

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BABERGH CABINET HELD IN CANTEEN,  
BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON THURSDAY,  
13 JULY 2017

PRESENT: Jennie Jenkins (Chairman)

Tina Campbell  
Peter Patrick

Lee Parker  
John Ward

The following Members were unable to be present: Margaret Maybury.

10 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

None declared.

11 BCA/17/5 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE  
2017 AS A CORRECT RECORD

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2017 be confirmed and signed  
as a correct record.**

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

None received.

13 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None received.

14 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

None received.

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

No matters referred.

16 BCA/17/6 - FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

**RESOLVED**

**That the Forthcoming Decisions List (Paper BCa/17/6) be noted.**

17 BCA/17/7 - 2016/17 FINANCIAL OUTTURN

Peter Patrick – Cabinet Member for Finance introduced Paper BCa/17/7 which summarised the financial outturn for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and capital programme. He referred to the timing issues around the delayed receipt of some income from the installation of PV panels and the delivery of Waste Vehicles which were among the items that had produced an adverse variance on the General Fund.

Councillor Patrick together with the Assistant Director – Corporate Resources responded to questions about various specific items, including rental income from Borehamgate, and the effect of the deficit now being borne by the General Fund as the Business Rates Equalisation reserve had been used up.

Councillor Bavington was invited by the Leader to comment and he referred to the use of the Transformation Fund which required monitoring.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the 2016/17 financial outturn as set out in Paper BCa/17/7 be noted.**
- (2) That the transfer of £653k, being the General Fund adverse variance for the year, from the Transformation Fund referred to in paragraph 10.9 of the Report be approved.**
- (3) That the General Fund carry-forward requests that individually exceed £25k and totalling £219k referred to in paragraph 10.14 of the Report be approved.**
- (4) That the Capital carry-forward requests referred to in paragraphs 10.22 and 10.23 of the Report totalling £26.664m be approved.**
- (5) That the transfer of £2.971m referred to in paragraph 10.27 of the Report, being the HRA surplus for the year (£143k more than planned) to Reserves be approved.**
- (6) That the HRA Capital carry-forward requests referred to in paragraphs 10.34 and 10.35 of the Report totalling £4.846m be approved.**

18 BCA/17/8 - BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF SCHEME

Peter Patrick – Cabinet Member for Finance introduced Paper BCa/17/8 seeking Cabinet approval to a new policy for discretionary rate relief to support businesses adversely affected by the recent revaluation. Members welcomed the introduction of the policy.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That Cabinet approves the discretionary local rate relief policy.**
- (2) That Cabinet give authority to the Assistant Director – Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Leader to vary the scheme this year and in future years to keep it in line**

with Government guidance and local circumstances.

- (3) That the Cabinet give authority to the Shared Revenues Partnership to administer and determine applications for relief within the policy.**

19 BCA/17/9 - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - SUMMARY OF THE 30 YEAR BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL PLAN 2017 UPDATE

Jan Osborne – Cabinet Member for Housing introduced Paper BCa17/9, updating Members, following changes made to the assumptions contained in the HRA Financial Plan and other aspects of the Business Plan. She advised that the Plan would be reviewed at six monthly intervals.

Officers confirmed that the value for money aspects of purchasing/building would be included in the on-going monitoring of the Plan.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

**That the updated 30 year HRA Business and Financial Plans be approved.**

20 BCA/17/10 - COMMUNITY HOUSING FUND

Jan Osborne – Cabinet Member for Housing introduced Paper BCa/17/10, providing details of a new Fund designed to facilitate community-led housing growth and recommending a process for dealing with bids to the Fund.

Julie Abbey-Taylor, Professional Lead – Housing Enabling responded to Members' questions about various aspects of the new arrangements. Workshops for Members would be held from September onward and the Professional Lead will keep Group Leaders in touch so that they can encourage the members of their respective groups to attend. She also confirmed that the Cabinet member would be kept informed on a quarterly basis, particularly with regard to the financial outcomes and effectiveness of expenditure. Different legal models, including Community Land Trusts, could be used to deliver this type of housing growth.

**RESOLVED**

**That the recommendations as set out in Paragraph 8 of Paper BCa/17/10 be approved.**

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

**RESOLVED**

**That pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified below on the grounds that if the public were present during this item, it is likely that there would be the disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated against the item.**

**The Cabinet was also satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.**

BCA/17/11 - REQUESTING APPROVAL OF COMPENSATION OFFER RESULTING FROM A STAGE 2 COMPLAINT (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 2 of Part 1)

Peter Patrick – Cabinet Member for Finance introduced Paper BCa/17/11 seeking Cabinet authorisation for compensation payments to be made in the case referred to in the report, together with a request for Members to approve revised delegation arrangements for such payments.

**RESOLVED**

**That redress for the cost of buying replacement trees be offered in the recommended sum as set out in Paper BCa/17/11.**

- (1) That redress for the cost of buying replacement trees be offered in the recommended sum as set out in Paper BCa/17/11.**
- (2) That redress for the cost of planting additional trees in the recommended sum as set out in Paper BCa/17/11.**
- (3) That redress for time and distress be offered in the recommended sum as set out in Paper BCa/17/11.**
- (4) That the responsibility for authorising compensation payments within the Council's Compliments, Comments and Complaints Policy be delegated to the Joint Audit and Standards Committee and the thresholds be increased as follows:-**
  - Assistant Directors be authorised to offer redress up to a maximum value of £500 (insofar as the redress is directly related to complaints about the provision of services is their responsibility).**
  - Directors may offer redress up to a maximum value of £1,000.**
  - Senior Leadership Team may offer redress up to a value of £1,500.**
  - Any figure exceeding £1,500 must be referred, in the form of a recommendation, to the Joint Audit and Standards Committee.**

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11.30 a.m.

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Chairman