

**MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** held at the Council Chamber, Mid Suffolk District Council Offices, High Street, Needham Market on Monday, 8 May 2017

**PRESENT:**

Councillors:

Gerard Brewster  
Julie Flatman  
Diana Kearsley  
John Levantis  
Suzie Morley  
Penny Otton  
Andrew Stringer  
John Whitehead

**In attendance:**

Chief Executive  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Strategic Director  
Interim Strategic Director  
Corporate Manager - Housing and Regeneration  
Assistant Director – Investment and Commercial Delivery  
Corporate Manager - Internal Audit  
Governance Support Officer (VL/HH)

**EX25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/SUBSTITUTIONS**

Councillor Suzie Morley was substituting for Councillor David Burn. An apology for absence was received from Councillors Roy Barker, Glen Horn, David Whybrow and Jill Wilshaw.

**EX26 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

There were no declarations of interest.

**EX27 X/31/17 - CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 APRIL 2017****Report X/31/17**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2017 were confirmed as a correct record subject to a minor amendment to Minute EX23 to amend '1016/17 to 2016/17'.

**EX28 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME**

None received.

**EX29 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

None received.

**EX30 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**

None received.

**EX31 X/32/17 - END OF YEAR SIGNIFICANT RISKS POSITION STATEMENT AND PROGRESS REPORT**

**Report X/32/17**

**Corporate Manager (Internal Audit)  
Audit and Risk Management Officer (CC)**

Councillor Morley, Member with Special Responsibility for Public Access introduced the report. She said the ability to manage risk helped the Council act more confidently on future business decisions and knowledge of the risks faced would give various options on how to deal with potential problems. Maintaining the Significant Risk Register would help achieve this. The report provided the latest version of the Significant Risk Register and summarised the work of the Audit and Risk Management Services team during the year to promote awareness and embed risk management across the Council.

Councillor Morley proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Flatman.

Members raised various issues which were responded to by Officers, including:

- mitigation factors and their reduction of risk level
- removal of Risk 3b from the Register
- what was meant by 'delivery of Neighbourhood Plans'
- the status of Local Plans
- the effect of the recently approved Investment Strategy on the risk relating to financial sustainability in response to funding changes

Further information relating to the queries would also be forwarded to Members.

It was noted that the Risk Register was a live document subject to change and an up to date version could be provided at an appropriate time before budget decisions came before Members.

By a unanimous vote

**RESOLUTION**

*That the Committee has assurance of the work of the Audit and Risk Management Services team and the contents of the Significant Risk Register (Appendix A) is approved*

**EX32 X/33/17 - DELEGATION TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE - APPOINTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNER**

**Report X/33/17**

**Assistant Director  
(Investment and Commercial Delivery)**

Councillor Gowrley introduced the report which sought approval to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to appoint a new joint Development Partner who would work with the Council to deliver the 300 new homes described in the Joint Affordable Homes Development Strategy. The sites recently purchased from Suffolk County Council, the Council's own General Fund and Housing Revenue Account assets and potentially additional new sites, would be used to increase the quantity, quality and range of affordable homes available in our District through our own direct development programme. The Council no longer held the skills and expertise to deliver this ambitious programme and the Development Partner would be expected to manage the whole process, from design and planning through to construction and handover. The procurement process would be in line with OJEU regulations and the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Investments would be part of the interview stage of appointment.

Councillor Gowrley proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Whitehead.

In response to Members' questions Officers clarified the reasons why the Council was not proposing setting up its own housing company, comparison costs of buying-in and employing in-house expertise and the possibility of joining with other authorities.

By a unanimous vote

**RESOLUTION**

*That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to appoint a Development Partner following a procurement process as outlined in paragraph 1.3 of the report*

**EX33 X/34/17 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN**

**Report X/34/17**

The report was noted.

**EX34 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

By 7 votes to 2

## **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 as indicated against the item.*

	<i>Item</i>	<i>Schedule 12a Reason</i>
	<i>Report X/35/17</i>	<i>3</i>
EX35	<b>X/35/17 - REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND ASSETS</b>	

### **Report X/35/17 Corporate Manager (Housing and Regeneration)**

Councillor Gowrley, Assets and Investments Portfolio Holder introduced the report. He advised that this was the first time that a full review of all the Council's land and property assets had been undertaken. He said the review would put the Council in a stronger position and able to make informed decisions about best use of the land and property that it owned to support delivery of its strategic priorities. Objective assessments would be made of what each asset contributed to the strategic priorities through its current use compared to costs, and what alternative options could be put in place in order to improve what each asset delivered to the Council's communities through its strategic priorities. The appraisal model used took account of financial, social and economic factors and fed the results into a table showing current performance. This gave a starting point and order of priority for which sites should be focused on first with a more in depth option appraisal being carried out on those sites which appeared to have the most opportunity to deliver more. The report requested delegations to the Assistant Director – Investment and Commercial Delivery to make decisions based on the outcomes of the options appraisals. Any decisions would follow consultation with Portfolio Holders and Ward Members, Officers delivering services from the assets and would fall below the limits which required a key decision as part of the Cabinet arrangements.

Councillor Gowrley moved the recommendations in the report which were seconded by Councillor Brewster.

Members fully supported the proposals.

### **RESOLUTION 1**

*That the General Fund Asset Appraisal model as described in the report be approved*

### **RESOLUTION 2**

*That the Assistant Director – Investment and Commercial Delivery be authorised to take decisions with regard to General Fund assets as described in paragraph 3.1 of the report*