

Tuesday, 9 January 2024



MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

**DECISIONS BY THE MID SUFFOLK CABINET
CALL IN DEADLINE 5:00PM ON 17 JANUARY 2024**

The following decisions have been taken by the Cabinet and will come into effect on 18 January 2024 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/23/36 MID SUFFOLK PLAN

It was **RESOLVED**: -

That Cabinet considered the feedback from engagement and endorsed the final Mid Suffolk Plan setting out the vision and strategic priorities for Mid Suffolk District Council for 2023-2031, as set out in Appendix A.

REASON FOR DECISION

To enable adoption of the Mid Suffolk Plan by Council on 25th January 2024.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- 1.1.1 No plan: This was not pursued as there are new challenges for our districts that the Council needs to respond to within its refreshed plan.
- 1.1.2 Plan adopted with no amendments from draft version: This option was not chosen as valuable feedback and insight was provided by stakeholders during the engagement that we wish to reflect in the final plan.
- 1.1.3 Joint Plan with Babergh: It is important for our communities to see how we are reacting to the challenges facing our district. Whilst there are commonalities with Babergh and their published priorities, we first want to ensure we have a representation of the challenge and opportunities facing Mid Suffolk.
- 1.1.4 Respond to feedback from the engagement and amend plan to reflect, to ensure the

priorities identified consider the valuable insight shared during this engagement.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/23/37 EMPTY HOMES AND SECOND HOMES POLICY

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That Cabinet approved the empty homes and second homes premiums policy for 2024-25 attached in appendix A**
- 1.2 That Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Property to make technical amendments to the policy to ensure it meets the criteria set by Government and the Council**

REASON FOR DECISION

To maximise revenue, but more importantly to incentivise owners to bring empty and under-utilised properties back into use.

To ensure the policy is kept in line with Government regulations.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Do nothing, leave existing premiums in place for long term empty properties namely that they would be applied after the two-year period at 50%. Do not introduce a premium for second homes.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/23/38 GREENHOUSE GAS REPORT 2022-23

It was RESOLVED: -

That the contents of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2022-23 at Appendix A to the report be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION

Since 2011, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has required local authorities to measure and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from their estate and operations. Each Local Authority has been requested to publish their Greenhouse Gas reports locally online each year.

The Council is therefore required to note this report prior to publication on the Councils website.

Over 4 years ago the Council declared a climate emergency and produced their first Carbon

Reduction Management Plan a refresh of this Plan is also nearing completion.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Do nothing.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/23/39 FEES AND CHARGES 2024/25

It was **RESOLVED:**

That, the proposed Fees and Charges for 2024/25 as shown in Appendix A, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION

To ensure that the Council achieves sufficient income and thereby reduces the subsidy on non-essential services which may compromise the Councils ability to fund statutory services.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- a) To review and approve the proposed changes to the fees and charges for the forthcoming financial year (recommended) or,
- b) To make no change, leave them at the current year's level.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/23/40 STOWMARKET HEALTH, EDUCATION AND LEISURE FACILITIES (SHELF)

It was **RESOLVED: -**

- 1.1 That Cabinet endorsed the Full Business Case (FBC) for Work Package 1 in respect of the Stowmarket, Health, Education and Leisure Facilities as attached as Appendix A (confidential).**
- 1.2 That Cabinet approved the full delivery of this element of the project as outlined in the FBC which will include pitch and land-based elements of the overall masterplan.**
- 1.3 That Cabinet approved the recommended funding strategy detailed in Appendix B (confidential) as the Cabinet's preferred method of delivering the project, SUBJECT TO the securing of all internal and external funding outlined in the recommended funding strategy.**
- 1.4 That Cabinet delegated its authority for completion of all necessary matters and**

agreements pursuant to the approval of recommendation 3.3, including any land legals and transactions required to facilitate Work Package 1, to the Council's Director for Economic Growth and Climate Change and Section 151 Officer/Director for Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment Culture and Wellbeing.

- 1.5 That Cabinet noted work carried out to date on a sustainable management model for the wider Stowmarket, Health, Education and Leisure Facilities (as outlined in Appendix A – Business Case confidential) but agree that a further recommendation on the preferred model will be brought back to Cabinet for consideration early in 2024.

REASON FOR DECISION

To maximise the opportunities available to the Council to lead the delivery of a new project which supports multiple health, sports, and wellbeing outcomes.

To meet the goals set out in the Council's Sport and Leisure Strategy (refreshed in 2021) and Wellbeing Strategy whilst meeting the priorities in the emerging Corporate Plan for Mid Suffolk.

To support and grow new and existing partnerships on the site and in the local areas, between local clubs, health and wellbeing providers, leisure operators and the local education sector to help improve local health determinants which are consistently below regional and national averages.

To ensure locally provided facilities are fit for purpose and meet the needs of a growing population in Stowmarket and wider Mid Suffolk.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- 2.1 DO-NOTHING. Not Recommended. A 'do-nothing' approach will fail to deliver improved facilities for Stowmarket to meet current and future identified community needs. Without investment and partnership interventions the decline in provision and facilities will continue.
- 2.2 CONTINUE TO WORK WITH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A FULLY VIABLE SCHEME WHICH INCLUDES ALL WORK PACKAGES TO BE DELIVERED IN A SINGLE PHASE. Due to the different funding milestones attached to various elements of the project (as outlined in the business case) and due to the need to replace the existing sports infrastructure on the site as soon as possible, as they have reached the end of their economic life, it is recommended that the scheme is delivered in specific work packages.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None