

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK CABINET** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 5 December 2022

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:	Gerard Brewster	David Burn
	Julie Flatman	Jessica Fleming
	Lavinia Hadingham	John Whitehead

In attendance:

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

Officers: Chief Executive (AC)
Deputy Chief Executive (KN)
Deputy Monitoring Officer (JR)
Director - Housing (DF)
Director – Operations (ME)
Director – Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvements (SW)
Director – Assets and Investments (EA)
Corporate Manager – Finance, Commissioning and Procurement (SW)
Corporate Manager – Communities (WM)
Corporate Manager – Customer Operations (SL)
Assistant Manager – Governance (HH)

Apologies:

Peter Gould

58 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

58.1 There were no declarations of interests made by Councillors.

59 MCA/22/28 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2022

It was RESOLVED: -

That minutes of the meeting held on the 7 November 2022 be confirmed and

signed as a correct record of the meeting.

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

- 60.1 A petition with 143 valid signatures had been received regarding report MCa/22/27 - Elmswell Exemplar Housing Scheme. A further 489 names and addresses had been received in relation to the petition.
- 60.2 The Petition would be dealt with as an ordinary petition.
- 60.3 The Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Councillor Richardson provided a statement. He referred to the engagement meeting in Elmswell in November 2022 regarding the Elmswell Exemplar Housing Scheme, which had been well-attended. The Council was reviewing the feedback from this meeting and further conversations would be held with key stakeholders. As for the primary school provision in Elmswell, this was a matter for Suffolk County Council, as the educational authority and they had no further plans for schools in the village. The Council was keen to find the best solution for the local community and were working through the feedback received from the community engagement meeting. This decision was also being considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2023.

61 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

- 61.1 None received.

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

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

63 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

- 63.1 The Forthcoming Decisions List was noted.

64 MCA/22/29 GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022/23 - QUARTER 2

- 64.1 The Chair, Councillor Morley invited the Cabinet Member for Finance, to introduce the report.
- 64.2 Councillor Whitehead provided an overview of the report and stated the main issues in the General Fund Financial Monitoring 2022/23 - Quarter 2.
- 64.3 Councillor Whitehead moved the recommendations, as detailed in the report, which was seconded by the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Councillor Richardson.
- 64.4 In response to questions from other Members attending the meeting the Corporate Manager for Finance, Commissioning and Procurement advised

that it was difficult to split up the management budget for transitional vacancies across the year and that this information was located under each service area.

- 64.5 In response to further questions from other Members attending the meeting, officers would provide further explanatory details outside of the meeting for Corporate Resources under 'Explanation of Major Variance' and for why the spent funding under Earmarked Reserves for Climate Change and Biodiversity was low.

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 £839k 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.**

65 MCA/22/30 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022/23 - QUARTER 2

- 65.1 The Chair, Councillor Morley invited the Cabinet Member for Finance to introduce the report.
- 65.2 Councillor Whitehead provided an overview of the report and stated the main issues in the Housing Revenue Account Financial Monitoring 2022/23-Quarter 2.
- 65.3 Councillor Whitehead moved the recommendations in the report, which was seconded by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Hadingham.
- 65.4 In response to questions from other Members attending the meeting, Councillor Whitehead referred to the Housing Management and Building Services costs under paragraph 6.5 and stated that he thought it would be useful to benchmark this against other similar authorities. The four items referenced under paragraph 6.5 in the report were a total of approximately £100k and formed a small part of the overall budget of £7m.
- 65.5 In response to further questions from other Members attending the meeting, the Corporate Manager for Finance, Commissioning and Procurement would provide a breakdown Building Repairs overspend for Building Services outside of the meeting.

65.6 Further responses to questions from other Members attending the meeting were provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance, who detailed how any delay in the spending of the Capital Budget would cause a reduction in the interest payable, as indicated in table 6.5 of the report.

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 £770k, 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.

66 MCA/22/31 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE 2022/23

66.1 The Chair, Councillor Morley, Cabinet Member for Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvements introduced the Performance papers and highlighted the main points for each Service Area.

66.2 In response to questions from other Members attending the meeting the Cabinet Member for Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvements, Councillor Morley advised that the performance report was looking back on performance for the previous quarter and that it took time to collect the statistics and collate the papers, and whilst she did not think that timing was an issue, the comments made would be taken into account

66.3 In further responses to questions from other Members attending the meeting regarding the abandon rate and wait times of telephone calls for Customer Services the Cabinet Member for Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvements, Councillor Morley detailed the recruitment and training implications for the Customer Service team and how this affected the handling of customer calls.

The Quarter 2 Performance 2022/23 was noted.

67 MCA/22/32 COST OF LIVING CRISIS: 5 POINT ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT (PHASE 1) AND PHASE 2 ACTION PLAN

67.1 The Chair, Councillor Morley invited the Cabinet Member for Communities, Health and Wellbeing to introduce the report.

67.2 Councillor Flatman provided an introduction to the report and moved the recommendations as detailed in the report.

67.3 The Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Councillor Richardson seconded the recommendations and made a statement in support of the report.

- 67.4 Councillor Whitehead queried how the Council would support the employment opportunities on the Gateway 14 development to ensure that local people were included in the upcoming job opportunities.
- 67.5 The Cabinet Member for Communities, Health and Wellbeing stated that work was being undertaken with the Local Citizens Advice and their partners. She also suggested that a job information day was organised for upcoming job opportunities for Gateway 14.
- 67.6 In response to questions from other Members attending the meeting the Corporate Manager for Customer Operations detailed how the Household Support Fund had been supporting struggling households and that this was dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- 67.7 The Cabinet Member for Customers, Health and Wellbeing responded to further questions from other Members attending the meeting and detailed how the funding from Government was distributed via the Suffolk County Council to the Councils and that the Councils own budget was spent on community projects.
- 67.8 In response to a further question from other Members attending the meeting the Corporate Manager for Communities advised that there had not been any further updates on the £100 support funding for people struggling with paying for heating oil.
- 67.9 The Corporate Manager for Customer Operations responded to further questions from other Members attending the meeting regarding page 75 'Working with partners to create a single view database and production of legally compliant data sharing agreements'. She provided advice on the data sharing agreement and advised that work was being undertaken by Data and Analytics, to agree this process with partners.

By a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 To review and note the content of the Phase 1 Cost of Living 5 Point Action Plan Dashboard Report at Appendix 1.**
- 1.2 To note the focus of the Phase 2 Cost of Living Action Plan at Appendix 2.**

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11:32 am.

.....
Chair