

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2015

PRESENT: Jennie Jenkins – Chairman

Clive Arthey	Richard Cave
Simon Barrett	John Hinton
Tony Bavington	Kathy Pollard
Sue Carpendale	Trot Ward

Nigel Bennett and Sue Wigglesworth were unable to be present.

97 SUBSTITUTES

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

Trot Ward (substituting for Nigel Bennett)

98 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

99 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

100 PETITIONS

None received.

101 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

102 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

103 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 11 FEBRUARY 2015

The Babergh Chairman of the Joint Scrutiny Committee introduced that Committee's recommendations following its consideration of a review carried out by the Fuel Poverty Task and Finish Group. The recommendations as set out in the agenda were proposed and seconded, following which the Chairman of the Strategy Committee proposed an amendment that the recommendations should be noted by the Committee, but addressed through the relevant Programme Steering Boards (PSBs) which had been set up subsequent to the establishment of the Task and Finish Group.

In this connection, Members were advised that the Housing and Communities PSBs were already considering matters relevant to fuel poverty. The amendment having been seconded was carried on being put to the vote and during the course of the debate on the recommendations, Members identified some other aspects for consideration through the PSB process, including

- The need to link maintenance/upgrades with the provision of efficient systems, as well as new build/installations – with particular reference to the efficiency levels of storage heaters
- The role of the private sector generally as well as private sector landlords in relation to new systems and income generation/savings
- Future construction techniques such as the use of ‘solar tiles’ to replace traditional materials and avoid the need for solar panels – cost implications etc.

Members were also aware that the amended proposal before them would enable the cost implications of all the recommendations to be fully explored.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the recommendations set out below be noted and delegated to the relevant Programme Steering Boards, to be adopted as part of the Work Programme. Further, that a report on progress be made to the next appropriate meeting of the Strategy Committee:-**

That

- 1. A single lead officer be assigned the responsibility for co-ordinating the Councils’ approach to the cross cutting issues of fuel poverty.**
- 2. The Councils work actively with partners such as the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board on developing and promoting fuel poverty initiatives.**
- 3. The Councils ensure our tenants are able to make effective use of their heating systems by providing adequate briefing and support especially when new systems and technology are installed.**
- 4. An approach to lobbying and working with Housing Associations within our Districts is determined to ensure that cost effective heating systems are installed in their new properties and the replacement of inefficient heating systems in their existing properties.**
- 5. The Councils take a proactive approach to seeking out grants and the use of new technologies to enable the most cost effective approach to fuel efficiency to be implemented.**
- 6. The Councils derive an approach to working with private landlords to improve awareness of the potential benefits to them of effectively heated properties, grants and funding available, and the future statutory requirements.**

7. **The Councils explore the potential for working with developers and Housing Associations to improve the energy efficiency of new housing by offering loans to allow additional efficiency measures to be installed at the time of construction. This could be a potential income stream to the Councils and would alleviate future fuel poverty.**

- (2) **That the further items identified from the Members' discussion, as set out in the three bullet points above, be also referred for consideration through the PSB process.**

104 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted [Paper P112](#) relating to items which had been identified on the Corporate Work Plan.

RESOLVED

That Paper P112 be noted.

105 2014 SUFFOLK HOUSING SURVEY – CURRENT AND FUTURE HOUSING NEEDS – TRANSLATING EVIDENCE THROUGH TO OUTCOMES

The Corporate Manager – Strategic Housing introduced the report of the Head of Economy ([Paper P113](#)) relating to the findings of the recent survey and their use in supporting the Councils' strategic plan and priorities. She updated Members on the position regarding the data referred to in Appendix 3, which was not presented in full at the meeting, but would be the subject of further work prior to being included in the presentation to Members at briefings scheduled for the end of March. She answered questions from Members about the robustness of the survey, which had been validated by UCS at the strategic level. Members were aware that local surveys, including parish-based, would be needed to provide more detailed evidence.

RESOLVED

- (1) **That it be noted that the specific findings from the 2014 Suffolk Housing Survey relevant to Babergh and Mid Suffolk delivery programmes will be presented to Members at briefings on 31 March 2015.**
- (2) **That it be noted that as part of the Open Day initiative, the survey response data sets and any public reports when finalised will be published on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils' websites as well as the Suffolk Observatory.**
- (3) **That the timescales set out for additional work as shown in Appendix 2 to Paper P113 be approved.**

106 NEW JOINT PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PLAN

The Corporate Manager – Planning Enforcement and Environmental Protection introduced a report from the Head of Economy ([Paper P114](#)) asking Members to adopt the draft Joint Plan attached to the report.

The Corporate Manager and Simon Bailey, Senior Planning Enforcement Officer, responded to Members’ queries about various aspects, including the application of the Plan to longer-standing and more complex cases. The benefit of Member training on enforcement which had been provided recently was acknowledged together with helping Parishes in their understanding of the process. It was noted that on-going training for Members and Parishes would be provided following the forthcoming elections and that the finalised Plan would be made available to all Parish and Town Councils.

Members’ attention was also drawn to two minor omissions on pages 6 and 7 of the draft Plan.

RESOLVED

That the Joint Local Planning Enforcement Plan (Appendix A to Paper P114) be adopted and implemented with immediate effect, subject to the addition to paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of the words shown in italics below:-

Paragraph 4.2, final bullet point to read

‘Security lighting fixed to existing buildings *not regulated by a planning condition*’

Paragraph 4.3, final bullet point to read

‘works which do not materially affect the external appearance of the building *excluding Listed Buildings*’

107 ADOPTION OF UPDATED SUFFOLK GUIDANCE FOR PARKING

David Sparkes, Senior Planning Policy Officer presented a report from the Head of Economy ([Paper P115](#)) asking Members to adopt updated technical guidance for parking standards.

RESOLVED

That Suffolk County Council’s ‘Suffolk Guidance for Parking, 2014’ (Appendix (a) refers) be adopted and made operational as non-statutory technical guidance with immediate effect, superseding the previous 2002 Suffolk Advisory Parking Standards which are now formally revoked and withdrawn (and accordingly no longer used in practice).

The business of the meeting was concluded at 10.55 a.m.

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Chairman