

Tuesday, 3 October 2023



MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

**DECISIONS BY THE MID SUFFOLK CABINET
CALL IN DEADLINE 5:00PM ON 12 OCTOBER 2023**

The following decisions have been taken by the Cabinet and will come into effect on 13 October 2023 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/23/17 VARIATION OF AGREEMENT OF THE SHARED REVENUE PARTNERSHIP

It was **RESOLVED**: -

That Cabinet authorised the Director of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to enter into the Deed of Variation at Appendix A to the report.

REASON FOR DECISION

To enable changes to be made to the Partnership Agreement dated 7 January 2011 to ensure the continued effective operation of the Joint Committee.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The recommended option is set out in the Recommendations. There are no other available options.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/23/18 COST OF LIVING: REVIEW OF 6 MONTH PLAN AND BEYOND

It was RESOLVED: -

To note phase 3 of the Cost of Living Action Plan and endorse the commitment to develop a longer term approach to preventing poverty which seeks to understand the underlying drivers of poverty across both districts at a hyper local level through continued work with internal and external stakeholders and to include wider engagement with Town and Parish Councils.

REASON FOR DECISION

The Cost of Living Action Plan is a proactive response to the quickly changing nature of the cost of living crisis and has been developed in partnership with internal and external stakeholders to ensure a holistic approach.

Our approach must continue to work across systems to consider the needs of our residents and the work being delivered across our organisation and by partners. Failure to sufficiently coordinate our approach risks missing opportunities to work more efficiently and in a way which reduces duplication and will mitigate gaps in support for the most vulnerable.

Equally, while the delivery of support to residents experiencing crisis is crucial at this time of heightening financial pressures, we are mindful that it would be prudent to balance crisis support with the need to work more preventatively. Without comprehensive work to understand and address the underlying drivers and mitigations of poverty across our districts, we cannot sustainably equip our communities with the tools they need to remain resilient to economic shocks in the longer term.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Option 1: To consider ending our co-ordinated and locally focused approach to the Cost of Living crisis, and to rely only on co-ordinating and promoting any national government support going forward.

Option 2: To note the phase 3 Cost of Living Action Plan and continue with six monthly updates to the plan going forward, which focus primarily on relieving and preventing crisis for those households who have been acutely impacted by the increase in the cost of living, but which does not seek to develop a long term, preventative, approach to addressing and preventing poverty across the districts.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/23/19 CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH

It was RESOLVED: -

To endorse engagement on the emerging vision and strategic priorities, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

REASON FOR DECISION

To enable the progression of the refresh of the Corporate Plan.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- 1.1 Do nothing: proceeding without reviewing strategic priorities. This was not considered feasible as there are new challenges for our districts that the Council needs to respond to.
- 1.2 Refreshing the strategic priorities without engaging our stakeholders. This was not considered a suitable option as the refreshed plan would lack valuable insight from the stakeholders the plan is working to improve the district for.
- 1.3 Approaching our stakeholders with a 'blank sheet of paper' to determine what our priorities should be, but this was considered likely to lead to less meaningful engagement.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/23/20 MSDC RINGFENCED FUNDING FOR ELECTRIC BUS / RURAL TRANSPORT PROVISION

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That Cabinet agreed for officers to proceed with the 'option 3' proposal outlined in section 4 of this report, whilst recognising the associated risks and the limitations with regards to evidence currently available that this investment will be feasible and offer good value for money.
- 1.2 That Cabinet informed officers of any further stipulations they wish to be added to the proposed next steps.
- 1.3 That Cabinet delegated the further development and delivery of 'option 3' to the Director for Economic Growth and Climate Change, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Thriving Towns and Rural Communities.

REASON FOR DECISION

The fact that this funding has been ringfenced by MSDC has been in the public domain for a significant length of time, which has raised expectations across the district. During this time, officers have been working to research different delivery models and develop a proposal that offers a least-risk approach to how the funding is spent. Officers believe that option 3 reduces as much risk as possible, as it brings in experienced and expert delivery partners, and avoids investing capital in electric vehicles from the outset/early days of the project, which is deemed as a risky investment at this time.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- 1.1 Cabinet is asked to consider options and risks with regards to taking forward the ringfenced £820,000 of funding for rural transport provision and agree next steps.
- 1.2 Cabinet is asked to agree to officers further investigating and developing one of three proposed options.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/23/21 BMSDC ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That Cabinet approved that option 1 was taken forward and that the joint councils' draft EV Infrastructure Implementation Plan was approved.**
- 1.2 That the completion of the final documentation was delegated to the Director for Economic Growth and Climate Change in consultation with portfolio holders for Environment, Culture & Wellbeing in Babergh and Thriving Towns and Rural Communities in Mid Suffolk.**

REASON FOR DECISION

- 1.1 The approval of the EV Infrastructure Implementation Plan will support the councils' future ambitions around the growth of EVs.
- 1.2 The EVIIP will support and provide guidance and opportunities for third party investment in the districts, including community organisations.
- 1.3 The EVIIP provides a clear plan for generating future investment and makes the case for external funding.
- 1.4 The EVIIP supports local and national strategies with the future transition to EVs beyond the life of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Option 2 – To decide that such a plan is not required and any such infrastructure growth will naturally result as and when funding opportunities arise.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/23/22 EMPLOYER SUPPORTED VOLUNTEERING POLICY

It was RESOLVED: -

To note and support the implementation of the Councils first Employer Supported Volunteering Policy

REASON FOR DECISION

Through research carried out by the National Council of Voluntary and Community Organisations (NCVO), we know that paid work is the number one reason why people do not

volunteer. In response to this, by working closely with VCFSE organisations through an Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) scheme, the councils can strengthen the support and trust between residents, communities and key anchor organisations, whilst also benefitting staff wellbeing, building the strength and capacity of the VCFSE sector and aligning with its own Community and Wellbeing strategies.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No other Options were considered.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCA/23/23 REVISED SAFEGUARDING POLICY - CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS AT RISK

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That Cabinet agreed Option 1 and approved the revised Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk**
- 1.2 That Cabinet agreed for the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to have delegated authority to make minor amendments to the Safeguarding Policy in line with outcomes derived from the Annual Section 11 Audit or future Internal Audit Reviews.**

REASON FOR DECISION

To ensure that an overarching approach to safeguarding is embedded across the councils, identifying roles and responsibilities of employees, councillors, and volunteers ensuring the safety of children, young people, and adults at risk.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Option 2

The Councils could decide not to adopt the revised Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk. This would leave the Councils reliant on an out-of-date policy and fail to embed appropriate practices and procedure across all services, identify roles and responsibilities of employees, councillors, and volunteers ensuring the safety of children, young people, and adults at risk.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None