

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK CABINET** held as a Virtual Teams Meeting on Monday, 4 January 2021 at 2:30pm.

PRESENT:

Councillor: Suzie Morley (Chair)
Gerard Brewster (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: David Burn
Jessica Fleming
Lavinia Hadingham
John Whitehead
Julie Flatman
Peter Gould
Harry Richardson

In attendance:

Councillor(s): John Field
Keith Welham

Officers: Chief Executive (AC)
Strategic Director (KN)
Monitoring Officer (EY)
Assistant Director – Corporate Resources (KS)
Assistant Director – Housing (GF)
Assistant Director – Economic Growth and Regeneration (FD)
Corporate Manager – Housing Solutions (HT)
Governance Officer (CP)

37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

38 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

There were no declarations of interest declared.

39 MCA/20/17 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 07 DECEMBER 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 07 December 2020 were confirmed as a correct record. The minutes would be signed at the next practicable opportunity.

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

None received.

41 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

There were no questions from Councillors.

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

There were no matters referred.

43 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

The Forthcoming Decisions List was noted.

44 MCA/20/18 INTER AUTHORITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL AND MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

44.1 The Leader of the Council introduced report number MCA/20/19 and moved the recommendations contained within the report.

44.2 The recommendations were seconded by Councillor Brewster.

44.3 The Chief Executive provided a summary of the changes proposed in the report and advised that the agreement would be subject to an annual review.

44.4 In response to a query from Councillor Whitehead, the Chief Executive advised that the agreement would come into effect once both authorities had agreed to the recommendations.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED:

That the revised Inter Authority Agreement be approved and that the Leader be authorised to sign the agreement on behalf of the Council.

Reason for Decision: To ensure that appropriate and accurate governance is in place to facilitate the ongoing joint working between Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council.

45 MCA/20/21 FEES AND CHARGES 2021/22

45.1 The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report, which set out the Fees and Charges for the forthcoming year. Councillor Whitehead moved the recommendations.

45.2 The recommendations in the report were seconded by Councillor Hadingham.

45.3 The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Assistant Director for Corporate Resources responded to questions from Councillor Field on issues including the proposed increases and whether the cost recovery basis was being met.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED:

That the proposed Fees and Charges for 2021/22 as shown in Appendix A of the report were approved by Cabinet.

Reason for Decision: To ensure that the Council achieves sufficient income and thereby reduces subsidy on non-essential services which may compromise the Council's ability to fund statutory services.

46 MCA/20/22 TRANSFER OF THE COUNCILS VEHICLE FLEET TO HYDROTREATED VEGETABLE OIL (HVO) DIESEL

46.1 The Cabinet Member for Environment introduced the report which was for noting only.

46.2 Councillor Fleming responded to questions from Councillor Field on the use of palm oil.

46.3 The report was noted.

47 MCA/20/19 DRAFT GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2021/22 AND FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK

47.1 The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced report number MCA/20/19 Draft General Fund Budget 2021/22 and Four-Year Outlook.

47.2 Councillor Whitehead moved the recommendations in the report. This was seconded by Councillor Gould.

47.3 In response to a question from Councillor Fleming regarding business rates, the Assistant Director for Corporate Resources provided clarification of the figures included in the budget.

47.4 Following a query from Councillor Field the Assistant Director for Corporate Resources provided an indication of the percentage of businesses within the district in the hospitality sector.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED:

1.1 That the draft General Fund Budget proposals for 2021/22 and four-year outlook set out in the report be endorsed for recommendation to Council on 23 February 2021, subject to further consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 4 February 2021 following consideration at Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 January 2021.

1.2 That the draft General Fund Budget for 2021/22 is based on an increase

to Council Tax of 1.66% which equates to £2.80 per annum (23p per month) for a Band D property.

Reason for Decision: To bring together all the relevant information to enable Cabinet Members to review, consider and comment upon the Councils General Fund budget before the February Cabinet and recommendations to Council.

48 MCA/20/20 DRAFT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET 2021/22 AND FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK

48.1 The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report and provided Members with details of the recommendations contained in the report.

48.2 Councillor Whitehead moved the recommendations. Councillor Hadingham, the Cabinet Member for Housing, seconded the recommendations.

48.3 The Assistant Director for Housing responded to queries from Councillor Field and Councillor Welham regarding issues including: housing rental income and service charges for sheltered accommodation schemes.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED:

1.1 That the draft HRA Budget proposals for 2021/22 and four-year outlook set out in the report be endorsed for recommendation to Council on 18 February 2021, subject to further consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 8 February 2021.

1.2 That the CPI + 1% increase of 1.5% in Council House rents, equivalent to an average rent increase of £1.25 a week be implemented.

1.3 That garage rents are kept at the same level as 2020/21.

1.4 That Sheltered Housing Service charges be increased by £1 per week to ensure recovery of the actual cost of service.

1.5 That Sheltered Housing utility charges are kept at the same level as 2020/21.

1.6 That the budgeted surplus of £116k be transferred to the Strategic Priorities reserve in 2021/22.

1.7 That in principle, Right to Buy (RTB) receipts should be retained to enable continued development and acquisition of new council dwellings.

1.3 Reason for Decision: To bring together all the relevant information to enable Cabinet Members to review, consider and comment upon the Councils

Housing Revenue Account budget before the February Cabinet and recommendations to Council.

49 MCA/20/23 JOHN PEEL CENTRE EXPANSION

- 49.1 The Cabinet Member for Economic Growth introduced the report and provided Members with details of the proposed plans for the John Peel Centre.
- 49.2 Councillor Brewster moved the recommendations contained in the report and proposed that recommendation 3.3 of the report be amended to include the Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments.
- 49.3 The recommendations, including the proposed amendment to recommendation 3.3 were seconded by Councillor Flatman.
- 49.4 Cabinet Members expressed their support for the proposed expansion scheme.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED:

- 1.1 That the key recommendations of the consultant report were noted by Cabinet.**
- 1.2 That Cabinet approved the grant of a lease on 11 Market Place to JPC which will be conditional on:**
- the JPC providing a formal business plan acceptable to Mid Suffolk District Council,**
 - the provision of an acceptable funding strategy for the refurbishment of the building in 2 phases,**
 - making the necessary governance improvements proposed by the report.**
- 1.3 That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director for Economic Development and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and the Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments to finalise the terms and legal agreements for a long-term lease for the building (suggest 40 years) at token rent.**

Reason for Decision:

To support the objectives of Stowmarket vision and cultural regeneration of town by enabling the John Peel Centre to develop and grow as a key cultural organisation in the town.

To ensure the councils investment in the John Peel Centre though the grant of a

lease at a peppercorn rent is properly monitored through the agreed KPIs.

To ensure the recommendations of the consultant's report, including the need for JPC to secure sufficient funding for the works are delivered.

50 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)

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.

51 MCA/20/23 JOHN PEEL CENTRE EXPANSION

Members agreed not to go into closed session to discuss the confidential appendices.

52 MCA/20/24 DISABLED FACILITY GRANT - MSDC CONTRIBUTION TO SCC COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT BUDGET

It was RESOLVED:-

That the recommendations detailed in the report be approved.

Reason for Decision: As detailed in the report.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 3.59 pm.

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Chair