

BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILS

Minutes of the meeting of the **JOINT HOUSING BOARD** held in the Garrick room - Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 19 March 2018

PRESENT:

Councillor: Mr K Wykes (Chair)

Babergh District Council	Mid Suffolk District Council	Tenant Representatives
Jennie Jenkins Jan Osborne	Nick Gowrley Sarah Mansel Lesley Mayes	Mr M Berry Mr S Phillips

In attendance:

Assistant Director – Housing (GF)
Corporate Manager – Tenant Services
Improvement and Involvement Officer (VF)
Governance Support Officer (HH)

46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology of absence was received from Cabinet Member Jill Wilshaw.

47 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

48 JHB/17/10 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 14 DECEMBER 2017

The minutes from the meeting held on the 14 December 2018 be confirmed as a true record.

49 JHB/17/11 TIME TABLE OF MEETINGS 2017/18

49.1 The time table was discussed and the meeting on the 15 April 2019 was removed due to the Councils being in purdah.

It was RESOVED:

That the Joint Housing Board Timetable 2018/19 be agreed.

50 CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT REVIEW UPDATE

50.1 The Corporate Manager – Tenant Services began by outlining discussions with Barry Marlow – Consultant for Housing and it was apparent that tenant workshops, which took place in the local communities was a better way to

serve the tenants. Other forms of engagements were suggested including a digital platform such as the Tenants' net, surveys and opinion polls. He said that by creating a Tenants' Board, it was anticipated that the tenants were more likely to participate in tailored workshop and training courses. Suggestions followed on how to recruit tenants for the Tenants' Board.

50.2 The role of the Tenants' Board was to consult and scrutinise developments and a twelve months work plan would be developed to support this.

50.3 Members asked where they would fit into the suggested new ways of working and it was confirmed that there could still be a role for a Members' Board.

50.4 Members discussed the Customer Engagement review, including that:

- The Tenant Board could present tenants' opinions to the JHB, Cabinet and Members;
- The move to Endeavour House had weakened the tenants' trust further;
- There could be a two-way dialogue between the Members' and Tenant's Boards;
- The Tenant Board needed to be robust and have a high level of input to be able to present tenants' opinion;
- The Cabinet was not considered by some Members to be a suitable place to discuss tenants issues;
- The tenant forums would still act as sounding boards for tenants' services and developments;
- It was a legal requirement that tenants had a scrutiny role for the Councils' services and the Tenant Board would fulfil this role;
- There was concern over the lack of power for the Tenant Board, but it was established that the board could influence decisions, when presenting tenants opinions to the Cabinets and Members;
- The Cabinet Members for Housing would also be working with and representing tenants both at Cabinets meetings and to Members in general;

50.5 It was generally agreed that the Tenant Board should undertake work and discussions with a Tenant Forum. The Board should be robust and consist of eight to ten members. Part of the function of the Tenant Board should be to involve Members, act as sounding board and be the highest tier of involvement for tenants.

50.6 The next step was to discuss the points made with the Tenant Forum and to suggest that the Joint Housing Board was disbanded. It was then possible to set up a Tenant Board when the Customer Engagement review was completed.

50.7 The decision to disband the Joint Housing Board would have to be agreed at Full Council.

50.8 Councillor Osborne proposed that the Joint Housing Board and Tenant Forum

was disbanded and that this was presented as a report to Full Council and Tenant Representative Steve Philips seconded the proposal.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That the disbandment of the Joint Housing Board and Tenant Forum be presented to the Tenant Forum and upon their agreement, a report be presented to Babergh and Mid Suffolk Full Councils on this matter.**
- 1.2 That upon agreement from Babergh and Mid Suffolk Full Councils the Joint Housing Board and Tenant Forum be disbanded.**

51 ANY OTHER BUSINESS RELATING TO JOINT HOUSING BOARD

Councillor Gowrley thanked the board for the all the work it had conducted during the time of the Joint Housing Board.

Councillor Osborne agreed with Councillor Gowrley and said that the Joint Housing Board had worked well but it was now time to move on.

DRAFT

The business of the meeting was concluded at 3.25 pm.

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Chair (& Date)