

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK COUNCIL** held in the King Edmund Chamber - Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Thursday, 27 June 2019

PRESENT:

Councillor: Lavinia Hadingham (Chair)

Councillors:	Gerard Brewster	David Burn
	Terence Carter	James Caston
	Rachel Eburne	Paul Ekpenyong
	John Field	Julie Flatman
	Jessica Fleming	Dr Helen Geake
	Kathie Guthrie	Matthew Hicks
	Barry Humphreys MBE	Sarah Mansel
	John Matthissen	Andrew Mellen
	Richard Meyer	Suzie Morley
	David Muller	Mike Norris
	Penny Otton	Timothy Passmore
	Stephen Phillips	Daniel Pratt
	Harry Richardson	Keith Scarff
	Andrew Stringer	Wendy Turner
	Rowland Warboys	Keith Welham
	John Whitehead	

In attendance:

Officers:

- Assistant Director - Planning and Communities
- Chief Executive
- Corporate Manager - Strategic Planning
- Acting Chief Planning Officer
- Corporate Manager - Strategic Planning
- Strategic Director
- Corporate Manager - Democratic Services
- Strategic Director
- Professional Lead - Key Sites and Infrastructure

Apologies: Peter Gould

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer had granted dispensations to all Members for item MC/19/7 Draft Joint Local Plan.
- 2.2 Councillor Welham declared a local no-pecuniary interest for item MC/19/7, as a member of the Stowupland Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

3 MC/19/5 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2019

It was RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Annual meeting held on 20 May 2019 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

4 MC/19/6 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 The Chair referred to Paper MC/19/6 for her announcements, which were **NOTED**, and invited the Leader to present the Leaders Report.

5 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5.1 The Leader referred to her tabled paper, Mid Suffolk Leaders Report, and responded to questions.

5.2 Councillor Welham referred to the Leisure Contract Working Party and if this Group also included other areas such as Stradbroke.

5.3 Councillor Flatman responded by saying that she would take this back to the Task and Finish Group for discussion.

5.4 Councillor Eburne enquired when Portfolio Holders' reports would be presented to the Council and if the Leader would report back on the Local Government Association's Annual Conference (LGA) to the Council.

5.5 The Leader responded that she would bring an update on the LGA Annual Conference in the next Leader's Report and that Portfolio Holders' Reports would be brought to Council in due course.

6 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

6.1 It was stated that the following validated petition was received and would be dealt with through the usual planning process.

47 valid signatures regarding planning application DC/19/1558 in Thornham Magna.

7 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

7.1 None received.

8 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

8.1 None received.

9 MC/19/7 BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK DRAFT JOINT LOCAL PLAN: PREFERRED OPTIONS

- 9.1 The Chair stated that the Draft Joint Local Plan could not be changed apart from typographical and factual errors and Members should focus on the policies within the report and avoid getting into specific issues relating to Members' wards. Such issues should be raised as part of the consultation.
- 9.2 Councillor David Burn, Cabinet Member for Planning introduced report MC/19/7 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Draft Joint Local Plan: Preferred Options and summarised the key points in the report.
- 9.3 Councillor Burn suggested that some Members felt that the report was not ready to be published, however the Council could not afford any more delaying and any issues could be raised during the consultation period, which Councillor Burn proposed to cover ten weeks instead of the statutory six weeks.
- 9.4 Councillor Burn then **MOVED** the amended recommendations, which Councillor Brewster **SECONDED**.
- 9.5 Councillor Brewster said that the Joint Local Plan had been in preparation for a long time and that the document was as much up to date as possible.
- 9.6 Councillor Eburne **PROPOSED** the following amendment:
- That the Corporate Manager – Strategic Planning, before the non-strategic Place and Allocations Policies are finalised for consultation, reviews and, where it would not necessitate further viability or sustainability appraisal, amends or clarifies the proposals maps or supporting text in consultation with any ward member that raises concerns about their ward before Noon of Friday 5th July 2019.
- She was also concerned that data and not Neighbourhood Plans had been the basis for the Joint Local Plan.
- 9.7 Councillor Stringer **SECONDED** the amendment.
- 9.8 The Chair put the amendment to Councillor Burn, the proposer of the Recommendations, who accepted the amendment.
- 9.9 Councillor Burn assured Councillor Eburne that the Joint Local Plan was based on both evidence and data and he hope that the amendment would alleviate any concerns regarding this.
- 9.10 The amendment was **PUT** to Members and was **CARRIED**.

- 9.11 Councillor Passmore stated it was important to listen to the communities, some who had expressed concerns about water resources in area with larger developments.
- 9.12 However, there were villages who welcomed developments and others who was concerned about the opportunities for local first times buyers. It was important that the Council delivered a Joint Local Plan responding to these issues. He was afraid the consultation period would not be meaningful.
- 9.13 Councillor Stringer stated that by publishing a flawed set of maps the Council had ignored the wishes of the communities and that there was a risk of damaging the relationship with Parish Councils as a result of this.
- 9.14 The Assistant Director for Planning and Communities responded to the issues raised and assured Members that the work on the Joint Local Plan had been undertaken in accordance with, not just planning policies but other policies and strategies concerning both the Council and communities.
- 9.15 Councillor Burn, Cabinet Member for Planning responded by stressing the importance of working closely and collaboratively with Members and communities. It was possible to update a few maps in the Joint Local Plan to ensure that for instance, developments did not take place on green sites.
- 9.16 Councillor Field thought the Joint Local Plan was long overdue and that this had left the Council exposed to speculative developers. However, he supported the plan despite having reservations regarding some of the issues surrounding the Plan. This included that some developments with approved planning permissions had not been included within the village boundaries. Also, rejected developments were shown as proposals without indication of where they were in the planning process. This could provide an impression that the Council wished for such developments to be progressed. He was unsure if the extension to the 5th July 2019 would allow enough time for Members to submit their comments.
- 9.17 Councillor Carter raised issues concerning the lack of fundamental development in communities. The Council needed to address the need for social housing. He felt that extensive resources and funding had been spent on developing a Joint Local Plan which was outdated and did not include evidence from local communities.
- 9.18 The Corporate Manager for Strategic Planning reminded Members that the draft Joint Local Plan was first presented to Member in April 2018 and that sites that had been granted planning permission since then were not included in the plans, unless they had been included in the Strategic Plan. He then clarified the process for sites being included in the Joint Local Plan.
- 9.19 Councillor Eburne raised concerns regarding Neighbourhood Plans, which had been produced by local communities and whom now felt they had been ignored as these plans had not been taken into account in the Joint Local Plan. However, she would still support the Joint Local Plan.

- 9.20 Councillor Geake enquired how much weight the Joint Local Plan had in the planning application.
- 9.21 The Acting Chief Planning Officer and Sustainable Planning explained that currently the Draft Joint Local Plan carried little weight until it was progressed further.
- 9.22 Councillor Guthrie thought that the Joint Local Plan should have been published before the election and that the maps were made available to Members too late.
- 9.23 Councillor Burn commented on the issues raised and though a lot of useful comments had been raised during the debate. He assured Members that Neighbourhood Plans would carry valued when the Joint Local Plan progressed to the next stage of the process.
- 9.24 The Corporate Manager for Strategic Planning explained that quite a few Neighbourhood Plans had been produced without indicative development figures and that this was now being addressed. It was anticipated that further work would be undertaken with the Neighbourhood Plan groups as the Joint Local Plan progressed. He also advised Members that some open spaces would be protected by policy.
- 9.25 The recommendations as amended were **PUT** to Members and the vote was **CARRIED**.

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1. That the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Draft Joint Local Plan: Preferred Options Document (June 2019) (appendix A) be approved for a ten-week consultation**
- 2. That the Corporate Manager – Strategic Planning, before the non-strategic Place and Allocations Policies are finalised for consultation, reviews and, where it would not necessitate further viability or sustainability appraisal, amends or clarifies the proposals maps or supporting text in consultation with any ward member that raises concerns about their ward before Noon of Friday 5th July 2019.**
- 3. That the Corporate Manager – Strategic Planning, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Planning, be authorised to make consequential amendments to the consultation document arising from:**
 - (i) removal of drafting and technical errors and typing mistakes, and;**
 - (ii) improvements to the layout of the document.**

10 MC/19/8 PUBLICATION OF THE MID SUFFOLK HOUSING DELIVERY TEST ACTION PLAN

- 11.1 Councillor Burn, Cabinet Member for Planning introduced report MC/19/8, Publication of the Mid Suffolk Housing Delivery Test Action Plan.
- 11.2 Councillor Burn **MOVED** recommendations 3.1 and 3.2, which was **SECONDED** by Councillor Flatman.
- 11.3 Councillor Stringer enquired who were to undertake the work detailed from page 126 to 135 in the Housing Delivery Test Action Plan.
- 11.4 The Professional Lead for Key Sites and Infrastructure explained that various team would be involved in this work including the Strategic Planning Development Management Team and the Strategic Housing Team.
- 11.5 Councillor Mansel questioned Table 1 on page 135 of the report and whether the figures for school sites also included lapsed planning permissions.
- 11.6 The Acting Chief Planning Officer responded that lapsed planning permissions would be renewed if it was considered that the development would be deliverable.
- 11.7 Councillor Otton referred to the bullet points on page 125 of the Action Plan and sought reassurance that the Council had all the relevant data available and that it was accurate. She thought it was important that Members knew, who the developers were and where they had developed properties.
- 11.8 Councillor Otton also hoped that due consideration would be exercised in relation to approval of Section 106.
- 11.9 In response to Councillor Carter's question, the Assistant Director for Planning and Communities detailed the various policies, data and work undertaken by officers to enable the action plan to be achieved. He suggested to Members that further details could be discussed outside the meeting to ensure all Councillors had confidence in the process.
- 11.10 Councillor Scarff commented that he felt there were too many actions in the Action Plan for stalled sites and suggested that a six months update be brought to Council.
- 11.11 Officers responded that this would be included in the Portfolio Holders' reports to Council.
- 11.12 Councillor Eburne stated that the Housing Delivery Action Plan had been a requirement made by the Government. She asked for assurance from the Leader and the Chief Executive Officer that there were enough staff resources to undertake the work required before sites were stalled.

11.13 The Chief Executive responded that there were enough resources to undertake the work required.

11.14 Councillor Stringer added that the failure to deliver houses were noticeable locally through the Planning committees. He was also concerned about Staff resources and how this would affect planning permissions. He **PROPOSED** an amendment to Recommendations 3.1 and 3.2 to read as follows:

That sufficient resources be found to ensure that the outcome detailed in the Mid Suffolk Housing Delivery Test Action Plan can be meet.

11.15 Councillor Carter **SECONDED** the amendment.

11.16 The amendment was put to the proposer of the recommendations Councillor Burn, who accepted the amendment.

11.17 The amendment was **PUT** to Members and the vote was **CARRIED**.

It was RESOLVED: -

That sufficient resources be found to ensure that the outcome detailed in the Mid Suffolk Housing Delivery Test Action Plan can be meet be included in the recommendations.

11.18 The Assistant Director for Planning and Communities clarified that the consultant report detailed the length of planning applications. He explained how this was measured and recorded to provide the date used in the Action Plan.

11.19 Councillor Passmore asked that the eight points identified in the Action Plan, including indicative dates, be included in the Annual Review.

11.20 Councillor Mellen suggested that the Acton Plan be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the end of year.

11.21 Councillor Welham expressed concern that planning applications were delayed by Section 106 applications and asked that enough resources were allocated for both the planning and the legal part of the application process. He asked that people with different skills-sets were appointed to ensure that current progress made for planning applications was maintained.

11.22 The amended recommendations were **PUT** to Members and the vote was **CARRIED**.

It was RESOLVED:

That the Mid Suffolk Housing Delivery Test Action Plan (June 2019) is approved for publication.

That the Corporate Manager – Strategic Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, be authorised to make consequential amendments to the document arising from any drafting errors and typing mistakes.

That sufficient resources be found to ensure that the outcome detailed in the Mid Suffolk Housing Delivery Test Action Plan can be met.

11 MC/19/9 STOWUPLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD [DEVELOPMENT] PLAN

11.1 Councillor Burn, Cabinet Member for Planning, introduced report MC/19/9 and provided Members with a brief overview of the key points in the report.

11.2 Councillor Burn **MOVED** recommendations 3.1 and 3.2, which was **SECONDED** by Councillor Welham.

11.3 By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED: -

That the Stowupland Neighbourhood Plan be formally ‘made’ (adopted) as part of the District Council’s Development Plan and be used to help determine planning applications where relevant.

That the Decision Statement (Appendix 1) be published with immediate effect.

12 MC/19/10 NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO THE BOARD OF MSDC (SUFFOLK HOLDINGS) LTD

12.1 Councillor Brewster, Chair of MSDC (Suffolk Holdings) Ltd introduced Paper MC/19/10 and **MOVED** the recommendation 3.1, which was **SECONDED** by Councillor Guthrie.

12.2 Councillor Eburne queried if the vacant positions had been advertised and whether the positions were politically balance.

12.3 Councillor Brewster responded that the positions were elected by the Board of MSDC (Suffolk Holdings) Ltd. and were not required to be politically balanced.

12.4 Councillor Hicks commented that the proposed Councillors had the skills and dedication required for the positions.

12.5 Councillor Field felt he had little knowledge of the skill set of the proposed Councillors.

12.6 The recommendations were **PUT** to Members and the vote was **CARRIED**.

It was **RESOLVED**: -

That Council approve the appointment of Councillor Peter Gould, Councillor Rick Meyer and Councillor Paul Ekpenyong as Directors of MSDC (Suffolk Holdings) Ltd.

13 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO THE SHARED REVENUES PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

13.1 The Monitoring Officer introduced the report and advised that, in accordance with the joint arrangements established with Babergh District Council and Ipswich Borough Council, Council was asked to appoint two Cabinet Members and two substitutes to serve on the Committee for the current municipal year and that the political balance rule did not apply to Mid Suffolk's appointees.

13.2 Councillor Hadingham, Chair of the Council, **MOVED** that Councillors Suzie Morley and John Whitehead be appointed to the Shared Revenues Partnership, which was **SECONDED** by Councillor Fleming.

13.3 The vote was **PUT** to Members and the vote was **CARRIED**.

It was **RESOLVED**:

That Councillor Suzie Morley and Councillor John Whitehead be appointed to the Shared Revenues Partnership Committee.

14 COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS

14.1 Members were asked to note the following appointments:

Development Control Committee A:

Richard Meyer (replacing Harry Richardson)

Development Control B:

Harry Richardson (replacing Richard Meyer)

14.2 The Chair then referred to the tabled paper, Appointments to the Suffolk Joint Standards Board and Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies/Partnerships 2019/20 and asked for a proposer.

14.3 Councillor Otton **MOVED** the appointments, which were **SECONDED** by Councillor Humphreys.

It was **RESOLVED**: -

1. **That Councillors Paul Ekpenyong, John Matthissen and Mike Norris be appointed to the Suffolk Joint Standards Board.**

2. That the following Councillors be appointed as Representatives on Outside bodies/Partnerships for 2019/20:

NAME OF BODY OR PANEL	NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES TO BE APPOINTED	NAME OF MEMBER NOMINATED
EAST SUFFOLK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD	3	James Caston John Field Keith Welham
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY		Observer: Rachel Eburne
MID SUFFOLK DOMESTIC ABUSE FORUM	1	Stephen Phillips
SUFFOLK FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE 2 x per annum various locations	1 (+ 1 substitute)	James Caston (TBC)
SUFFOLK JOINT EMERGENCY PLANNING POLICY PANEL 2x per annum, Endeavour House	1 (+ 1 substitute)	Penny Otton (Andrew Mellen)
SUFFOLK POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	1 Places are allocated by SCC County-wide on a political basis. MSDC currently has to appoint a Green.	Keith Welham (Substitute: Terence Carter)
SUFFOLK VOILENCE AND ABUSE PARTNERSHIP	1	Stephen Phillips
WESTERN SUFFOLK COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (WSCSP) 4 x per annum a.m. various locations on a rotational basis	2 Voting rights	Harry Richardson Sarah Mansel

The business of the meeting was concluded at 7.08 pm.

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Chair