

8 February 2018



BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

**DECISIONS BY THE BABERGH CABINET
CALL IN DEADLINE 5:00PM ON THURSDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2018**

The following decisions have been taken by the Cabinet and will come into effect on 17 February 2018 unless the call- in procedure is activated:

BCa/17/44 MATTER REFERRED BY THE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Decisions Made by Cabinet:

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 That prior to any future shared services or partnership arrangements with Councils other than Mid Suffolk, a full and proper business case be prepared and be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for pre-scrutiny

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure that Overview and Scrutiny Members are provided with a full and proper business case in relation to future shared services or partnership working arrangements.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: To not approve the recommendation made by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/17/46 JOINT TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018/19

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19 including the Annual Investment Strategy as set out in Appendix A to paper JAC/17/15 be approved.
- 1.2 That the Treasury Management Policy Statement set out in Appendix B to paper JAC/17/15 be approved.
- 1.3 That the Treasury Management Indicators set out in Appendix E to Paper JAC/17/15 be approved.
- 1.4 That the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement set out in Appendix F (subject to an amendment to correct the figures in the Capital Financing – General Fund for Mid Suffolk to reflect the error identified by the Committee) and Appendix G to Paper JAC/17/15 be approved.
- 1.5 That the key factors and information relating to and affecting Treasury Management activities set out in Appendices C, D and H to Paper JAC/17/15 be noted.

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure that Members approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19, including the Annual Investment Strategy.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: To not approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: Yes

BCa/17/47 JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND 2018/19 BUDGET

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 That the Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Budget proposals set out in the report be approved.
- 1.2 That the final General Fund Budget for 2018/19, based on an increase to Council Tax of £5 per annum (10p per week) for a Band D property, which is equivalent to 3.25% to support the Council's overall financial position be approved.
- 1.3 That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Investment Strategy 2018/19 to 2022/23 and HRA Budget for 2018/19 be agreed.
- 1.4 That the mandatory decrease of 1% in Council House rents, equivalent to an average rent reduction of £0.90 a week, as required by the Welfare Reform and Work Act be implemented.
- 1.5 That the Sheltered Housing Supported people cost of £3 per week be removed and

Service charges be increased by £5 per week for each scheme (set at £4 cap per week last year) meaning a net increase of £2 per week to tenants. This will reduce the subsidy by £27k.

- 1.6 That Sheltered Housing utility charges are kept at the same level.
- 1.7 That in principle, Right to Buy receipts should be retained to enabled continued development and acquisition of new council dwellings.
- 1.8 That garage rents are kept at the same level.
- 1.9 That the revised HRA Business Plan in Appendix E, in report BCa/17/47, be noted.
- 1.10 That the Capital Programme in Appendix D be agreed.
- 1.11 That the offer to participate for Babergh in the Business Rate Pilot for 2018/19 as set out in paragraph 11.9 to 11.10 in report BCa/17/47 be accepted.

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure that Members approve the budget proposals for 2018/19, Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Council Tax for 2018/19.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The alternative option is that we do not report the budget proposals for 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Strategy, we fail in our statutory duty to set the Council tax for 2018/19.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: Yes

BCa/17/48 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) - FRAMEWORK FOR CIL EXPENDITURE

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 That the current thinking around a framework for CIL expenditure be noted and used as a basis for development of a detailed CIL expenditure framework.
- 1.2 That the creation of a Panel comprising of three Members from each Council to shape the development of a detailed CIL expenditure framework be approved.
- 1.3 That the framework be returned to Cabinet for consideration and agreement before being presented to Full Council as a key decision for both Councils.

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure member involvement in the development of the framework before this is presented to Full Council for approval.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: To not create a Panel comprising of three Members from each Council nor develop a detailed CIL expenditure framework.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/17/49 JOINT BABERGH MID SUFFOLK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 'OPEN FOR BUSINESS' STRATEGY

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 That the Joint Babergh Mid Suffolk Economic Development “Open for Business” Strategy attached as Appendix A in report BCa/17/49 be endorsed.

Reason for Decisions:

To accessibly set out the local strategic approach towards meeting and positively impacting upon district level and broader economic challenges, and expressing our offer to the business community.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: To not endorse the Joint Babergh Mid Suffolk Economic Development “Open for Business” Strategy.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/17/50 GAINSBOROUGH'S CHAMBERS - TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP (Part 1)

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 That a commitment to “Reviving an Artists Birthplace – a National Centre for Gainsborough’s Chambers to the Gainsborough’s House Society, Option 3 in report BCa/17/50 be endorsed.

Reason for Decisions:

To establish whether to endorse the “minded to” letter from the Council or to consider alternative options in relation to Gainsborough’s Chambers.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Option 1. Continue with existing lease arrangements until such time as the Gainsborough's House Society exercises its right to purchase the asset at the price agreed in the original lease.

Option 2. As above, sell the Chambers to the Gainsborough’s House Society for £235,000 and commit to providing a level of grant funding to the Society for other activities in future years, which would allow the Society to restructure its finances to support its immediate requirements

Option 3. Gift the Chambers to the Society immediately in support of the wider £7.7m investment in the regeneration of the centre of Sudbury

Any Declarations of Interest declared: Councillor Ridley declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as a Member of the Friends.

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/17/51 LEISURE INVESTMENT PROPOSALS (Part 1)

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 That the Assistant Director, Environment and Commercial Partnerships, be authorised to commission detailed design for the refurbishment and redevelopment of Kingfisher Leisure Centre and for the replacement of the Swimming Pool at Hadleigh Pool and Leisure. This to include obtaining planning permissions and competitive tenders for the two schemes.
- 1.2 That additional funding of up to £3.4m is allocated to the capital programme to support the refurbishment and redevelopment of Kingfisher Leisure Centre and for the replacement of the Swimming Pool at Hadleigh Pool and Leisure (as per paragraph 3.4 of report BCa/17/51) be recommended to Full Council.

Reason for Decisions:

To meet the outcomes of the adopted Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The option of not undertaking the investments have been considered. If the pool is not replaced at Hadleigh then either it will continue to be operated until it fails, the existing pool is refurbished, or it is closed. If there was a decision to continue to use the pool until it fails, there is a growing health and safety risk that the failure could be significant and possibly harmful to users of the facility. The more prudent decision would be to close the pool. This would result in the loss of income and an increase in the management fee. The option of not investing in the refurbishment and replacement of Kingfisher Leisure Centre would be that demand would not be met, the opportunity of reducing the financial cost to the Council would not be realised and that customer satisfaction would be materially impacted. Alternative investment options were considered as part of the leisure facilities review and the proposals in this report were the most cost effective to the Council whilst meeting the needs and demands of the community.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/17/50 GAINSBOROUGH'S CHAMBERS - TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP (Part 2)

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 The recommendation as set out in the report BCa/17/50 – Part 2 be approved.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: That the recommendation not be approved.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: Councillor Ridley declared a non-pecuniary interest in

this item as a Member of the Friends.

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/17/51 LEISURE INVESTMENT PROPOSALS (Part 2)

It was RESOLVED:-

1.1 The recommendation as set out in the report BCa/17/51 – Part 2 be approved.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: That the recommendation not be approved.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None