

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BABERGH CABINET HELD IN BRITTEN ROOM,
ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH ON THURSDAY, 7 DECEMBER
2017

PRESENT: Jennie Jenkins - Chairman

Margaret Maybury	Jan Osborne
Peter Patrick	John Ward

In attendance:

Councillor Tony Bavington
Councillor David Busby
Councillor Luke Cresswell
Councillor John Hinton
Councillor Alastair McCraw

Chief Executive (AC)
Corporate Business Improvement Manager (KC)
Economic Development Officer (DC)
Corporate Manager – Finance (ME)
Assistant Director - Environment and Commercial Partnerships (CF)
Corporate Business Coordinator (SM)
Corporate Manager – Democratic Services (JR)
Project and Research Officer (JS)
Assistant Director – Finance (KS)
Strategic Director (JS)

62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Campbell and Parker.

63 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS

There were none.

64 BCA/17/30 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9
NOVEMBER 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2017 were confirmed as a correct record subject to Councillor Patrick being included in the apologies, within minute number 60.3 the sentence be amended to read “the aim for void times be **reduced** by 10 days and within minute number 58 it be amended as follows:

Cabinet fully accepted the resolution made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was proposed by Councillor Osborne and seconded by Councillor Ward that it be:

RESOLVED:

The proposal from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be accepted.

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

None received.

66 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

None received.

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

No matters had been referred from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

68 BCA/17/31 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

That the Forthcoming Decisions List be noted subject to the following amendments:

- Leisure Strategy should be amended to read Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.
- Local Tourism Strategy Review Cabinet Members responsible should be John Ward and Gerard Brewster.

69 BCA/17/32 - LEISURE, SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY

69.1 Councillor Maybury, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities introduced report BCa/17/32 and proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Patrick.

69.2 Cabinet felt although the report had been delayed it was welcomed. It was noted specific details and how the Strategy would be moved forward in the future would be brought forward in a later paper.

By an unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED:-

(1) That the Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy be endorsed.

Reason for decision: To enable the Councils' to adopt a strategic approach towards the provision of Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity.

70 BCA/17/33 - BABERGH ENTERPRISE ZONE SITE - SPACE TO INNOVATE - DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATES RELIEF POLICY - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - SPROUGHTON ENTERPRISE PARK

70.1 Councillor Ward, the Cabinet Member for Economy, introduced report BCa/17/33

and moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Osborne.

- 70.2 In response to questions the Cabinet Member for Economy, with the help from the Economic Development Officer, explained the reason why Ipswich Borough Council had requested a Memorandum of Understanding was because of the large amount of money being invested. This was standard practice and a breakdown of business rates could be provided. There would be an opportunity to bid for additional funds in the future.

By an unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED: -

- (1) The Babergh District Council Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy for Sproughton Enterprise Park (Enterprise Zone site) be approved.
- (2) That the Assistant Directors as alternative delegation for signature on legal documentation in respect of Enterprise Zone site delivery within the Districts be approved.
- (3) That continued negotiations between BDC and IBC to agree Memorandum of Understanding regarding passporting of Fund B monies in respect of Sproughton Enterprise Park (Enterprise Zone Site) be approved.

Reason for Decisions: To encourage the development of employment sites and other business growth in appropriate locations. To encourage investment in infrastructure.

71 BCA/17/34 - HALF YEARLY PERFORMANCE REPORTING (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2017)

- 71.1 Councillor Patrick, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Organisational Delivery, introduced report BCa/17/34 and moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Osborne.

- 71.2 Members gave thanks to the Corporate Business Improvement Manager and her team for all their hard work and reiterated if there was slippage it should be brought straight back for their attention.

- 71.3 It was noted Human Resources had been monitoring staff leavers and from these 16 had stated moving to Endeavour House as a reason to leave.

By an unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED: -

- (1) The performance report and the performance outcome information tabled at Appendices A to E adequately reflects Babergh's performance for the half year April to September 2017.
- (2) Any actions required were considered where performance improvement was

needed.

Reason for Decisions: To agree the Council's performance adequately demonstrates delivery of the Joint Strategic Plan.

72 BCA/17/35 - FINANCIAL MONITORING 2017/2018 - QUARTER TWO

- 72.1 Councillor Patrick, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, introduced report BCa/17/35 and moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Ward.
- 72.2 Members noted the document was still "work in progress" whilst moving through the financial year and gave thanks to the finance team.
- 72.3 Overview and Scrutiny had been monitoring at BMBS property services and improvements implemented. Regular meetings were now being held and the Assistant Director for Housing would bring to Cabinets' attention when something was amiss.
- 72.4 In response to a question on the Transformation Fund, the Cabinet Member for Finance, with assistance from the Chief Executive explained this did not make monies unusable and funds could be moved but it recognised the different cost pressures.

By an unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED: -

- (1) The potential or likely variations in relation to the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme compared to the Budget be noted.
- (2) That, subject to any further budget variations that arise during the rest of the financial year, the following net transfers of £831k be noted.
 - a) The balance of the General Fund surplus of £258k referred to in section 11.8 of the report be transferred to the Transformation Fund;
 - b) Transfer of £102k, being the favourable variance for the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to a new earmarked Waste reserve, referred to in section 11.8 of the report;
 - c) Transfer of £89k, being the favourable variance for Homelessness to the earmarked grants reserve, referred to in section 11.8 of the report;
 - d) Transfer of £45k, being the favourable variance for Planning legal costs to the earmarked reserve, referred to in section 11.8 of the report;
 - e) Transfer of £337k, being the 2016/17 surplus on the Business Rates Collection Fund to the Business Rates Equalisation reserve, referred

to in section 11.8 of the report.

Reason for Decisions: To ensure that Members were kept informed of the current budgetary position for both the General Fund and HRA.

73 BCA/17/36 - 2018/19 GENERAL FUND BUDGET - EARLY INDICATION

73.1 Councillor Patrick, the Cabinet Member for Finance, introduced report BCa/17/36 and moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Osborne.

73.2 Members noted work was ongoing.

By an unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED: -

(1)That the progress on developing the General Fund Budget for the period 2018/19 to 2021/22 and the intention to increase Council Tax in 2018/19 be noted.

Reason for Decisions: To ensure that Members were aware of the progress being made to set the 2018/19 budgets.

74 BCA/17/37 - LIVING WAGE MOTION TO COUNCIL

74.1 **The following Motion was put to the meeting from Councillor Cresswell:**

74.2 *“That this Council resolves to establish, without undue delay, a timetable for ensuring that the employees of all its contractors are paid at least the Living Wage in order that Babergh is in a position to declare itself a Living Wage employer by no later than one year from today.”*

74.3 Written notice of the motion was given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule (CPR) No 13.1, signed by Councillors Cresswell and Bavington. This was moved and seconded at the Council meeting on 24 October 2017.

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74.7 Councillor Patrick, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, introduced report BCa/17/37 and moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Maybury.

Members had carefully considered the motion put forward and agreed they were not against the concept. However, in terms of Contractors employed it was felt the Council could only encourage and cajole. The viability of obtaining accreditation was questioned and Babergh District Council being a living wage employer to its own employees was noted.

Councillor Bavington objected to paragraph 10.1 in the report as he felt it referred to the motion being a Labour party stunt, which was incorrect. Also within paragraph 11, the options given were not options at all, they merely stated whether to pursue the motion or not.

75 Cabinet fully supported the concept of earning a living wage but recognised it would both be a costly and timely exercise to obtain accreditation.

75.1 The Council would, however, continue to speak with contractors.

By a unanimous vote.

75.2 **It was RESOLVED: -**

75.3 (1) That the Council did not pursue the option of working towards accreditation as a Real Living Wage Employer.

Reason for Decision: Due to the cost and resource implications associated with becoming an accredited employer.

75.4 BCA/17/38 - FUTURE OPTIONS FOR WORKING TOGETHER BETWEEN BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILS

The Leader of the Council introduced the report BCa/17/38 and read out the resolution made at the Simultaneous Cabinet meeting of the 13 October 2017. She moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor

75.5 The Chief Executive set out that Cabinet should consider the revised report which detailed the additional financial information and the engagement process.

75.6 If the recommendation was endorsed then the public engagement programme would commence on 11 December 2017 and would run until 5 February 2018. The conclusions from this and the draft business case would be submitted in March 2018 to firstly be considered by a joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, then both Councils and finally to a Simultaneous Cabinet meeting in April 2018.

Following a conversation with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) it would be unlikely implementation could take place prior to May 2020. Cabinet should consider the issues presented and were not to predetermine the business case.

75.7 Following questions as to whether the business case should come first prior to public consultation the Chief Executive explained public engagement would form part of the production of the business case.

75.8 Members considered the idea of pooling resources with Mid Suffolk District Council would help the financial position. Public Engagement should take place and then it could be decided from the results how best to move forward. It was considered that a referendum was a blunt instrument whereas a telephone poll would ask detailed probing questions. The questions which were to be asked as part of the telephone poll had been available since the 13 October 2017 and would be from an independent source. The telephone poll was one single element of the whole public engagement process.

75.9 The Cabinet were satisfied they had fully looked at the additional financial information as presented in report BCa/17/38 as well as the minutes from previous meetings and the proposed public engagement programme.

By an unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED: -

- (1) That after careful consideration of the debate of Full Council on 21 November 2017 and Appendices A and B within report BCa/17/38, Cabinet reconfirms the decisions made by Cabinet on 13 October 2017.

Reason for Decision: 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.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 7:46pm.

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Chairman