

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY, 17 JANUARY 2013

PRESENT: Ms J A Jenkins – Chairman

Mr S R Barrett	Mr N A Ridley
Mr A C Bavington	Mr A J Ward
Mrs S Carpendale	Mrs S M Wigglesworth
Mr A J Hinton	

The following Members were unable to be present:-

Mr N A Bennett, Mrs A K Pollard and Mr L H Young.

93 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 A K Pollard).

94 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mr A J Ward declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Minute No.101 below ([Paper M131](#)) as his daughter is a tenant in a council house but indicated that he was able to speak and vote on the matter.

95 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on [22 November 2012](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

96 PETITIONS

None received.

97 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

98 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

None received.

99 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TASK GROUPS AND PANELS

(a) Financial Outlook and 2013/14 Draft Budget

Ms J A Jenkins, Chairman of the Strategic and Financial Planning Task Group introduced [Paper M127](#) advising the Committee on the Medium Term Financial Outlook and the Task Group's views on this together with their proposals relating to the 2013/14 General Fund Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme, which would be a "transitional budget".

The report also outlined key information on this including the position on the New Homes Bonus and how it is proposed this should be used.

It was noted that the recommendations contained in Paper M127 are subject to a final determination by Strategy Committee and Council in February 2013.

RESOLVED

(1) That Members note the information contained in Paper M127 on the Financial Outlook and the indicative further additional significant reductions in Government funding in 2014/15 and beyond.

(2) That the draft Budget for 2013/14 is based on:

- **A freeze in council tax**
- **Subject to further review of the overall Budget position, using the New Homes Bonus as indicated in sections 8.13 and 8.26 of Paper M127 (and as also summarised in Appendix E)**
- **The potential cost pressures, savings and income referred to in Paper M127.**

(3) That the current position on the draft General Fund Revenue Budget as set out in Paper M127 and the draft General Fund Capital Programme attached at Appendix D be noted.

(4) That it be noted that the Budget continues to include the net cost of car parking in the District of around £200k per annum and that a clear proposition to remove or reduce this cost in relation to future Budgets remains under review, with a view to this being resolved in 2013 and in time for setting the 2014/15 budget.

(b) Homelessness Prevention Fund Policy

Mrs S M Wigglesworth, Chairman of the Housing Panel, introduced [Paper M128](#) outlining a proposal to create a Homeless Prevention Fund to provide households facing homelessness with small loans at 0% interest to either remain in their existing home or access alternative accommodation.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Homelessness Prevention Fund Policy as contained in Appendix (a) to Paper M128 be adopted.**
- (2) That the Head of Housing be authorised to make any minor amendments to the policy.**

(c) Tenancy Strategy for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils

Mrs S M Wigglesworth, Chairman of the Housing Panel, introduced [Paper M129](#) advising that the Localism Act 2011 requires Councils to adopt a Tenancy Strategy.

The report outlined the approach to Housing Associations' conversion of social tenancies to Affordable Rent Tenancies, fixed term tenancies etc. The Greater Haven Gateway (Sub Regional Partnership) has agreed and produced the document in consultation with partner Housing Associations.

RESOLVED

That the Tenancy Strategy (Housing Associations) attached as Appendix 1 to Paper M129 be approved.

100 WORK PLAN FOR 2012/13

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper M130](#)) on items identified for the Strategy Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Work Plan set out in Paper M130 be noted.

101 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – (a) DRAFT HRA BUDGET 2013/14, (b) PROPOSED RENTS AND CHARGES 2013/14, (c) REVIEW AND UPDATE – HRA BUSINESS PLAN 2013/14

The Head of Housing submitted a report on the Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget 2013/14, which included the four year Capital Programme.

The report also outlined proposed changes to rents and charges for 2013/14, a review of the HRA Business Plan and proposals for establishing strategic priorities and for use of surplus revenues.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (1) That the Draft HRA 2013/14 Budget as presented in section 8.7 of [Paper M131](#) be approved.**
- (2) That the Draft HRA 2013/17 Capital Programme as contained in Appendix (a) of Paper M131 be approved.**

- (3) That changes to Council rents and charges for 2013/14 be approved as follows:-
- Housing Rents are increased by 5.17%
 - Garage rents are increased by 5.17%
 - Sheltered communal service charges are increased by 5%
 - Sheltered utility charges are decreased by 2.88%.
- (4) That the creation of 'new build/acquisitions pot' within the Capital Programme as referred to in Paragraph 8.11 of Paper M131 be noted.
- (5) That the allocation of Right to Buy receipts between the HRA and General Fund as referred to in Paragraph 8.13 of Paper M131 be noted.
- (6) That the review of the HRA Business Plan as referred to in Paragraph 8.30 and Appendix (b) of Paper M131 be noted.
- (7) That the proposals for development of HRA strategic priorities and use of surplus revenues as referred to in Paragraphs 8.33 to 8.36 of Paper M131 be noted.

102 IPSWICH AREA POLICY BOARD – APPROVAL OF REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Head of Economy submitted a report ([Paper M132](#)) reviewing the Ipswich Area Policy Board in the context of recent changes to National Planning Legislation.

The Committee were requested to confirm the basis of the Council's continuing involvement in the Board and to approve the amended terms of reference, a proposed work plan and resourcing requirements.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the revised Terms of Reference for the Ipswich Area Policy Board attached as Appendix A to Paper M132 be approved.
- (2) That the draft work plan attached as Appendix B to Paper M132 be noted.
- (3) That the Corporate Manager – Spatial Planning Policy be authorised to make such changes to the Terms of Reference and Work Plan in consultation with the Chairman of Strategy Committee as may be necessary from time to time.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

That a substitute Member representative be appointed in accordance with the revised Terms of Reference attached as Appendix A to Paper M132.

103 COCKFIELD CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

The Head of Economy submitted a report ([Paper M133](#)) recommending the adoption of the Conservation Area Appraisal document for Cockfield.

RESOLVED

That the Conservation Area Appraisal document for Cockfield (Appendix A to Paper M133) be adopted as non-statutory supplementary planning guidance with immediate effect.

104 HARTEST CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

The Head of Economy submitted a report ([Paper M134](#)) recommending the adoption of the Conservation Area Appraisal document for Hartest.

RESOLVED

That the Conservation Area Appraisal document for Hartest (Appendix A to Paper M134) be adopted as non-statutory supplementary planning guidance with immediate effect.

105 SUFFOLK LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Head of Environment submitted a report ([Paper M135](#)) requesting approval of the final version of the Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy following the public consultation carried out by Suffolk County Council in the summer of 2012.

RESOLVED

That the Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy referred to in Appendix (a) of Paper M135 be approved.

106 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT QUARTER TWO 2012/13 – BALANCED SCORECARD AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2012

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper M136](#)) on Council performance for the second quarter of 2012/13 using the approach approved by this Committee in the performance monitoring and reporting framework report.

The scorecard provides performance details for each part of the organisation focusing on a continuous improvement approach rather than a restrictive targeted approach. The scorecard reports a performance status using a colour code which identifies the expected position for the year end against the outcome and where appropriate it includes either a brief comment on the performance or a reference to a paragraph in the report.

The direction of travel arrows indicate how performance in quarter 2 compares to that in quarter 1.

RESOLVED

That the key points included in Paper M136, relating to operational performance and transformation and integration, be noted.

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

The business of the meeting was concluded at 12.20 p.m.

.....
Chairman