

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2015

PRESENT: Jennie Jenkins – Chairman

Clive Arthey	David Holland
Simon Barrett	Adrian Osborne
Dave Busby	Jan Osborne
Derek Davis	Peter Patrick
Alan Ferguson	

The following Members were unable to be present:

Sue Carpendale, Richard Kemp and Frank Lawrenson.

25 SUBSTITUTES

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

David Busby (substituting for Sue Carpendale)
Derek Davis (substituting for Richard Kemp)
Adrian Osborne (substituting for Frank Lawrenson)

26 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

27 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on [10 September 2015](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

28 PETITIONS

None received.

29 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

30 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

31 FORWARD PLAN

The Corporate Manager – Governance submitted [Paper R52](#) relating to items which had been identified on the Forward Plan. Members raised various matters which officers will clarify outside the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the contents of Paper R52 be noted.

32 PROPOSED CLOSURE OF MAGISTRATES COURTS

Jan Osborne, Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing and Communities, introduced [Paper R53](#) outlining the consultation on the proposed closure of 91 County, Family and Magistrate Courts across England and Wales. Members were asked to agree a joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk response to the consultation, and to support the Suffolk-wide approach.

Members had before them a revised Appendix C, which was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting. Jennie Jenkins, Leader of the Council and Kate Parnum, Project Research Officer, responded to questions from Members about various aspects of the proposals.

Members supported the thrust of the proposed district response and also the Suffolk response as set out in Tim Passmore's letter (Appendix D). In particular, Members were very concerned about the adverse effect upon both the rural population and professional attendance which would result from increased travelling times and costs associated with a reduction to a single court in Ipswich. They considered that the loss of local knowledge and potential loss of Magistrates would also be significant.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Consultation as explained in Paper R53 and Appendices A and B be noted.**
- (2) That the Council's response to the consultation be based on the revised Appendix C circulated at the meeting.**
- (3) That the joint Suffolk position as set out in Appendix D to the report be supported.**

33 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 ("RIPA") JOINT CORPORATE POLICY AND PROCEDURES AND RIPA USE UPDATE.

Jonathan Reed, Senior Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer, introduced [Paper R54](#) seeking Member approval to the revised RIPA Joint Corporate Policy and Procedure, attached as Appendix A to the report.

The general use of surveillance within the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts was outlined and Members were made aware as to the results of an inspection last year by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OSC).

Jonathan Reed explained that the revisions to the previously approved RIPA policy mostly reflected changes in national guidance and the recommendations from the OSC inspection, together with some minor updates such as job titles and to reflect the end of the CSD contract.

The Senior Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer responded to Members' questions. In respect of comments regarding the way in which the document is worded, he referred to the need to comply with Government guidance but he would look at whether any of the text could be simplified. Members were therefore asked to approve Appendix A as submitted, any changes to be agreed under delegation.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the RIPA Joint Corporate Policy and Procedures (Appendix A to Paper R54) be adopted with immediate effect.**
- (2) That the Interim Head of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer be authorised to make minor amendments to the RIPA Joint Corporate Policy and Procedures referred to in Resolution (1) above as may be necessary from time to time.**
- (3) That the information relating to the Councils' use of RIPA for the period July 2013 to date and the outcome of the Office of Surveillance Commissioner's (OSC's) inspection in 2014 be noted.**

The business of the meeting was concluded at 10.25 a.m.

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Chairman