

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BABERGH CABINET HELD IN ON FRIDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2017

PRESENT: Jennie Jenkins - Chairman
Tina Campbell
Jan Osborne
John Ward
Margaret Maybury
Lee Parker

The following Members were unable to be present: Peter Patrick

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Patrick.

The Chairman welcomed Jonathan Stephenson as the new Strategic Director.

42 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

None declared.

43 BCA/17/19 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September were confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

Page 2 – the revised balance should read £870,000.

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

None received.

45 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

None received.

46 BCA/17/20 MATTERS REFERRED BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OR JOINT AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES

Report BCa/17/20 was noted. Both an impact and a change in the targets for void times were urgently required.

It was agreed performance would continue to be monitored and if not as expected would be flagged up with Cabinet.

47 BCA/17/21 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

The report was noted.

48 BCA/17/22 FUTURE OPTIONS FOR "WORKING TOGETHER" BETWEEN BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILS

The Chief Executive gave an introduction to report BCa/17/22 which gave a balance of positive and negative reasons for merging into one Council. In order to ensure that the two districts were in the best possible position to respond to, and take advantage of, the emerging opportunities and challenges within Local Government and Suffolk both Council Leaders had requested the Chief Executive to investigate the various options available to further evolve the Councils partnership working.

It was stressed no formal decision would be made at this point in time but it was simply to endorse the approach of creating one new, larger District Council and to conduct stakeholder, public and staff engagement.

Councillor Jenkins moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Osbourne.

The Chairman pointed out Cabinet were in listening mode. The next steps, if approved, would be to move the process forward. There would be no change to services but they were committed to working with other partners. The budget had been scrutinised and cut as much as possible but there was a compelling case for delivering savings and service by merging into one Council.

The Chairman then invited questions from Councillors Ridley, Carpendale, Cresswell, McCraw and Arthey to which Cabinet members responded in relation to the timing of the decision, the high level financial aspect of the proposal and the cost of public consultation and the lack of business case. The first step would be to wait and see the public consultation response, that there was no control over the Boundary Committee timing and that the Business Case would be developed at the same time as the consultation. A formal decision would then be made from the Business Case which would go before Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as Full Council. The Chief Executive also explained a comparison had been completed with Suffolk Coastal in respect of a similar exercise and their telephone poll cost had come to around £20,000.

Concern expressed at the amount of public consultations already taking place. In response Councillor Jenkins explained the Chief Executive had outlined reasons but was happy to amend the recommendation so it included as 2.1b:

"Subject to the outcome of public engagement a draft (DCLG compliant) business case for the dissolution of BMSDC's and creation of a new single district council for the area could be considered by each Council."

This amendment was moved by Councillor Jenkins and seconded by Councillor Osborne.

Cabinet members recognised doing nothing was not an option, the overriding factor

would be the savings made and the delivery of a service.

By a unanimous vote:

RESOLUTION 1

That the approach of formally dissolving the two district councils; and creating a new larger District Council be provisionally endorsed.

RESOLUTION 2

That the council's utilise the Transformation Funding to jointly conduct stakeholder, public and staff engagement during Autumn 2017.

RESOLUTION 3

That subject to the outcome of the public engagement a draft (DCLG compliant) business case for the dissolution of BMSDC's and creation of a new single district council for the area could be considered by each Council.

49 BCA/17/23 NEW ANGLIA ECONOMIC STRATEGY (2017 TO 2036)

Councillor Ward, the Cabinet Member for Economy, introduced report BCa/17/23 and moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Osborne.

Cabinet Members although felt it was an excellent and detailed plan were disappointed over the lack of aspiration in the Executive Summary and hoped the housing target would meet need in a realistic and sensible way. In this regard it was also hoped transport links and demand would be sustainable.

By a unanimous vote

RESOLUTION 1

That the New Anglia Economic Strategy, attached as Appendix A, be endorsed by Mid Suffolk District Council.

RESOLUTION 2

That the information within this report regarding the forthcoming strategies for Economy, Housing and Infrastructure, in support of the Suffolk Framework for Growth, be noted.

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

By a unanimous vote

RESOLUTION

That under section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded

from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act in the paragraphs registered against the item.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Schedule 12A Reason</i>
<i>BCa/17/24</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>BCa/17/25</i>	<i>3</i>

51 BCA/17/24 INVESTMENT AND COMMERCIAL DELIVERY - A NEW DELIVERY MODEL (EXEMPT INFORMATION BY VIRTUE OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF PART 1)

The minute relating to the above mentioned item was 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 was set out below:

The Chairman, Councillor Jenkins, introduced report BCa/17/24 and moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Osborne.

Cabinet accepted the recommendations contained in the report together with a minor amendment proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Osborne.

52 BCA/17/25 REGENERATION PROPOSAL BUSINESS CASE (EXEMPT INFORMATION BY VIRTUE OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF PART 1)

The minute relating to the above mentioned item was 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 was set out below:

Councillor Jenkins, the Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments, introduced report BCa/17/25 and moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Osborne.

Cabinet accepted the recommendations contained in the report.

The business of the meeting was concluded at Time Not Specified.

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Chairman