

## Policy for disposal of open space land

The Council occasionally receives requests to sell land, usually for relatively small areas adjacent to houses or other properties. A robust policy is required in respect of these requests, in order to protect the public interest and to ensure that the people who are seeking the sale are dealt with in a fair and consistent manner.

On 12 March 2002, the Employment, Economic Development, Leisure and Tourism Policy Panel re-affirmed the existing policy presumption against the sale or disposal of any land that is held as public open space, country park or wildlife area. This policy allows for the sale of open space land in exceptional circumstances, where:-

- there is a broader community benefit to the disposal, for example a rationalisation of small parcels of 'backland' open space, either rarely used or often misused
- the prospective purchaser is not the sole beneficiary of the disposal.

In addition to the Council's own policy, there is a legal class of public open space, known as 'public trust land', over which there are particularly stringent controls over the Council's freedom to sell.

The consultation procedure for dealing with requests for the sale of land held by the Council as Public Open Space, Country Park or Wildlife Area was agreed on 27 June 2002 [Portfolio Holder for Employment, Economic Development, Leisure and Tourism]



