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TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

15 February 2012

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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 **THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 9.30 A.M.**

For those wishing to attend, prayers will be said at 9.25 a.m. prior to the commencement of the Council meeting.

Yours faithfully

Peter Quirk  
Head of Corporate Organisation

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**PART I**1 MINUTES

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2012 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  
[L156](#)

In addition to any announcements made at the meeting, please see Paper L156 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 any petitions. There can be no debate or comment upon this matter at the Council meeting.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Notes: 1. Members having questions of detail on the items referred to in (a) (b) and (c) below are asked to contact the Director of Finance in advance of the Council meeting.

Paper  
[L157](#)

2. The information contained in Paper L157 (attached) was circulated to Strategy Committee Members and taken into account by them during their consideration of the items referred to in (a) and (b) below.

(a) Draft Treasury Management Strategy 2012/13 (Overview and Scrutiny Committee 24 January 2012 and Strategy Committee 9 February 2012)

The Strategy Committee had before them Paper L132R together with a summary (Paper L142) of the key aspects and changes to the Council's Treasury Management Strategy 2012/13 proposed by the Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee for adoption by the Council.

Revised  
Appendix  
D to Paper  
[L132R](#)

In addition to the amendments to the Appendices to Paper L132R detailed in Paper L157, further amendments have been made to Appendix D to Paper L132R, to incorporate further changes to reflect the detailed Budget proposals. The revised Appendix D is attached.

### RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (1) **That the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice in the Public Services (2011 edition) be adopted.**
  - (2) **That the key factors and information affecting treasury management activities set out in Appendix A to Paper L132R be noted.**
  - (3) **That, in addition, the following be approved with immediate effect:**
    - (a) **The Treasury Management Policy Statement and the Policy for Managing the HRA Debt set out in Appendix B (as amended) to Paper L132R.**
    - (b) **The Draft Treasury Management Strategy for 2012/13, including the Annual Investment Strategy, as set out in Appendix C (as amended) Paper L132R.**
    - (c) **The Draft Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2011/12 to 2014/15 set out in Appendix D (Revised) to Paper L132R.**
- (b) Council Housing Self-Financing Reforms – HRA Budget and Sheltered Housing Service Arrangements and Charges 2012/13 (Strategy Committee 9 February 2012)

The Director of Finance to report that, following Strategy Committee's consideration of Papers L143, L144 and L145, the HRA Business Plan and draft HRA Budget for 2012/13 have been updated accordingly to reflect the recommendations on rent levels and borrowing decisions being made to Council.

Revised  
Appendix  
1 to Paper  
[L143](#)

Revised HRA projections for the next 5 years and 30 years, which update Appendix 1 to Paper L143 will be included in the final Business Plan that is published, prior to 1 April 2012 are attached.

Paper  
[L145R](#)

The final proposed HRA Budget, capital programme and related charges are attached (Paper L145R) to reflect the recommendations set out below.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- (1) That the summary of the Council's initial 30-year Business Plan, which indicates potential HRA surpluses of over £100m, as set out in the revised Appendix 1 of Paper L143 and which provides an initial basis for the management of its Housing Stock over this period be approved.**
- (2) That the debt settlement figure which the Council is required to pay to Communities and Local Government to implement the self-financing arrangements from April 2012 be noted and borrowing option 2, as set out in Appendix 2 of Paper L143 be approved.**
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Director of Finance to arrange the final details of the loan portfolio, based on the approved borrowing option, on the day determined by the Public Works Loan Board, based on interest rates on 26 March.**
- (4) That the debt split between the General Fund and the HRA set out in the Policy on Managing the HRA Debt, Appendix B (as amended) of Paper L132R, which proposes the adoption of the two pool approach for accounting separately for General Fund and HRA debt and interest costs, including the transfer of the Council's existing external borrowing of £5.65m as at the 31 March 2012 to the HRA be approved.**
- (5) That it be noted that a review of the initial Business Plan and the relevant policies/ strategies for future years which are associated with the new self-financing arrangements will be undertaken by the Joint Housing Board on an annual basis and the outcomes and necessary recommendations reported to Strategy Committee.**
- (6) That the options for spending the additional resources that are available as a consequence of these reforms be noted.**
- (7) That, based on the Business Plan forecasts of income and expenditure, Council House rents be increased by an average of 6% with effect from Monday 16 April 2012. Further, that rents for compulsory and casually let garages be also increased by 6%.**
- (8) That, as outlined in Paper L144, the continuation of the current sheltered housing service arrangements and a subsidy of £49k required from the Housing Revenue Account to maintain these service levels during 2012/13 be approved, subject to further review by the Joint Housing Board of the arrangements for future years.**

**(9) That the HRA Budget for 2012/13 and capital programme as set out in Paper L145R be approved, including the revised Council Housing charges for sheltered accommodation being implemented, also with effect from Monday 16 April 2012.**

(c) General Fund Budget 2012/13

Paper  
L159

The Director of Finance to report that, following Council decisions on 26 January 2012 in relation to the Budget options for 2012/13 and the further report to Strategy Committee on 9 February 2012 (Paper L146), the Council is requested to approve the necessary resolutions in relation to setting the Budget, the Council Tax and related matters for 2012/13. These are set out in Paper L159 (attached).

Paper  
L160

Key information related to the Budget is summarised in Paper L160, (attached) which reflects the Policy and Budget Framework document that will be published on the website.

It should be noted, however, that the finally agreed precept requirements of the Suffolk Police Authority will not be known until 20 February. Papers L159 and L160 are based on a 3.75% increase in Council Tax by the Suffolk Police Authority. The final levels of Council Tax for 2012/13 based on the actual precepts notified, should these be different, will be circulated at the meeting.

NOTE:

Paper  
L161

Attached as Paper L161 is a letter from Bob Neill MP, Minister for Local Government, sent to all Council Leaders, relating to Budget Debates on Council Tax for 2012/13.

The Minister has asked for his letter to be passed to Elected Members 'ahead of them exercising their democratic duty in determining this year's Council Tax bills.'

7 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.

8 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).

ITEM	BUSINESS
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9 CHELSWORTH PARISH MEETING

Paper  
[L162](#)

Report by the Head of Corporate Organisation attached.

10 ADOPTION OF SENIOR OFFICER PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Paper  
[L163](#)

Report by the Head of Corporate Organisation attached.

11 PROPER OFFICER DELEGATIONS

Paper  
[L164](#)

Report from Joint Member Integration Board attached.

12 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE SUFFOLK WELLBEING BOARD – JOINT APPOINTMENTS WITH MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Head of Corporate Organisation to report that Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have been asked to appoint a joint Member representative to serve on the Suffolk Wellbeing Board. There is also provision to nominate a substitute Member.

Health and Wellbeing Boards are intended to be a forum for the relevant agencies and local representatives to discuss how to work together to better the health and wellbeing outcomes of the people in their area. As part of its terms of reference, the Suffolk Wellbeing Board is currently working towards establishing a Board that is able to fulfil statutory responsibilities from April 2013 as set out in the Health and Social Care Act.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh Councillors were invited to submit nominations with supporting information for the representative roles. These were considered by the Joint Management Integration Board on 16 December, as a result of which **it is recommended**

That, for the remainder of the current term of office, Councillor Dr M F M Bamford be appointed to represent Babergh and Mid Suffolk on the Suffolk Wellbeing Board, subject to the appointment being endorsed by Mid Suffolk District Council. Further, that the appointment by Mid Suffolk of Councillor Mrs D Kearsley as the nominated substitute on the Board for the remainder of the current term of office be endorsed.

13 MRS A K POLLARD

The Head of Corporate Organisation to report that Mrs Pollard has been unable by reason of ill-health to attend meetings of the District Council in recent months and that her last attendance was at the meeting of the Council on 25 October 2011.

Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a Member of a Local Authority fails over a period of six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance to attend any meeting of the Authority, he/she shall, unless failure was due to some reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a Member of the Authority.

It is not known when Mrs Pollard's health will allow her to resume attendance at District Council meetings.

**The Council is therefore asked to approve Mrs Pollard's ill health as a reason for her failure to attend meetings of the District Council.**

For further information on any of the Part 1 items listed above, please contact Linda Sheppard on 01473 826610 or via email at [committee.services@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:committee.services@babergh.gov.uk)