

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK CABINET** held in the King Edmund Chamber on Monday, 6 November 2017 at 2:30pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: Nick Gowrley – Chairman

Councillors:	Gerard Brewster	David Burn
	Julie Flatman	Glen Horn
	Penny Otton	Andrew Stringer
	John Whitehead	David Whybrow
	Jill Wilshaw	

In attendance:

Councillor Rachel Eburne
Councillor Suzie Morley
Councillor Keith Welham

Assistant Director – Planning (TB)
Chief Executive (AC)
Corporate Business Co-ordinator (SM)
Corporate Manager – Law and Governance (JR)
Corporate Manager – Internal Audit (JS)
Internal Audit and Risk Management Officer (CC)
Strategic Director (JS)
Strategic Policy Planner (AMc)

42 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Barker and Kearsley.

43 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS**

None declared.

44 **MCA/17/23 - CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October were confirmed as a correct record.

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

None received.

46 **QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**

- 46.1 A question had been received by Councillor Penny Otton as follows:
- 46.2 *“The Chancellor of the Exchequer is expected to announce tough new rules on councils investing in commercial property by borrowing from the Public Works Board (PWB). As Mid Suffolk are in the process of doing just that what action will you take to continue with these plans?”*
- 46.3 The Leader of the Council responded:
- 46.4 *“There is currently a lot of media speculation about what the Chancellor may or may not include in his Autumn Budget on 22 November in terms of local authorities investing in commercial property and borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). It is difficult to take action until the detail of any changes are announced. But the Council will carefully monitor the situation and will take advice from Arlingclose, the Council’s treasury management advisor, as and when further information is released.”*
- 46.5 Councillor Otton, then asked a supplementary question in respect of if the Chancellor did clamp down whether it would prejudice some commercial enterprises. The Leader of the Council explained advice would be taken and if required would be discussed at Cabinet at a later date.

47 **MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OR JOINT AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

- 47.1 Councillor Eburne, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee explained there had been concern raised over the forthcoming decisions list and whether it could include all items which were to be discussed at Cabinet in the future. It was questioned as to whether there was a date for the Public Realm work to go before Cabinet as well as Leisure Strategy.
- 47.2 The Leader of the Council agreed and wished to see a date set for the Public Realm work, as well as Wingfield Barns. The Leisure Strategy was due in December 2017. He agreed the Forthcoming Decisions List would show all items which were due to go before Cabinet.
- 47.3 Councillor Otton expressed dismay the recommendation from Babergh District Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee had not been discussed as well as the telephone poll continuing for Mid Suffolk.
- 47.4 The Leader of the Council explained the Assistant Director for Law and Governance had circulated the decision made by the Babergh District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Until Babergh District Council’s Cabinet had discussed their position he was unable to comment. He pointed out the telephone poll had been suspended for Mid Suffolk at the end of week commencing 30 October 2017.

48 **MCA/17/24 - FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST**

- 48.1 The report was discussed and the following comments made:

- 48.2
- A date was required for the Public Realm work and Wingfield Barns.
 - The lead member for the Leisure Strategy was Councillor Kearsley.
 - The Cabinet member for Cedars Park Community Centre was Councillor Flatman.
 - The Forthcoming Decisions List should reflect all reports coming through to Cabinet.

48.3 Councillor Otton, requested the briefing for the HQ Site work be extended to all Councillors. The Leader of the Council explained this would be the case and it would also be debated at Full Council in the first instance in January 2018 before coming before Cabinet.

49 **MCA/17/25 - HALF YEARLY SIGNIFICANT RISK REGISTER UPDATE**

49.1 Councillor Horn, the Cabinet Member for Organisational Delivery, introduced report MCA/17/25 and moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Brewster.

49.2 Councillors Otton and Stringer raised concerns on the risks listed in Appendix A. These included whether the County Council maintained their IT support 24/7, a clear indication of what could and could not be done at the two public access points and where the disaster recovery site was located. It was also considered misleading that very high risks were shown in blue. In risk 3b the title should be reworded as it assumed unsustainability. It was queried as to why risk 4d was shown in red as had never not been delivered and why risk 5i was listed as being on track as there were elements which were not good.

49.3 In response Councillor Horn, explained the new Assistant Director for Customer Services had now commenced employment and this would be one of her immediate priorities. There was a separate operational risk register on Connect which should address the concerns raised but in terms of Risk 5i this was a new risk and mitigation had been completed and therefore on track. Risk 4d remained as a separate operation and he agreed the wording in Risk 3b could be adjusted.

49.4 Councillor Morley questioned Risk 5k as it appeared to be a financial risk and whether a financial officer had been involved. Councillor Horn explained the Cabinet Member responsible for this risk was the Cabinet Member for Housing. Councillor Wilshaw, had met with the Assistant Director for Housing but mitigation involved input from many other Officers including finance, even though they were not necessarily named as the risk owner.

49.5 Councillor Whybrow considered the risk register appeared like a list of events and he felt the biggest risk to be delivered was the Joint Strategic Plan and services in the future.

49.6 By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED:

(1) That assurance of the work of the Audit and Risk Management Services team has been received and the contents of the Significant Risk Register approved.

Reason for decision: To summarise the work of the Audit and Risk Management Services Team during the first half of 2017/18 and highlight its activities to promote and embed risk management across the Councils.

50 **MCA/17/26 - "PLANNING FOR THE RIGHT HOMES IN THE RIGHT PLACES" CONSULTATION PROPOSALS**

50.1 Councillor Whybrow, Cabinet Member for Planning, introduced report MCA/17/26 and moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Brewster.

50.2 Councillor Otton queried the last paragraph on page 38 in the report in respect of the travel to work area as she felt it should go further i.e. London to Felixstowe. Councillor Whybrow, with the help from an Officer explained the travel to work area did not match local authority boundaries and were defined nationally.

50.3 Councillor Stringer, was concerned the figure detailed in paragraph 12.13 of the report was in danger of being uplifted and therefore becoming unsustainable. Councillor Whybrow agreed and requested Officers be given time to strengthen the response. It was agreed there should be the right homes in the right places.

50.4 Councillor Whybrow thanked Officers for putting together a response in a short amount of time on a vitally important document.

50.5 By a unanimous vote.

50.6 It was **RESOLVED:**

(1) *That the content and potential implications of the Government's Consultation titled "Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places: Consultation Proposals" and accompanying documents be noted.*

(2) *That, subject to the additional response being included under question 1, the response to the consultation be endorsed.*

Reason for Decisions: To ensure Cabinet were aware of the content and potential implications of the Government's consultation titled "Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places: Consultation Proposals" and accompanying documents.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 3:19pm.

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Chairman