

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY, 10 APRIL 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
Mr N A Bennett	Mrs S M Wigglesworth
Mrs S Carpendale	

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

89 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

90 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

91 PETITIONS

None received.

92 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

93 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper N128](#)) relating to items which had been identified on the Committee Work Plan. The following updates were also reported:-

HRA Recharges and Debt Collection Policy – put back to June.

Public Realm Service Delivery Model – date to be advised.

Strategic Plan 2014/17 – add to 8 May.

RESOLVED

That the contents of Paper N128 together with the updates reported above be noted.

94 PHASE ONE OF THE DELIVERY OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES IN THE DISTRICTS: INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS TO COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK IN THE BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK DISTRICTS

The Head of Environment submitted [Paper N129](#) seeking Member approval to the first phase of a programme for the delivery of renewable energy technologies across Babergh and Mid Suffolk and the business case for a scheme to install solar panels on suitable Council houses.

The officers involved in the multi-team approach to the development of the programme and business case were present at the meeting to explain specific aspects and respond to Members' questions on various matters including the detailed financial arrangements / feed-in tariff and the anticipated financial and wider benefits for both the Council and its tenants.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the principles of the overall programme, as set out in Paper N129, be endorsed.**
- (2) That the specific proposals and business case detailed in the report for the Council housing properties, including the use of General Fund prudential borrowing for the capital investment, be approved.**

95 TRANSITIONAL RENT DISCOUNT SCHEME

The Corporate Manager – Housing Revenue Account introduced a report from the Head of Housing ([Paper N130](#)) asking Members to approve a Scheme for the next two years to assist those tenants who have seen the highest rent increases for 2014/15. In response to a question about any impact from the country-wide introduction of Universal Credit, the Corporate Manager confirmed that Universal Credit is unlikely to be in place within the lifetime of the Scheme.

RESOLVED

That a Transitional Rent Discount Scheme for 2014/15/16 based on the principles set out in Paper N130 be approved.

96 STRATEGIC PLANNING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

The Corporate Manager – Spatial Planning Policy introduced a report from the Head of Economy ([Paper N131](#)) regarding future Member involvement in the development of planning policy.

Members generally welcomed the proposals set out in the report and noted the resource implications, the need for targeted training for Members and effective project management. The Corporate Manager referred to the need to press on with preparing Supplementary Planning and other guidance documents to assist communities and developers, including guidance for Core Strategy CS11 which will shortly be the subject of public consultation.

The growth agenda, including rural growth, together with renewable energy were seen as areas of particular importance, as well as early and effective consultation with local communities.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposed approach for future Member involvement in strategic planning policy development as contained in Appendix (a) to [Paper N131](#) be agreed.**
- (2) That the proposed draft outline for the future planning policy related work programme, as contained in Appendices (b) and (c) to the report be agreed.**
- (3) That the Corporate Manager – Spatial Planning Policy be authorised to finalise / make revisions to the final planning policy related work programme referred to in Resolution (2) above (and associated Local Development Scheme) unless such revisions are of a substantial nature. Further, that in the event that substantial changes are required, such proposed changes would be referred back to the Members work group for agreement by the Corporate Manager in consultation with that group.**

97 NEW ANGLIA STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN (SEP)

The Strategic Director (Corporate) introduced [Paper N132](#) seeking the Committee's endorsement of the New Anglia SEP, produced by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for Norfolk and Suffolk, which was circulated with the report. Members were aware that the SEP will allow bids to be made to the Single Local Growth Fund as part of its role in supporting economic growth across Norfolk and Suffolk. Members recognised that the SEP is a key document, and noted that it has been informed by the Suffolk Growth Strategy, which both Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have previously approved.

RESOLVED

That the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan (Appendix (a) to Paper N132) be endorsed.

98 LAVENHAM COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (LCLT) STEERING GROUP

The Corporate Manager – Strategic Housing introduced the report of the Head of Economy ([Paper N133](#)) regarding the setting up by Lavenham Parish Council of the LCLT Steering Group, and the Parish Council's request for Babergh to provide officer advice through direct representation on the Group.

The Strategic Director (Corporate) referred to this being the first CLT requesting assistance in this way which was therefore in the nature of a pilot arrangement from which the Council could gain insight, but which was unlikely to be repeated in this format in the future.

RESOLVED

That the Corporate Manager – Strategic Housing and the Communities Officer – Enabling be appointed to represent Babergh District Council in an advisory capacity on the Lavenham Community Land Trust Steering Group.

Notes:- 1. Mrs A K Pollard arrived during consideration of [Paper N129](#) and did not vote on the recommendations.

2. Mr C W Arthey left the meeting after consideration of [Paper N131](#).

The business of the meeting was concluded at 6.35 p.m.

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Chairman