

MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
(COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE AND THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
(STEWARDSHIP) COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL  
OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2011

PRESENT: Mr D M Busby – Chairman

Mr S R Barrett	Mrs A M Norman
Mr P D Burgoyne	Mr J M Nunn
Mr J R B Cave	Mr J Owen
Mr D G Grutchfield	Mr B Riley
Mr B D Hurren	Mr C A Roberts
Mr R E Kemp	Mr J R A Sayers
Mr F R Lawrenson	Mr D L Wood
Mr M Newman	

Miss D L Kendall and Mr J A B Long were unable to be present.

Mr N A Ridley, Chairman of the SFP Task Group, was in attendance at the meeting to present, in conjunction with the Director of Finance, the SFP Task Group's report (Minute No. 6 refers).

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED**

**That Mr D M Busby be elected to chair the meeting.**

2 SUBSTITUTES

It was noted that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 5, a substitute was in attendance as follows:-

Mr D C Rose (substituting for Mr J A B Long).

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following Members declared personal interests in the item referred to in Minute No. 6 below in the capacity shown, but indicated that they were able to speak and vote on the matter concerned:-

Mr S R Barrett  
by virtue of being the Council's representative on the Great Cornard – Dual Use Sports Centre Management Committee.

Mr D M Busby  
by virtue of his involvement with the Greenways Countryside Project.

Mr D G Grutchfield  
by virtue of being the Council's representative on the Hadleigh – Dual Use Sports Centre Management Committee.

Mr B D Hurren

by virtue of being the Council's representative on The Quay Theatre at Sudbury Ltd and in his capacity as the Chairman of its Board of Directors. Also by virtue of his involvement with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Dance East.

Mr R E Kemp

by virtue of his involvement with Sudbury Citizen Advice Bureau.

Mrs A M Norman

by virtue of her involvement with Suffolk Museums.

Mr B Riley

by virtue of being the Council's representative on the South Suffolk Leisure Trust Board.

Mr C A Roberts

by virtue of being the Council's representative on the Suffolk Coast and Heaths JAC and Partnership.

Mr D C Rose

by virtue of being the Council's representative on the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB JAC and Partnership.

Mr D L Wood

by virtue of being the Chairman of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB.

4 PETITIONS

None received.

5 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

6 STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNING – BUDGET OPTIONS

Mr N A Ridley, Chairman of the Strategic and Financial Planning (SFP) Task Group introduced Paper [L119](#) and together with the Director of Finance gave a PowerPoint presentation (subsequently numbered Paper [L122](#) and circulated at the meeting) setting out the key issues and challenges in relation to the 2012/13 Strategic and Financial Planning Budget Options.

The Committee then scrutinised Paper L119 and its Appendices in detail including Appendices I and J which were circulated at the meeting.

After a lengthy discussion on the key Budget options, the general view of the Joint Committee was as follows:

- The Government's offer of a one-off grant to enable there to be a Council Tax freeze should not be accepted and that Council Tax be increased by 3.5% for 2012/13

- Short stay car parking charges should not be introduced in Sudbury and Hadleigh from October 2012 - Members noted that further correspondence had been received from Sudbury Town Council outlining an indicative package of proposals for the car parks. Councillor F R Lawrenson requested that the Town Councils continue to be encouraged to develop proposals for the future management and funding of the car park service
- Savings on public conveniences were not supported at this time - officers were continuing to pursue options with the individual Town/Parish Councils and the latest position would be reported to Members before final decisions on the Budget are made in February
- Community Grants Budget to be further reduced (by between 10% and 15%) whilst protecting the most needy and youth groups, including the CAB's
- The budget shortfall to be funded by the Government's New Homes Bonus, with the majority of Members indicating that up to £150k would be acceptable
- Clear proposals on use of the New Homes Bonus to be drawn up and agreed.

Other comments and suggestions for savings included:

- Increase the brown bins charge
- Increasing charges generally by 5% not 3%
- Establish Trusts/Community Interest Companies to save Business Rates
- Use of office space
- Procurement Task Group to assess savings opportunities at their next meeting.

Members acknowledged the considerable efforts which the SFP Task Group had made to identify the savings, efficiencies and additional income generation as set out in Paper L119, together with the Group's on-going work to produce further proposals to meet the remaining shortfall.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the SFP Task Group be requested to review the Budget options for 2012/13 having regard to the following:**

- **The Government's offer of a one-off Council Tax freeze be not accepted and that Council Tax be increased by 3.5% for 2012/13**
- **Short stay car parking charges not to be introduced in Sudbury and Hadleigh from October 2012**
- **Reconsider the position on savings on public conveniences**
- **Community Grants to be further reduced (by between 10% and 15%) with the most needy and youth groups being protected**
- **The budget shortfall to be funded by the Government's New Homes Bonus, with the majority of Members indicating that up to £150k would be acceptable**

Note: The meeting adjourned for refreshments between 11.05 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 1.10 p.m.

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Chairman