

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK CABINET** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 4 April 2022

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:

Councillors: Andrew Mellen

Officers: Assistant Director – Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer (EY)
Corporate Manager – Governance & Civic Office (JR)
SRP Operations Manager (AW)
Corporate Manager – Economy & Business (MG)
Sustainable Travel Officer (KD)
Senior Governance Officer (HH)

Apologies:

None

109 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Whitehead declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 10 in his role as Director of Gateway 14 Ltd.

110 MCA/21/46 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2022

It was RESOLVED:-

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 7 March 2022 be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

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

None received.

112 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

None received.

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

There were no matters referred.

114 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

The Forthcoming Decisions List was noted.

115 MCA/21/47 COUNCIL TAX ENERGY REBATE 2022/23

115.1 The Chair invited the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Whitehead to introduce the report.

115.2 Councillor Whitehead provided an overview of the report and proposed the recommendations, as detailed in the report.

115.3 Councillor Brewster seconded the recommendation.

115.4 In response to questions from other Members attending the meeting, the SRP Operations Manager responded that Government had recently changed the guidance and the hardship funding put in place could not be paid to landlords, but to those who were the main occupants.

It was RESOLVED:-

That Cabinet gave authority to the Assistant Director for Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to agree the discretionary Council Tax Energy Policy, in accordance with the relevant Government guidelines.

That Cabinet gave authority to the Shared Revenues Partnership (SRP) Operations Manager to administer the scheme for the Council Tax Energy Rebate and the discretionary Council Tax Energy Policy.

REASON FOR DECISION

To provide support to households to pay energy bills.

To enable the implementation of the discretionary policy.

116 MCA/21/48 BMSDC SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL VISION & LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

116.1 The Chair, Councillor Morley, invited the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Fleming to introduce the report.

116.2 Councillor Fleming outlined the background for the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and summarised the main points in the

report.

- 116.3 Councillor Fleming proposed the recommendations, as detailed in the report which was seconded by Councillor Richardson.
- 116.4 Councillor Brewster supported the LCWIP in principle but had concerns regarding specific proposals in the report such as Ipswich Street in Stowmarket.
- 116.5 The Sustainable Travel Officer advised that the list of schemes in the LCWIP was based on desires of the public identified during the public consultation. Suffolk Highways would consider the proposed schemes and decide what kind of infrastructure would be possible.
- 116.6 In response to Councillor Gould's questions regarding adding new schemes to the LCWIP and the possibility of distribution of resources back to the County for the LCWIP scheme, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Fleming stated that the decision for local schemes would be part of the negotiations for the County deal for the funding from Central Government.
- 116.7 The Cabinet Member responded to further questions from Councillors and stated that the Council had to be broadly consistent with other authorities and follow the established matrix for the schemes, though there was room for some flexibility.
- 116.8 The Sustainable Travel Officer responded to further questions from Councillors and advised that the LCWIP was not compulsory, but that Government would look favourably on authorities, who had one in existence. Further that it was no longer an option for members of the public to add schemes to the list. However, the website remained live with news, project updates and contact details to enable an open conversation for the LCWIP. She added that the consultation had received over 800 responses.
- 116.9 In response to Councillor Burn's question regarding monitoring of progress for the Scheme, officers responded that the Council was working closely with Suffolk County Council (SCC) and Suffolk Highways to oversee how progression could be made on the listed schemes.
- 116.10 The Sustainable Travel Officer responded to questions from other Members attending the meeting on issues including community transport, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding and how the LCWIP would be used by planning officers.
- 116.11 During the debate Councillor Richardson thanked the Sustainable Travel officer and the Cabinet Member for Environment for the work undertaken for LCWIP. It was a valuable piece of work for the District, and he appreciated the input from the public consultation. The document was a live document, and that it was important to promote active travel and to support the Joint Wellbeing Strategy agreed last September.

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That the joint Councils' draft LCWIP and Sustainable Transport vision be endorsed.**
- 1.2 That the completion of the final documentation be delegated to the Assistant Director for Economic Development and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment.**

REASON FOR DECISION

Endorsement is recommended so that the LCWIP can be supported and utilised as recommended by National Government guidance. The Sustainable Travel Vision will be used to inform the public about our key values, aims, ambitions and narrative around Sustainable Travel. The LCWIP will also be made public, but the key functions of this document are to inform SCC Highways and our own planning directorate of our active travel infrastructure ambitions, in order to capture opportunity for delivery.

117 MCA/21/49 FREEPORT EAST FULL BUSINESS CASE

- 117.1 The Chair, Councillor Morley, invited the Cabinet Member for Economy, Councillor Brewster to introduce the report.
- 117.2 Councillor Brewster provided a background summary for the proposed Business Case and an overview of the report.
- 117.3 Councillor Brewster proposed the recommendations in the report, which was seconded by Councillor Whitehead.
- 117.4 The Corporate Manager for Economy and Business responded to questions from other Members attending the meeting including options for existing business to relocate to the Gateway 14 site, sustainable and carbon neutral schemes for the site and food designation options for the businesses located on the Gateway 14 site.
- 117.5 During the debate Councillor Fleming thought that the Gateway 14 development had great synergy for the development of low carbon and related technologies in the region and she considered future 'green' developments including solar energy and the option of a rail connection to the site, should that become viable.

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That the submission of Freeport East Full Business Case (FBC) be endorsed.**
- 1.2 That the Assistant Director Economy & Regeneration and the S.151 Officer be given delegated authority in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members for Finance and Economy, to finalise**

the detail on the Freeport East FBC on behalf of Mid Suffolk District Council.

- 1.3 That the proposed incorporation model for Freeport East i.e. Company Limited by Guarantee be approved, and that Cabinet make a recommendation to Full Council on nominations for a MSDC director.**
- 1.4 That a retained business rates policy be approved in principle.**
- 1.5 That forward funding from the Growth & Efficiency Fund of £80,000 per year for 2 years in advance of retained business rates be approved.**

REASON FOR DECISION

Achieving Freeport status for the G14 site and the wider Freeport East region will provide a unique opportunity for significant economic growth.

This once in a generation opportunity will leverage in substantial additional funding to support the delivery of G14 alongside providing investment in skills, infrastructure and investment projects in the wider area to support the Levelling Up agenda and provide opportunities for all and true inclusive growth for our communities.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11:32 am.

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Chair