

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2012

PRESENT: Ms J A Jenkins – Chairman

Dr M F M Bamford
Mr A C Bavington
Mr N A Bennett
Mrs S Carpendale
Mr A J Hinton

Mr N A Ridley
Mr B Riley
Mrs S M Wigglesworth
Mr L H Young

Mrs A K Pollard was unable to be present.

69 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 (Interim Planning Performance Action Plan) 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 M104.

70 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).

71 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

72 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to a minor correction to include reference to Minute No 67 in relation to attendance by the Ward Member.

73 PETITIONS

None received.

74 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

75 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

None received.

76 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper M99](#)) on items identified for the Strategy Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Work Plan set out in Paper M99 be noted.

77 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TASK GROUPS AND PANELS

(a) Housing Allocations Policy Review (Housing Panel 21 September 2012)

The Chairman of the Panel, Mrs S M Wigglesworth, introduced the Panel's report ([Paper M101](#)) recommending revisions to the Council's Allocations Policy which are required following changes in legislation and welfare reform.

RESOLVED

That the revisions to the Gateway to Homechoice Allocations Policy, as summarised in Appendix B to Paper M101, be approved.

(b) Discharging Main Homeless Duty into the Private Sector (Housing Panel 21 September 2012)

The Chairman of the Panel, Mrs S M Wigglesworth, introduced the Panel's report ([Paper M102](#)) recommending the adoption of a Policy to reflect a change to the way in which local authorities can discharge their duty to homeless households.

RESOLVED

(1) That the Policy for Discharging the Council's Statutory Homeless Duties (Section 2 of Appendix A to Paper M102) be adopted.

(2) That the Head of Housing be authorised to make any minor drafting amendments to the Policy.

78 BABERGH CORE STRATEGY (2011-2031; SUBMISSION VERSION):
PROPOSED SUBMISSION FOR INSPECTION; RELATED ACTIONS AND
REVISED PLAN PROGRAMME (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME – LDS)

The Head of Economy submitted a report ([Paper M100](#)) asking Members to make recommendations to Council regarding the submission of the Draft Core Strategy document for external examination.

The Corporate Manager – Spatial Planning Policy in introducing Paper M100 gave a brief outline of the stage reached to date in the process towards adoption of the Core Strategy, and the next steps in that process. He also explained recommendations 2.2 to 2.5 of Paper M100 which would follow on from a decision to recommend (as set out in 2.1) that the current Draft be submitted for examination.

Members accepted the need for recommendations 2.4 and 2.5, notwithstanding initial concerns expressed by some Members. They noted that 2.4 reflected the statutory position of the Planning Inspector in securing a ‘sound’ Plan and that the delegation proposed in 2.5 would avoid undue delay in resolving minor drafting and other issues. The Corporate Manager confirmed that Members would be kept informed of the progress of the examination through PLG and that, in the unlikely event of major changes being required, there would be appropriate Member involvement, depending on the timescale available. It was agreed that the note in italics after recommendation 2.2 would not be included in the formal recommendation to Council.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (1) That the Submission Draft Core Strategy (2011–2031) document (together with the main and minor modifications already agreed) be submitted for external examination (paper versions supplied previously); together with Statement of Consultation (Appendix A) and all other associated, supportive submission documents (including sustainability appraisal, evidence base, etc. – available on the website due to their volume). This is considered to be a ‘sound’ (fit for purpose) Plan.**
- (2) That (by way of clarification, and to avoid any possible ambiguity) it be confirmed that the town and village boundaries (built up area boundaries) from the 2006 Local Plan are to be retained (unaltered) for the purposes of new development policies in the Core Strategy. Further, it be noted that new Policy CS6 intentionally provides greater flexibility for appropriate development beyond these for identified (Core and Hinterland) Villages (subject to criteria) but this does not negate the overall role, purpose, definition or clarity provided by those boundaries.**
- (3) That the supporting, revised timetable for progressing the Core Strategy towards adoption (in the form of the attached ‘Local Development Scheme’ (LDS) at Appendix B) be approved.**

- (4) That, notwithstanding recommendation (1) above, it be recognised that it is possible that a Planning Inspector may potentially take a different view on soundness, and consequently, it be agreed that the Council would wish an Inspector to make any changes necessary to the Core Strategy in order to render the submitted Plan sound.
- (5) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Manager – Spatial Planning Policy, to discuss, propose or agree in principle (in response to the Inspector) such changes as prove necessary on behalf of the Council during the progress of the examination hearing.

79 2012/13 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Head of Housing submitted a report ([Paper M103](#)) seeking approval to proceed with work to Belle Vue tennis court.

RESOLVED

That capital expenditure from the Council's General Fund be approved to carry out the proposed works to the tennis court at Belle Vue Sudbury as outlined in paragraph 8.1 of Paper M103.

80 INTERIM PLANNING PERFORMANCE ACTION PLAN

The Strategic Director (Place) presented [Paper M104](#), a report from the Head of Economy proposing the introduction of measures for a six month period to address issues relating to planning performance and customer service. She explained the background to the proposed actions set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report, and together with the Chief Executive, answered Members' questions on various specific matters which were raised during the debate. Members were aware that Mid Suffolk's Executive Committee had agreed the recommendation in 2.1.

It was noted that David Cleary (Corporate Manager – Customer Services) would be added to 'All' under the action 'Poor customer service levels' in paragraph 8.4.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

That the principle behind the proposed improvement plan outlined in Paper M104 be agreed. Further, that the actions identified be funded as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report and the monies allocated from Council reserves.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11.15 a.m.

.....
Chairman