

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BABERGH COUNCIL HELD IN KING EDMUND CHAMBER - ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH ON TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2018

PRESENT: Peter Burgoyne - Chairman

Clive Arthey	Melanie Barrett
Simon Barrett	Tony Bavington
Peter Beer	David Busby
Tina Campbell	Sue Carpendale
Michael Creffield	Luke Cresswell
Derek Davis	Siân Dawson
Alan Ferguson	Barry Gasper
Kathryn Grandon	John Hinton
Michael Holt	Bryn Hurren
Jennie Jenkins	Richard Kemp
Frank Lawrenson	James Long
Alastair McCraw	John Nunn
Adrian Osborne	Jan Osborne
Lee Parker	Peter Patrick
Stephen Plumb	Nick Ridley
David Rose	Fenella Swan
John Ward	Stephen Williams

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

19.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sue Burgoyne, Tom Burrows, Margaret Maybury, Mark Newman, William Shropshire, Ray Smith and Harriet Steer. Councillor Sue Ayres was unable to be present.

20 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

20.1 The Monitoring Officer under her delegated authority had granted dispensations to all Members in respect of item 12 BCa/17/29 Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy and 2018/19 Budget.

21 BC/17/24 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2017

21.1 Councillor Hinton requested that the responses to his supplementary questions were circulated to all Councillors.

21.2 Councillor Bavington requested that the transcript of the Council meeting be amended to reflect that the remarks attributed to Councillor Bavington should have been attributed to Councillor Simon Barrett as he had left the meeting at 8.20pm.

It was RESOLVED: -

(i) That subject to the above amendments, the Minutes be approved as a true record.

22 BC/17/25 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2017

It was RESOLVED: -

That the Minutes be approved as a true record.

23 BC/17/26 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2017

23.1 Councillor Hinton requested that under page 18 a response was to be provided to him within 3 months.

23.2 Councillor Williams requested that a 'd' was added to quantified under bullet point 3.

23.3 Councillor Bavington requested that 11.7 was amended to read that a referendum was held on the same basis as the 2011 referendum.

23.4 Councillor Busby requested that his name was amended in the recorded vote list.

It was RESOLVED: -

That subject to the above amendments, the Minutes be approved as a true record.

24 BC/17/27 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 JANUARY 2018

24.1 Councillor Bavington requested that 18.5 was amended to read "that the referendum be held on the same basis as the 2011 referendum"

24.2 The Chairman stated that there had been a typographical error on page 30 and the Minute should be amended to read "that Councillor John Ward be appointed Leader until the Annual Council meeting 2019".

It was RESOLVED: -

That subject to the above amendments, the Minutes be approved as a true record.

- 25.1 The Leader updated Council with the latest information on the Boundary Review. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England was due to publish its final recommendations for the Babergh and Mid Suffolk boundary reviews on 6 February 2018, however the Council had been advised by the Boundary Commission that it had delayed publication of its final recommendations as they were examining the electorate data and forecast that underpin all of the recommendations and were also considering the suggested amendments that had arisen from the consultation. However the Leader went on to say that it was expected that a further announcement would be made imminently regarding an additional 8- week consultation stage, this information would be circulated to all Councillors as soon as it was received.
- 25.2 The Leader informed Council that following the full Council meeting on 21 November 2017 where Councillor Jenkins had responded as Leader advising the Council that the Monitoring Officer would be preparing a layman's guide to the Constitution, the Monitoring Officer and Councillor McCraw have since been working on such a document. However, as the Leader had asked the Monitoring Officer to conduct a whole sale review of the Constitution this document will be produced alongside the revised Constitution. It was expected that the Monitoring Officer would be bringing a report to the Full Council meeting in April regarding the approach to the review.
- 25.3 Finally the Leader was pleased to report that the Council had been shortlisted in the top three for the Public Sector Transformation Awards and as a result of this due to the high calibre of the Council's nomination for the "Working Together" category the Council has also been nominated for the "Council of the Year Award". He went on to thank everyone at Babergh and Mid Suffolk for helping the Council get recognised for this and was hoping that the Council would win one of the awards.
- 25.4 Councillor Bavington made a short announcement and thanked Councillor Arthey and Linda Sheppard for attending Neil McMaster's funeral. He then went on to congratulate Councillor Cresswell who had recently become a father of daughter Tallulah Nye Cresswell.
- 25.5 The Chairman updated Council with his latest visits this included a visit to William Wood House to present them property that had actually belonged to them in the first place. This was a picture of Lady Diana Princess of Wales who had originally opened the building in July 1993. The Chairman then went on to inform Council that the Shotley Heritage Group had completed the purchase of Shotley Pier. He also drew attention to the fact that East Bergholt had made it through to the semi-final of the Village of the Year award.
- 25.6 Councillor Arthey asked the Chairman if he had an update on the flag pole outside the Council offices in Hadleigh?

25.7 In response the Chairman stated that it had been purchased by several Members of the Council and he was sure that in the fullness of time Council would be briefed on their proposals for the flag pole.

26 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

26.1 There were no petitions received.

27 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

27.1 There were no questions received by the Public.

28 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

28.1 Questions were asked in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No.12.

28.2 Question 1 Councillor Williams to Councillor Nick Ridley Cabinet Member for Assets and Investment.

1. Please supply a full copy of the Asset register of Babergh District Council before the office move to Needham Market and Endeavour House, itemising description and book values for each.

Response: - the asset register that is held for accounting purposes has a de minimis level and does not include items of office equipment.

2. Please supply a full copy of the Asset register of Babergh District Council after the office move to Needham Market and Endeavour House to the current date itemising description and book values for each.

Response: - as above

3. Please supply a full listing of the Assets appearing in 1 above but not 2, along with:

- 3.1. Their current location and to whom sold and/or donated by full name and address;

- 3.2. If sold, the amount agreed as consideration and the amount paid.

Response: - based on the response above I am unable to provide a response for 3.1 and 3.2.

- 3.3. A full explanation as to why assets were given away or sold at less than book value.

Response: - The programme board agreed to go through a 3 phase process for disposal of minor assets of little resale value.

- 1. To reuse within our own sites**
- 2. To have a closed auction to staff and members for purchase of items for their own personal use (money raised to go to charity)**
- 3. To offer, for free to charities, community groups, schools, etc providing they were able to collect items themselves. We also sold to interested parties more specialist items such as Audio Visual and catering equipment.**

4. Whether any assets in 3 above could be recovered and at what cost.

Response: - no.

5. Whether there are any assets now held in Hadleigh, Needham Market and Endeavour House and if so please supply a full description with their acquisition cost and current book values.

Response: - A list is currently being prepared but it is unlikely they will be of sufficient value to be put onto the asset register and hence it will not be possible to provide acquisition cost and current book values.

6. Can you please supply also: -

- 6.1 The cost of the move to Endeavour House in actual terms with a breakdown; (A)

- 6.2 The current annual running costs of operating from Endeavour House; (B)

- 6.3 The annual running costs of operating from Corks Lane in its final full financial year (C); and

- 6.4 The projected annual saving or loss (D) where:

$$(A + B) - (C) = D$$

- 6.5 The projected saving or loss over the next 5 years.

Response: - A document is currently being finalised covering the costs of the move to Endeavour House compared to the cost of the previous two headquarters and will be available for all Members during March.

- 6.6 The projected costs of a return to Corks Lane.

Response: - This information is not available

6.7 The projected annual loss to the economy of the move from Corks Lane to Endeavour House for:

6.7.1 Hadleigh

6.7.2 Babergh District

Response: - This information is not available

7. The extent to which the Council analysed the data available to it (whether in actual or projected terms) in 6 (but not 6.6) above before deciding to move to Endeavour House.

8. Details of any reports commissioned as to the effect on the community and its views of the move to Endeavour House and all conclusions drawn therein on the representational benefits /disbenefits of operating the HQ of Babergh District Council outside and from one end of the constituency (Ipswich).

Response: - The information that the Council analysed was contained within the report to council in September 2016 when the decision was taken to move to Endeavour House

Supplementary Question:-

Are you saying that there is no asset register and has there been a big bonanza giveaway to charities and other institutions or other entities of publicly funded assets?

Response: - The de minimis level is an item of cash of a certain value and that information can be communicated to you later.

Question 2 Councillor Hinton to Councillor Patrick Cabinet Member for Organisational Delivery

1. Bearing in mind the location of Babergh's office, now outside the District, how is it proposed to formally communicate notices of meetings to residents in the District so as to comply with current legislation?

Response: Legislation requires public notice to be given five clear working days before a meeting of a principal Council and of its Committees and Sub-Committees and for this notice to be published at the Council's main offices. Under Executive (Cabinet) arrangements there is an obligation to make copies of the agenda and copies of reports available for inspection by members of the public at the Council's main offices and on the Council's website. These arrangements are included in the Council's Constitution. Over and above this the Customer Access Points in Sudbury and Stowmarket receive copies of the notices for display and have internet access for customers who may wish to access the papers from there, with assistance from staff where necessary.

2. Bearing in mind that 60% of the Districts population have no connection with Sudbury or Ipswich (especially the Local Government campus area around the Football Club,) what extra measures will be taken to facilitate communication with the public we serve?

Response: We have made it quicker, easier and more convenient for residents to communicate with the Council at a time of their choosing. Last year, we launched a new website which works well on mobile as well as desktop devices and enables residents to, pay, apply for or report things 24 hours a day. We also introduced a single telephone number for residents to call and be connected directly to any of the Council's services. The Council communicates with residents across Babergh via a variety of channels including posters and leaflets in public buildings, our website and on social media. The local press regularly cover Council activities. Around a third of our staff continue to work in communities across the district and local Councillors are very active in the wards they represent.

3. Furthermore much has been made of the facility for officers to meet with residents away from the rigid office structure. How many of our officers are "based" in the outreach points, (Sudbury and Stowmarket) and what facilities are there for customer face to face points in the East of the District?

Response:- Approximately 34 officers work from our Stowmarket access point delivering telephony and face to face services. The vast majority of their work is providing our telephony services on a day to day basis. The same staff (on a rota basis) also answer enquiries from customers who visit in person, based on demand. Typically we require one officer to resource our reception area day to day, but have the flexibility to call on others should we have higher demand at peak times. The Sudbury access point is resourced by Sudbury Town Council staff who are able to answer a range of enquiries relating to Town, District and County enquiries. Sudbury Town Council employ 4 members of staff who predominantly fulfil these duties. Since the September 2016 resolution we have made clear that there would only be 2 customer access points, there are no other face to face points across either district. However with our new Assistant Director for Customer Services in place we are exploring opportunities to facilitate public access to our services, ensuring that access would be open to all including our most vulnerable customers.

Supplementary Question

Bearing in mind the limited access to often poor internet and the absence of a computer in many households how will these proposals work and will they be time sensitive to ensure the proper time notices are adhered to especially when you consider that 60% of the population of the district do not occupy Sudbury or Hadleigh and that the 0300 telephone number has 7 options when you get through so most people hang up when they have got to option 3?

Written Response to be provided.

29 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET AND COMMITTEES

30 JOINT TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018/19 (PAPER BCA/17/46 - CABINET - 8 FEBRUARY 2018)

- 30.1 Councillor Patrick introduced the report and **MOVED** the recommendations highlighting the importance of investment income to the Council fortunes and the exposure of the Council from the vagaries of the market due to the strategic policy of borrowing to invest in property. He went on to say that the items listed in paragraph 2 of the report needed to be approved to minimise the risk to the Council.
- 30.2 Commenting further he also informed Council that the Joint Audit and Standards Committee had scrutinised the report and their comments had been incorporated in the report.
- 30.3 Councillor Busby queried the big increase in the first line of the General Fund with the figure rising from £18.6 to £57m and also why the high interest rates were being paid to the public works loan for both Councils?
- 30.4 In response the Section 151 Officer confirmed that the big increase was due to the transactions from CIFCO. She also stated that the interest rates for the Public Works Loan Board were correct because they were historic loans where the interest rate was fixed at the point the loan was actually taken out.
- 30.5 Councillor Busby then asked what the interest rate would be if the Council were to take out a loan with the Public Works Loan Board today?
- 30.6 In response the Section 151 Officer confirmed that a 30-year loan would attract around a 3% interest rate.
- 30.7 Councillor Ferguson sought clarification on the capital financing requirements for both Councils as there appeared to be a huge difference in terms of the cumulative net borrowing.
- 30.8 In response the Section 151 Officer informed Council that the table reflected how the borrowing had increased each year. In respect of the large difference the Section 151 Officer confirmed that Mid Suffolk was looking to make a major purchase and investment of a site.

- 30.9 Councillor Kemp asked how the Council produced 5.9% interest from £9.63 million of other pooled funds?
- 30.10 The Section 151 Officer replied that the Council took a decision about 2 years ago to change the Treasury Management Strategy and invest in things like the CCLA, which is churches and charities and local authorities properties fund which generates a return of about 5%. We have also got some money invested in a Schrodgers fund and a UBS fund so they all generate a better return on those investments hence how the Council has achieved the average rate illustrated.
- 30.11 Councillor Hinton queried how much the Council had lost from the funding circle investment and asked how bearing in mind the announcement that the Public Works Loan Board was going to be wound up and all debts transferred to the treasury how this was going to influence the Council's ability to borrow at competitive rates and would the Council be asked to pay back to improve their balance sheet?
- 30.12 The Section 151 Officer confirmed that the Funding Circle hadn't performed as well as expected, however the Council had only invested between six and seven hundred thousand pounds. Based on the Council's experience with the Funding Circle the Council has taken the decision not to put any further money into the Funding Circle and this was referenced in the Treasury Management Strategy. In terms of the Public Works Loan Boards (PWLB) the Section 151 Officer stated that in terms of the PWLB being wound up it was anticipated that there would not be any significant changes in the way that local authorities access the fund it just wouldn't be under this separate body anymore.
- 30.13 Councillor Hinton sought clarification on the amount that was agreed by each Council to invest in the Funding Circle?
- 30.14 In response the Section 151 Officer confirmed that it was £1m for each Council.
- 30.15 Councillor Arthey requested that future financial tables have a separate line for CIFCO.
- 30.16 In response the Section 151 Officer informed Council that the Joint Audit and Standards Committee had made similar comments. Also there had been some recent guidance issued from the Government around investment strategy and other disclosures so further changes to the format of the report would be made for next year. However in terms of CIFCO as a wholly owned company of the Council in accounting terms this would not be shown as external investments to the Council.

It was RESOLVED:-

That the following be approved:-

- (i) (a) **The Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19, including the Annual Investment Strategy as set out in Appendix A.**
- (b) **The Treasury Management Policy Statement set out in Appendix B.**
- (c) **The Treasury Management Indicators set out in Appendix E.**
- (d) **The Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement set out in Appendices F and G.**
- (ii) **That the key factors and information relating to and affecting treasury management activities set out in Appendices C, D and H be noted.**

31 LEISURE INVESTMENT PROPOSALS KINGFISHER LEISURE CENTRE AND HADLEIGH POOL AND LEISURE (PART 1) (PAPER BCA/17/51 - CABINET - 8 FEBRUARY 2018)

- 31.1 Councillor Ward introduced the report and **MOVED** the recommendations in the report. He went on to say that Cabinet had previously approved a joint leisure sport and physical activities strategy, which had acknowledged that Babergh's two core leisure facilities would continue to play a critical role in providing publicly accessible sports and leisure for their communities.
- 31.2 He informed Council that the report set out the business case for investment in the two facilities, the detailed work undertaken on the two investment proposals including proposals for the Council to invest £3.4m. He went on to stress that both the interest and repayment costs would be met in full by South Suffolk Leisure in addition to a reduction in the management fee.
- 31.3 Councillor Barrett seconded the report and told Council that the proposals had been a long time coming, however he thought the delay had meant that the right decision had been arrived at as South Suffolk Leisure had proved a point and had delivered a good quality leisure facility to Babergh.
- 31.4 Councillor Barrett went on to say that when the work was being undertaken could the timing of the work be scheduled to ensure that residents could still access one or other of the sites.
- 31.5 In response Councillor Ward confirmed that with regards to the Hadleigh Pool site the construction of the new pool would take place side by side with the old one still operational so there would be no pool closure.

It was RESOLVED: -

- (i) **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.**

- (ii) That the detailed designs and tenders received be reported back to Cabinet for final approval before the work commences.
- (iii) That additional funding of up to £3.4m be allocated to the Capital Programme to support the refurbishment and redevelopment of Kingfisher Leisure and for the replacement of the swimming pool at Hadleigh Pool and Leisure (as per paragraph 3.4 of the report).

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

31.6 The Chair stated that as the Council had not needed to exclude the public from the meeting to discuss item 38a exempt information, Items 37 to 38a on the agenda had since become obsolete and would fall from the agenda.

32 BC/17/29 JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND 2018/19 BUDGET

- 32.1 An updated Appendix C to the report was tabled.
- 32.2 Councillor Patrick introduced the report and **MOVED** the recommendations in the report. Commenting further he went on to highlight the surplus of £244k in the HRA budget, the mandatory decrease in council house rents of 1% and the £3 per week housing related support charge that would be ended. Service charges which were eligible for housing benefit would be increased by £5 per week which represented a net increase of £2 per week for tenants.
- 32.3 Councillor Patrick went on to say that the principal administrative challenge for the Housing Team was to bring the BMBS building services operation which is shared with Mid Suffolk into profitable operation. He emphasised that the Council was intent on improving the supply of affordable homes and would use the albeit restricted proceeds of right to buy disposals to help fund new builds. Although the Council would still need to find match funding equivalent to 70% of the right to buy proceeds, its borrowing headroom could make this sustainable.
- 32.4 Councillor Patrick then went on to discuss the General Fund and stated that this presented more of a challenge. In order for the Council to continue to offer its present level of service it would need £5.2m Council tax income. This would require an increase in Council tax of £5 per annum for a Band D property, the maximum permitted. Even with this increase there was still a predicted shortfall of £329k which would be covered by a transfer from reserves – specifically the Transformation Fund. During the past year Councillor Patrick told Council that £720k had been spent from the fund largely on the All Together Programme which had seen the successful move to Endeavour House and the great strides being made in achieving an enabled and efficient organisation. The Transformation Fund was expected to show a balance of £534k which would be enough to meet the budget shortfall.

- 32.5 Councillor Patrick also stated that the principle concern centred around Income. Central Government funding via the Revenue Support Grant had diminished and would have ceased completely by 2019/20. In terms of funding the Council relies on business rates and the New Homes Bonus. The New Homes Bonus credited to 2018/19 was £866k, down from £1.2m the previous year. The major shift of emphasis was now towards business rates collected through the Shared Revenues Partnership as part of the business rate pilot scheme to retain 100% of the growth in business rates. There were risks associated with this source of income and indeed recently a major business rate payer had lodged an appeal for regrading effective back to 2010. This was not expected and had contributed to the deficit of £1.256m. This had been absorbed by transferring a number of surpluses including business rates surplus relating to 2016/17 and 2017/18 of £943k.
- 32.6 Commenting on the introduction of CIFCO, Councillor Patrick stated that this area of non-government funding was starting to come good with investment income budgeted to reach nearly £1.5m. The Council was also looking to further exploit its assets and invest further in property.
- 32.7 Finally Councillor Patrick paid tribute to the officers who controlled the finances, his Cabinet colleagues for their support and encouragement and the Mid Suffolk Members who had worked on the All Together Programme for their hard work and enthusiasm.
- 32.8 Councillor Ward seconded the report and reserved the right to speak.
- 32.9 The Chairman reminded Council that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.3, the vote would be recorded.
- 32.10 Councillor Busby requested a schedule of the money that was paid in and out of the Transformation Fund.
- 32.11 In response Councillor Patrick stated that this could be provided with either a detailed or very high-level analysis and was available in the papers.
- 32.12 Councillor Bavington queried how close the Council was over the next three years to having a Section 114 Notice issued?
- 32.13 In response the Section 151 Officer stated that her assessment was that the Council was definitely not in that position. When assessing whether to issue a Section 114 Notice the Section 151 Officer had taken into account whether the Council could set a balanced budget, the report in front of Council recommended approval of a balanced budget for 2018/19. She also had to take into account the level of the Council reserves – these still reflected a £1.2 million working balance and if the budget was approved there would be another £1.3 million in addition to that. The Section 151 Officer would also pay due regard to Council spending.

Coupled with the fact that the Council was not currently overspending in fact there was a projected underspend of £831,000 in 2017/18 and the work being carried out to ensure that there was a balanced medium term plan for the next three years, the Section 151 Officer stated that thankfully the Council was a long way off from having to do something like a Section 114 Notice.

32.14 Councillor Bavington asked the Section 151 Officer if she was confident that the Council could meet a balanced budget over the next three-year period?

32.15 In response the Section 151 Officer stated that the Council had two options either to reduce costs or increase income and that there would be some challenges ahead, however she was confident that they would work together to get to that position.

32.16 Councillor Bavington asked the Leader where the money was allocated in the budget for the referendum?

32.17 In response the Leader stated that the Council Motion approved in December explicitly forbade the Council to make any provision for any further work on merger in the 2018/19 budget, therefore there was no provision at present for the referendum vote.

32.18 Councillor Bavington queried how the proposed summer referendum was to be funded?

32.19 In response the Leader stated that the Cabinet would look at this in due course when deciding a date for the local poll.

32.20 On the proposal of Councillor Bavington and seconded by Councillor Hinton it was **MOVED**

“That the Transformation Fund be closed with effect from 31 March 2018 and the remaining balance be transferred to general reserves.

32.21 Councillor Arthey sought clarification that in the proposed budget the Transformation Fund reserves would reduce to £154k by the end of the year and asked what the proposals were planned for that fund?

32.22 Councillor Patrick in response confirmed that the £154k assumed the absorption of the loss that had been incurred as a result from a business rates appeal. There were still items to be spent from projects via the Transformation Fund and these items would be brought to the next Cabinet meeting where the quarter three figures were due to be reported.

32.23 The Section 151 Officer sought confirmation that the date to close the Transformation Fund as proposed in the amendment was 31 March 2018. The Section 151 Officer then went on to say that the Budget that was being proposed had money going in and out of the Transformation Fund as part of the budget process for 2018/19 so the £154k that was referred to would be the figure as at March 2019.

32.24 The Chief Executive emphasised that if Members were proposing that the £154k be transferred to the general fund now, then they would need to find other ways to fund the budget. He therefore suggested that the wording of the amendment be changed to read “That the Transformation Fund be closed and residual funds anticipated as at 31 March 2019 of £154k be transferred into the general fund.

32.25 In response Councillor Bavington stated that he had made it clear that he didn’t believe in having an un-itemised Transformation Fund in the budget and wanted this fund ended as soon as possible on or after the 31 March 2018.

32.26 The amendment was **PUT** to the vote and **LOST**, the vote was recorded as follows: -

For	Against	Abstention
Cllr C Arthey	Cllr M Barrett	
Cllr S Barrett	Cllr P Beer	
Cllr T Bavington	Cllr P Burgoyne	
Cllr D Busby	Cllr T Campbell	
Cllr S Carpendale	Cllr M Creffield	
Cllr L Cresswell	Cllr S Dawson	
Cllr D Davis	Cllr B Gasper	
Cllr A Ferguson	Cllr K Grandon	
Cllr J Hinton	Cllr M Holt	
Cllr B Hurren	Cllr J Jenkins	
Cllr R Kemp	Cllr F Lawrenson	
Cllr J Long	Cllr A Osborne	
Cllr A McCraw	Cllr J Osborne	
Cllr J Nunn	Cllr L Parker	
Cllr S Plumb	Cllr P Patrick	
Cllr D Rose	Cllr N Ridley	
Cllr S Williams	Cllr F Swan	
	Cllr J Ward	
Total 17	Total 18	

32.27 Councillor M Barrett asked a question relating to Borehamgate and whether the units were let the majority of time as she was concerned that one of the units had been empty for a long time?

32.28 In response Councillor Patrick informed that the Council had a department specifically for managing the Council’s properties that would ensure that steps were taken promptly to ensure that the empty property was occupied as soon as possible.

32.29 Councillor S Barrett queried the figures in the capital programme for acquisitions and said that there appeared to be no detail for this figure?

- 32.30 Councillor Patrick informed the Council that the figure was a provision based on an estimate provided by the Assets and Investments Team as to what they may require over a period of time to generate activity.
- 32.31 The Section 151 Officer added that there were two projects that the Team were working on, one of these was obviously what would happen with the HQ sites. There was enough money in the budget for some of these proposals and these would come forward for approval in due course.
- 32.32 Councillor Arthey queried why the proposals had not yet come forward as they had been scheduled to come forward in February?
- 32.33 In response the Leader stated that the report would now be coming in April.
- 32.34 Councillor Hinton queried the increase in supplies and service costs?
- 32.35 In response Councillor Patrick informed the meeting that he had a schedule which listed in detail all the items that made up those figures which he would be happy to make available.
- 32.36 Councillor Hinton also queried an increase in transport costs of £96k and where the money received from East House was reflected in the accounts?
- 32.37 In response the Section 151 Officer informed Council that the increase in transport costs was as a result of disturbance travel that staff were entitled to following the move to Endeavour House for a period of three years. In terms of money received for East House this would be reflected as a capital receipt which would appear in the accounts at the end of this financial year.
- 32.38 Councillor Kemp queried where the Section 106 monies were included in the accounts?
- 32.39 The Section 151 Officer referred Council to page 185 of the booklet which reflected the reserves breakdown and also that some Section 106 monies are held on the Council's balance sheet.
- 32.40 Councillor McCraw sought clarification as to whether the additional Section 106 monies were those allocated to parish councils and held in trust for them
- 32.41 The Section 151 Officer stated that she did not have this information to hand but would confirm this and report back.
- 32.42 The recommendations were **PUT** to the meeting and **CARRIED**.
- 32.43 In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.3 the vote was recorded as follows:-

For	Against	Abstention
Cllr C Arthey	Cllr T Bavington	Cllr S Williams
Cllr M Barrett	Cllr D Busby	Cllr J Hinton
Cllr S Barrett	Cllr L Cresswell	Cllr B Hurren
Cllr P Beer	Cllr D Davis	
Cllr P Burgoyne	Cllr S Plumb	
Cllr T Campbell		
Cllr S Carpendale		
Cllr M Creffield		
Cllr S Dawson		
Cllr A Ferguson		
Cllr B Gasper		
Cllr K Grandon		
Cllr M Holt		
Cllr J Jenkins		
Cllr R Kemp		
Cllr F Lawrenson		
Cllr J Long		
Cllr A McCraw		
Cllr J Nunn		
Cllr A Osborne		
Cllr J Osborne		
Cllr L Parker		
Cllr P Patrick		
Cllr N Ridley		
Cllr D Rose		
Cllr F Swan		
Cllr J Ward		
Total 27	Total 5	Total 3

It was RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Budget proposals set out in the report be approved.**
- (ii) 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.**
- (iii) That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Investment Strategy 2018/19 to 2022/23 and HRA Budget for 2018/19 be agreed.**
- (iv) 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.**

- (v) That 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.
- (vi) That Sheltered Housing utility charges are kept at the same level.
- (vii) That in principle, Right to Buy receipts should be retained to enable continued development and acquisition of new Council dwellings.
- (viii) That garage rents are kept at the same level.
- (ix) That the revised HRA Business Plan in Appendix E of the report be noted.
- (x) That the Capital Programme in Appendix D of the report be agreed.
- (xi) 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 of the report be accepted.

33 BC/17/30 POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

33.1 On the proposal of Councillor Ward and Seconded by Councillor Beer

It was RESOLVED: -

- (i) That the Committees' size and numerical allocation of seats be approved as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.
- (ii) That the revisions to the appointments to Committees as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be noted.

34 APPOINTMENTS

It was RESOLVED: -

- (i) That Councillor Jenkins be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- (ii) That the appointment of Councillor Nick Ridley to the Cabinet be noted.

35 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

36.1 On the proposal of Councillor Ridley and Seconded by Councillor Simon Barrett

It was RESOLVED: -

That Councillor Peter Beer be appointed Chair of the Planning Committee until the Annual Council Meeting 2019.

35.2 Councillor Busby queried whether there would be a conflict of interest as Councillor Beer was the Chair of Planning for Suffolk County Council.

35.3 In response the Deputy Monitoring Officer clarified that there was nothing to prevent him from taking up that position, however it would be for the Chair of either Planning Committee at the time an application came forward to decide whether they had a conflict of interest.

36 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

36.1 On the proposal of Councillor Cresswell and Seconded by Cllr Bavington it was **MOVED** that: -

1. A Babergh District Council access point be set up in Hadleigh to support residents and be a point of contact for the community in central and East Babergh; and
2. This access point to have similar capabilities to the access point in Sudbury and provide support, advice and a facility to scan information to Babergh District Council and or Suffolk County Council; and
3. This access point to be set up and operational without delay.

36.2 Under Part 3 Paragraph 13.6 the Chairman without discussion or debate determined that the Motion would be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

36.3 Councillor Rose requested that the Cabinet also consider whether a Customer Access point should be created in Ipswich for residents from the Pinewood and Shotley areas.

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

37.1 **The Chair stated that as the Council had not needed to exclude the public from the meeting to discuss item 38a exempt information, Items 37 to 38a on the agenda had since become obsolete and would fall from the agenda.**

38 RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET

a Leisure Investment Proposals Kingfisher Leisure Centre and Hadleigh Pool and Leisure (Part 2)

38.a **The Chair stated that as the Council had not needed to exclude the public from the meeting to discuss item 38a exempt information, Items 37 to 38a on the agenda had since become obsolete and would fall from the agenda.**

The business of the meeting was concluded at 8.27 p.m.

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Chairman