

**MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of the **MID SUFFOLK SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** meeting held at Mid Suffolk District Council, Needham Market, on Thursday 1 September 2016 at 5:30pm.

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Rachel Eburne – Chair –Green Group  
Councillor Derek Osborne – Vice-Chair – Conservative and Independent Group

**Conservative and Independent Group**

Councillors: James Caston  
Lavinia Hadingham  
Derrick Haley \*  
Kevin Welsby

**Liberal Democrat Group**

Councillors: Wendy Marchant

Denotes substitute \*

**Also present:**

Councillors: Gerard Brewster (Economy and Stowmarket Regeneration Portfolio)

**In attendance:** Assistant Director (Communities)  
Project and Research Officer (BS)  
Governance Support Officer (VL)

**SY08 APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTIONS**

Councillor Derrick Haley was substituting for Councillor Lesley Mayes. An apology for absence was received from Councillor Elizabeth Gibson-Harries.

**SY09 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS**

Councillor Derrick Haley declared a non-pecuniary interest as the ex-Leader of Council, ex-Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, ex-Chairman of Executive Committee and Member of the Museum of East Anglian Life (MEAL) Funding Group.

**SY10 PETITIONS**

None received

**SY11 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None received.

**SY12 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

None received.

## **SY13 MUSEUM OF EAST ANGLIAN LIFE – UPDATE ON REVIEW OIF IMPACT**

**Report Y/03/16**

**Assistant Director (Communities)  
Project and Research Officer (BB)**

The report detailed the outcomes of the review of the social, economic and environmental impact of the Museum of East Anglian Life (MEAL) that was carried out by the Task and Finish Group on behalf of Mid Suffolk Scrutiny Committee (Appendix 1).

Mid Suffolk Scrutiny Committee was asked to make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding the impact of MEAL and the Council's future support for the organisation.

Members questioned the Assistant Director (Communities) regarding the impact research undertaken by Change Consultancy and commented:

- The assessment had highlighted the benefits of MEAL to Stowmarket and the wider area
- It was hoped that MEAL would take the recommendations within the report on board
- The type of methodology used was good
- The report seemed to be padded out with repetition of information
- A cost benefit analysis was the correct process for future funding assessments
- Projects should not be funded without knowing the gains
- It would be useful for additional members of staff to have knowledge of the methodology used and to understand how to make a judgement call following analysis of the statistics
- It might be beneficial for Officers to do the 'leg work' and then to employ independent consultant to make the judgements, particularly for major funding

By a unanimous vote

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

That:

- 1) Wide use of impact methodology across the Council's functions be explored
- 2) Expert support be commissioned to enable Officers to learn and apply the methodology
- 3) Meal be encouraged to take up the recommendations within the report and strengthen its data collection
- 4) The Council look flexibly at the future funding arrangements and opportunities for MEAL in the light of the significant return on public investment achieved by the organisation

## **SY14 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

By a unanimous vote

### ***RESOLUTION***

That under section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act in the paragraphs registered against the item:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Schedule 12a Reason</i>
SY15	3

## **SY15 APPENDIX 2 TO PAPER Y/03/16 MUSEUM OF EAST ANGLIAN LIFE (MEAL) FINANCIAL UPDATE**

### **Report X/31/15**

Following clarification of various points by the Assistant Director (Communities), Members noted the information within the report.