

## **BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the **BABERGH CABINET** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 6 September 2021

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor: John Ward (Chair)

Councillors: Jan Osborne  
Clive Arthey  
Michael Holt  
Alastair McCraw  
Derek Davis  
David Busby  
Elisabeth Malvisi

### **In attendance:**

Officers: Chief Executive (AC)  
Strategic Director (KN)  
Assistant Director - Law and Governance (EY)  
Assistant Director – Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer (KS)  
Assistant Director - Customer, Digital Transformation and Improvements (SW)  
Assistant Director - Housing (GF)  
Assistant Director - Economic Development and Regeneration (FD)  
Assistant Director - Planning and Building Control (TB)  
Corporate Manager - Finance and Commissioning and Procurement (ME)  
Assistant Manager - Financial Accountant (RH)  
Corporate Manager - Communities (VM)  
Senior Food and Safety Officer (ER)  
Licensing Officer (KG)  
Licensing Officer (KS)  
Senior Governance Officer (HH)

### **Apologies:**

None

### **38 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS**

There were no declarations of interests declared.

### **39 BCA/21/17 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2021**

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on the 2 August 2021 be confirmed as a true record.**

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

None received.

**41 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**

None received.

**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 BCA/21/18 GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL MONITORING 2021/22 - QUARTER 1**

44.1 The Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Ward introduced paper Bca/21/18 and provided a summary of the main points in the report.

44.2 Councillor Ward proposed the recommendations in the report, which was seconded by Councillor Osborne.

44.3 In response to Councillor Busby's questions regarding borrowing costs for capital expenditure, the Corporate Manager for Finance Services and Commissioning and Procurement explained that the Council would not pay any interest until the Council spent funding from the Capital Expenditure programme.

44.4 Councillor Busby further queried the uptake of the 25% reduction in single occupancy for council tax

44.5 In addition Councillor Busby asked if a breakdown for each Directorate could be provided for the number of staff, staff costs, the number of staff vacancies and recruitment cost.

44.6 The Assistant Director for Corporate Resources and the Corporate Manager for Finance Services and Commissioning and Procurement advised that responses to both requests would be provided outside of the meeting.

44.7 Members debated the issues including that there was a significant bounce back in property developments and that the principal reason for the increase in the workload for planning was caused by major applications for developments.

**It was RESOLVED:-**

**1.1 That, subject to any further budget variations that arise during the rest of the financial year, the surplus position of £261k, referred to in section 6.6 and Appendix A of the report, be noted;**

**1.2 That the revised 2021/22 Capital Programme referred to in Appendix E and section 6.14 be noted.**

#### **REASON FOR DECISION**

To ensure that Members are kept informed of the current budgetary position for both General Fund Revenue and Capital.

#### **45 BCA/21/19 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) FINANCIAL MONITORING 2021/22 QUARTER 1**

**45.1** The Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Ward, introduced paper BCa/21/19 and drew Members' attention to the main points in the report.

**45.2** Councillor Ward proposed the recommendations in the report. This was seconded by Councillor Osborne.

**45.3** Councillor Busby referred to the depreciation of housing stock charged to the HRA account, and that whilst the value of property was raising, the Council also charged the HRA account for housing repairs which should increase the value of the properties. He queried if the HRA account was charged twice.

**45.4** The Assistant Director for Corporate Resources responded that the depreciation charged to the HRA could be used to finance the expenditure and contributed to maintain the housing stock.

**It was RESOLVED: -**

**1.1 That, subject to any further budget variations that arise during the rest of the financial year, the adverse variance of £223k, referred to in section 6.5 of the report, be noted;**

**1.2 That the 2021/22 revised Capital Programme referred to in Appendix A and section 6.13 be noted.**

#### **REASON FOR THE DECISION**

To ensure that Members are kept informed of the current budgetary position for both the HRA Revenue and Capital Budgets.

#### **46 BCA/21/20 QUARTER 1 - PERFORMANCE PRESENTATION**

**46.1** The Cabinet Member for Customers, Digital Transformation and Information introduced the paper for Quarter 1 Performance between 1 April to the 30 June 2021 and highlighted the main points in this high-level presentation.

**46.2** Councillor Arthey referred to page 49 and clarified that the reduction in fly tipping brought the figures back to the level before the Covid-19 Pandemic.

- 46.3 In Response to Councillor Busby's question regarding the number of trees planted, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Malvisi stated that data was being gathered and would be presented to Cabinet in due course.
- 46.4 Members questioned the information and organisation of the AJ Bell Women's Tour coming to the District and it was established that there was extensive information on the AJ Bell Women's Tour webpage, and that Parish Councils, through which the Tour route would be going, had been contacted. Further information regarding events would be forwarded shortly.
- 46.5 Members commented on the issues of fly tipping including that it was a concern for both Members and communities, that prevention was better than cure and that the contamination figures for recycling was too high.
- 46.6 Members were informed by the Cabinet Member for Environment Councillor Malvisi that a newly appointed Waste Management officer would be visiting school to educate children in recycling.
- 46.7 Councillor Ward added that the garden waste service was increasing due to its popularity with residents.
- 46.8 Councillor Osborne provided a brief update on tenant accommodation including Angel Court, which had all been allocated.
- 46.9 The Performance Presentation report was noted.

#### **47 BCA/21/21 ADOPTION OF THE REVISED TABLE OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES**

- 47.1 The Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Malvisi, introduce paper BCa/21/21 and outlined past proceedings and how the current taxi fares had been determined. She summarised the consultation and advised that no responses had been received from members of the public and that one response had been received from trade. The proposed taxi fares would come into force on the 1 November 2021 if approved.
- 47.2 Councillor Malvisi proposed the recommendation in the report, which was seconded by Councillor Arthey.
- 47.3 Councillor Osborne queried Appendix A and whether this was the maximum fare charges, which was confirmed by the Cabinet Member for Environment.
- 47.4 Councillors Holt and Arthey stated that lessons should be learnt from this process, however they fully supported the recommendations in the report.
- 47.5 Members debated the issues and Councillor Davis stated that he was delighted that the taxifares had returned to Cabinet after a consultation period. He now fully endorsed the recommendations in the report.

47.6 Councillor Ward concurred with the comments made and thanked the Assistant Manager for Food, Safety and Licensing, Emma Richbell and the Licensing team for the work undertaken.

**It was RESOLVED: -**

- 1.1 That Cabinet quashed the resolution made on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 to adopt the table of fares which were previously recommended by Licensing and Regulatory Committee.
- 1.2 That Cabinet following consideration of Licensing and Regulatory Committee's recommendation, adopted the revised table of fares, attached at Appendix A to this report, and in accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, and that the date of 1 November 2021 for these to come into effect be approved.

**REASON FOR DECISION**

To adopt the revised table of fares for Hackney Carriages within the Babergh District.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 12:21pm.

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Chair