

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY, 10 MAY 2012

PRESENT: Ms J A Jenkins – Chairman

Dr M F M Bamford	Mr N A Ridley
Mr A C Bavington	Mr B Riley
Mr N A Bennett	Mrs S M Wigglesworth
Mrs S Carpendale	Mr L H Young
Mr A J Hinton	

Mrs A K Pollard was unable to be present.

1 ADDITIONAL ITEM OF BUSINESS

The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 provides that an item of business may not be considered by a Committee unless it is included on an Agenda. The Act does, however, make provision for an exception to this general rule to be made where by reason of special circumstances, the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

The Chairman advised that a situation had arisen where it had become necessary for the Committee to consider an item not included on the Agenda (Proposed Approach to BDC/MSDC Office Accommodation) and that she was satisfied that there were good reasons for dealing with this at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Details of the item had been circulated as Paper M25.

2 SUBSTITUTES

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

Dr M F M Bamford (substituting for Mrs A K Pollard)

3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Mr A J Hinton be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

4 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Personal interests by virtue of being Town/Parish Councillors were subsequently declared by Councillors Bennett, Bavington and Hinton in relation to Minute No 11 below – Paper M16, Neighbourhood and Parish Plans. The Members in question stated that they were able to speak and vote on the matter.

5 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6 PETITIONS

None received.

7 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

8 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

None received.

9 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report (Paper M18) on items identified for the Strategy Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Work Plan set out in Paper M18 be noted.

10 BABERGH CORE STRATEGY (SUBMISSION VERSION; 2011-2031): PROPOSED CHANGES

The Head of Economy submitted a report (Paper M15) proposing limited changes to the Core Strategy Submission Draft, following an assessment of the responses to the public consultation exercise. The Revised Core Strategy Submission Draft, showing all current proposed changes to the original consultation document, was appended to the report.

The Chairman in introducing this item made reference to the receipt of informal feedback from the Planning Inspectorate concerning compliance of the Draft document with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), as a result of which the Council meeting arranged for 24 May to consider this matter would be too early for the revisions to have been completed. The meeting would therefore be cancelled with the agreement of the Chairman of the Council.

The Strategic Director (Place) then updated Members on the situation regarding compliance with the NPPF following recent discussions held with representatives of the Planning Inspectorate. Members were advised that the revisions related mainly to the format of the proposed Submission Draft and it was anticipated that the requirements of the NPPF and the Planning Inspectorate for achieving compliance could be met in a timescale which would not unduly extend the programme for progressing the Core Strategy towards adoption.

In the meantime, the Strategic Director advised Members that the proposed actions and limited changes could be accepted in principle, as the compliance requirements related to the way in which the document was to be presented, rather than to its substance. Revised recommendations to replace those set out at paragraph 2 of Paper M15, for decision by the Committee, were circulated at the meeting.

The Planning Policy Manager then outlined the practical implications of meeting the requirements and responded to Members' questions.

He explained that most of the additional information needed for compliance was in existence but needed to be within the document itself, rather than appended or available elsewhere. He also referred to the process for resolving outstanding objections after the final public consultation on the changes, which would be through the Examination stage. It was agreed that the following issues raised during the debate would be addressed by appropriate amendments:-

- The need for clarification on the status of Great Cornard in the context of core village / hinterland definitions
- Maps to be revised as necessary to ensure clarity
- Definition of agricultural employment

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposed actions and limited changes in the Submission Draft Core Strategy document as attached at Appendix (b) to Paper M15 be agreed in principle.**
- (2) That the Planning Policy Manager in consultation with the Strategic Director (Place) be instructed to make the further revisions needed to ensure sufficient compliance with the new National Planning Policy Framework.**
- (3) That the Submission Draft Core Strategy be presented to a future Strategy Committee to consider a recommendation to Council for its approval and to agree consultation and the necessary steps to progress the Core Strategy towards adoption.**

11 NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PARISH PLANS – BDC / MSDC RESPONSE

The Head of Economy submitted a report (Paper M16) asking the Committee to endorse the exploration of alternative options for a joint approach to Neighbourhood and other local Plans. The Committee was informed that a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and responses would shortly be available on both websites, to alert local councils, groups and Members to the new opportunities for empowerment through community level plans. Members noted that it was intended to bring detailed recommendations to a future meeting once the exploratory work referred in Paper M16 has been undertaken. In the meantime, they made reference to items of particular concern including the following:-

- Resource implications at District and local levels
- A requirement for clarity around the most appropriate route for communities to achieve particular outcomes
- The need for an holistic approach

RESOLVED

- (1) That the contents of Paper M16 be noted.
- (2) That the exploration of alternative options for a joint BDC / MSDC approach to Neighbourhood Plans and other community plans through the joint Development Team project group be endorsed.

12 PROPOSED APPROACH TO BDC / MSDC OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

The Interim Director of Transformation presented Paper M25 – the report of the Joint Member Integration Board (JMIB) making recommendations on the proposed approach to the use of Council accommodation in the medium term.

He explained the background to JMIB's recommendations in the challenging context of the evolving officer structure, integration issues and the development of shared delivery arrangements. He emphasised the on-going work to gather information in order to make decisions for the longer term but in the meantime, the intention was to give some clarity for the next 3 to 5 year period. Members generally welcomed the proposal to improve access to services where feasible, but considered that there was a balance to be struck in the medium term use of the existing buildings.

RESOLVED

- (1) That both HQ's (Hadleigh and Needham Market) be retained in the medium term (3-5 years).
- (2) That the new integrated staff teams (Tiers 4 and 5) be co-located on the basis that there is no reduction, and if possible an improvement, in ease of access to the service for customers, residents and Members.
- (3) That the criteria for assessing each Business Case for the co-location of the new integrated staff teams be as set out in paragraph 8.16 of Paper M25, with the inclusion of an additional bullet point as follows:-
 - The need to achieve a balance between the Needham Market and Hadleigh HQs when co-locating the teams
- (4) That the authority for signing off each Business Case, prior to its implementation, be the responsibility of BDC's Strategy Committee and MSDC's Executive Committee based upon advice from Management Board (Chief Executive and Directors) and recommendations from the Joint Member Integration Board (JMIB).

13 PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK 2012/13

The Head of Organisational Development presented Paper M17 setting out an overview of proposed arrangements for performance monitoring and reporting, further to the Committee's consideration (at its previous meeting) of the alignment of the Council's Strategic Priorities.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposed performance monitoring and reporting arrangements for 2012/13 , as outlined in paragraphs 8.4 to 8.12 of Paper M17 be approved.**
- (2) That the Head of Corporate Organisation be authorised to develop the use of the Balanced Scorecard approach outlined in paragraphs 8.4 to 8.9 of Paper M17 and in consultation with the Chairman of Strategy Committee to review, revise and extend the measures as required.**

14 GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION WORKING GROUP

The Head of Corporate Organisation made reference to the composition of the Working Group which was set up by the Strategy Committee in 2009. The Committee in considering a replacement on the Group for Councillor Hinton, who wished to stand down, agreed that it would be helpful to widen the Councillor representation on the Group from 2 Strategy Members (Sue Wigglesworth and John Hinton – appointed July 2011 for the remainder of the current term of office) to 3 Members, 1 from each of Strategy, Development and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Members were advised that a 'position statement' report will be prepared by officers for consideration at a future Strategy Committee meeting, looking at the future composition and remit of the Group in the light of changing issues and requirements. In the meantime, the Group will continue to operate under its current terms of reference.

It was noted that the Political Group Leaders had already been asked for their views on the appointment of a Member to replace John Hinton, and Peter Holbrook's name had been put forward. Sue Wigglesworth continues to serve on the Group as the Strategy Committee Member.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the composition of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Working Group be extended to comprise 3 Members, one from each of the Strategy, Development, and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.**
- (2) That Peter Holbrook be appointed to the Working Group as the Development Committee Member.**
- (3) That the Political Leaders Group be asked to agree on a representative from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to serve on the Working Group.**

Note: The meeting adjourned for refreshments between 10.55 a.m. and 11.20 a.m.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 1 p.m.

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Chairman

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