these continue unhindered, the Government recommends that those locally responsible for giving consents (namely, the Implementation Executive and the Shadow Executive) consider the issuing of general consents as an urgent priority.
5. I am copying this letter and enclosures to the Leader of the Bedford Joint Implementation Team, Shaun Field, and to Andrew Limb at the Government Office for the East of England. Any queries on the direction or the Guidance Note should be addressed to Mark Doran or Thea Edwards at the appropriate address below.

Yours sincerely,

P. ROWSELL

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