



# AGENDA

## COUNCIL MEETING

**TUESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 2024 – 5.30 PM**

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Members of the Council are summoned to a meeting of the Babergh District Council at King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Tuesday, 20th February, 2024 at 5.30 pm.

For those wishing to attend, there will be time for reflections 5 minutes prior to the commencement of the Council meeting.

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

Arthur Charvonja  
Chief Executive

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<b>BABERGH COUNCIL</b>	
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024 5.30 PM</b>
<b>VENUE:</b>	<b>KING EDMUND CHAMBER, ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH</b>

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 to the possible use of the images and sound recordings 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**

To receive apologies for absence.

**2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS**

**3 BC/23/35 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2024** 7 - 16

**4 BC/23/36 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND LEADER**

In addition to any announcements made at the meeting, please see Paper BC/23/36 attached, detailing events attended by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

**5 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

The Chair of the Council to answer any questions by 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 No. 12.

6 **QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

The Chair of the Council, the 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 No. 13.

7 **BC/23/37 EMPTY HOMES AND SECOND HOMES POLICY** 17 - 36

Cabinet Member for Housing

8 **BC/23/38 GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2024-2025 AND FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK** 37 - 78

Cabinet Member for Finance

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.3, immediately after any vote is taken at a budget decision meeting of the Council the names of Councillors who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting shall be recorded in the Minutes of that meeting.

At its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Cabinet considered Paper BCa/23/39, the General Fund Budget for 2024/25 and four-year outlook. Paper BC/23/38 now includes all the relevant updated information plus the tax base, precepts and council tax band information at parish level, together with the necessary recommendations.

9 **BC/23/39 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 2024/25 BUDGET** 79 - 92

Cabinet Member for Finance

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.3, immediately after any vote is taken at a budget decision meeting of the Council the names of Councillors who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting shall be recorded in the Minutes of that meeting.

At its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Cabinet considered Paper BCa/23/40, the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2024/25. Paper BC/23/39 includes all relevant updated information and includes the necessary recommendations.

- 10 **BC/23/40 JOINT CAPITAL, INVESTMENT AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES 2024-2025** 93 - 168

Co-Chair of Joint Audit and Standards Committee

At its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Joint Audit and Standards Committee considered Paper JAC/23/19, the Joint Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies. Paper BC/23/40 now includes all the relevant updated information, together with the necessary recommendations.

- 11 **TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 11, the Chief Executive will report the receipt of any petitions.

- 11a **PETITION FOR DEBATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME**

To report and debate the following Petition, containing at least 1000 valid signatures, in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme:

**COUNCIL CAR PARK CHARGES**

**We the undersigned petition the Council to NOT TO CHANGE the current free parking arrangements provided in council run car parks in Sudbury, Hadleigh and Lavenham.**

The introduction of extra car parking charges would further reduce the number of customers, employees and viability of retail businesses in the above town centres. Consequently business rate income will reduce as will retail choice offered resulting in less footfall. No economic assessment has been carried out in a rural area where car usage is essential as no reliable public service transport network is available. Only 14% of households do not have a car and many of those will be town dwellers.

- 12 **COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS**

- 13 **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

### **Date and Time of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 19 March 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](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](mailto: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.