

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
(STEWARDSHIP) COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL
OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

PRESENT: Mr D M Busby – Chairman

Mr S R Barrett	Mr F R Lawrenson
Mr J R B Cave	Mr C A Roberts
Mr D G Grutchfield	Mr D C Rose

Mr R E Kemp, Miss D L Kendall and Mr J M Nunn were unable to be present.

20 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 R E Kemp).

21 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

22 PETITIONS

None received.

23 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

24 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN

Louise Rawsthorne, Corporate Manager – Housing Revenue Account, reported that in April this year the Government introduced changes to the way in which council housing is financed. This has led to a significant shift in accountability of financial decision making, from central government to local authorities.

The Corporate Manager gave a presentation on the HRA Business Plan which provided Members with:

- An overview of the Housing Revenue Account arrangements under the new self-financing system
- The role our tenants play in deciding the services we deliver
- Key elements of HRA Business Planning
- Objectives for the next 12 months.

Members noted that a similar presentation will be made to the Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee at its meeting on 25 September.

During consideration of this matter the following were among the issues discussed:-

- Potential increases in Right to Buy sales
- Amount of money reserved for improving/maintaining housing stock
- Possibility of appointing a Member Champion to this area.

25 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12 AND AUDITOR'S ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT

The Head of Corporate Resources submitted a report (Paper [M80](#)) relating to the external auditor's Annual Governance Report and advising Members on the position on the Statement of Accounts for 2011/12.

It was noted that the final audited Statement of Accounts will be presented to Council on 28 September 2012 for approval.

Ms Zoe Thompson and Mr Richard Bint from the external auditors (PKF) were in attendance at the meeting to present the Annual Governance Report, which was attached as Appendix A to Paper M80 and to answer questions from Members. They also circulated at the meeting a revised Appendix B to their report.

Members were advised that the auditor was satisfied that, in all significant respects, the Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2012.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the position on the Statement of Accounts for 2011/12 as set out in Appendix A to Paper M80 be noted.**
- (2) That the contents of the external auditor's Annual Governance Report contained in Appendix B to Paper M80, including revised Appendix B be noted.**

Mr D G Grutchfield voted against the decision referred to in (1) above and requested that this be recorded in the minutes.

26 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2011/12

The Head of Corporate Resources submitted a report (Paper [M81](#)) providing the Committee with a comprehensive assessment of Treasury Management activities for the year.

It was noted that the percentage figure contained in the second bullet point of paragraph 3.1 should be amended to 3.29%.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

That the Treasury Management activity for the year 2011/12, as detailed in Paper M81 be noted. Further that it be noted that performance was in line with the Prudential Indicators set for 2011/12.

27 PERFORMANCE MONITORING QUARTER ONE 2012/13 – BALANCED SCORECARD AS AT 30 JUNE 2012

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report (Paper [M82](#)) on Council performance for the first quarter of 2012/13 using the approach approved which identified the outline key principles and the measures to be included in a Balanced Scorecard.

During the course of the discussion Members agreed that in future they would be happy to receive half-yearly monitoring reports.

RESOLVED

That the key points relating to operational performance, transformation and integration be noted.

28 ANNUAL MONITORING OF FORMAL COMPLAINTS 2011/12

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report (Paper [M83](#)) providing the Committee with information concerning formal complaints referred to the Local Government Ombudsman during 2011/12 and updating Members on the alignment of the internal process for handling complaints to Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

29 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report (Paper [M84](#)) providing details of the Committee's anticipated work for the year.

RESOLVED

That the Work Plan set out in Paper M84 be noted.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 10.45 a.m.

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Chairman