

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY, 16 JANUARY 2014

PRESENT: Ms J A Jenkins – Chairman

Mr C W Arthey	Mr J R B Cave
Mr S R Barrett	Mr A J Hinton
Mr A C Bavington	Mrs A K Pollard
Mrs S Carpendale	Mrs S M Wigglesworth

Mr N A Ridley was also in attendance at the meeting.

Mrs J Antill was present at the meeting in order to present the recommendations and report of the Joint Scrutiny Committee referred to in Minute No. 71 below.

Mr N A Bennett was unable to be present.

67 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

68 MINUTES

(a) Meeting held 12 December 2013

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the deletion of the name of Dr M F M Bamford as one of the Members being present.

(b) Meeting held 21 November 2013

At the Council meeting on 17 December 2013 Members were advised of the inaccuracy in relation to those Members who had been granted a dispensation to speak or vote on the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Technical Changes – 2014/15 onwards (Minute No. 57 refers).

The Strategy Committee at their meeting on 12 December 2013 had confirmed the Minutes of the 21 November 2013 as a correct record, but it was noted that the first sentence of Minute No. 50 should have read as follows:-

“The following Members declared pecuniary interests in the matter referred to in Minute No. 57 by virtue of their ownership of second / empty homes within the Babergh District but stated that they had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to enable them to participate fully in the debate and to vote on the matter.

Mr C W Arthey, Dr M F M Bamford and Ms J A Jenkins.”

RESOLVED

That the position be noted.

69 PETITIONS

None received.

70 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

71 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Planning Policy Group (Joint Scrutiny Committee – 4 December 2013)

Mrs J Antill was present at the meeting and introduced the recommendation of the Joint Scrutiny Committee on the status and development of planning policy in the two Councils.

RESOLVED

That, in principle, a planning policy group be set up to work in conjunction with the Transformation Enquiry Groups to deal specifically with planning policy matters and support the development of the planning policy Framework for the two Councils.

72 DUTY TO CO-OPERATE IN PLAN MAKING – ROLE OF IPSWICH POLICY AREA (IPA) BOARD

The Head of Economy submitted a report ([Paper N101](#)) on the outcome of an Ipswich Policy Area Board meeting held on 21 November 2013 and to explain to Members the importance of the Duty to Co-operate legislation and the role of the Ipswich Policy Area Board in meeting this requirement.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the importance of the Duty to Co-operate legislation and the role of the IPA Board in meeting this legal requirement be noted.**
- (2) That revised Terms of Reference (Appendix B of Paper N101) for the IPA Board including frequency of meetings and other working arrangements be agreed.**
- (3) That all IPA partners work together to agree a position on housing and employment needs across the IPA by the Autumn of 2014 including land supply and review of IPA boundary alternatives.**
- (4) That a mechanism be considered by the Board to support sustainable growth, meet the needs of Duty to Co-operate and the need to plan positively as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.**
- (5) That further reports on the above are considered in the future.**

73 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper N97](#)) relating to items which had been identified on the Committee Work Plan.

It was noted that since the report had been prepared an additional topic relating to Decant Policy had been identified for the 10 April 2014 meeting.

RESOLVED

That the contents of Paper N97, together with the above update be noted.

74 FINANCIAL OUTLOOK INCLUDING THE 2014/15 DRAFT GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGETS AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Chief Executive gave a strategic overview of the latest position regarding the draft General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Budgets and Investment Strategy.

The Head of Corporate Resources and the Head of Housing introduced Paper [N98](#):-

- Explaining the financial challenges facing the Council in the short and medium/long-term
- Explaining the Council's new strategic approach and desired outcomes following the Transformation Enquiry Group process
- providing information on the emerging budget strategy for both the short term 2014/15 and longer term 3 to 5 years
- Setting out how the Council intends to use its available resources to achieve the strategic policy outcomes and realign resources to a programme of transformational activities and projects

It was noted that the recommendations contained in Paper N98 are subject to a final determination by Strategy Committee and Council in February 2014.

RESOLVED

- (1) **That Strategy Committee agrees the draft Budget proposals set out in Paper N98, subject to further consideration at the February meeting.**
- (2) **That the draft General Fund Budget for 2014/15 is based on:-**
 - (a) **Realigning funding to deliver the Council's Transformation Programme and Strategic Priority outcomes.**
 - (b) **Investing New Homes Bonus as indicated in section 12.1 of the report.**

Accepting the council tax freeze grant equivalent to a 1% increase in council tax.
- (3) **That the draft HRA Investment Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19, be agreed. Further that:-**

- (a) the draft HRA Budget 2014/15 be agreed as set out in [Paper N98](#), subject to final approval of the rent levels.
 - (b) Officers develop an option for annual rent increases which maintains longer term predicted income levels to the HRA Business Plan. This option will be presented to Members in more detail at Strategy Committee in February.
 - (c) the re-let of vacant HRA properties be at target rent levels.
- (4) That the proposed capital programme in Appendix C of Paper N98 be approved.
- (5) That the 10 year revised HRA Business Plan in Appendix B of Paper N98 be noted.

75 STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2013

The Head of Corporate Organisation introduced [Paper N99](#) providing Members with performance monitoring information for 2013/14.

It was noted that under Performance Measure 18 the outcome for 2013/14 on the percentage of Council Tax collected in the year should be 98.9% and not 98.3% as referred to in Paper N99.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the performance information provided in Paper N99 be noted.

76 LONDON AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT PROJECT – RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

The Strategic Director (Place) submitted a report ([Paper N100](#)) setting out a response to a consultation being undertaken by the National Air Traffic Service to rationalise the way in which airspace is used in the U.K. The consultation relates to the first stage of a wider programme that will ultimately deal with all London Airports by 2020.

RESOLVED

That the comments contained in Appendix B to Paper N100 form the basis of the Council’s response to the London Airspace Management Project Consultation.

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

The business of the meeting was concluded at 12.10 p.m.

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Chairman