

MINUTES OF THE JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2015 AT 5.30 PM.

PRESENT: **BABERGH**

Jenny Antill
Peter Burgoyne (Chairman)
Bryn Hurren
James Long
Mark Newman
Jack Norman
David Wood

MID SUFFOLK

Rachel Eburne (Chairman)
John Matthissen
Derek Osborne
Jane Storey

Apologies were received from the following Members:-

Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Samantha Powell, Martin Redbond and Charles Tilbury.

1 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None declared.

2 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on [11 February 2015](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the reference to 'Business Raters' being amended to read '..... Rates'.

3 **PETITIONS**

None received.

4 **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None received.

5 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

None received.

6 **UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE PLANNING ENFORCEMENT SERVICE**

James Buckingham, Corporate Manager – Planning Enforcement and Environmental Protection introduced [Paper JSC/04/15](#) which set out progress in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee in July 2014.

The Corporate Manager and the Senior Planning Enforcement Officer answered questions from Members about various matters.

Members were advised of the position in relation to data protection / confidentiality issues which might affect the extent to which officers could share with Members information about breaches of planning control. Successful prosecutions are publicised, but prosecutions are seen as a last resort. Wherever possible, officers will work with those in breach to rectify the situation – prosecutions do not resolve the breach. The Joint Service Team now works to the Joint Local Planning Enforcement Plan which was recently adopted by both Councils.

RESOLVED

That the contents of Paper JSC/04/15 be noted.

7 REVIEW OF DISTRICTS' CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Jonathan Seed, Corporate Manager – Healthy Communities presented Paper [JSC/05/15](#) which was intended to further Members' understanding of the complexities of the health and social care system in Suffolk.

Mike Evans, Strategic Director (People) reiterated that the system is complex, but reported that the voice of the two Councils is being heard, particularly through facilitating workshops on topics such as delayed transfer of care, winter resilience, and support for sheltered / homeless accommodation. Reference was made to the Councils' specific responsibilities for housing and planning, which link with the 'life-time homes' agenda, helping to maintain independent living. Wider Member involvement in promoting the work of the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board was seen as a key area, together with identifying priority issues and assisting residents to access support when they have complaints or concerns. Members wished to see recommendation 2.3 of Paper JSC/05/15 strengthened to become an organisation-wide commitment.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the complexity of the various governance arrangements in place in Suffolk to support joint action on health and wellbeing and how to influence the system by engaging through the most appropriate channels, as outlined in paragraph 8.12 – 8.13 of Paper JSC/05/15 and Appendix A to the report be noted.**
- (2) That the Council's strategic intentions to embed prevention within the joint delivery programme, contracts and service provision through a partnering approach with public health be noted.**
- (3) That Members commit to (a) supporting community health and wellbeing through their community leadership role and local casework by providing appropriate information, signposting and support to constituents and their families and (b) continuing to review the Councils' internal leadership arrangements and reporting on them in the Committee's Annual Report.**

Further, that the need for the commitment referred to in (a) above to be organisation-wide be endorsed and promoted through on-going awareness training and Member Inductions / Seminars / Briefings.

- (4) That the information in the report outlining system and county level transformation programmes in Suffolk relevant to addressing Health and Wellbeing outcomes be noted.

8 **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Members had before them a draft Annual Report (Appendix 1 to Paper [JSC/06/15](#)) for adoption and submission to both full Councils.

The report was agreed, subject to the inclusion of (a) updates to reflect the Committee's consideration of other items on the agenda, and (b) a separate section for the Committee's Review of the Districts' Contribution to Health and Wellbeing.

RESOLVED

That the draft Annual Report (Appendix 1 to Paper JSC/06/15) be amended as above and finalised for submission to the Annual Council meetings.

9 **SCOPING OF AN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) REVIEW**

Christine Roofe, Project and Research Officer, introduced Paper [JSC/07/15](#) to enable the Committee to establish the scope of a Joint Scrutiny Review of ICT.

Members considered the Review Scoping Document (Appendix A to the report) and Carl Reeder, Corporate Manager – Information Management and ICT answered Members' questions about various aspects of the proposed Review, including the need to avoid duplication with the work of the PSBs. The Chairman agreed to pursue this matter further outside of the meeting.

Reference was also made to internet access issues including use of the 'Gateway to Homechoice' website.

RESOLVED

That the scope of the Review of ICT be agreed as set out in Appendix A to Paper JSC/07/15 and the Review undertaken.

10 **REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF WELFARE REFORM ON RENT COLLECTION AND VOIDS**

Members were aware of the issues raised by their recent Review and considered how best to give further consideration to these matters.

RESOLVED

That a follow-up item on the Impact of Welfare Reform on Rent Collection and Voids be included in the Committee's Work Plan for 2015/16.

11 **FUTURE WORK PLAN**

Members noted the various topics in Paper [JSC/08/15](#), and identified further items for possible inclusion.

RESOLVED

That the contents of Paper JSC/08/15 be noted, and the topics listed below be suggested for future consideration:-

- **Neighbourhood Plans – outcomes.**
- **Six-month update on Council Tax and rent collection results**
- **Grants to CAB**
- **Background to Scrutiny and how it can be progressed.**

The Chairman thanked Members and officers for their support for the work of the Joint Committee.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 7.40 p.m.

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Chairman