

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Jennie Jenkins – Chairman

Clive Arthey	John Hinton
Michael Bamford	Nick Ridley
Simon Barrett	Trot Ward
Tony Bavington	Sue Wigglesworth
Sue Carpendale	

Nigel Bennett, Richard Cave and Kathy Pollard were unable to be present.

32 SUBSTITUTES

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

Nick Ridley (substituting for Richard Cave)
Michael Bamford (substituting for Kathy Pollard)
Trot Ward (substituting for Nigel Bennett)

33 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Clive Arthey declared a pecuniary interest in respect of Minute No. 41 below by reason of owning an empty property and indicated that he would leave the meeting for the consideration of that item.

34 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on [7 July 2014](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

35 PETITIONS

None received.

36 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

37 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

38 REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FROM JMIB

Office Closures over the Christmas and New Year Period

The Committee had before them a report ([Paper P44](#)) from the Joint Member Integration Board relating to the opening and closing arrangements for the Councils main offices over the Christmas and New Year period.

RESOLVED

That for 2014/15 the Councils main administrative offices be closed from Christmas Day to the New Years Day Bank Holiday inclusive.

39 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a revised report ([Paper P45R](#)) relating to items which had been identified on the Committee Work Plan.

RESOLVED

That the revised Paper P45R be noted.

40 2013/14 FINANCIAL OUTTURN

The Head of Corporate Resources submitted a report ([Paper P46](#)) summarising the 2013/14 Financial Outturn for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, and Capital Programme.

This is subject to the external auditor's report and the Statement of Accounts for the year, which will be considered by the Audit Committee on 23 September 2014. The unaudited Statement of Accounts was approved for publication on 27 June 2014.

Following the introduction of the report Members asked a number of questions of the officers.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the 2013/14 Financial Outturn as set out in Paper P46 and the potential for recurring net savings in the General Fund and HRA Budgets for future years be noted.**
- (2) That the transfer of £424k relating to the General Fund outturn to the Transformation Reserve to provide additional funding for Strategic Plan delivery projects and achieving future priority outcomes be approved.**
- (3) That the transfer of £545k relating to the HRA favourable outturn to the HRA Strategic Priorities Reserve (in addition to the £614k planned transfer from HRA working balance) be approved.**

- (4) That, in relation to the capital programme carry forwards, these be considered further as part of the priority based resourcing exercise, reviewing the proposed use of these funds (specifically those relating to the HRA) and assessing how future capital resources can be best directed towards achieving the Council's strategic priority outcomes.**

41 EMPTY HOMES POLICY

The Head of Housing introduced a report ([Paper P48](#)) proposing an integrated joint Policy for dealing with long term empty homes within the Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts.

The adoption of the Policy would support the strategic priorities of providing more homes to meet local need and maximising the use of existing private sector housing.

RESOLVED

That the joint Policy dealing with long term empty homes as contained in the appendix attached to Paper P48 be approved and implemented with immediate effect.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 10.40 am.

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Chairman