

**Policy & Resources Committee**

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>2 August 2016</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Morag Robinson, Office Administration Manager</b>

**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide background information relating to the Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy, as last adopted on 4 September 2012. Only minor amendments have been made.

**Background**

2. The Council has an obligation to fulfil its fiduciary duty in a way which is accountable to local people if any council owned land is disposed of or if new land is purchased. This will ensure that a transparent and consistent approach is always followed which will obviate any accusations of unfairness and impropriety.
3. The acquisition and disposal of land by local authorities is controlled by statute which highlights the various pressures that can influence councils, Councillors and employees in dealing with land and sets out guidelines to encourage best practice and transparency.
4. The Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy attached as Appendix 1 places emphasis on adopting procedures that are fair and proper. Land must be managed and wisely utilised to achieve the Council's long term aims and objectives. The Disposal of Public Open Space Land Procedure attached as Appendix 2 is a summary of the actions that an applicant must follow in regard to purchasing public open space land.

**Resource Appraisal**

5. There are no associated costs at this time.

**Risk Assessment**

6. Without an agreed Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy, the Town Council may be accused of not following a consistent approach when acquiring and disposing of land resulting in accusations of unfairness and impropriety.

**Legal Powers:** Local Government Act 1972 s123-131

**Recommendation**

***It is recommended that:***

- i) The Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy be approved.***