

## **BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the **BABERGH CABINET** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 4 December 2023

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors:	Sallie Davies	Alastair McCraw
	Deborah Saw	John Ward
	Helen Davies	

### **In attendance:**

Councillors:	Mary McLaren – Chair of Overview and Scrutiny
	Lee Parker
Guest(s):	Richard Gawthorpe – Director – Norse
	Daniel Fordham – Director - Norse
Officers:	Chief Executive (AC)
	Interim Monitoring Officer (JR)
	Director - Assets and Investments (EA)
	Director - Housing (DF)
	Head of Shared Revenues Partnership (AW)
	Corporate Manager - The Councils' Companies (HB)
	Corporate Manager - Strategic Policy (JH)
	Interim Corporate Manager, Finance, Commissioning & Procurement (KW)
	Performance and Business Planning Lead (AL)
	Assistant Manager – Governance (HH)

### **Apologies:**

David Busby (Chair)  
Jessie Carter  
Derek Davis  
Daniel Potter

### **52 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS**

There were no declarations made by Councillors.

### **53 BCA/23/26 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2023**

It was **RESOLVED:-**

**That with the following amendments the minutes of the meeting held on the 7 November 2023 be signed as a correct record:**

**Paragraph 49: that ‘tables’ be amended to ‘tablets’.**

### **54 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**

## **COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME**

None received.

## **55 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**

None received.

## **56 MATTERS REFERRED BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OR JOINT AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

There were no matters referred from the Overview and Scrutiny nor the Joint Audit and Standard Committees.

## **57 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST**

There were no comments made by Councillors.

## **58 BCA/23/27 FINANCIAL MONITORING QUARTER 2 2023/24**

58.1 The Chair and Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments, Councillor John Ward introduced the report and moved the recommendations as detailed in report BCa/23/27.

58.2 Councillor Alastair McCraw seconded the recommendations.

58.3 In response to Councillor McCraw's question relating to the information presented in the report for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets, Councillor Ward stated that the current financial position for both the General Fund and the HRA budgets were challenging for next year's budget setting. The Council had experienced a reduction in the grants funding, which were contributing to the issues.

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 projected overspend on the General Fund of £922k referred to in section 4.2 and Appendix A of the report be noted;**
- 1.2 That, subject to any further budget variations that arise during the rest of the financial year, the projected overspend on the Housing Revenue Account of £944k over budget referred to in section 4.3 and Appendix B of the report be noted;**
- 1.3 That, the Council's compliance with the Prudential Indicators during quarter two referred to in section 4.4 and Appendix C of the report be noted.**

## **REASON FOR DECISION**

To ensure that Members are kept informed of the financial position for both General Fund Revenue and Capital, Housing Revenue Account and Capital and the Prudential Indicators.

### **59 BCA/23/28 UPDATE ON THE REGULATOR OF SOCIAL HOUSING REFERRAL AND OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE POSITION**

- 59.1 The Chair, Councillor John Ward, introduced the report on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Jessie Carter, who had forwarded apologies to the meeting.
- 59.2 Councillor Ward moved the recommendations, as set out in report BCa/23/28.
- 59.3 Councillor Sallie Davies seconded the recommendations.
- 59.4 Members were advised that the table in paragraph 16 was compliant on the 10th of November 2023, however due to technical issues with the software the figures could not be updated, until this was resolved.
- 59.5 Councillor McCraw asked for a broad summary of the areas of improvement since the last Cabinet meeting. The Director for Housing advised Members that generally the broad direction was positive, and once the housing IT system issues were resolved, updated figures would be forwarded to Members and included in the minutes.
- 59.6 Councillor Sallie Davies referred to the statistics for the dwellings containing mould and damp and asked for an update. The Director for Housing responded that a quarterly survey was being undertaken, which allowed for additional questions to be asked and this had predominantly encouraged residents, who had not reported damp and mould before, to report it now. Increased contractor resources had been implemented to resolve the issues arising.
- 59.7 In response to further question from Members, the Director for Housing advised that two contractors were currently working for the Council, and further contracts were out for sourcing now. In addition, new updated contracts would be put in place in April, which would include new terms for the contractors to ensure that work was delivery on time.
- 59.8 In response to questions from other Members attending the meeting, the Director for Housing clarified that the Leader of the Council received a monthly update for the housing compliance figures and that the Portfolio Holders received an update every two weeks.

By a unanimous vote

**It was RESOLVED: -**

**That Members noted the report.**

## **REASON FOR DECISION**

To ensure that members and senior leaders of the councils have oversight of the journey with the Regulator back to a position where we are compliant.

### **60 BCA/23/29 BDC Q2 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

- 60.1 The Chair, Councillor John Ward invited the Cabinet Member for Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvement to present his report.
- 60.2 Councillor Alastair McCraw introduced paper BCa/23/29 and then invited each Portfolio Holder present to summarise their respective area of the Performance Report.
- 60.3 In addition to the information included in the Q2 Performance Report, Councillor Sallie Davies updated Members on Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 grants. Eight community projects had been awarded a total of £205,800 up to September 2023, £3k had been awarded from Section 106 grants and £4,300 had been allocated from the Councillors' Locality Awards Grants. The funding was allocated to the benefit of communities and residents.
- 60.4 Councillor Sallie Davies referred page 69 and the number of houses built in the District, and asked where these houses came from. The Corporate Manager – Councils' Companies, responded that these were purchased from developers under Section 106 grants arrangements.
- 60.5 Councillor Deborah Saw asked that further information was provided for the anti-social behaviour cases to identify which areas of prevention the Council should focus on. This information would be provided to Members outside of the meeting.
- 60.6 In response to questions from other Members attending the meeting, further information would be provided outside of the meeting on the number of days staff had taken off as sickness. This was to be split between sickness and long-term sickness and not as the usual full time equivalent (FTE) but in actual days.
- 60.7 Councillor Ward stated that clarity was key and that the current funding scheme for all neighbourhood was only available until March 2024, but will probably be extended as it was for this year.

**The BDC Q2 Performance Report was noted.**

### **61 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)**

**By a unanimous vote**

**It was RESOLVED:**

**That pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified below on the grounds that if the public were present during this item, it is likely that there would be the disclosure to them of exempt information.**

**62 BCA/23/30 BABERGH GROWTH PROJECT UPDATE**

**This item is exempt from call-in on Grounds of Urgency, as agreed with the Chair of the Council.**

Grounds of Urgency are:

The construction contract for the Former HQ site in Hadleigh has been renegotiated and needs to be completed urgently to mitigate costs.

**It was RESOLVED: -**

**That the recommendations as outlined in the report be approved.**

**REASON FOR DECISION**

To enable and support the delivery of housing within the district and support the economic and social prosperity of Hadleigh as a key market town.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 4:06 pm

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Chair & Date