

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2016

PRESENT: Jennie Jenkins – Chairman

Clive Arthey  
Simon Barrett  
Sue Carpendale  
Alan Ferguson  
David Holland

Frank Lawrenson  
Jan Osborne  
Peter Patrick  
David Rose

Richard Kemp was unable to be present.

67 SUBSTITUTES

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

David Rose (substituting for Richard Kemp).

68 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Peter Patrick declared a pecuniary interest in [Paper R93](#) and was not present in the Council Chamber when the item was under consideration.

Frank Lawrenson subsequently declared a pecuniary interest in [Paper R93](#) and was not present in the Council Chamber when the item was under consideration.

69 MINUTES

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on [7 January 2016](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

70 PETITIONS

None received.

71 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

72 QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS

None received.

73 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Joint Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 (Joint Audit and Standards Committee – 22 January 2016)

Jennie Jenkins, Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder, introduced the recommendations of the Joint Audit and Standards Committee.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- (1) That the key factors and information relating to and affecting treasury management activities set out in [Appendices A and B of Paper JAC65R](#) be noted.
- (2) That the following be approved:-
  - (a) the Treasury Management Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix C of Paper JAC65R.
  - (b) the Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17, incorporating the proposed changes referred to in sections 10.15 and 10.16 of Paper JAC65R and including the Annual Investment Strategy as set out in Appendix D of the report.
  - (c) the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement set out in Appendices G and H of Paper JAC65R.

74 FORWARD PLAN

Members had before them [Paper R88R](#) which was circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting and which included the addition of the Joint Food Safety and Health and Safety Plans for approval at the April meeting.

Members were advised that the Forward Plan continues to be updated on an on-going basis, and is currently being revised to reflect the refresh of the Joint Strategic Plan.

**RESOLVED**

**That the contents of Paper R88R be noted.**

75 JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN REFRESH 2016-2020

Jennie Jenkins, Leader and Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder, introduced [Paper R89](#). Lindsay Barker, Strategic Director, advised Members that a refreshed Strategic Plan document would be available for the April meeting.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

**That the Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council Joint Strategic Plan Refresh 2016-2020 'Plan on a Page' (Appendix A to Paper R89) be approved.**

**RESOLVED**

**That the Strategic Director be authorised to make any minor changes to the document as may be necessary.**

76 JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND 2016/17 BUDGET

Members had before them [Paper R90](#), together with amendments to the HRA budget figures in paragraph 14.4 and revised tables in Appendices B, E and G handed out prior to the commencement of the meeting reflecting changes since the report to the January meeting.

Katherine Steel – Head of Corporate Resources and Martin King – Head of Housing answered Members' questions regarding the report as amended. Further information regarding the decrease in the value of recyclable materials and the effect on the medium term financial strategy would be circulated to Members outside the meeting.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- (1) That the Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Budget proposals set out in Paper R90, as amended, be approved.**
- (2) That the final General Fund Budget for 2016/17 be based on an increase to Band D Council tax of £5 to £148.86. This would be an increase of 9.6p per week or 3.5%.**
- (3) That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Investment Strategy 2016/17 to 2020/21 and HRA Budget for 2016/17 be agreed.**
- (4) That the mandatory decrease of 1% in Council House rents, equivalent to an average rent reduction of £0.92 a week as required by the Welfare Reform and Work Bill, be implemented.**
- (5) That an action plan be developed by the Head of Housing in consultation with the Tenants Forum, Joint Housing Board and elected Members, to mitigate the impact of the legislative changes on the HRA and the strategic priorities.**
- (6) That garage rents be increased by 10% to provide some additional income to the HRA (an increase of 76 pence per week).**
- (7) That accommodation related service charges for sheltered tenants be increased by an average increase of £4.87 per week, including a cap of £2 per week on net charges increases for sheltered tenants.**
- (8) That, utility charges for sheltered tenants are reduced by 20%, representing an average reduction of £2.68 per week.**
- (9) That in principle, Right to Buy receipts should be retained to enable continued development and acquisition of new council dwellings.**
- (10) That the revised HRA Business Plan in the amended Appendix B of Paper R90 be noted.**
- (11) That the capital programme in Appendix C of Paper R90 be agreed.**

77 EAST ANGLIA THREE WINDFARM: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

Simon Barrett, Growth and Local Economy Portfolio Holder introduced [Paper R91](#), setting out a proposed response to a formal consultation shortly to be undertaken by Scottish Power Renewables in relation to a project the development of an offshore windfarm with an approximate generating capacity of 1200MW off the coast of East Anglia.

Members discussed the project and in particular their concern to reduce its impact on local residents. An additional wording was included in recommendation 2.2 to reflect Members' view, as shown in italics below:

That, it be noted that the Strategic Director in consultation with the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Executive and Strategy Committees, will continue to work in partnership with colleagues from other authorities to ensure that the project takes place *in a manner in which detriment to local residents is minimised, and is beneficial to local residents.*

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the comments set out in points (a) to (i) below be noted as forming the basis of the formal response that will be provided to the Planning Inspectorate in response to a consultation under Section 56 of the Planning Act, 2008 that:
- (a) Scottish Power Renewables works closely with the local authorities and other agencies to secure the maximum benefits for the local economy and a lasting legacy;
  - (b) minimum disruption is caused to the highway network and local residents;
  - (c) significant landscape mitigation be provided both on and off site to reduce the cumulative impact of the project upon the surrounding countryside and local residents;
  - (d) Scottish Power Renewables is urged to make use of the most beneficial technologies in the construction of the sub-station to ensure that its height is low as possible;
  - (e) the sub-station is designed and sited to minimise its impact upon designated heritage assets;
  - (f) the project minimises the risk of surface water flooding;
  - (g) appropriate mitigation be provided to reduce the impacts of noise, vibration and air pollution upon the environment;
  - (h) ecological interests are safeguarded during the construction and operation of the project; and
  - (i) the impact of the project upon public rights of way is minimised.

- (2) That, it be noted that the Strategic Director in consultation with the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Executive and Strategy Committees, will continue to work in partnership with colleagues from other authorities to ensure that the project takes place in a manner in which detriment to local residents is minimised, and is beneficial to local residents.

78 REVIEW OF RESPONSIVE REPAIRS DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

Jennie Jenkins, Housing Portfolio Holder, introduced [Paper R92](#) which provided an update of the options for the future provision of the repairs and maintenance service across both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

Members discussed the need for a Business Case to be provided, to enable Members to evaluate suggestions effectively. In response to a question about the status of the recommendations, the meeting was adjourned to seek further advice from the Monitoring Officer. When the meeting reconvened, the Monitoring Officer advised that the Strategy Committee was being asked to make a key strategic decision on this item, which was within the Committee's terms of reference. The following recommendations were then moved:-

To agree in principle that the Council develops with Mid Suffolk District Council, a full Business Case for a new, single, in-house delivery model for responsive repairs.

That the costs of developing the business case, and if agreed, the implementation costs be funded from the HRA Reserves in line with the 'invest to save' initiative.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the recommendations would take into account the issues raised by Members in relation to all relevant cost comparisons.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) To agree in principle that the Council develops, with Mid Suffolk District Council, a full business case for a new, single, in-house delivery model for responsive repairs.
- (2) That the costs of developing the business case, and if agreed, the implementation costs be funded from the HRA Reserves in line with the 'invest to save' initiative.

79 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)

**RESOLVED**

That pursuant to Part 1 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 these items, it is likely that there would be the disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated against each item.

The Committee was also satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

80 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF SITE (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1)

The Minute relating to this item 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 of the Local Government Act 1972 is set out below.

Members had before them [Paper R93](#), which was introduced by Simon Barrett, Portfolio Holder for Growth and the Local Economy (including Planning). An amended recommendation which included details of the preferred bidder was circulated to Members immediately prior to their consideration of this item. Officers responded to questions raised by Members.

The Committee accepted the amended recommendation.

81 DISPOSAL OF LAND (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1)

The Minute relating to this item 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 of the Local Government Act 1972 is set out below.

Jennie Jenkins, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Housing, introduced [Paper R94](#). Officers responded to questions raised by Members.

The Committee accepted the recommendations in the report.

82 ACTION OUT OF MEETING (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1)

The Minute relating to this item 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 of the Local Government Act 1972 is set out below.

Jennie Jenkins, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources introduced [Paper R95](#). Officers responded to questions raised by Members on some related matters.

The Committee noted the action taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, as set out in Paper R95.

Note: The meeting adjourned between 10:45 and 11:05 for refreshments.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 12:30 p.m.

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Chairman