

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2012

PRESENT: Ms J A Jenkins – Chairman

Mr A C Bavington	Mr B Riley
Mr N A Bennett	Mr A J Ward
Mr A J Hinton	Mrs S M Wigglesworth
Mrs A K Pollard	Mr L H Young
Mr N A Ridley	

Mrs S Carpendale was unable to be present.

81 SUBSTITUTES

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

Mr A J Ward (substituting for Mrs S Carpendale).

82 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mr A C Bavington and Ms J A Jenkins both declared non pecuniary interests in respect of Minute No. 89 below (Papers [M117](#) and [M117S](#)) through their involvement as the Councils representative (or substitute) on the Shared Revenues Partnership Joint Committee, but indicated that they were able to speak and vote on the matter.

Mr B Riley subsequently declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Minute No. 89 below (Papers M117 and M117S) as he is the Director of a Company that owns properties, but indicated that he was able to speak and vote on the matter.

Mr N A Bennett subsequently declared a non pecuniary interest in Minute No. 92 below (Paper [M119](#)) as a member of Sudbury Town Council but indicated that he was able to speak and vote on the matter.

83 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on [18 October 2012](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

84 PETITIONS

The Head of Corporate Organisation reported, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 13, the receipt of the following petition submitted to the Chief Executive:-

Notification under Part 31 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 – (B/12/00711/DEM2) – The Highbury Barn Great Cornard

Petition signed by approximately 310 persons objecting to the demolition of The Highbury Barn. Receipt of the petition was reported to the Council at its meeting on 28 September.

The petition was taken into account when the Prior Notification Application for demolition was dealt with, and an Article 4 Direction has now been served on the owner of the property.

85 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

86 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

None received.

87 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper M115](#)) on items identified for the Strategy Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Work Plan set out in Paper M115 be noted.

88 STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNING PROCESS 2013/14

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report (Paper [M116](#)) requesting the Committee to review and approve the emerging vision, draft strategic priorities and developing outcomes which will lead to the development of the Council's strategic plan and inform the 2013/14 financial planning and budget setting process, and the development of the Operational Delivery Teams.

During the consideration of this item it was agreed that the emerging priorities should be in the same order for both Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

(1) That the vision, strategic priorities and developing outcomes be adopted in draft form as the basis upon which a strategic plan, the budget process for 2013/14, Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Operational Delivery Teams can be developed.

(2) That the strategic and financial planning process approach outlined at 11.1-11.5 of Paper M116 be approved.

89 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME AND REDUCTIONS TO DISCOUNTS

The Head of Corporate Resources submitted reports (Paper M117 and M117S) advising that the Welfare Reform Act abolishes council tax benefit and all Councils must adopt a Local Council Tax Support Scheme from April 2013.

Paper M117 set out the proposals and options for this scheme and also reductions in second/empty homes and other discounts.

Paper M117S clarified and updated the recommendations in Paper M117.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (1) That the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2013/14 is based on the proposals summarised in sections 8.23 to 8.25 of Paper M117 and, for Babergh District Council's scheme, an 8.5% reduction in entitlement to Council Tax support for working age recipients.**
- (2) That these proposals are subject to the final funding announcements by the Government in mid-December and the funding gap that will have to be covered, which Members note could be higher than the indication given in Appendix 5 (revised) to Paper M117S.**
- (3) That, in order to minimise the impact on working age recipients of Council Tax support, discounts for second/empty homes and other discounts be reduced from 1 April 2013 as also set out in section 8.23 of Paper M117.**
- (4) That, in the event of the funding gap being higher when the final funding announcements are made, Members endorse reducing the empty homes discount further and/or increasing the 'taper' relating to Council Tax support, as indicated in notes 2 and 3 to the table in Appendix 5 (revised) to Paper M117S.**
- (5) That, assuming the funding announcements are received in time for the Council meeting on 18 December, further consideration be given to any other changes that may be required to adequately cover the funding gap at that meeting. Alternatively and in the event of final funding decisions not being known at that time, that final decisions on any additional changes in the proposals, including exemptions/ discounts are delegated to the Head of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Chairman of Strategy Committee.**
- (6) That the change to both Councils' Scheme of Delegation as set out in section 8.9 of Paper M117 be approved.**

Note: Mr B Riley abstained from voting in respect of the recommendations referred to above and requested that this be recorded in the Minutes.

90 2012/13 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Head of Housing submitted a report (Paper [M118](#)) seeking approval to proceed with work to resurfacing at North Street Car Park, Sudbury and the provision of new horticulture and play equipment at First and Second Avenue, Sudbury.

RESOLVED

That the capital expenditure from the Council's general fund and housing revenue account be approved to carry out the proposed works outlined in the table in paragraph 8.1 of Paper M118.

91 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)

RESOLVED

That pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified below on the grounds that if the public were present during this item, it is likely that there would be the disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated against the item.

The Council was also satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

92 NAVIGATION HOUSE, GREAT EASTERN ROAD, SUDBURY (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1)

The Director of Place submitted a report (Paper M119) detailing action out of meeting that had taken place in respect of a site at Sudbury.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

That the information contained in Paper M119 and supporting documentation that detailed a decision taken under urgent action out of meeting in respect of Navigation House, Great Eastern Road, Sudbury be noted.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11.00 a.m.

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Chairman