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MSDC COUNCIL	
DATE:	WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2024 5.30 PM
VENUE:	KING EDMUND CHAMBER, ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH

For consideration at the meeting on Wednesday, 20 MARCH 2024, the following additional or updated papers that were unavailable when the Agenda was printed.

TABLED PAPERS

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Agenda Item 3

MSDC COUNCIL – 20 MARCH 2024

ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2024

AMENDED PARAGRAPHS:

- 104.11 Councillor Davis outlined that when there were inflation rates of 6% in 2022, and 10% in 2023 the Council did not increase Council Tax and this impacted the real value of the council tax collected, so an increase of 2% now was modest recovery. Additionally, the Council Tax increase from the Council was at a lower level than at other levels of government.
- 104.12 Councillor Stringer outlined that the amendment was a short-term solution and unpredictable impacts from external sources could be mitigated by the rise in Council Tax and surpluses should be used to provide value for money in Council services. He added that small increases to Council Tax gave a greater stability to the Council and would allow the Council to put residents first.
- 104.14 Councillor Scarff stated that he supported small increases in Council Tax within the base budget, and he raised concern on the uncertainty of one year funding from Central Government and how this meant long-term financial security was unpredictable.
- 104.16 Councillor Patchett outlined that he had been reassured by Cabinet on the Council Tax rises and that due to the current inflation rates valuations on CIFCO could be uncertain in future.

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Agenda Item 5

MSDC COUNCIL – 20 MARCH 2024

ITEM 5 – LEADER’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

iESE Public Sector Transformation awards

I am delighted to say Mid Suffolk District Council, along with our Babergh colleagues, was named UK Council of the Year at the iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards.

It is great recognition for everyone involved in the organisation, not just this administration but all those involved over the last decade or so. Congratulations to our staff, to all councillors across the political spectrum, and to all the partner organisations we work with.

Bramford to Twinstead

Councillors will be aware of National Grid’s long-running plans for more electricity pylons between Bramford and Twinstead. The Planning Inspectorate has just completed examination of the proposals, and is now preparing a report for the Secretary of State to make a final decision.

Mid Suffolk District Council recognises the need to upgrade the grid to help meet net zero targets, but we have objected to the plans, which have significant shortcomings. Not enough has been done to mitigate impact on the countryside and local communities.

We also are very concerned about the cumulative impacts of this and other large-scale energy infrastructure proposals such as the new Norwich to Tilbury pylon line, as well as other emerging projects. We will continue to raise the concerns of our communities.

Changing Places

I am pleased to report work has started on creating fully accessible toilet facilities at Stradbroke Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre.

The Food Museum in Stowmarket will also be home to Changing Places facilities as part of an ongoing development. These facilities go a long way to ensure our district is as accessible and inclusive as possible.

Musical Memories project

Over the last few months, through our partnership with Orchestras Live, we have been able to bring musicians from the Britten Sinfonia into our communities. They have held a series of workshops where they have performed for, and also created music together with, older residents and those with long-term conditions. On Monday I was able to attend the final event in this project which was two concerts in Stowmarket, bringing all the participants together. I have to say it was a truly remarkable experience to have world-class musicians playing for, and singing with residents and their support workers. Thank you to the officers who made this project so special.

Working with partners

The administration continues to meet with key stakeholders to discuss our plans, to listen, and to look for ways we can work together for the benefit of our residents. Yesterday Councillor Eburne and myself met with local representatives of the National Farmers’ Union. Councillor Weller has been working with neighbouring councils on a funding bid for a large-scale environment project. Next week we are meeting with representatives of Stowmarket Town Council. We look forward to these partnerships bringing benefits to all involved.

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Agenda Item 8

MSDC COUNCIL – 20 MARCH 2024

ITEM 8 - QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Question 1 – Mr Steven Wells to Councillor Eburne, Cabinet Member for Finance

- 1) Given that the Green administration has created the Mid Suffolk Plan stating (taken from District Councillor Report presented by Cllr Penny) 'environmental and social responsibilities is at the heart of everything we do, helping to create thriving and resilient communities in Mid Suffolk this encompasses: Housing and infrastructure, Resilience, Community wellbeing; and Environmental sustainability; a key principle is to work collaboratively with communities.'; can the Cabinet member explain how increasing the charge to Parish Councils for emptying of Dog bins, considering their very finite budgets, without consulting them, is not contradictory to the Mid Suffolk Plan' heart?

Question 2 – Mr Steven Wells to Councillor Eburne, Cabinet Member for Finance

- 2) As a Council Tax payer it is very concerning that it appears the Council hugely underestimated and miscalculated the level of borrowing needed to fund the capital programme 2023 /24 resulting in borrowing appearing to be 335% more than initially intended and as such can the Cabinet member for Finance reassure we the public that the numbers for this budget are fully worked through, robust, reliable and have been checked to make sure the amounts are correct mitigating the risk of getting it so wrong again?

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Agenda Item 15

MSDC COUNCIL – 20 MARCH 2024

ITEM 15 - COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS

To agree the following appointments:

Council Investment Portfolio Working Group

Keith Scarff

John Whitehead

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