

MINUTES OF THE JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON  
WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH 2014 AT 5.30 PM

PRESENT:

**BABERGH**

**MID SUFFOLK**

Mrs J Antill (Chairman)  
B D Hurren  
P Jones  
Mrs A M Norman  
D L Wood

Mrs R J Eburne  
J E Matthissen  
D J Osborne  
Mrs J C Storey  
C M W Tilbury

The following Members were unable to be present:-

Mrs E B Gibson-Harries, Mr F R Lawrenson, Mr J A B Long, Mr N MacMaster, Mr M Newman, Mrs S Powell and Mr M R Redbond.

1 SUBSTITUTES

A substitute was in attendance as follows:-

Mr P Jones (substituting for Mr J A B Long).

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

3 MINUTES

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on [5 February 2014](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the reference to 'parish council chairmen' being invited to give their views being corrected to read 'parish council representatives' in Minute No 7 – Scoping of Scrutiny Review on Localism and Embedding of the Localism Act.

4 PETITIONS

None received.

5 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

6 CHOICE BASED LETTINGS

The Corporate Manager – Supported Housing presented a report ([Paper JSC/04/14](#)) from the Head of Housing setting out information requested on the Gateway to Homechoice lettings scheme operated by both Councils, which has now been running for nearly five years.

Members welcomed the opportunity to ask questions of the Corporate Manager on various aspects of the Scheme including age limits on registering, dealing with homelessness, waiting times, armed services families and access. The situation regarding the weight given to local connections was explained and Members noted that the system captures data about the popularity of different areas and requests for different housing types which can be used to inform the development of relevant Council policies.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the content of [Paper JSC/04/14](#), together with the response to questions, be noted.**

### **7 SCOPING OF A JOINT SCRUTINY REVIEW ON THE IMPACT OF THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ACT 2012 ON THE DISTRICTS**

The Head of Corporate Organisation introduced a report ([Paper JSC/05/14](#)) to enable Members to establish the scope of the Review.

Members were aware of the wide-ranging nature of this topic and considered that it would be helpful to involve public health experts and patient representatives in initial discussions prior to establishing specific areas for review.

## **RESOLVED**

**(1) That the scope of a Joint Scrutiny Review to be undertaken on the impact of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 on the communities of Babergh and Mid Suffolk be based on Appendix A to [Paper JSC/05/14](#), subject to input from external partners including public health experts and patient ‘champions.’**

**(2) That a meeting be arranged based on the approach set out in Resolution (1) above.**

### **8 UPDATE ON JOINT SCRUTINY REVIEW OF LOCALISM AND EMBEDDING OF THE LOCALISM ACT**

The Head of Corporate Organisation presented a report ([Paper JSC/06/14](#)) updating the Committee on the progress of the Review.

Members were asked to examine the evidence provided in the report on the actions the Councils have taken to meet the various sections of the Localism Act 2011 and refine the focus of the upcoming review.

From the ensuing discussion the main areas currently of particular interest to communities were thought to be the Community Rights to Bid and Challenge, and Neighbourhood Planning. Members were of the opinion that specific examples which had been undertaken, or were being undertaken, under these provisions should be the focus of Reviews to establish the community benefit accruing from such initiatives and any barriers to achieving the desired outcomes.

It was agreed that a report would be made to Committee on a suggested approach, after the Joint Chairs and relevant officers had given the matter further consideration.

**RESOLVED**

**(1) That the forthcoming Review of Localism and Embedding of the Localism Act be focused on the following two main areas:-**

- **Community Rights to Bid and Challenge**
- **Neighbourhood Planning.**

**(2) That it be noted that a report will be made to a future meeting of the Committee following further consideration by the Joint Chairs and officers of a suggested approach for the Reviews referred to in Resolution (1) above.**

9 JOINT SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper JSC/07/14](#)) seeking Member approval to a proposed Work Plan for 2014/15. Members asked for a number of other topics to be added, including the following:-

- Young People – employment opportunities and earning potential
- Youth Homelessness
- Fuel Poverty

The Committee was reminded that all Members are invited to submit topics for discussion.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Joint Scrutiny Work Plan for 2014/15 as outlined in [Paper JSC/07/14](#) be approved with the addition of the items referred to above.**

The business of the meeting was concluded at 7.15 p.m.

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Chairman