

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2014

PRESENT: Jennie Jenkins – Chairman

Clive Arthey	Richard Cave
Michael Bamford	John Hinton
Simon Barrett	Kathy Pollard
Tony Bavington	Sue Wigglesworth

Nigel Bennett and Sue Carpendale were unable to be present.

1 SUBSTITUTES

It was noted that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No.5, a substitute was in attendance as follows:-

Michael Bamford (substituting for Sue Carpendale).

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Clive Arthey, Michael Bamford, Simon Barrett, Tony Bavington and John Hinton in their capacity as Parish/Town Councillors, and Clive Arthey, Jennie Jenkins and Sue Wigglesworth as members of various Village Hall Committees, all declared non-pecuniary interests in respect of Minute No 8 (HS32 eligibility criteria).

All Members named above were able to participate fully in the debate and vote.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on [10 April 2014](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4 PETITIONS

None received.

5 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

6 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper P11](#)) relating to items which had been identified on the Committee Work Plan. An update was reported regarding the Annual Planning Performance Report, which will be presented to Council on 24 June (ie, not considered by the Committee).

RESOLVED

That Paper P11, together with the update reported as above, be noted.

7 FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLANS 2014/15

The Corporate Manager – Food and Safety presented a report from the Head of Environment ([Paper P12](#)) seeking Member approval to the joint Mid Suffolk and Babergh Food Safety and Health and Safety Service Plans for 2014/15.

The Corporate Manager explained the current approach to this area, which is intelligence driven rather than being solely inspection based. He responded to Members' questions on various aspects of the Plans, including statutory requirements, the premises rating system, potential for maximising fee income without adversely affecting compliance, explanation of 'zoonoses', arrangements for inspection of private water supplies, and the way in which the District Council role (microbiology / safety) and that of Trading Standards (misleading descriptions etc) operate alongside each other.

RESOLVED

That the joint Mid Suffolk and Babergh Food Safety Service Plan 2014/15 and the Health and Safety Service Plan 2014/15 be approved, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 (respectively) to Paper P12, subject to any typographical and other minor corrections.

8 PLANNING POLICY HS32 – REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Corporate Manager – Public Realm presented the joint report from the Heads of Economy and Environment ([Paper P13](#)) asking Members to review the eligibility criteria for expenditure on small scale recreation facilities in the light of feedback on the current arrangements and other information referred to in the report. Members also had before them a revised version of the comparison table in paragraph 8.2 of the report, together with an amended wording for Recommendation 2.1, to take into account further feedback on the proposed expansion of the criteria, circulated to all Members prior to the commencement of the meeting.

The Corporate Manager outlined the background to the review and referred to this being a holding position, pending a further review which would take into account the introduction of the new provisions under the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regime, and the operation of the expanded criteria. He responded to questions from Members about various related matters, including the key differences between the operation of the CIL and the Section 106 arrangements.

The Committee generally welcomed the proposals for future expenditure and the commitment to continue with focused activity to help parishes access these monies. However, the Chief Executive advised that, although there would be an opportunity for some previously rejected requests to be re-submitted, the amount of flexibility would vary according to the terms of the existing Section 106 Legal Agreement, and the release of further sums would be subject to the advice of the Monitoring Officer on a case-by-case basis. Members noted that the Heads of Economy and Environment would provide them with further information on this aspect.

During the course of the debate, the need for clear information to be communicated to parishes and the press was emphasised, together with the need for Ward Members to be kept fully informed. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would arrange for an appropriate wording to be supplied to Members to help them to explain to their parishes the effect of the revised criteria.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the changes proposed in Paper P13 to expand the eligibility criteria for the expenditure of small scale recreation contributions secured under Planning Policy HS32, as amended in accordance with the revised table appended to these minutes, be agreed.**
- (2) That the continuation of the focused activity by Officers to spend money in partnership with parishes, together with the details of spent, committed and unspent monies as provided in Appendix 2 to Paper P13, be noted.**

9 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

The Head of Corporate Organisation introduced the report of the Head of Economy ([Paper P14](#)) updating the Committee on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) development programme and seeking Member approval to the launch of the CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule consultation.

The Spatial Planning Policy Officer in presenting the detail of the report outlined the way in which the CIL will sit alongside Section 106 Legal Agreements to provide a means of funding certain types of infrastructure developments for the next 15 to 20 years, with a greater degree of certainty for developers and communities than in the past.

The Head of Service, the Policy Officer and the Chief Executive responded to various questions about the impact of the proposals including their relationship to Neighbourhood Plans and other initiatives, the way in which Regulation 123 lists would be generated, Building Control triggers in the absence of Planning Permission and the evidence-based advice being provided by Peter Brett Consultants. Members noted that the Charging Schedule represents the initial piece of work in the process, with Delivery and Governance issues to be addressed subsequently. In response to a specific question about the Sudbury By-Pass, Members were advised that further work would be required to establish whether it would be appropriate to include this in the Regulation 123 CIL infrastructure list. This will be progressed and considered over the summer while the infrastructure list is being finalised.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the progress on the CIL developmental programme to date be noted and the future timetable for adoption as set out in paragraphs 12.1 – 12.5 of Paper P14 be approved.**
- (2) That the launch of the public consultation for the CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule document (referred to in Appendix 2 to the report) be approved.**

- (3) That the Head of Economy be authorised to make typographical and other minor changes together with any technical changes as required to the CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule document prior to its publication and the formal launch of the consultation period.**

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11.30 a.m.

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Chairman