

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 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	Mr L H Young
Mrs A K Pollard	

Mr N A Bennett was unable to be present.

Mr D M Busby, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee, was present in order to present the recommendations of that Committee contained in Minute No. 113 below.

107 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 Mr N A Bennett).

108 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mr A J Hinton declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Minute No. 114(b) below ([Paper M148](#)) as a member of East Bergholt Parish Council but indicated that his interests were such that he was able to speak and vote on the matter.

109 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on [17 January 2013](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

110 PETITIONS

None received.

111 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

112 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

None received.

113 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Draft Treasury Management Strategy (Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee) Minute No. 45

Mr D M Busby, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee introduced Papers [M138](#) and [M138A](#) outlining the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/14 setting out the Annual Investment Strategy for managing surplus funds and the borrowing strategy in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice in the Public Services (2011 edition).

It was noted that since the meeting of the Committee had taken place Arlingclose Ltd (the Council's treasury advisors) have advised that investments may be made with Singaporean Banks which meet the minimum criteria set out in Section 8.15 of Paper M138.

As this information was not available to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee it is suggested that the approval of investments with Singaporean Banks is considered later in the year.

During consideration of this item it was agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee would reinvestigate the position regarding including Santander UK plc on the counterparty list.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (1) That the key factors and information affecting treasury management activities set out in Appendix A to Paper M138 (as amended by Paper M138A) be noted.**
- (2) That the following be approved:-**
 - (a) The Treasury Management Policy Statement and the Policy for Managing the HRA Debt set out in Appendix B to Paper M138.**
 - (b) The Draft Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/14, including the Annual Investment Strategy, as set out in Appendix C to Paper M138 (as amended by Paper M138A).**
 - (c) The Draft Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2012/13 (revised) to 2015/16 set out in Appendix D to Paper M138 (as amended by Paper M138A).**
- (3) That the current position regarding Santander UK plc not being included on the counterparty list be confirmed.**

114 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TASK GROUPS AND PANELS(a) Financial Outlook and 2013/14 Budget

Ms J A Jenkins, Chairman of the Strategic and Financial Planning Task Group, introduced Paper [M147](#) advising the Committee on the medium term financial outlook and the task groups 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”.

Members were advised that since the report had been circulated we have been advised of an additional “Rural Efficiency Grant” of £20,000 for next year which recognises to some extent the funding needs of rural councils and which has come about as a result of lobbying by the SPARSE Rural Services Network and both Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Members views were sort on whether the extra £20,000 grant should be used to either slightly reduce the planned use of new homes bonus next year to support the budget or be added to the integration reserve.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (1) That Members note the information in Paper M147 on the financial outlook and the indicative further additional significant reductions in Government funding in 2014/15 and beyond.**
- (2) That the General Fund Budget of £8,845k for 2013/14 be approved based on:**
 - (a) A District Council Tax precept of £4,367k reflecting a freeze in Council Tax**
 - (b) The New Homes Bonus figure for next year be reduced by £20k as summarised in Appendix E to Paper M147 as a result of the rural efficiency grant award.**
 - (c) The potential cost pressures, savings and income referred to in Paper M147.**

(b) Additions to the Affordable Homes Programme – Proposed Affordable Housing Schemes – Fiddlers Lane, East Bergholt and Lady Lane, Hadleigh

Mrs S M Wigglesworth, Chairman of the Housing Panel, introduced Paper [M148](#) requesting approval to include within the Council’s Affordable Housing Programme two schemes on Council owned land at Fiddlers Lane, East Bergholt and Lady Lane, Hadleigh.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

That the two schemes on Babergh owned land as shown in Appendices 1 and 2 of Paper M148 be approved in principle and be included with the Council’s Affordable Housing programme, it being noted that all schemes require full consultation with Local Members, together with the Parishes, stakeholders, tenants and others as necessary.

- **4 x two-bedroom bungalows for affordable rent at land off Fiddlers Lane, East Bergholt**
- **1 x four-bedroom dwelling for affordable rent at land adjacent to 4 Lady Lane, Hadleigh.**

(c) Revised Local Connection Criteria for Local Needs Housing Scheme Allocations

Mrs S M Wigglesworth, Chairman of the Housing Panel, introduced Paper [M149](#) proposing a change to the Local Connection criteria for the allocation of Local Needs Housing Schemes that are developed through the Council's Rural Exceptions policy or where Council owned land has been developed for affordable housing needs.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the new Local Connection Criteria for Local Housing Needs Survey for all Local Housing Needs Housing Schemes be approved as proposed in Appendix 1 to Paper M149.**
- (2) That the new Local Connection Criteria be included in all S106 planning agreements for Local Needs Housing Schemes.**
- (3) That officers explore the opportunities to revise existing S106 agreements in line with the recommendations in (1) and (2) above.**

(d) Norfolk and Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller Strategy 2012 - 14

Mrs S M Wigglesworth, Chairman of the Housing Panel, introduced Paper [M150](#) requesting approval to the Gypsy and Traveller Strategy and Action Plan for Norfolk and Suffolk which is a new partnership document for all Norfolk and Suffolk Local Authorities.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (1) That the new Norfolk and Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller Strategy for 2012 – 2014 as attached at Appendix 1 with the amendments as detailed in section 5.2 of Paper M150, be approved.**
- (2) That the annual monitoring of the Strategy and associated Action Plan be undertaken by the Housing Panel, any decisions or actions to be referred to Strategy Committee.**

115 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report (Paper [M151](#)) on items identified for the Strategy Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Work Plan set out in Paper M151 be noted.

116 SUFFOLK HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY: A TEN YEAR STRATEGY 2012 - 22 EARLY PRIORITIES FOR REVIEW 2015

The Head of Communities submitted a report (Paper [M152](#)) advising that under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Suffolk County Council is required to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board for Suffolk and, with Clinical Commissioning Groups, has a duty to produce a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the County.

The Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board, which has been meeting in shadow form for over one year, becomes statutory from April 2013 and the strategy will guide the work of the Board. As a significant strategic policy document which will be effective across Suffolk it is important that all those with representation on the Board endorse the content of the strategy, reflect it in their policy framework and contribute to its implementation.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (1) That the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy developed by Suffolk's Health and Wellbeing Board attached as Appendix A to Paper M152 be adopted as part of the Babergh/Mid Suffolk policy framework.**
- (2) That Babergh/Mid Suffolk will contribute to the implementation of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy through its service delivery mechanisms and through proactive membership of the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board which has the statutory duty to produce the Strategy and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.**

117 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT QUARTER THREE 2012/13 – BALANCED SCORECARD AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report (Paper [M153](#)) on Council performance for the 3rd quarter of 2012/13 using the approach approved in the Performance Monitoring and Reporting Framework.

RESOLVED

That the key points relating to operational performance and transformation and integration as outlined in Paper M153 be noted.

118 2012/13 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Head of Housing submitted a report (Paper [M155](#)) seeking approval to proceed with work to Kingfisher Leisure Centre and the supply and installation of solar panels at Sheltered Units.

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 4.2 of Paper M155.

119 ADOPTION OF BRETtenham CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

The Head of Economy submitted a report (Paper [M154](#)) recommending the adoption of the Conservation Area Appraisal document for Brettenham.

RESOLVED

That the Conservation Area Appraisal document for Brettenham (Appendix A to Paper M154) be adopted as non-statutory Supplementary Planning Guidance with immediate effect.

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Note: The meeting adjourned between 11.00 a.m. and 11.20 a.m. for refreshments.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 12.30 p.m.

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Chairman