



2006-2007  
Waste and Recycling  
2006-2007  
Culture and Sport for  
Hard to Reach Groups

**Andrew Hunkin DMS MCIPD FMS**  
**Director of Corporate Services**  
**Babergh District Council**  
Corks Lane, Hadleigh, Ipswich IP7 6SJ

DX NO: 85055 Exchange: Babergh  
Website: [www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk)

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TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

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25 August 2011

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**PLEASE NOTE DAY OF MEETING**

Dear Sir/Madam

A Meeting of the Babergh District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Corks Lane, Hadleigh on **MONDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 9.30 A.M.**

The proceedings will be opened with a short Prayer for those Members who choose to participate.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Hunkin  
Director of Corporate Services

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**PART I**1 MINUTES

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2011 as a correct record.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members to declare any interests as appropriate in respect of items to be considered at this meeting.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paper  
[L59](#)

In addition to any announcements made at the meeting please see Paper L59 attached detailing events attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

5 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 13

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 13, the Chief Executive will report the receipt of a petition as detailed below. There can be no debate or comment upon this matter at the Council meeting.

B/11/00825/FUL – Construction of 35 two, three and four bedroom apartments, bungalows and houses with associated roads, paths, driveways, car parking, garages and landscaping, new access from Friends Field and Tawneys Ride, plus public open space (including an equipped play area), land south of Friends Field, Bures St Mary

Petition signed by approximately 27 residents of Babergh expressing concerns about traffic/access/parking at Friends Field/Cuckoo Hill, Bures St Mary.

The petition will be taken into account when the planning application is determined at a future meeting of the Development Committee.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- (a) Review of Council Procedure Rule for Substitutes at Strategy and Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee Minute No. 16)

Paper  
[L46](#)

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (Paper L46) to the meeting of the Committee on 12 July 2011, advising that at Annual Council on 19 May 2011, Members requested that a report be brought forward via Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee to consider whether the Council's Constitution should be amended to allow Members of Strategy Committee to substitute for Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and vice versa. In addition Article 7.02 of the Constitution states that all Group Leaders shall be Members of the Strategy Committee subject to political balance requirements and Deputy Group Leaders shall be named substitutes for Group Leaders unless a Deputy Group Leader is already a Member in his/her own right in which case the Group Leader may appoint another substitute.

The Committee gave consideration to the amendment of the Constitution and did not agree to Members of Strategy Committee being able to substitute for Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and vice versa or felt it appropriate to remove the requirements in Article 7.02 of the Constitution that Deputy Group Leaders must be named substitutes for Group Leaders on Strategy Committee.

### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- (1) **That Council Procedure Rule No. 5.5 which prohibits Members of Strategy Committee substituting for Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees or vice-versa be not changed.**
- (2) **That Article 7.02 of the Constitution which states, subject to political balance requirements, that Group Leaders shall be Members of Strategy Committee and Deputy Group Leaders their substitutes be not changed.**
- (b) Babergh Development Framework – Submission Draft Core Strategy Document (2011-2031) (Strategy Committee Minute No.39)

Paper  
[L55](#)

The Head of Natural and Built Environment submitted a report (Paper L55) to the Strategy Committee at its meeting on 18 August 2011, asking Members to recommend the Council to approve for consultation purposes the Submission Draft Core Strategy new (local) plan document (Appendix (a) to Paper L55).

Rich Cooke, Planning Policy Manager, in presenting Paper L55 emphasised the importance of having an adopted local planning framework in place in order to avoid the National Planning Policy Framework being the default position. He referred to the broad strategic approach of the Draft being in general conformity with Regional Planning Policy, which was still relevant, notwithstanding the Government's 2010 statement on the removal of the Regional Spatial Strategy and which had led to a significant review of the Core Strategy from that originally presented to Members. He also referred to the current Strategy being 'jobs led' rather than housing being the main focus as in previous strategies. The Chairman on behalf of Members thanked the Planning Policy Manager and his team for their hard work in producing the draft document, and for the Member engagement and other informal consultations which had fed into the Draft.

The recommendations contained in paragraph 2 of Paper L55 were proposed and seconded. During the course of the ensuing debate Members raised various matters to which Rich Cooke responded.

An amendment was proposed and seconded to set up a Task Group as part of Member involvement with the process. Members carefully considered the amendment but felt that Officers should continue to engage with all Members in the development of the Core Strategy. The amendment was lost on being put to the vote.

#### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- (1) That the proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy document, attached as Appendix (a) to Paper L55, be approved for public consultation.**
- (2) That the Head of Natural and Built Environment be authorised to make any revisions to the Draft Core Strategy prior to consultation, subject to the revisions not altering the fundamental substance or intent of the Strategy.**
- (3) That the arrangements for public consultation in Appendix (b) to Paper L55 be noted.**

#### **7 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Mr A C Bavington has given notice of his intention to move the under-mentioned Motion at the meeting:-

"Given the unprecedented scale of the cuts to Babergh's central government grant coming over the next three years, that:

1. The budget for Members' allowances and expenses be cut by 10% per annum in each of the financial years 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 (this approximates to the 28% average cut to central government grant to local authorities over the four years from 2011-2012);

2. Special Responsibility Allowances bear a greater proportion of the cut than the Basic Allowance; and
3. The money saved be added to the budget for supporting local voluntary sector organisations.

In this way, elected Members can make a direct contribution to the continued vitality and wellbeing of our local communities.”

The Notice has been signed by Councillors Bavington, Owen and MacMaster.

#### 8 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chairmen of Committees to answer any questions from the public of which notice has been given no later than midday two working days before the day of the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 14.

#### 9 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The Chairman of the Council and the Chairmen of Committees and Sub-Committees to answer any questions on any matters in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affect the District and which fall within the terms of reference of that Committee or Sub-Committee of which due notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 15.4 (a) and (b).

#### 10 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Paper  
[L60](#)

Report from the Joint Member Integration Board attached.

Note: Mid Suffolk District Council at its meeting on 30 June 2011 agreed the additions and refinements to the terms of reference referred to in Paper L60. It was also noted that the references to ‘customer’ in Appendix A of Paper L60 should be amended to ‘citizen’ as previously agreed, and Appendix A has been amended accordingly.

#### 11 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Solicitor to the Council to report that the 4 year term of office of Mr J G Watson as an independent co-opted Member of the Standards Committee expires on 30 September 2011. Mr Watson is the current independent Chairman of the Committee. Ordinarily, the Council would need to advertise a vacancy and make an appointment for a further 4 year term. However, in view of possible changes to Standards Committees upon enactment of the Localism Bill and pending consideration of a Joint Standards Committee with Mid Suffolk, it is recommended instead that the term of office for Mr J G Watson be extended until the end of this municipal year. Mr Watson is in agreement with this proposal.

**It is recommended**

That the term of office of Mr J G Watson as an independent co-opted Member of the Standards Committee be extended until the expiry of the current municipal year, subject to any relevant changes to the establishment of the Standards Committee in the interim.

**12 RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Solicitor to the Council to report that pending the consideration of a Joint Standards Committee between Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, it is recommended that reciprocal arrangements be put in place between the two Councils to enable co-opted Members of each Committee to serve on the other Committee on a case by case basis if the need arises. It is envisaged that this would most likely occur for Babergh where a co-opted member has a conflict of interest preventing the consideration of a complaint.

**It is recommended**

That a co-opted member of Mid Suffolk District Council Standards Committee be deemed appointed to the Babergh Standards Committee for the purposes of undertaking a particular function of the Committee as may from time to time be agreed with the individual co-opted member.

For further information on any of the Part 1 items listed above, please contact Steve Ellwood on 01473 825876 or via email at [committee.services@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:committee.services@babergh.gov.uk)