

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK CABINET** held in the Frink Room (Elisabeth)
- Endeavour House on Tuesday, 8 August 2023

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Teresa Davis	Rachel Eburne
	Andrew Mellen	Andrew Stringer
	Weller	Richard Winch

In attendance:

Councillors: Sarah Mansel

Officers:

- Chief Executive (AC)
- Deputy Chief Executive (KN)
- Director - Operations (ME)
- Corporate Manager - Governance and Civic Office, Deputy Monitoring Officer (JR)
- Corporate Manager - Public Protection (TH)
- Corporate Manager - The Councils' Companies (HB)
- Licensing Team Leader - Environments and Projects (KP)
- Assistant Manager – Governance (HH)

Apologies:

None

12 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

There were no declarations of interests declared by Councillors.

13 MCA/23/7 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 JULY 2023

It was **RESOLVED:-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 11 July 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

14 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME

None received.

15 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

None received.

16 MATTERS REFERRED BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OR JOINT AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES

There were no matters referred from the Overview and Scrutiny or the Joint Audit and Standards Committees.

17 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

17.1 Councillor Mellen asked that item CAB437 Call-in of Elmswell Housing Exemplar Project be amended to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Property.

18 MCA/23/8 THE APPROVAL TO CONSULT ON A REVISED TABLE OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES

18.1 The Chair, Councillor Mellen, invited the Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Wellbeing, Councillor Tim Weller to introduce the report.

18.2 Councillor Weller provided a summary of the report and moved the recommendations as detailed in the report. He proposed to modify the top tariff for the first two miles to £7.50 which would align the council with neighbouring authorities.

18.3 Councillor Teresa Davis seconded the recommendations.

18.4 Councillor Winch questioned the proposed rate change of £7.50 and whether the taxi trade would accept this change after they had proposed and agreed to the rate of £8.00.

18.5 The Licensing Team Leader advised that a soft consultation had been undertaken with the taxi trade, resulting in the rate changes in appendix A. Whilst a formal consultation would be conducted after the Cabinet had approved the rates for taxi fares, Officer would also conduct further talks with the taxi trade if the new tariff was approved at this meeting.

18.6 Councillor Rachel Eburne queried the length of the review period following the implementation of the new tariffs and Officers advised that this would be in twelve months' time.

18.7 The Chief Executive referred to appendix D and advised that Age UK Suffolk had ceased to trade during the pandemic.

18.8 In response to Councillor Andrew Stinger's request for whether metric measurements could be included the tables, the Licensing Team Leader responded that metric measurements will be reflected in the tariff table.

18.9 The Corporate Manager for Public Protection advised Members that upon advice from the Director of Law and Governance, Members could propose

further changes to the recommendations including that taxi fares would not be presented to Cabinet for a period of twelve months. Further that delegation be given to the Director for Operations to change the table of taxi fares in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Culture and Wellbeing. This would enable changes to be undertaken during the year without reports coming to Cabinet each time, therefore avoiding delays in the implementation of the taxi fares.

- 18.10 Councillor Andrew Mellen proposed the twelve month's review time unless there were any exceptional circumstances. In addition, Councillor Mellen proposed that the length of the consultation be confirmed and upon advice from the Corporate Manager for Public Protection, it was agreed to be three weeks (21days) from today's date.
- 18.11 During the debate Members considered the issues including the cost-of-living crisis and that the cost of taxi fares had to be reasonable to ensure a thriving taxi trade.
- 18.12 Councillor Weller, the proposer and Councillor Davis the seconder, agreed the amendments to the recommendations.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That the revised table of fares be approved for consultation as attached at Appendix A to this report, and in accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.**
- 1.2 That Appendix A be amended to read:- tariff 1 £7.50 for the first 2 miles.**
- 1.3 That the Director for Operations be authorised in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to make changes to the table of taxi fares as required following the consultation.**
- 1.4 That the consultation period commenced from the 8th August 2023 for a period of 21 days.**
- 1.5 That unless there were any exceptional circumstances, a further review of taxi fares would not take place until a period of 12 months had passed.**

REASON FOR DECISION

To adopt the revised table of fares for Hackney Carriages within the Mid-Suffolk District.

To enable the trade within the District to continue to operate economically whilst still maintaining an efficient, safe and cost-effective service for those

residents and visitors to Mid Suffolk who need to use the services of a Hackney Carriage.

19 MCA/23/9 ELMSWELL EXEMPLAR HOUSING SCHEME

- 19.1 The Chair, Councillor Mellen invited the Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Councillor Richard Winch to introduce the report.
- 19.2 Councillor Winch introduced the report and provided an overview of the options provided in the papers.
- 19.3 Councillor Winch proposed Option 3 as recommended and detailed in the report, which was seconded by Councillor Tim Weller.
- 19.4 Councillor Rachel Eburne queried if there were other sites, which would be suitable for an exemplar housing project, and the Corporate Manager for the Councils' Companies responded there were a number of sites, which could be considered for similar schemes though they were smaller sites.
- 19.5 The Chair invited Councillor Sarah Mansel, the Ward Member for Elmswell to pose her questions and give her input as ward member for Elmswell.
- 19.6 Councillor Mansel queried whether the current settlement boundaries consultation would have any bearing on the site and the proposed recommendation.
- 19.7 The Corporate Manager – The Councils' Companies advised that it was likely that the boundaries would change, however, that would not have any implications for the recommendation sought to be approved in the report.
- 19.8 Councillor Mansel referred to paragraph 2.3 in the report and queried the timeline for the Scheme in relation to it 'being held in abeyance until the completion of Part 2 of the Local Plan was progressed'.
- 19.9 The Corporate Manager – the Councils' Companies outlined the timeline for the Scheme and if the Council agreed to progress with the site once the Joint Local Plan had been agreed there would be an overall consultation plan put in place and would include communications engagement, Parish Council, members and wider stakeholder consultation. Further engagement with both Suffolk County Council and community groups would be undertaken to make a holistic scheme.
- 19.10 Councillor Mansel stated that the timing was poor for this scheme, and that the issues around school provision in Elmswell village would only encourage people to use their cars to take children to the school in Woolpit. Councillor Mansel supported Option 3.
- 19.11 Members debated the issues in the report including that the timing of the scheme, the issues around affordable housing and the planning process. Members agreed that Option 3, to defer the scheme until part 2 of the Joint

Local Plan had been agreed, was the best option for Cabinet to take at this stage.

19.12 Councillor Mellen stated that there had been many developments in Elmswell and that the issues around the level crossing could not be resolved now due to recent developments on the route of the proposed relief road. He was very supportive of the provision for sustainable homes in the district, however he felt that for this particular development in Elmswell, Option 3 was the right decision.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED: -

That Cabinet approved option 3, to defer any further progress on this site until Part 2 of the Joint Local Plan was progressed.

REASON FOR DECISION

To allow a formal process to assess the suitability of the site for a range of uses.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 10:18am.

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Chair (& Date)