

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK CABINET** held in the Frink Room (Elisabeth)
- Endeavour House on Monday, 5 September 2022

PRESENT:

Councillor: Suzie Morley (Chair)
Harry Richardson (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: Gerard Brewster David Burn
Jessica Fleming Peter Gould
Lavinia Hadingham John Whitehead

In attendance:

Councillors: Keith Welham – Chair of Overview and Scrutiny
Andrew Mellen
John Field

Officers: Chief Executive (AC)
Monitoring Officer (EY)
Director – Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer (ME)
Director – Planning and Building Control (TB)
Director- Operations (AC)
Director - Customers, Digital Transformation and Information (SW)
Assistant Manager - Finance Operations (RH)
Assistant Manager - Governance (HH)

Apologies:

Julie Flatman

29 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

There were no Declarations of Interests declared.

30 MCA/22/14 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2022

It was **RESOLVED**: -

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 4 July 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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

None received.

32 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

None received.

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

There were no matters referred from the Overview and Scrutiny or Joint Audit and Standards Committees

34 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

There were no comments made for Forthcoming Decisions List.

35 MCA/22/15 GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022/23 - QUARTER 1

35.1 The Chair, Councillor Morley, invited the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Whitehead to introduce the report.

35.2 Councillor Whitehead introduced the report and moved the recommendations as detailed, which was seconded by Councillor Gould.

35.3 The Cabinet Member for Finance responded to questions from other Members attending the meeting regarding whether the running cost for the Leisure Centre took into account the possible decrease as a result of the installed solar panels and batteries, and further what the impact of the interest rates on the Councils' loans to CIFCO would be. In response to the question related to CIFCO, the Cabinet Member for Finance? referred to table 5.4 in the report for the variance in Quarter 1.

35.4 The Director for Corporate Resources advised that work was being undertaken for the running cost for the leisure centres and that a report would be presented to Cabinet in due course.

By a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED: -

1.1 That, subject to any further budget variations that arise during the rest of the financial year, the net expenditure overspend position of £782k and forecast reserve movements, referred to in section 5.5 and Appendix A of the report, be noted;

1.2 The revised 2021/22 Capital Programme referred to in Appendix B and section 5.9 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION

To ensure that Members are kept informed of the current budgetary position for both General Fund Revenue and Capital

36 MCA/22/16 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) FINANCIAL CMONITORING 2022/23 - QUARTER 1

- 36.1 The Chair, Councillor Morley, invited the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Whitehead to the introduce the report.
- 36.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report and moved the recommendations, which was seconded by Councillor Hadingham.
- 36.3 The Cabinet Member for Finance responded to questions from other Members attending the meeting on issues including that the Council would spend 100% of the Capital programme but that it might take longer than a year, depending on the rate of house building and availability of building materials.
- 36.4 The Cabinet Member for Finance responded further to questions from other Members attending the meeting advising that the report was for the first three months of the year in relation to charges for sheltered services detailed in the table under paragraph 6.5.

By a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That, subject to any further budget variations that arise during the rest of the financial year, the adverse variance of £489k, referred to in section 6.5 of the report, be noted;**
- 1.2 The 2022/23 revised Capital Programme referred to in Appendix A and section 6.13 be noted.**

REASON FOR DECISION

To ensure that Members are kept informed of the current budgetary position for both the HRA Revenue and Capital Budgets.

37 MCA/22/17 QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE

- 37.1 The Chair and Cabinet Member for Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvements, Councillor Morley introduced the item and provided a summary of the Council's performance for June 2022 to September 2022.
- 37.2 Councillor Fleming referred to the 23 fleet vehicles converted to HVO fuel and questioned which of the vehicles had been converted. The Director for Operations advised that all of the 23 larger vehicles had been fully converted and that options for converting the smaller vehicles to reduce carbon were being explored.
- 37.3 In response to questions from other Members attending the meeting the

Director for Operations advised that the suppliers for the solar panels at the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre had been unable to provide a completion date, as they were waiting for spare parts to be delivered.

- 37.4 The Cabinet Member for Business Growth responded to a question from other Members attending the meeting in relation to KTP Lite and advised that the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) lite was set up to identify innovation solutions to help business grow but were more suitable for larger businesses, therefore work was being undertaken to identify solutions for smaller businesses in the District.

The Quarter 1 Performance was noted.

38 MCA/22/18 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) - CIL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER 2022

- 38.1 The Chair, Councillor Morley invited the Cabinet Member for Planning, Councillor Burn to introduce the report.
- 38.2 Councillor Burn provided a summary of the CIL bids in the report and moved the recommendations as detailed.
- 38.3 Councillor Brewster seconded the recommendations.
- 38.4 Councillor Whitehead asked for confirmation that the £100K for bid M22 – 14 Thurston Rail Feasibility Study was not a new funding bid but a renewal of the previous bid, which the Cabinet Member for Planning confirmed that it was.
- 38.5 Questions from other Members attending the meeting led to a general debate around the Thurston Rail scheme and Members considered the timeline and the progress made by Network Rail on the project. Members generally agreed that further pressure should be put on Network Rail to ensure that the scheme progressed.
- 38.6 The Cabinet Member for Economic Growth advised that good progress had been made with Network Rail at a meeting earlier in the month, and that they were keen to expedite the process.
- 38.7 The Director for Planning and Building Control advised that further lobbying by Members and by MPs would help the progress of the scheme.
- 38.8 During the debate Members raised several issues including that progress had been slow, but that changing the time limit on the bid would not aid the progress of the scheme with Network Rail.
- 38.9 The Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control suggested that the CIL offer letter to Network Rail could impose some conditions such as a time limit on the availability of the grant or that the release of the grant was dependent on development stages for the project.

38.10 Councillor Gould stated that withdrawing the grant offer was more likely to slow the process down. However, he agreed that inclusion of development stages for the release of the grant offer should be part of the CIL bid offer letter to Network Rail.

38.11 Councillor Morley moved that a further recommendation be added: *That the Portfolio Holder for Planning, the Director for Planning and Building Control and the Ward Members collaborated on the covering letter.*

38.12 Councillor Brewster seconded the proposed recommendation.

By a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED: -

1.1 That the CIL Expenditure Programme (March 2022) and accompanying technical assessment of the CIL Bid – M22-13, M22-02, and M22-14 (forming Appendices, A and B) and which include decisions on these CIL Bid for Cabinet to make and approve and to note (delegated decision only) are as follows: -

Decisions for Cabinet to make: Local Infrastructure Fund

CIL Bid, Location and Infrastructure Proposed	Amount of CIL Bid and total cost of the Infrastructure	Cabinet Decision
M22-13 RINGSHALL Play Area	Amount of CIL Bid £20,566.35 Total costs of the project £54,856.08 Other funding sources are Ringshall Parish Council Neighbourhood CIL Reserves £16,000.00 Donation £1,000.00 Fundraising £350.00 MSDC Community Grant £16,939.73	Recommendation to Cabinet to approve CIL Bid M22-13 for £20,566.35 from the Local Infrastructure Fund

Decisions for Cabinet to make: Strategic Infrastructure Fund

CIL Bid, Location and Infrastructure Proposed	Amount of CIL Bid and total cost of the Infrastructure	Cabinet Decision
M22-14 THURSTON Rail Feasibility Study	Amount of CIL Bid £100,000.00 Total costs of the project £100,000.00	Recommendation to Cabinet to approve CIL Bid M22-14 for £100,000.00 from the Strategic Infrastructure Fund (with the awarded unspent funds (£100,000) under the previously approved CIL Bid M20-07 for Thurston Rail station feasibility study being returned to the Ringfenced Infrastructure Fund (Thurston) after the 11 th September 2022 when the 2 year CIL Bid offer letter expires).

Decisions for Cabinet to note: Ringfenced Infrastructure Fund (Botesdale)

CIL Bid, Location and Infrastructure Proposed	Amount of CIL Bid and total cost of the Infrastructure	Cabinet Decision
M22-02 BOTESDALE Recreation Ground Entrance Infrastructure and picnic tables	Amount of CIL Bid £9,757.50 Total costs of the project £13,010.00 Other funding sources are Botesdale Parish Council £3,252.50	Recommendation for Cabinet to note the delegated decision for CIL Bid M22-02 for £9,757.50 from the Ringfenced Infrastructure Fund (Botesdale)

- 1.2 **Cabinet was also asked to note and endorse this CIL Expenditure Programme which includes the position in respect of approved CIL Bids from Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 - (Appendix A Section B) together with details of emerging infrastructure /CIL Bids (Appendix A Section C.**
- 1.3 **That with reference to the Thurston Infrastructure Project (M22-14) the Portfolio Holder for Planning, the Director for Planning and Building Control and the Ward Members collaborated on the covering letter.**

REASON FOR DECISION

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies have been collected since the implementation of CIL on the 11th of April 2016. The CIL Expenditure Framework was originally adopted in April 2018 and reviewed with amendments adopted on the 18th of March 2019, 20th April 2020, 23rd and 25th March 2021 and 21st July 2022 (Mid Suffolk fourth review only). All the changes/documents from the fourth review will be considered by Babergh on the 20th September 2022. The CIL Expenditure Framework requires the production of a CIL Expenditure Programme for each District which contains decisions for Cabinet to make or note on CIL Bids for CIL expenditure. These decisions relating to the expenditure of CIL monies form one of the ways in which necessary infrastructure supporting growth is delivered.

39 MCA/22/19 TREE CANOPY COVER SURVEY

- 39.1 The Chair, Councillor Morley invited the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Fleming to introduce the report.
- 39.2 Councillor Fleming introduced the report and moved the recommendations as detailed, which was seconded by Councillor Burn.
- 39.3 The Chair, Councillor Morley stated that this was a fabulous report and thanked the officers who had instigated the project and the team who had undertaken the work to complete the survey. The report would be published on the website to make the data available to the public.

By a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 **The Cabinet resolved to publish in full the web maps and canopy cover survey data on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council website.**
- 1.2 **The Cabinet resolved to develop a formal Tree Planting Strategy to guide all future tree planting within the district to ensure that, where possible, the greatest benefit was achieved.**
- 1.3 **The Cabinet resolved to identify feasible canopy cover percentages for**

each ward, options for delivery of planting to achieve this target and the creation of a vision for the future.

- 1.4 The Cabinet resolved to delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Environment along with the Director of Operations to complete these actions.**

REASON FOR DECISION

The Tree Canopy Survey has, for the first time, provided quantifiable evidence to prove the value of trees as an incredible natural capital asset. Publishing the data will be invaluable in helping people understand the benefits of trees. Developing a strategic delivery model for increasing canopy cover across the district ensures we are planting the right tree in the right place to provide benefits to residents and wildlife.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11:44 am.

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Chair