

BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILS

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Housing Board held at the Babergh District Council Offices, Hadleigh at 2:15pm on 20 February 2017

Present:	<u>Mid Suffolk</u>	<u>Babergh</u>
Councillor:	Nick Gowrley Lesley Mayes Sarah Mansel	Jennie Jenkins Jan Osborne (Chairman)
Tenant Representative:	Keith Wykes James Taylor	Michael Berry Roger Chapman Maria Hilton
In attendance:	Kevin Jones, Interim Strategic Director Gavin Fisk, Corporate Manager – HRA Business Planning and Budget Management Ian Winslet, Investment and Development Consultant Vicky Freer – Housing Improvement and Involvement Heather Sparrow, Corporate Manager – Supported Housing Krissy Dillon – Governance Support Officer Linda Sheppard – Senior Governance Support Officer	

JHB62 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tony Bavington, and Tenant Representative Steve Phillips.

JHB63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

JHB64 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2017

Report JHB/07/17

It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held 16 January 2017 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to an addition, proposed by Councillor Sarah Mansel, to Minute JHB57 of Paper JHB/07/17 to record Members' dissatisfaction at not receiving the HRA Business Plan report for Paper JHB/04/17 prior to the Board meeting.

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the meeting held 16 January 2017 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the addition of the following in Minute JHB57:-

That Members' dissatisfaction regarding not receiving the HRA Business Plan Report for Paper JHB/04/17 prior to the Board meeting, be noted.

JHB65 DISCUSSION ON THE NEW NAME FOR SHELTERED HOUSING

Heather Sparrow, Corporate Manager – Supported Housing, provided Members with a handout detailing suggestions for the new name for Sheltered Housing.

Members were advised that a canvass on the name for Sheltered Housing was carried out with residents, in light of the Review that had been conducted. The Corporate Manager – Supported Housing advised that a petition had been received to request that the name 'Sheltered Housing' remain. The Corporate Manager – Supported Housing also made Members aware that there could be a cost associated with making any changes to the name and that the term 'Sheltered Housing' would remain on the Gateway to HomeChoice system.

Board Members expressed disappointment that more residents had not engaged and provided feedback, and also that despite any changes that might be made, the term 'Sheltered Housing' would still exist in various systems and literature.

During the course of the debate it was proposed and seconded that this be put on hold until the recently published Government White Paper on Housing be understood and detail made clear.

RESOLUTION

2.1 That further discussion and a decision on this matter be deferred pending clarification on the position as contained in the Government White Paper on Housing.

By a unanimous vote.

JHB67 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLANS

Report JHB/10/17

Ian Winslet, Investment and Development Consultant, gave a presentation updating Members on the HRA Business Plan Interim Review. A copy of the slide presentation, which was circulated to Members after the meeting, is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

The presentation, together with the Briefing Note JHB/10/17 which provided a narrative around the slides, covered the assumptions on which the Plans had previously been based, together with the changes to those assumptions, the reasons for the changes and their impact, together with mitigation options to improve the Plans and increase capacity. Reference was also made to the historic context and the reasons for the differences between the positions of the two Councils.

Members were also advised that the potential impact of the BMBS (Babergh and Mid Suffolk Building Services) on the HRA 'bottom line' had yet to be fully understood, but the Plans would be updated to reflect the latest figures as soon as these were known.

RESOLUTION

2.2 *That the Board notes the current position on the HRA Business Plan Review, as set out in Report JHB/10/17 and the Update on the Current Position subject of the presentation made at the meeting (Appendix 1 refers).*

By a unanimous vote.

JHB68 JOINT HOUSING BOARD FORWARD PLAN

Vicky Freer, Improvement and Involvement Officer, introduced Report JHB68.

RESOLUTION

That the Forward Work Plan be noted.

JHB69 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Gavin Fisk, Corporate Manager, referred to the fly on the wall documentary 'The Housing Enforcers' featuring the work of Babergh and Mid Suffolk officers, which runs from 27 February to 24 March. In response to a question from Councillor Nick Gowrley, he confirmed that he was working with the Communications Team on a possible Press Release, and that feedback on the series would be welcomed.

JHB70 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Members were asked to pass the resolution to exclude the public to enable the confidential minute in Paper JHB/08/17 to be confirmed. The need to do so was queried by Councillor Nick Gowrley on the basis that the Minute did not contain any information which the public should not be able to see.

The Senior Governance Support Officer advised that Minutes relating to reports considered in Part II of an agenda were normally confidential on the basis that any query on the accuracy of the Minute might involve reference to matters contained in the report.

RESOLUTION

That under section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act in the paragraph registered against the item:

Item
JHB/06/17

Schedule 12a Reason
3

JHB71 UPDATE ON HRA DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

Report JHB/06/17

The Minute relating to the above mentioned 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(c) of the Local Government Act 1972 is set out below.

Anne Bennett, Corporate Manager – Development (Housing and Regeneration) introduced Paper JHB/06/17 and replied to questions raised by Board Members.

The business of the meeting concluded at 15:30.

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Chairman