

Monday, 4 April 2022



MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

**DECISIONS BY THE MID SUFFOLK CABINET
CALL IN DEADLINE 5:00PM ON 13 April 2022**

The following decisions have been taken by the Cabinet and will come into effect on 14 April 2022 unless the call-in procedure is activated. For clarity, where an item is 'to be noted', 'received' or recommended to Council for a decision, this is deemed not to be a formal Executive decision and so the call-in provisions will not apply.

MCa/21/47 COUNCIL TAX ENERGY REBATE 2022/23

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That Cabinet gave authority to the Assistant Director for Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to agree the discretionary Council Tax Energy Policy, in accordance with the relevant Government guidelines.**
- 1.2 That Cabinet gave authority to the Shared Revenues Partnership (SRP) Operations Manager to administer the scheme for the Council Tax Energy Rebate and the discretionary Council Tax Energy Policy.**

REASON FOR DECISION

To provide support to households to pay energy bills.

To enable the implementation of the discretionary policy.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- 2.1 Option 1 – Delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to agree the discretionary Council Tax Energy Policy, in accordance with the relevant Government guidelines.**

A new policy can be introduced in a timely fashion for the discretionary element of the relief

and applications can be invited from households.

2.2 Option 2 – Once the policy is drafted, it is brought back to Cabinet for consideration

Following Cabinet approval, the discretionary policy can be implemented, and applications invited.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/21/48 BMSDC SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL VISION & LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That the joint Councils' draft LCWIP and Sustainable Transport vision be endorsed.
- 1.2 That the completion of the final documentation be delegated to the Assistant Director for Economic Development and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment.

REASON FOR DECISION

Endorsement is recommended so that the LCWIP can be supported and utilised as recommended by National Government guidance. The Sustainable Travel Vision will be used to inform the public about our key values, aims, ambitions and narrative around Sustainable Travel. The LCWIP will also be made public, but the key functions of this document are to inform SCC Highways and our own planning directorate of our active travel infrastructure ambitions, in order to capture opportunity for delivery.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Option 1 – To endorse these strategical documents

Option 2 – To decide not to endorse these strategical documents

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/21/49 FREEPORT EAST FULL BUSINESS CASE

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.3 That the submission of Freeport East Full Business Case (FBC) be endorsed.
- 1.4 That the Assistant Director Economy & Regeneration and the S.151 Officer be given delegated authority in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members for Finance and Economy, to finalise the detail on the Freeport East FBC on behalf of Mid Suffolk District Council.
- 1.5 That the proposed incorporation model for Freeport East i.e. Company Limited

by Guarantee be approved, and that Cabinet make a recommendation to Full Council on nominations for a MSDC director.

- 1.6 That a retained business rates policy be approved in principle.
- 1.7 That forward funding from the Growth & Efficiency Fund of £80,000 per year for 2 years in advance of retained business rates be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION

Achieving Freeport status for the G14 site and the wider Freeport East region will provide a unique opportunity for significant economic growth.

This once in a generation opportunity will leverage in substantial additional funding to support the delivery of G14 alongside providing investment in skills, infrastructure and investment projects in the wider area to support the Levelling Up agenda and provide opportunities for all and true inclusive growth for our communities.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- 2.1 Proceed as per recommendations to endorse submission of FBC and associated strategies and approve principle of business rates retention policy, support the set-up of a Company Limited by Guarantee and support the early years of the programme with a contribution towards a programme delivery fund in advance of retained rates being available. This is the preferred approach as it aligns to the decision process of other Freeport partners and ensures that Mid Suffolk District Council play an active role in the delivery of Freeport East. It will also support the designation and launch of Gateway14 (G14) as a Tax Site with the associated financial incentives for businesses.
- 2.2 The Cabinet could choose not to support the submission of the FBC. However, as the aspirations within the Freeport East proposal are closely aligned to the Council's own strategic priorities and the FBC could be submitted without our express support, this would not be appropriate.
- 2.3 The Cabinet could choose to delay making a decision, however, the Government's timeline for FBC submission is fixed. Delay could mean that the FBC is unable to be submitted on time or that it is submitted but without support from one of its key partners and owners of a Tax Site which could damage the FBCs chance of success and potentially limit access for potential tenants at G14 to key Freeport related incentives.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: Councillor Whitehead declared a non-pecuniary interest in his role as Director of Gateway 14 Ltd.

Any Dispensation Granted: None