

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON MONDAY, 8 APRIL 2013

PRESENT: Ms J A Jenkins – Chairman

Dr M F M Bamford	Mrs A K Pollard
Mr S R Barrett	Mr N A Ridley
Mr A C Bavington	Mrs S M Wigglesworth
Mr N A Bennett	Mr L H Young
Mr A J Hinton	

Mrs S Carpendale was unable to be present.

136 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 S Carpendale)

137 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mr S R Barrett declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Minute No. 145 below ([Paper M186](#)) as he was a Council representative on the South Suffolk Leisure Trust Board, but indicated that his interests were such that he was able to speak and vote on the matter.

138 MINUTES

**RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on [14 March 2013](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

139 PETITIONS

None received.

140 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

141 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

None received.

142 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper M184](#)) on items identified for the Strategy Committee.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Work Plan set out in Paper M184 be noted.**

143 PUBLICATION OF EQUALITY INFORMATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE EQUALITY ACT 2010

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper M185](#)) providing an update on the approach and actions taken this year by the Council in discharging its equality duties under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011. The report also sought approval for publication of the equality information in April 2013.

During consideration of this item Officers undertook to report back any problems identified in the new Universal Credit system.

**RESOLVED**

**(1) That the equality information proposed for publication as contained in Paper M185 represents an effective means of complying with the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010.**

**(2) That the publication of the proposed equality information on Babergh's website in April 2013 be endorsed.**

144 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 Committee was also satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.**

**PART II**

145 LEISURE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS APPRAISAL (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1)

The Head of Communities submitted a report ([Paper M186](#)) advising that an independent assessment of the management of leisure facilities in Babergh had been undertaken by V4 Services Limited and a summary of their findings was outlined in Paper M186. Attached to the report was V4 Services Limited's report.

Steve Laird from the Consultants was present at the meeting and provided a presentation outlining the findings of the assessment. Following the presentation Members then asked questions of Steve Laird and Officers present.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the management fee to South Suffolk Leisure is increased from £175k per annum to £225k per annum to provide a realistic and reasonable subsidy that will ensure financial stability for the medium term.**
- (2) That the increase in management fee is linked to a number of developments in the relationship with SSL, which would include; developing better financial and business planning capacity; agreeing new joint strategic goals; and meaningfully exploring the development of joint arrangements with other trusts.**
- (3) That specialist VAT tax advice is commissioned to enable the VAT burden on operational costs to be reduced.**

The business of the meeting was concluded at 10.45 a.m.

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Chairman