

MINUTES OF THE JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE
COUNCIL OFFICES HIGH STREET NEEDHAM MARKET ON WEDNESDAY 2
OCTOBER 2013 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

BABERGH

MID SUFFOLK

Mrs J Antill (Chairman)
Mr B D Hurren
Mr F R Lawrenson
Mr J A B Long
Mr M Newman
Mrs A M Norman
Mr J M Owen
Mr D L Wood

Mrs R J Eburne (Chairman)
Mrs E B Gibson-Harries
Mr J E Matthissen
Mr D J Osborne
Mrs S Powell
Mr M R Redbond
Mr C M W Tilbury

The following Members were unable to be present:

BABERGH

MID SUFFOLK

Mrs J C Storey

1 SUBSTITUTES

None.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on [31 July 2013](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4 PETITIONS

None received.

5 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

6 INTEGRATION PROGRESS REPORT

The Interim Corporate Manager - Transformation introduced a report ([Paper JSC/15/13](#)) on the savings and cost of the Transformation Programme with reference to the progress that was anticipated in the integration business case formulated in October 2011.

Members recognised that the financial position and Government funding reductions were worse than previously thought and substantially worse than could have been predicted when the integration business case was put together. Key issues for the short and medium term in real terms would be more like 15% in 2015/16 rather than the 10% implied. The total amount of government spending will continue to fall in years to come and the Government's aim is that RSG will cease completely.

During the discussion Members recognised the challenges that Councils faced and how operations were going to be affected and noted the savings already made through the transformation review. Members raised questions on the arrangements for integrated IT systems and the end of the CSD contract costing. Members were advised that further cost information would be provided to Members.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the current position on integration savings and costs as outlined in [Paper JSC/15/13](#) be noted.**
- (2) That the update on the medium term financial challenges be noted.**

7 REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP ACCOUNTABILITY

The Head of Corporate Resources introduced a report ([Paper JSC/16/13](#)) on the performance and reporting arrangements of Mid Suffolk and Babergh's Partnerships, including Councillor representation on outside bodies.

Members were advised that the purpose of the report was to gain an understanding of:-

- Whom we are in partnership with
- Member representation
- Lines of accountability
- Reporting arrangements and information flow
- Financial assistance or grants provided
- Performance monitoring
- Relationship with strategic priorities
- Benefits
- Who makes decisions
- Partnership review mechanisms.

Members agreed that the report was useful and identified areas of work that would need to be addressed for clarification including an understanding of a means of differentiation between Members' Community Leadership Roles and their roles as Council Members.

RECOMMENDED TO EXECUTIVE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEES

- (1) That further work be carried out on the definition of partnerships.**
- (2) That a review is needed so that there is a clear understanding of who we should be working with to deliver the Council's strategic priorities and the benefits and savings therein.**

- (3) That the review should encompass both Councils' arrangements for Councillor representation on outside bodies. Further, it is suggested that a joint review is concluded by April 2014. In addition, a comprehensive list of all the Council's partnerships should be maintained with a clear understanding of the relationships. A policy with supporting procedures should be developed to cover all partnerships to determine the governance arrangements.**

8 REVIEW OF WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation gave a verbal update on [Paper JSC/17/13](#) relating to items that had been identified on the Corporate Work Plan. The current versions of the Executive Committee Forward Plan and the Strategy Committee Work Plan were appended for Members' information.

The Head of Corporate Organisation also gave an update on the progress of the Transformation Enquiry Groups and a brief explanation of the work undertaken to date.

RESOLVED

That the contents of [Paper JSC/17/13](#) be noted.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 7.00 p.m.

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Chairman