



AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER 2023 – 5.30 PM

Members of the Council are summoned to a meeting of the Mid Suffolk District Council at King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 20th November, 2023 at 5.30 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Charvonja'.

Arthur Charvonja
Chief Executive



MSDC COUNCIL	
DATE:	MONDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2023 5.30 PM
VENUE:	KING EDMUND CHAMBER, ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH

This meeting will be broadcast live to YouTube and will be capable of repeated viewing. The entirety of the meeting will be filmed except for confidential or exempt items. If you attend the meeting in person you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed and that the images and sound recordings could be used for webcasting/ training purposes.

The Council, members of the public and the press may record/film/photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded.

**PART 1
MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT**

Page(s)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---------|--|
| 1 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | | |
| 2 | DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS | | |
| 3 | MC/23/25 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2023 | 7 - 18 | |
| 4 | MC/23/26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS | 19 - 20 | |
| 5 | LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS | | |
| 6 | TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES | | |

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, The Chief Executive will report the receipt of any petitions. There can be no debate or comment upon these matters at the Council meeting.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| 7 | QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES | | |
|---|---|--|--|

The Chairman of the Council to answer any questions from the public of which notice has been given no later than midday three clear working days before the day of the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

- 8 **QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**
- The Chairman of the Council, Chairs of Committees and Sub-Committees and Portfolio Holders to answer any questions on any matters in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affect the District of which due notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.
- 9 **MC/23/27 BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK JOINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2023-2026** 21 - 24
- Cabinet Member for Heritage, Planning and Infrastructure
- 10 **MC/23/28 BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK JOINT LOCAL PLAN FOR ADOPTION** 25 - 34
- Cabinet Member for Heritage, Planning and Infrastructure
- 11 **COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS**
- 12 **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

Date and Time of next meeting

Please note that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 25 January 2024 at 5.30 pm.

Webcasting/ Live Streaming

The Webcast of the meeting will be available to view on the Councils YouTube page:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSWf_0D13zmegAf5Qv_aZSg

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact the Committee Officer, Committee Services on: 01473 296472 or Email: Committees@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Introduction to Public Meetings

Babergh/Mid Suffolk District Councils are committed to Open Government. The proceedings of this meeting are open to the public, apart from any confidential or exempt items which may have to be considered in the absence of the press and public.

Domestic Arrangements:

- Toilets are situated opposite the meeting room.
- Cold water is also available outside opposite the room.
- Please switch off all mobile phones or turn them to silent.

Evacuating the building in an emergency: Information for Visitors:

If you hear the alarm:

1. Leave the building immediately via a Fire Exit and make your way to the Assembly Point (Ipswich Town Football Ground).
2. Follow the signs directing you to the Fire Exits at each end of the floor.
3. Do not enter the Atrium (Ground Floor area and walkways). If you are in the Atrium at the time of the Alarm, follow the signs to the nearest Fire Exit.
4. Use the stairs, not the lifts.
5. Do not re-enter the building until told it is safe to do so.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 3

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **MSDC COUNCIL** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Thursday, 26 October 2023

PRESENT:

Councillor: Rowland Warboys (Chair)
Dr Daniel Pratt (Vice-Chair)

Councillors:	Terence Carter	James Caston
	Austin Davies	Teresa Davis
	Rachel Eburne	Lucy Elkin
	Lavinia Hadingham	Nicholas Hadingham
	Matthew Hicks	Terry Lawrence
	Colin Lay	Anders Linder
	Sarah Mansel	Adrienne Marriott
	John Matthissen	Andrew Mellen
	Gilly Morgan	David Napier
	James Patchett	Janet Pearson
	David Penny	Miles Row
	Keith Scarff	Ollie Walters
	Tim Weller	John Whitehead
	Nicky Willshere	Richard Winch

In attendance:

Officers: Interim Director - Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer (IA)
Director - Planning and Building Control (TB)
Director - Operations (ME)
Director - Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer (ME)
Corporate Manager - Communication & Engagement (BJ)
Deputy Chief Executive (KN)
Corporate Manager Governance & Civic Office (JR)

Apologies:

David Bradbury
Jen Overett
Dr Ross Piper
Andrew Stringer

48 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

48.1 There were no declarations of interests by Councillors.

49 MC/23/17 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2023

It was RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2023 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

50 MC/23/18 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

50.1 The Chair referred Councillors to paper MC/23/18 for noting.

50.2 The Chair made the following statement:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the services, council office staff, volunteers, parish councils and district councillors who responded to the calamitous flooding last Friday. Special thanks to the farmers and tractor drivers particularly in Debenham who helped rescue stranded motorists and ferried children through flood water. Public Realm were prompt to respond collecting damaged carpets and other items and many positive comments have been received from grateful residents. Many families will need long-term support as their homes will take several months to dry out. Personal thanks to Peter, a farm worker in Thrandeston who came to my wife's rescue as she was marooned at the foot of Priory Road in Palgrave. Lessons need to be learned as these one in 100 years events appear to be happening more frequently and we have a duty to build resilience into our communities.

On Friday I am due to attend the launch of the poppy appeal in Stowmarket. In 1921 Earl Haig noticed French widows selling silk poppies to raise money for disabled ex-servicemen. The poppy was subsequently adopted as a symbol of remembrance for the first world war, the war to end wars. I am sure we are all too aware of the horrific events in the middle east. We have Jewish and Muslim families in our communities who will be grieving for loved ones and praying for missing relatives, praying perhaps for an end to this cycle of violence that appears to have no end. We must be vigilant against both antisemitism and islamophobia as grief may turn into anger and hatred as people become vulnerable to ruthless and unscrupulous agents. Neither must we forget that it now day 610 of the brutal and unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine and we must look to the on-going needs of Ukrainians in our communities who are also grieving and praying for their loved ones.

Finally, I would to thank Ifty Ali on behalf of the Council for all the help and support he has given the Council over the past year and wish him well in his retirement.

51 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

51.1 Councillor Mellen, Leader of the Council, made the following announcements:-

1. Storm Babet

Last weekend's floods were the worst Mid Suffolk has experienced for many years. It has been a deeply distressing time for many of our residents and businesses, who have seen property damaged and lives disrupted. A huge clean-up is now well under way, and I know we will all continue to do all we can to support residents, businesses and communities during this recovery period.

Additional council staff have been deployed in the worst affected areas to assist with the clean-up and to help find temporary accommodation for affected residents, in areas like Debenham, Stowmarket, and Needham Market.

Drying out properties and getting repairs done will take time, but we are committed to supporting residents and helping communities to recover. We welcome the government's announcement of recovery funding, and we will work with the County Council and other agencies to secure this and make sure it reaches those in need.

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who was there for our communities at the weekend:

- To our emergency services
- To our council staff who responded to the flooding.
- To councillors who were out in your communities over the weekend, doing outstanding work, identifying issues and taking action.
- To our town and parish councils, and the local volunteers who helped their neighbours, family and friends.
- To the farmers who helped ferry children through floodwater and rescue motorists.
- To the Debenham leisure centre staff who provided an overnight rest centre for those forced from their homes.
- To the teachers and school staff who ensured the safety of children.

There will be many more I've missed. Thank you all.

It was a difficult weekend, there is still a lot of work to do, but we should recognise this fantastic show of community spirit.

2. Corporate Plan Refresh

I would like to remind everyone that there is still time for people to have their say on the council's future direction and priorities. We have outlined the administration's draft priorities, but want feedback from the community – are these priorities right, what else could we do, what have we missed?

The survey is live until the 15th November, and details can be found on our website. I hope members will encourage people to take part. Posters and postcards have also been created which you can share in your communities.

3. Free net zero advice

We're pleased to have partnered with Groundwork East to deliver free, impartial, expert advice to help businesses and organisations save energy, reduce their emissions and establish tailored decarbonisation plans.

This new Net Zero Business Advice Service will provide free support to help businesses, the voluntary sector and other organisations understand their greenhouse gas emissions, set a plan to reduce these and access grant funding to implement carbon reduction actions.

More information about Net Zero Business Advice can be found on our website.

4. Safer Suffolk Renters

This new initiative aims to improve life for landlords and tenants in the private rented sector. We are joining forces with Suffolk's other district and borough councils to deliver this ground-breaking project.

'Safe Suffolk Renters' is designed to create a better understanding of the pressures and problems in the sector, and to improve standards - particularly in the worst private rented homes in the area. To achieve this, the project team will consult widely with tenants, landlords and stakeholders in the county.

A conference taking place at the University of Suffolk in Ipswich on 3rd November is free for any landlord to attend. Details are also available on our website. Similar conferences for tenants and stakeholders will follow.

5. Cosy Homes insulation project

Lastly, members will recall the amendment to the last budget, agreed unanimously, to set aside £2 million for insulation and other home energy saving measures. Officers have been working hard to design the scheme, and I am pleased to say that we will be launching this initiative, called "Cosy Homes" next month. My colleague Councillor Winch has been working with officers and will provide full details ahead of the launch.

- 51.2 Councillor Winch asked for clarification on the MPs criticism of Mid Suffolk Planning in relation to flooding caused by Storm Babet. Councillor Mellen responded that a peer review of the planning service had been carried out two years ago and it was determined that the service was well managed and had performed well against national indicators as set by the government, with government guidelines on flooding in cases of heavy rain only coming into effect in 2021.
- 51.3 Councillor Whitehead asked if there was any grant funding available for accreditation costs for exemplar schemes within the district. Councillor Mellen responded that he would ask officers to look into the Groundwork East Carbon Charter to see if the review period for accreditation could be lengthened to over three years.
- 51.4 Councillor Hicks thanked the Director for Operations and the Corporate Manager for Communications and Engagement for their fast response and asked whether residents could be signposted to Mid Suffolk District Council or Suffolk County Council to report their flooded properties in order to receive aid. Councillor Mellen responded that the funding for flood response in Suffolk relied on the number of reported properties and encouraged Councillors to make sure residents in their wards reported flooded properties.

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

52.1 None received.

53 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

53.1 None received.

54 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Question 1

Councillor Lucy Elkin to Councillor Rowland Warboys, Chair of the Council

In July, this Council unanimously approved the motion to write to the government in order to register our objection to the proposed Norwich-Tilbury pylon line and to call instead for an integrated offshore approach. A letter was subsequently sent to the then Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Rt Hon Grant Shapps, and then to his successor in the role, Rt Hon Claire Coutinho; with reference to this, can I ask the Chair if he has received a response?

Response from Councillor Warboys

A response had not yet been received.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Councillor Lucy Elkin to Councillor Rowland Warboys, Chair of the Council

As you have not received a response from the relevant government Minister can I ask what other steps we might be able to take as a council to ask the government and the National Grid to provide information on a strategic offshore solution which incorporates all the planned energy projects which would cost less and minimize the impact on local communities and the environment.

Response from Councillor Warboys

I am happy to write to our local MPs to see that the letter cannot just be answered but also acknowledged. My understanding is, where we are with regard to the pylons is that we are waiting for a study by the National Grid ESO. The progress on this was last reported in August 2023 to say that they were waiting on a government decision on funding for the continued development of offshore coordination between offshore wind farms and interconnectors to be made. Then the National Grid would independently assess the different ways electricity could be transported. Currently it was up to transmission owners to work through the exact specifications of required Network infrastructure and consult with communities and make decisions on what to build.

55 MC/23/19 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

- 55.1 The Chair invited Councillor Caston, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to introduce his report to Council.
- 55.2 Councillor Hardingham asked whether, at the September meeting, there had been consideration for the need of Anglia Water to reassess sewage systems in new developments. Councillor Caston responded that whilst he was not at the meeting there were discussions around these issues, and that as the planning authority it was the Council's job to ensure that the infrastructure was in place in new developments.
- 55.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee report was noted.

56 MC/23/20 SOLAR AND LOW CARBON ENERGY POSITION STATEMENT

- 56.1 The Chair invited Councillor Mellen to introduce the report.
- 56.2 Councillor Mellen proposed recommendation 3.1 as set out in the report, with an amendment to recommendation 3.2 to read that the Director for Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Chair of Planning Committee, be authorised to make any minor amendments as necessary. Councillor Weller seconded the Motion.
- 56.3 Councillor Hadingham questioned whether this would have made a difference to the previous solar farm planning applications that the Planning Committee had considered. Councillor Mellen responded that whilst this was a material consideration, it cannot set policy. However, the position statement set out what is expected for these developments from developers by the Council.
- 56.4 Councillor Lawrence asked why Members had not been told about the development of the statement ahead of the Planning Committee on solar farms. Councillor Mellen responded that the position statement had been in development for a while and was a compilation of existing information so would not have been useful in draft form when previous Planning Committees had taken place.
- 56.5 Councillor Mansel questioned if there was a timeline for the supplementary planning document. The Director for Planning and Building Control said he would respond to this outside of the meeting.
- 56.6 Councillor Whitehead referred to point 4.6 in the report and queried how the points contained in it would be prioritised. Councillor Mellen responded that working with communities was of great importance, and community solar initiatives would be welcomed.
- 56.7 Councillor Scarff asked whether, following the adoption of the position statement, the Council would lobby central government on solar developments and not putting solar farms on agricultural land. Councillor Mellen responded that the Council had lobbied on this issue and would continue to do so.

- 56.8 Councillor Penny asked whether there would be the opportunity under the position statement to provide a model of best practice for solar farms. Councillor Mellen responded that there would be scope for a developer to pilot best practice in the district.

This would include early consultation with the community and identifying the benefits to the community and responding to concerns on the impact on the landscape.

- 56.9 Councillor Morgan asked for assurance if there would be any control on the energy companies and not just greenlighting these schemes. Councillor Mellen responded that there were limits to the controls the Council had under the current planning guidance, however the position statement set out what the Council wanted to see from developers, however solar panels cannot be mandated to go on roofs.
- 56.10 Councillor Marriott asked if there was a position from the Council for the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). The Director for Planning and Building Control responded that the Council would be a consultee on NSIPs and would be able to state their position in response to these consultations.
- 56.11 Councillor Davies questioned whether there was an allocation from central Government on how many solar farms could be in each district. Councillor Mellen responded that there was not a set allocation, and as Suffolk was a sunnier part of the country it was more desirable for solar farms.
- 56.12 Councillor Matthissen stated that whilst the position statement would not have an impact on material consideration, it would help the public understand what the Council and Planning Committee does.
- 56.13 Councillor Mansel highlighted that the position statement contained what the Planning Committee had tried to condition when granting permission, and the position statement could encourage developers to implement these conditions from the beginning.
- 56.14 Councillor Caston outlined that whilst the position statement could not change the outcome for agreed solar farms, it does clarify expectations. He raised concern that the land quality of sites with solar farms could create thousands of tons of carbon by taking agricultural land out of use and requiring the importation of produce.
- 56.15 Councillor Hicks stated that the position statement carried little weight for material consideration for the Planning Committee and that the Council needed a more robust approach so that it is not seen as a target for solar farms.
- 56.16 Councillor Winch outlined that in the wider context, the government wanted to achieve 70gw of solar power by 2035, with currently 15gw currently being produced.

- 56.17 Councillor Penny raised concern that despite the size of solar farms they are capped at 49.9 megawatts, and that developments do not need to be as big as they are with the cap.
- 56.18 Councillor Row stated that the position statement seemed too late for the Council to take action and that the position statement does not clarify the extent of the crisis and the balance that would be needed in minimising the effects of climate change in the district.
- 56.19 Councillor Patchett highlighted that solar panels should be encouraged to be put on roofs of sites owned by the Council.
- 56.20 Councillor Mellen outlined that whilst there were limitations to the position statement, it was a stepping stone until a supplementary planning document was in place and would be useful to the Planning Committee when solar farm applications come forward.

By 29 votes for and 1 vote against.

It was RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Solar and Low Carbon Energy Position Statement set out at Appendix A be adopted and published on the Councils website.**
- 2. That the Director of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Chair of Planning Committee, be authorised to make any minor amendments as necessary.**

57 MC/23/21 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS 2022/23

- 57.1 The Chair invited the Interim Monitoring Officer to introduce the report.
- 57.2 Councillor Mansel proposed the recommendations as set out in the report. Councillor Linder seconded the motion.
- 57.3 Councillor Scarff proposed an amendment to recommendation 3.5 to read that the matter be brought back to full Council for a final decision and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to complete the CGR and any required Orders once all consultation submissions have been considered by the Community Governance working group and full Council. Councillor Pearson seconded the Motion. Councillor Mansel accepted the amendment.
- 57.4 Councillor Warboys asked for clarification on who the consultees would be. The Interim Monitoring Officer responded that the consultees were the town and parish councils that had already been consulted, residents of the area affected, and County Councillors, District Councillors, and MPs for the area. Additionally, businesses in the area who the Council had contact details for would be contacted.
- 57.5 Councillor Carter asked what the method of consultation would be. The Interim Monitoring Officer responded that the majority of the consultation would be through letters.

However, there would be a dedicated email inbox so that people could respond directly which would be advertised on the Council's website, and town and parish councils.

- 57.6 Councillor Walters queried whether there was a minimum response rate. The Interim Monitoring Officer responded that there was not a minimum number of responses required.
- 57.7 Councillor Walters asked whether alternative methods of publicity would be used as many residents would not engage with social media posts and flyers. The Interim Monitoring Officer responded that whilst social media posts would be used there would also be physical posters used across the affected wards.
- 57.8 Councillor Carter requested that information on the consultation should be available in high traffic areas such as leisure centres and doctor surgeries. The Interim Monitoring Officer responded that this would be considered.
- 57.9 Councillor Whitehead queried how the community governance review fed into the 2027 boundary review. The Interim Monitoring Officer responded that as part of the review, the Local Government Boundary Commission's consent would be sought to change the boundaries, if approved by full Council, so that they could be changed ahead of the 2027 review.
- 57.10 Councillor Row raised concern on the accessibility of the consultation, and that the amount of information provided may not be fully understood by residents.
- 57.11 Councillor Mansel praised the work of the Community Governance Working Group for the thorough job they had done. She added that whilst it was difficult to know how many people would respond to the consultation, it would be ensured that those who would be affected by the change would be reached. Additionally, town and parish councils were aware of the consultation and could do their own publicity for the consultation.

By 28 votes for, and 2 against.

It was RESOLVED:

- 1. The draft recommendations, as set out in Appendix A be approved for consultation.**
- 2. The issues and summary submissions to date are noted as set out in Appendix B.**
- 3. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to prepare the draft recommendations for consultation, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.**
- 4. The Community Governance Working Group be authorised to amend draft recommendations and re-consult where necessary.**
- 5. That the matter be brought back to full council for a final decision and that the monitoring officer be authorised to complete the CGR and any required Orders once all consultation submissions have been considered by the Community Governance working group and full Council.**

58 MC/23/22 CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 58.1 The Chair invited the Interim Monitoring Officer to introduce the report.
- 58.2 Councillor Eburne proposed the recommendations as set out in the report. Councillor Matthissen seconded the Motion.
- 58.3 Councillor Caston asked for clarification on the change of wording at paragraph 7.1 as set out in the recommendations. The Monitoring Officer responded that this was to add more inclusive language by changing 'his' and 'her' to read 'they'.
- 58.4 Councillor Mansel asked if the use of inclusive wording would extend to all Council documents in addition to the constitution. The Monitoring Officer responded that this was in progress.

By 26 votes for, 1 against, and 3 abstentions.

It was RESOLVED:

- 1. That Council approves the schedule of amendments to the Constitution at Appendix A and the inclusion of the reviews Contract Standing Orders at Appendix B.**
- 2. That the Monitoring Officer makes all consequential changes to the Constitution to give effect to the decision of the Council to amend the Constitution.**

59 MC/23/23 DRAFT TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2024/25

- 59.1 The Chair invited the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mellen, to introduce the report.
- 59.2 Councillor Mellen introduced and proposed the recommendations. Councillor Eburne seconded the Motion.
- 59.3 Councillor Mansel asked if a digital copy of the timetable could be available to Councillors. The Corporate Manager for Governance and Civic Office responded that there were currently issues with firewalls preventing this, however when the system is updated this would be looked into.

By a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED:

- 1. That the draft Committee Timetable for 2024/25, attached as Appendix A be approved.**
- 2. That the Chief Executive calls the meetings in accordance with the agreed Timetable unless there is insufficient business for the meeting to go ahead.**

60 MC/23/24 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER

- 60.1 The Chair invited the Interim Monitoring Officer to introduce the report.
- 60.2 Councillor Mellen proposed the recommendation as set out in the report. Councillor Eburne seconded the Motion.
- 60.3 Councillor Mansel questioned whether a full-time replacement was being sought. The Deputy Chief Executive responded that the advert for the position had closed, and interviews had been scheduled.
- 60.4 Councillor Morgan queried whether an interim Deputy Monitoring Officer had been appointed. The Deputy Chief Executive responded that the Corporate Manager – Internal Audit had been appointed as Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer.
- 60.5 Councillor Caston thanked the Interim Director for Law and Governance for his work over the past year and wished him the best for the future.

By a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED:

That Jan Robinson, Corporate Manager for Governance and Civic Office be appointed as the Council’s Interim Monitoring Officer from 31st October 2023.

61 COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS

- 61.1 Councillor Davis proposed the appointments as set out in the tabled papers. Councillor Mellen seconded the Motion.

By a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED:-

That Councillors Keith Scarff, Gilly Morgan, David Penny, Sarah Mansel, Miles Row and James Patchett be appointed to a Sustainable Integrated Transport Working Group.

62 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

- 62.1 None received.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 7.32 pm.

.....
Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 4

MC/23/26

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL - 20 NOVEMBER 2023

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENT	LOCATION	DATE	CHAIR	VICE CHAIR
OCTOBER 2023				
Stowmarket Poppy Appeal Launch 2023	United Reformed Church, Stowmarket	27-Oct	✓	
NOVEMBER 2023				
Rose Garden Remembrance Service, Abbey Gardens	Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds	11-Nov	✓	
Stowmarket Remembrance Parade and Service	The Regal and St Peter's and St Mary's Church, Stowmarket	12-Nov		✓
Mellis Remembrance Service	St Mary the Virgin Church, Mellis	12-Nov	✓	

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 9

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: MSDC Council BDC Council	REPORT NUMBER: MC/23/27
FROM: Cabinet Member For Heritage, Planning And Infrastructure (Mid Suffolk) Cabinet Member For Planning (Babergh)	DATE: 20 November 2023 - MSDC 21 November 2023 - BDC
OFFICER: Tom Barker, Director for Planning and Building Control	KEY DECISION REF NO. N/A

BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK JOINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2023-2026

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To approve the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Development Scheme (November 2023).
- 1.2 The Councils are legally required to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS), which is the local planning authority's work programme for the preparation of development plan documents.
- 1.3 Following the completion of the examination on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan, a review of the LDS is necessary to bring up-to-date the current timetable for the preparation of the Joint Local Plan Part 1 and Part 2 Development Plan Documents (DPD). The LDS sets out the stages and timescales for the preparation of these documents. It is also necessary to review the LDS to be able to adopt the Joint Local Plan Part 1.
- 1.4 In addition, the LDS revises the timetable for the preparation of revised Babergh and Mid Suffolk Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedules and nine supplementary planning documents (SPD). An additional SPD is introduced on Air Quality to provide further guidance and detail for assessing air quality impacts on sensitive environmental receptors.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 To adopt a revised LDS, which would enable the Councils to provide clarity on current anticipated timescales for the preparation of planning documents and is necessary to be able to adopt the Joint Local Plan Part 1.
- 2.2 To not adopt a revised LDS would mean that the Councils would be unable to adopt the Joint Local Plan Part 1. The Councils have a statutory duty to produce a Local Plan and to adopt one by December 2023.

<p>3. RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>3.1 That the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Development Scheme 2023-2026 (November 2023) (Appendix A) is agreed and brought into effect from 20th November 2023 in Mid Suffolk and 21st November 2023 in Babergh.</p>
<p>REASON FOR DECISION</p> <p>To bring the timetable for the adoption of the Joint Local Plan 1, the preparation of the Joint Local Plan Part 2, the review of the CIL Charging Schedules and the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents up-to-date.</p>

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 The existing LDS was published in October 2022. It is necessary to bring the LDS up-to-date to reflect the conclusion of the Joint Local Plan examination and to bring up-to-date the current timetable.
- 4.2 The draft LDS (Appendix A) details the progress made on the Joint Local Plan Part 1 to the conclusion of the examination and proposed adoption. The Joint Local Plan Part 1 sets out the vision and objectives for development in Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts and contains a set of strategic and local policies to guide development in the period to 2037.
- 4.3 The Joint Local Plan Part 2 follows the Part 1 document and evidence gathering is currently being undertaken. An initial Issues and Options stage is programmed for Spring 2024.
- 4.4 An additional SPD is introduced on Air Quality to provide further guidance and detail for assessing air quality impacts on sensitive environmental receptors. An updated programme for the other nine SPDs is also set out, together with the revisions to the CIL Charging Schedules for each District.

5. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

- 5.1 The LDS sets out the preparation for the Joint Local Plan documents, SPDs, CIL Charging Schedules and Neighbourhood Plans within the two Districts, which enable the Councils to fulfil their corporate priorities in terms of housing, the economy, the environment, communities and wellbeing.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is an annual budget to support costs associated with the preparation of the Joint Local Plan and the CIL Charging Schedules, together with associated Examination costs and legal expenses. The budget also supports the preparation of SPDs and supporting Neighbourhood Plans.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 In accordance with section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), the LDS must be revised at such times as the Local Planning Authority thinks appropriate or at the direction of the Secretary of State.

To bring the LDS into effect, the Local Planning Authority must resolve that the scheme to have effect, and in the resolution, specify the date from which the scheme is to have effect.

- 7.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) also requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare Local Plans. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) set out the procedures to be followed in the preparation of Local Plans.
- 7.3 Every Local Plan must be informed and accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal, which also incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to meet the statutory requirement that a Local Plan is subject to the process of environmental assessment as set out in the SEA Regulations 2004.
- 7.4 The Joint Local Plan is also subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- 7.5 SPDs are prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- 7.6 The CIL Charging Schedule is defined by section 211(1) of the Planning Act 2008. The preparation of a CIL Charging Schedule is undertaken in accordance with the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended).

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 Key risks are set out below:

Key Risk Description	Likelihood 1-4	Impact 1-4	Key Mitigation Measures	Risk Register and Reference
Legal requirement to have an up-to-date published LDS when adopting a Local Plan. The consequence of not having one would mean the Joint Local Plan Part 1 would not be able to be adopted.	2	4	Produce an updated Local Development Scheme on adoption.	Strategic Planning – 005

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 There are no statutory requirements for public consultation as part of the preparation of an LDS.

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required. This is undertaken for the Joint Local Plan.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Joint Local Plan is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment incorporating a Sustainability Appraisal document. An Appropriate Assessment also accompanies the Joint Local Plan as required by a Habitats Regulations Assessment to identify the impact of the Plan on Protected Habitats and appropriate mitigation.

11.2 SPDs identified cover a number of topics relating to the environment.

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(a) Draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Development Scheme 2023-2026 (November 2023).	Appendix A (Babergh) Appendix A (Mid Suffolk)

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

13.1 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Development Scheme (October 2022).

[Joint Local Development Scheme 2022-2025 \(Babergh\)](#)

[Joint Local Development Scheme 2022-2025 \(Mid Suffolk\)](#)

14. REPORT AUTHORS

Robert Hobbs, Corporate Manager – Strategic Planning

Agenda Item 10

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: MSDC Council BDC Council	REPORT NUMBER: MC/23/28
FROM: Cabinet Member For Heritage, Planning And Infrastructure (Mid Suffolk) Cabinet Member For Planning (Babergh)	DATE: 20 November 2023 - MSDC 21 November 2023 - BDC
OFFICER: Tom Barker, Director for Planning and Building Control	KEY DECISION REF NO. N/A

BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK JOINT LOCAL PLAN FOR ADOPTION

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To formally adopt Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Joint Local Plan Part 1 Development Plan Document (DPD), hereinafter referred to as the 'Joint Local Plan Part 1' and the 'Plan Part 1', to become part of Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Development Plan.
- 1.2 The Joint Local Plan was submitted to the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 31st March 2021 for independent examination. Planning Inspectors Malcolm Rivett BA(Hons) MSc MRTPI and Alison Partington BA(Hons) MA MRTPI were appointed by the Secretary of State to hold the independent examination, with hearing sessions taking place on 21st June, between 22nd September and 21st October 2021 and between 26th and 28th June 2023.
- 1.3 The Inspectors completed the examination by issuing a report dated 19th September 2023, which concluded that the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the Districts, provided that a number of Main Modifications (MMs) are made to it. The Councils specifically requested that the Inspectors recommend any MMs necessary to enable the Plan to be adopted.
- 1.4 The Plan sets out a planning framework to guide development and facilitate growth in Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts over the period to 2037. It provides a set of strategic and local development management policies, which will be used to inform decisions on planning applications and appeals.
- 1.5 In addition to the MMs are a number of Additional Modifications (AMs) that are necessary to correct typographical or minor factual errors and changes to the Plan's supporting text consequential to the MMs.
- 1.6 The Councils commissioned an independent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Joint Local Plan and an SA adoption statement is appended to this report.
- 1.7 Approval is sought to formally adopt the Plan Part 1 to become an up-to-date part of the Development Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk. Upon adoption, the majority of policies in existing Local Plan documents will be superseded, and consequentially a number of supplementary planning documents and supplementary guidance documents are revoked. These documents are detailed in paragraph 4.16.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Option 1 is to approve the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 DPD for adoption to become part of Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Development Plan. This will bring District-wide strategic and local development management policies up-to-date in accordance with national planning policy.
- 2.2 Option 2 is not approving the above. This is not recommended. The Councils have a statutory duty to produce a Local Plan and to adopt one by December 2023. Not adopting the Plan Part 1 would result in reliance on ageing District-wide policies, alongside more up-to-date Neighbourhood Plan and Minerals and Waste Local Plan policies. This would result in planning decisions continuing to be made in the absence of up-to-date Local Plan policies. Not adopting the Plan Part 1 would also mean that the Councils are unable to progress with the Plan Part 2.

3. RECOMMENDATION
3.1 That the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan DPD (November 2023) (Appendix A) be approved for adoption under Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
REASON FOR DECISION
To ensure the Councils have up-to-date Local Plan policies for Babergh and Mid Suffolk that are consistent with national policy.

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 In June and July 2016, Councillors approved the commencement of the preparation of a new Joint Local Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. The Councils' evidence base was updated, and an Options Document for consultation produced.
- 4.2 In July 2017 Councillors approved the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan: Options Document, which underwent a public consultation from 21st August to 10th November 2017. The document contained options for the development of policies within the Joint Local Plan, and details of sites that had been submitted to the Councils for consideration within the Joint Local Plan, which had been deemed potentially suitable for development.
- 4.3 In June 2019 Councillors approved the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan: Preferred Options Document, which underwent public consultation from 22nd July to 30th September 2019. The document contained preferred policies and sites deemed potentially suitable for development.
- 4.4 In November 2020 Councillors approved the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan: Pre-Submission (Regulation 19) Document for publication, which underwent consultation on the legal compliance and soundness of the Plan from 12th November to 24th December 2020. The Plan was submitted to the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 31st March 2021 for examination, supported by an extensive evidence base.

- 4.5 Examination hearing sessions took place on 21st June 2021 and between 22nd September and 21st October 2021. The Inspectors then held an exploratory meeting on 16th December 2021 to discuss matters as set out in their letter dated 9th December 2021 ([Core Document Library \(CDL\) document G09](#)), and to agree a way forward to progress with the examination. The Inspectors proposed to make the submitted Plan a Part 1 Plan to be followed in due course by a Part 2 Plan.
- 4.6 The Inspectors noted that the vast majority of the Plan area's housing requirement is already provided for by existing dwelling completions, sites under construction, sites with full or outline planning permission, sites with a resolution to grant planning permission subject to a Section 106 Agreement, allocations in made Neighbourhood Plans, and a reasonable allowance for windfall dwellings. Consequently, the Councils are in the unusual situation of demonstrating a supply of developable housing land for the vast majority of the Plan's overall housing requirement figure, for some years to come, and are unlikely to be dependent on the allocation of the housing sites included in the submitted Plan.
- 4.7 Therefore, to enable the Plan to be found sound, the Inspectors proposed deleting the current housing site allocations from the Plan and retaining the settlement boundaries shown on the current Policies Map. Whilst the settlement boundaries are likely to require review and updating in due course, the Inspectors were satisfied for the short-medium term that they would enable the Districts' development needs to be met whilst recognising the intrinsic character of the countryside in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 4.8 Other modifications to the Plan that were considered likely to be necessary in December 2021 included in respect of the policies for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and open space designations.
- 4.9 It was subsequently confirmed with the Inspectors to delete the policy on Moorings, Marinas and Houseboats, and to protect open spaces through a modified policy rather than by use of Policies Map designations.
- 4.10 In liaison with the Inspectors, the Councils prepared the resulting Modifications to the Plan, and these were subject to Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- 4.11 In March 2023 a consultation on Proposed Modifications took place from 16th March to 3rd May 2023. The Modifications and changes comprised:
- i. Main Modifications (MMs) which, at that stage, the Inspectors considered were necessary for the Plan to be sound.
 - ii. Additional Modifications (AMs) which were proposed by the Councils, and which do not materially alter the policies of the Plan. They are mostly the correction of typographical or minor factual errors and changes to the Plan's supporting text consequential to the Main Modifications.
 - iii. Changes to the submission Policies Map to ensure that, as the geographical expression of the Plan's policies, the Plan is sound.

- 4.12 Responses received during the consultation to the Main Modifications, Policies Map, Sustainability Appraisal, and Habitats Regulations Assessment were provided to the Inspectors, and then considered at the further examination hearing sessions, which took place between 26th and 28th June 2023.
- 4.13 The Inspectors issued their final examination report on 19th September 2023, which recommended Main Modifications to make the Plan sound and capable of adoption. They concluded that the duty to cooperate has been met and that with the recommended Main Modifications set out in the Appendix to their examination report, the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan satisfies the requirements referred to in Section 20(5)(a) of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and is sound.
- 4.14 The Main Modifications can be summarised as follows:
- Addressing the lack of robustness of the site allocation selection process and the spatial strategy by deleting the Plan’s spatial strategy and site allocations, thereby making the Plan a Part 1 Plan, to be supported in due course by a Part 2 Plan;
 - Combining the various policies which address affordable housing and altering the affordable housing requirement in respect of housing development on brownfield sites;
 - Providing for a more positively-prepared approach to the determination of applications for sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople;
 - Amending and clarifying the employment policies so that they provide an effective framework for dealing with such developments;
 - Adding a new policy on Intensive Livestock and Poultry Farming to provide an effective framework for dealing with such developments;
 - Amending and clarifying Policy LP01 on windfall housing development;
 - Deleting Policy LP30 – Designation of Open Spaces; and
 - A number of other modifications to ensure that the Plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.
- 4.15 The Councils have considered the responses from the Modifications consultation to the Additional Modifications and in light of the final Main Modifications recommended, it is necessary to make these Additional Modifications upon adoption of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1. These have been incorporated into the final Joint Local Plan Part 1 DPD (November 2023) (Appendix A).
- 4.16 There are a number of supplementary planning documents (SPD) and supplementary guidance documents, which are to be revoked in accordance with Regulation 15 (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) upon adoption of the Joint Local Plan, as the relevant development plan policy is superseded. These are detailed below:
- Babergh: Rural Development and Core Strategy Policy CS11 SPD (2014)
 - Babergh: Affordable Housing SPD (2014)

- Babergh: Hamilton Road Quarter, Sudbury SPD (2010)
- Babergh: Safeguarding Employment Land SPD (2008)
- Mid Suffolk: Eye Airfield Position Statement (2013)
- Mid Suffolk: Retention of Shops, Post Offices and Public Houses SPG (2004)
- Mid Suffolk: A Cycling Strategy for Mid Suffolk SPG (1999)

4.17 The Councils maintain a 'live' list of policies from the Development Plan, and this is kept updated on the Council websites. This includes made Neighbourhood Plan policies. A 'live' Policies Map will also be published upon adoption of the Joint Local Plan Part 1 showing all relevant saved, Joint Local Plan, and Neighbourhood Plan spatial policy features. In addition, settlement maps where settlement boundaries exist, will be appended to the Joint Local Plan Part 1.

4.18 Evidence gathering is underway for the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 2 Development Plan Document, and an updated timetable for the production of this Plan is set out in a revised Joint Local Development Scheme 2023-2026.

4.19 As detailed in the Inspectors' Report, the Part 2 Plan is likely to include the following matters:

- Settlement hierarchy;
- A spatial distribution for any housing allocations insofar as necessary to provide flexibility to ensure plan period housing requirements can be met;
- Housing requirement figures for Neighbourhood Plan areas;
- Settlement boundaries;
- Open space designations;
- An assessment of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople needs, and if necessary, allocations to provide for these needs;
- An assessment of Houseboat Dwellers' needs, and a relevant development management policy for houseboat dwellers, moorings and marinas;
- If demonstrated by monitoring to be necessary, mitigation to address the adverse air quality effects of traffic on the integrity of Protected Habitats Sites; and
- Any other matters which are appropriately addressed in the Part 2 Plan in light of the monitoring of the Part 1 Plan and the circumstances at the time.

5. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

5.1 The Joint Local Plan will contribute to the Councils meeting their corporate priorities in terms of housing, the economy, the environment, communities and wellbeing.

5.2 The Joint Local Plan reflects these themes by including them as objectives to be achieved (in part) through planning policies. In the particular, the Joint Local Plan will help Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils to achieve their priorities on:

- Housing: the Joint Local Plan identifies how many homes are needed, and supports the delivery of homes, including affordable housing provision.
- Economy: the Joint Local Plan seeks to encourage the development of employment sites and other business growth, of the right type, in the right place and encourage investment in infrastructure, skills and innovation in order to increase productivity.
- Environment: the Joint Local Plan sets out how the Councils will protect and enhance environmental assets for current and future generations. This includes achieving biodiversity net gains from new development, consideration of the effect of development on water supply, and contributions to addressing climate change. The Plan seeks to protect and enhance heritage assets and landscapes.
- Communities and Wellbeing: the Joint Local Plan supports strong and healthy communities by aiming to support and safeguard key services and facilities within the Districts. The Joint Local Plan provides the policy framework for the Community Infrastructure Levy and securing other infrastructure related contributions. These key services and facilities play an important role in the community, to enable all communities to thrive, grow, be healthy, active and self-sufficient through supporting the provision of necessary infrastructure, and encouraging more sustainable and active travel. A further objective is to continue to support communities to deliver plans and projects at the district and neighbourhood levels.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There is an annual budget to support the technical evidence (consultancy work) across both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, which totals £100,000 a year for each Council and is added to by any unspent funding from previous years. There is additional budget for any legal expenses necessary to support the preparation of the Joint Local Plan, the cost of appointing the Programme Officer, and Examination costs.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare Local Plans. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out the procedures to be followed in the preparation of Local Plans. The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 Development Plan Document (DPD) is being put forward for adoption under Regulation 26 of these Regulations.

7.2 Every Local Plan must be informed and accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal, which also incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to meet the statutory requirement that a Local Plan is subject to the process of environmental assessment as set out in the SEA Regulations 2004.

A Sustainability Appraisal has been published at every stage of the plan-making process and accompanies the Joint Local Plan Part 1.

- 7.3 The Joint Local Plan has been subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), at the different stages of the plan-making process and the final version was published in June 2023.
- 7.4 Under Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011, the Councils have a legal duty to cooperate with adjacent local planning authorities, statutory organisations and other relevant infrastructure providers. The Inspectors have concluded that the duty to cooperate has been met.
- 7.5 Planning law requires that where Development Plan policies are relevant to planning applications, decisions in determining these must be made in accordance with the adopted Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The legal planning decision framework therefore relies on Councils having an up-to-date Development Plan in place.
- 7.6 A number of supplementary planning documents (SPD) and supplementary guidance documents are to be revoked in accordance with Regulation 15 (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) upon adoption of the Joint Local Plan, as the relevant development plan policy is superseded. This is detailed in paragraph 4.16 of this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 Key risks are set out below:

Key Risk Description	Likelihood 1-4	Impact 1-4	Key Mitigation Measures	Risk Register and Reference
Not having up-to-date policies in the Development Plan resulting in unplanned / inappropriate development and not meeting identified objectively assessed needs.	2	3	Adopt the Joint Local Plan Part 1 to provide clear up-to-date policies and direction to all involved with development, to meet identified objectively assessed needs.	Strategic Planning – 002

Legal requirement to have an up-to-date published LDS when adopting a Local Plan. The consequence of not having one would mean the Joint Local Plan Part 1 would not be able to be adopted.	2	4	Produce an updated Local Development Scheme on adoption.	Strategic Planning – 005
Being unable to progress with the Joint Local Plan Part 2. The consequence being that a full Local Plan Review would be required, which would need to take account of the likely changes proposed through the Government's Planning Reforms.	2	3	Adopt the Joint Local Plan Part 1.	Strategic Planning – 033

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 A public consultation was undertaken on the Joint Local Plan: Consultation Document (August 2017) between 21st August and 10th November 2017.
- 9.2 A public consultation was undertaken on the Joint Local Plan Preferred Options document (July 2019) between 22nd July and 30th September 2019.
- 9.3 The Joint Local Plan Pre-Submission (Regulation 19) Document was subject to a six-week period where representations were invited on the legal compliance and soundness of the Plan between 12th November and 24th December 2020. Soundness is defined in paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework as being a) positively prepared, b) justified, c) effective and d) consistent with national policy.

- 9.4 A consultation statement was submitted to the Secretary of State along with the Draft Joint Local Plan and documentation for examination.
- 9.5 A consultation was undertaken on the Proposed Modifications to the Joint Local Plan between 16th March and 3rd May 2023.

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is required and is appended at Appendix H.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 As mentioned in paragraph 1.6 of this report, the Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Plan is carried out alongside the preparation of the Plan, and is appended at Appendix E.
- 11.2 An Appropriate Assessment has also been undertaken as required by a Habitats Regulations Assessment to identify the impact of the Plan on Protected Habitats and appropriate mitigation and is appended at Appendix F.

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(a) Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 Development Plan Document	Appendix A (Babergh) Appendix B (Mid Suffolk)
(b) Inspectors' Report	Appendix B (Babergh) Appendix B (Mid Suffolk)
(c) Policies Map	Appendix C
(d) Draft Adoption Statements	Appendix D (Babergh) Appendix D (Mid Suffolk)
(e) (i) Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (ii) Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 Strategic Environmental Assessment Adoption Statement	Appendix E(i) (Babergh) Appendix E(i) (Mid Suffolk) Appendix E (ii) (Babergh) Appendix E (ii) (Mid Suffolk)
(f) Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 Habitats Regulations Assessment including Appropriate Assessment	Appendix F (Babergh) Appendix F (Mid Suffolk)
(g) Schedule of Additional Modifications	Appendix G (Babergh) Appendix G (Mid Suffolk)

(h) Equality Impact Assessment	Appendix H (Babergh) Appendix H (Mid Suffolk)
--------------------------------	--

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

13.1 The [Joint Local Plan Core Document Library \(BDC\)](#) and [Joint Local Plan Core Document Library \(MSDC\)](#) contains the documentation supporting the Joint Local Plan at the submission stage and from the examination.

14. REPORT AUTHORS

Robert Hobbs, Corporate Manager – Strategic Planning