

# Public Document Pack



<b>BABERGH COUNCIL</b>	
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>MONDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2023 5.30 PM</b>
<b>VENUE:</b>	<b>KING EDMUND CHAMBER, ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH</b>

For consideration at the meeting on Monday, 20 February 2023, the following additional or updated papers that were unavailable when the Agenda was printed.

## TABLED PAPERS

		<u>Page(s)</u>
6	<b>QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES</b>	3 - 4
	The Chairman of the Council to answer any questions by the public of which notice has been given no later than midday three clear working days before the day of the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 12.	
7	<b>QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES</b>	5 - 6
	The Chairman of the Council, the Chairmen of Committees and Sub-Committees and Portfolio Holders to answer any questions on any matters in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affect the District of which due notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 13.	

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact the Committee Officer, Committee Services on: 01473 296472 or Email: [Committees@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Committees@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

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# Agenda Item 6

**BDC COUNCIL – 20 FEBRUARY 2023**

## **ITEM 6 - QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

### **Question 1**

#### **Mr Ferguson to Councillor Busby, Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets & Investments**

At the Council Meeting on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022, I asked the Cabinet Member for Finance, Assets and Investments for a copy of the risk assessment of Gipping Construction's ability to complete the redevelopment of the old Babergh District Council offices at Corks Lane. One of the reasons that I gave for this request was my concern about Gipping's limited experience with working on listed buildings – part of the old Council HQ is listed Grade II.

In his response Councillor Busby refused to let me see that risk assessment, and Babergh District Council also refused to provide it when I subsequently submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. However, in his reply to my question on 6<sup>th</sup> October 22, Cllr Busby told me that Babergh Growth Limited would ensure completion of the project quote: "on time and on cost" through robust management of the contract. He went on to say that **April 2024 had been set as the completion date.**

Also, in response to a question from Cllr Dawson (the Ward member for North Hadleigh) to the Chief Executive (CE) with regards to the timeframe and financial impact of delays in the development work, the CE responded as follows:

*"The work on site has been progressing well and in line with the project programme."*

The Chief Executive went on to say that:

*"There are currently no significant delays to the programme and therefore the financial implications are that there is some cost to the redesign work, but this is allowed for within project contingencies."*

In the context of those assurances, it is apparent that work stopped on this project at the end of November 2022 (i.e. now almost 3 months ago), and as of Monday 13 February 2023, work has not restarted on the site.

#### **My question to Cllr Busby is:**

Against that background, are you still reporting that the Corks Lane redevelopment will be delivered quote: "on time and on cost," and that it will be completed by **April 2024**? If not, what has changed since you provided those assurances on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022, and what are the potential implications on the 2023/24 Babergh District Council budget forecasts?

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# Agenda Item 7

**BDC COUNCIL – 20 FEBRUARY 2023**

## **ITEM 7 - QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**

### **Question 1**

**Councillor Lindsay to Councillor Jan Osborne, Cabinet Member for Housing**

What triggered the in-depth review into building services?

### **Question 2**

**Councillor Lindsay to Councillor Jan Osborne, Cabinet Member for Housing**

Is the review looking at reasons for the backlog in housing repair work and whether outside contractors are completing work in a timely manner?

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