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TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

16 June 2014

PLEASE NOTE TIME 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 **Tuesday, 24 June 2014 at 5.30 p.m.**

For those wishing to attend, prayers will be said at 5.25 p.m. prior to the commencement of the Council meeting.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Hunkin
Strategic Director (Corporate)

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Strategic Director (Corporate): Andrew Hunkin
Head of Corporate Organisation: Peter Quirk, **Head of Corporate Resources:** Katherine Steel
Chief Finance Officers (S151): Katherine Steel (Mid Suffolk), Barry Hunter (Babergh), **Monitoring Officer:** Esther Thornton

PART I**1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Members of the public are able to ask a question or make a statement during this item – please refer to the ‘Guide to the Procedure’ – copy available on request. Prior written notice of the intention to speak must be given to the Monitoring Officer by no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday 19 June 2014 (two clear working days before the meeting).

2 MINUTES

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on [22 April 2014](#) as a correct record (copy attached).

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

5 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Paper
P25](#)

In addition to any announcements made at the meeting, please see Paper P25 attached, detailing events attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

6 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 these matters at the Council meeting.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(a) Annual Report of Planning Committee for 2013/14 (Planning Committee Minute No 13)

[Paper
P26](#)

The Head of Economy submitted a draft report (Paper P16) to the Planning Committee meeting on 14 May 2014, summarising the work of the Committee for the year 2013/14. Paper P26 (attached) is the Annual Report as approved by Committee, subject to anything the Council may wish to note as a result of an update requested by the Committee in relation to enforcement notices, which will be provided at this meeting.

The Appendices to Paper P26 (which are unchanged from those provided to the Planning Committee) are available by way of links on the Council’s website.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

That Paper P26 be adopted as the Annual Report of the Planning Committee for 2013/14.

- (b) Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Strategic Plan 2014-2019 (Strategy Committee 12 June 2014)

[Paper
P20](#)

Members had before them Paper P20, asking Members to recommend Council to approve the Joint Strategic Plan (Appendix A to the report). Amended wordings for the *Collaborative Working* and the *Values attitudes and behaviour* paragraphs on page 21 of the Plan were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chairman of the Strategy Committee in introducing the report stressed the importance of the Plan and the considerable input from Members to its content. The Chief Executive referred to the on-going work to be carried out by Members and officers in driving the Plan forward and the link to the 'Leadership in Mind' initiative.

Members were aware of the importance of the Council's growth agenda in the delivery of the Plan and the officers responded to questions from Members about specific areas including infrastructure funding / role of LEPs / major developments and their effect on Sudbury including traffic implications / future options for the maintenance of open space.

Members agreed the recommendation to Council to approve the Plan, incorporating the amended wordings referred to above. The Committee also authorised the Interim Executive Director to make any typographical and other minor changes to the document.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

That the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Joint Strategic Plan 2014-2019 be approved as set out in Appendix A to Paper P20, as amended by the incorporation of the amended wordings as set out below:-

Collaborative working – to strengthen valuable working partnerships within the organisation and voluntary sector, social landlords, business, communities, town, parish, other districts and the county council and all providers of public or community services in the two districts e.g. police, health services in order to achieve our outcomes. To do this, we will work in a joined up and collaborative way across all council activities.

Values attitudes and behaviours – to develop and reflect our organisational values in everything we do and to develop an organisation and workforce that demonstrates through actions and behaviours that we are focused on peoples’ needs, outcome orientated and business like. Our employees will be able to use their skills and judgment to the full, with less managerial oversight and will be flexible, agile and responsive.

- (c) New Build Programme – Accessing Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Grant Funding (Strategy Committee 12 June 2014)

[Paper
P23](#)

The Head of Housing introduced Paper P23 which set out the process by which Babergh might attract HCA funding to support the Council’s new build development programmes. Members were asked to approve recommendations to Council to enable the necessary rent conversion and other measures to be put in place.

The Head of Housing and the Corporate Manager – Strategic Housing outlined the background to the recommendations and explained the criteria which were set by the HCA. Members expressed agreement with the recommendations.

During the debate on this item, it was acknowledged that Babergh will need to develop a comprehensive and more extensive programme of investment in new housing if it is to meet its strategic priorities of housing growth and in particular to achieve the right mix and supply of housing. In the light of these strategic priorities and the conversion of some social rented housing stock to affordable rent tenure (if agreed), the Council would have to consider replacing that stock with new social rented houses if the data from our choice based lettings system and the recent extensive, detailed and specialist housing needs survey demonstrates unmet demand for that type and tenure of housing. One Member asked that this point be noted in the minutes and the Committee agreed.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (1) **That approval be given to the conversion of sufficient dwellings from social to affordable rents to support the Council’s affordable housing development programme within the current Homes and Communities Agency Affordable Housing Programme (2015-18) in accordance with (a) the principles set out within Paper P23 and (b) Option 2 in paragraph 12.10 of the report.**

Further, that the Head of Housing be authorised to approve on a case-by-case basis the conversion of individual properties which meet the above requirements.

- (2) That subject to Recommendation (1) above being agreed by the Council, income from rent conversions at £3,000 per unit in accordance with Option 2 in paragraph 12.10 of Paper P23 be included in the Council's bid to the Homes and Communities Agency.**

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 clear 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, the Chairmen of Committees and Sub-Committees and Lead Members to answer any questions on any matters in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affect the District of which due notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 15.4 (a) and (b).

10 POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES

[Paper P27](#)

Report by the Head of Corporate Organisation attached.

Paper P27 relates to the Political Balance requirements under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The appointments of Members to Joint Groups not covered by the Local Government Act 1972 are unchanged from those made at the Annual Council meeting (Paper P5 and Minute No 11 refer).

11 RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

[Paper P28](#)

Report by the Head of Corporate Organisation attached.

[Paper P29](#)

12 JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Paper P29 attached.

13 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO VACANCY ON THE JOINT GYPSY AND TRAVELLER STEERING GROUP FOR BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK

The Head of Corporate Organisation to report that former Councillor Dawn Kendall was appointed to the Group by Council on 17 December 2013, for the remainder of the current term of office.

It is therefore necessary to appoint a replacement Member to serve on the Group for the period to May 2015. The other Members appointed to the Group, which is not subject to political balance requirements, are Trot Ward and Sue Wigglesworth, together with Tony Bavington, Lead Member for Housing. The appointments were made after consultation with the Political Group Leaders, who agreed on the names which were put forward for approval by the Council.

The Group Leaders are being consulted on a replacement Member and their nomination will be reported to the meeting.

It is recommended that the appointment of a fourth Babergh Member on the Group be made, for the remainder of the current term of office.

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