

MINUTES OF THE JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL
OFFICES, MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL, NEEDHAM MARKET ON WEDNESDAY
15 JUNE 2016 AT 5.30 PM

PRESENT:

BABERGH

MID SUFFOLK

Peter Burgoyne
Barry Gasper
Kathryn Grandon
Bryn Hurren
Mark Newman
John Nunn
Stephen Williams

James Caston
Rachel Eburne (Chairman)
Lavinia Hadingham
Jessica Fleming
Derek Osborne
Kevin Welsby

1 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Field, Margaret Maybury and Elizabeth Gibson-Harries. Councillor Jessica Fleming was substituting for Councillor Lesley Mayes.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Bryn Hurren declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Grants and External Funding Review Project by reason of being chair of a group that receives a grant.

Councillor Peter Burgoyne declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the Grants and External Funding Review Project by reason of being involved with a charity that receives a grant.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Note: In relation to Minute 9, Follow Up of Joint Scrutiny Items, Councillor Rachel Eburne requested that two Mid Suffolk District Council Members volunteer to join the Museum of East Anglian Life (MEAL) Task and Finish Group. Derek Osborne and Kevin Welsby volunteered.

4 PETITIONS

None received.

5 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

7 GRANTS AND EXTERNAL FUNDING REVIEW PROJECT

Report JSC/07/16

Sue Clements, Corporate Manager – Strong Communities, provided an overview on the work of the Grants and External Funding Review Project to the end of April 2016 and provided an update on the emerging third phase in line with the Project Steering Board.

She informed the meeting that the project was now moving into phase 3, which involved a 'health check' for every recipient. This could be likened to a risk assessment, and would look at the following:

- Work to ensure that recipients of grant funding were aligned with the Council's strategic priorities
- Assess the reduction of grant monies on recipients
- To encourage the use of external funding

Members questioned Officers regarding the reduction in the Suffolk County Council Locality Budgets, and were advised that it had reduced from £12,000 to £10,000, and that the team were working hard to achieve funding elsewhere. They also questioned the required forms and the policy of applicants being required to claim funds on receipt of invoices. Officers clarified that this policy acted as a check to ensure that work had been done and was a way of monitoring and following up on what the funds were used for.

Members commended the team for all their hard work and the support they offer. The Corporate Manager – Strong Communities, advised that a further report detailing the outcome of the health check would be brought to a future Committee for Members consideration.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 6:15 pm.

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Chairman