

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BABERGH CABINET HELD IN KING EDMUND CHAMBER - ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH ON MONDAY, 11 JUNE 2018 AT 9:30AM

PRESENT: John Ward – Chair
Jan Osborne – Vice Chair

Margaret Maybury	Kathryn Grandon
Peter Patrick	Nick Ridley
Derek Davis	Frank Lawrenson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Simon Barrett
Councillor Peter Beer
Councillor Alan Ferguson
Councillor John Hinton
Councillor Alastair McCraw

Chief Executive (AC)
Corporate Business Improvement Manager (KC)
Assistant Director – Housing (GF)
Economic Development Officer (AMc)
Corporate Business Co-ordinator (SM – notes)
Strategic Director (KN)
Corporate Manager – BMBS (JWN)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Campbell.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Osborne declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 10, report BCa/18/05, Sudbury Vision for Prosperity, as a member of Sudbury Town Council.

3 BCA/18/01 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2018 were declared as a correct record.

4 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME

None received.

5 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

None received.

6 MATTERS REFERRED BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OR JOINT AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES

There were no matters arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Joint Audit and Standards Committee.

7 BCA/18/02 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

The Forthcoming Decisions list was noted and the following comments were made:

- Reference number CNL09, whether this could be postponed to a later date as the Cabinet Member would not be able to attend. It was agreed this would be checked but may have to be picked up without the relevant Cabinet Member being present.

8 BCA/18/03 - BABERGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION - 5 YEAR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY

8.1 Councillor Ridley, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning introduced report BCa/18/03 and moved the recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor Patrick.

8.2 With reference to the annual assessment the Corporate Manager for Strategic Planning explained documentation needed to be submitted once a year. The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning wished to see these moved to half yearly as the more up to date the Council was the better in terms of Judicial Reviews. Having up to date information every 6 months would also go some way in allaying residents' fears.

8.3 Cabinet noted the Secretary of State had been lobbied in the past on this issue and this was still being pursued. The numbers on pages 27 and 28 of the report were queried. The Corporate Manager explained these had been taken from the annual monitoring report and was the core strategy target.

8.4 Cabinet wished to endorse the report and felt it was useful to see the figures laid out in this way. Parishes were to be encouraged in the importance of having developments in the right areas for their wards.

By a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the 5 Year Housing Land Supply be formally published on an annual basis unless it can be demonstrated robustly that the requirements have been met earlier.
- (2) That planning permissions and commencements be reviewed half yearly

and if there is significant variation from expectations that a report be provided to the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the Autumn.

- (3) That the subjective and objective variables that contribute to the Five Year Housing Land Supply calculation be monitored periodically throughout the year.
- (4) That the annual Five year Housing Land Supply assessment be published in June and that a brief "Information Bulletin" be presented to the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2018.
- (5) That report BOS/17/36 be circulated to all Members.

Reason for Decision: To provide the Council with more detailed information relating to the five year Housing Land Supply on a more regular basis.

9 BCA/18/04 - END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE OUTCOME REPORTING

- 9.1 Councillor Davis, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Organisational Delivery introduced report BCa/18/04 and moved the recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor Lawrenson.
- 9.2 The number of staff leavers and the current vacancy rate was queried. Councillor Davis, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Organisational Delivery, explained he would circulate definitive figures, however, he pointed out both Corporate Managers and Assistant Directors were currently looking at better utilising the resources they had. However, members did wish to see further clarity on this issue especially as the public could view the document and the last update had been within October 2017.
- 9.3 It was noted the number of planning approvals had increased from 940 to 1844 which was a considerable increase, as was the number of new homes completed this year. Members were very pleased with the progress made.
- 9.4 Cabinet were happy to see new measures being put in place around Governance particularly in terms of the time it took to publish minutes which would now be tracked.
- 9.5 Councillor Davis gave thanks to the Corporate Manager for Business Improvement and her team for producing a very thorough report.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the performance report and the performance outcome information tabled at Appendices A to E be agreed as adequately reflecting Babergh District Council's performance for April 2017 to March 2018.

Reason for Decision: to provide assurance that the Council is meeting its performance objectives.

10 BCA/18/05 - SUDBURY VISION FOR PROSPERITY

- 10.1 Councillor Ward, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economy introduced report BCa/18/05 and moved the recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor Lawrenson.
- 10.2 Members were pleased to see timelines had been included which helped give a sense of purpose and gave confidence in delivery. It was also good to see partnership working with the Town Council. It was very important to provide evidence in order to demonstrate what would be achieved. It was thought an additional chart could be added within the appendix to capture more detailed timelines where they were known for individual proposals.
- 10.3 Some members had concerns as to whether enough emphasis and strength had been placed and remained unconvinced it would be delivered. It was imperative car parking facilities were provided.
- 10.4 Cabinet were committed to providing car parking and a car parking strategy would be produced at the end of the year. The public would be engaged in this process and evidence would be provided both for and against car parking charges. Members recognised at present there was not sufficient parking.
- 10.5 It was questioned as to whether the introduction of the report was out of kilter with the rest of the document as it spoke about Sudbury being in the 10% of the most deprived places in the country. However, it also spoke about Sudbury being in one of the top quartiles as a location to live. If this statistic was relevant, then further commentary should be included as well as future job creation.
- 10.6 The Economic Development Officer explained it was “deprived” as it was within a rural area without town/city facilities, not because of crime. He would provide additional information.
- 10.7 The majority of people within Sudbury could see having a by-pass would be a good thing. This would be the biggest challenge if this was not achieved. Members would keep pushing.
- 10.8 Members wished to convey their thanks to the Economic Development Officer and his team for all of their hard work and long hours spent on the project.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED:-

- (1) To endorse the draft Sudbury VfP Action Plan and background paper for publication.
- (2) To delegate authority to the Strategic Director (with responsibility for Sudbury), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Economy to make minor updates/amendments prior to formal publication.

Reason for Decision: The publication of the documentation will bring the first phase of VfP to a close by responding to the issues raised, and by setting out the action plan that will bring the community together and deliver positive changes in the Sudbury area, and pave the way for further VfP projects and interventions.

11 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 should be excluded from the meeting for the business specified below on the grounds that if the public were present during these items, it was likely there would be the disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated against each item. The authors of the reports proposed to be considered in Part II of the agenda were satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

12 BCA/18/06 - BMBS REVIEW OF YEAR TO DATE

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED:-

(1) That the recommendations set out in report BCa/18/06 be approved subject to an amendment.

Reason for Decision: To ensure that BMBS can focus on achieving the ambitious targets set out in the revised Business Case.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11:45am

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Chair (date)