

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

PRESENT: Jennie Jenkins – Chairman

Clive Arthey	Sue Carpendale
Michael Bamford	John Hinton
Simon Barrett	Nick Ridley
Tony Bavington	Sue Wigglesworth
Nigel Bennett	

Richard Cave and Kathy Pollard were unable to be present.

42 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)

43 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

44 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on [11 September 2014](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

45 PETITIONS

None received.

46 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

47 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

48 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted [Paper P60](#) relating to items which had been identified on the Committee Work Plan.

RESOLVED

That Paper P60 together with updates reported at the meeting be noted.

49 JOINT HOUSING BOARD – VIABILITY ASSESSMENT

The Corporate Manager – Asset Management introduced Paper P61 seeking approval to the disposal of 3 The Street Brent Eleigh following a viability assessment of the property.

RESOLVED

- (1) That approval be given to the sale of the property as referred to in the table in paragraph 9 of Paper P61, being 3 The Street Brent Eleigh.**
- (2) That the Corporate Manager – Asset Utilisation be authorised to dispose of this property in whichever way will realise best value for the asset based both on internal officer opinion and external advice.**
- (3) That the disposal referred to above be subject to:-**
 - (a) Appropriate terms and conditions in order to protect the interests of the Council, as agreed with the Corporate Manager – Legal in consultation with the Strategic Director (Place).**
 - (b) A consideration to be agreed by the Council’s appointed Valuer.**

50 COUNCIL NEW BUILD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME APPROVAL PROCESS

The Corporate Manager – Housing Revenue Account introduced Paper P62 seeking approval to proposed financial parameters for assessing development projects together with delegation for progressing schemes.

She also reported that the Mid Suffolk Executive Committee had agreed a further resolution which reinforced the consultation arrangements referred to in paragraph 5.2 of the report.

The Corporate Manager and the Strategic Director (Place) responded to questions from Members about various matters related to the operation of the process which would assist both Councils in responding quickly and efficiently to development opportunities which might arise at short notice.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposed financial parameters as set out in paragraph 8.2 of [Paper P62](#) (“Financial Parameters”) be approved.**
- (2) That the New Build Affordable Development Programme for Babergh as described in Appendix 1 to the report be approved. Further that the Strategic Director – Place in consultation with the Strategic Director – People be authorised to approve any variations to the New Build Affordable Development Programme that (a) are less than twenty percent of the scheme cost or (b) affect compliance with no more than one of the Financial Parameters.**

- (3) That the Strategic Director – Place in consultation with the Strategic Director – People be authorised to submit bid(s) for affordable housing schemes that meet the Financial Parameters and, if bidding is successful, to progress such affordable housing schemes.**
- (4) That it be noted that each individual scheme will involve consultation with Ward Members and that their views will be taken into account; and with Parish/Town Councils and any affected local residents.**

51 ACCOMMODATION REVIEW – RESULTS OF PHASE A AND NEXT STEPS

The Strategic Director (Corporate) introduced a report from JMIB ([Paper P63](#)) seeking Member approval for the next phase of the review process. Members had before them the report together with Appendices 1-7 and confidential Paper P64.

The Strategic Director reported on the Executive Committee's decision to ask for hub options both within and outside the two Districts to be included in Phase B of the Review, and this was incorporated in a motion to proceed with Phase B based on the JMIB steer set out in paragraph 8.25 of the report.

After some initial discussion on the motion, the wording of an amendment proposed by Tony Bavington and seconded by Clive Arthey was circulated to Members. At this point Members were asked by the Chairman to exclude the public and press as the proposed amendment could relate to matters covered by Paper P64. A copy of the amendment is included in the Minute relating to the above-mentioned item which is excluded from the public record. A summary of the Minute made by the Proper Officer in accordance with sub-section 2 of Section 100(c) of the Local Government Act 1972 is set out below.

52 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)

RESOLVED

That pursuant to Part I 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.

53 ACCOMMODATION REVIEW (PART) (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1)

Members took into account the information in [Paper P64](#) – Planning and market appraisal – in considering the proposed amendment, which was lost on being put to the vote.

The public and press were re-admitted to the meeting at this point.

51 ACCOMMODATION REVIEW – RESULTS OF PHASE A AND NEXT STEPS
(continued)

Members then continued the debate on the motion before the Committee, during the course of which a general consensus emerged in support of the original recommendation from JMIB, as set out in paragraph 2.1 of Paper P63, on the basis that the JMIB steer outlined in paragraph 8.25 did not exclude the option for the hub to be within, as well as outside, the area covered by the two Districts. The proposer and seconder accepted that the JMIB steer would enable the hub and spokes option to be fully explored. The motion to approve the recommendation in paragraph 2.1 was therefore put to the vote.

RESOLVED

That Phase B of the review be undertaken, based on the JMIB steer set out in paragraph 8.25 of [Paper P63](#).

The business of the meeting was concluded at 6.10 p.m.

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Chairman