

CABINET DECISION NOTICES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2018

**Decision Notice Publication Date:
Friday, 23 February 2018**

**Call-in period:
Monday, 26 February 2018 to
Friday, 2 March 2018**

**Implementation Date:
Monday, 5 March 2018**

(For clarity, where an item is 'to be noted', 'received' or 'recommended to Council' this is deemed not to be a formal Executive decision and so the call-in provisions will not apply)

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CABINET DECISION NOTICE

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| Cabinet Area | Tourism & Economic Development |
| Title of Report | Supporting the East Suffolk Visitor Economy |
| Report Reference | REP1758 |

Purpose of Report

To consider a report, which sets out the demand and rationale for renewing both funding and operational agreements with two tourism groups – The Suffolk Coast Destination Management Organisation and Visit Suffolk.

Options Considered

The Suffolk Coast DMO is seen as the only viable partner able to continue to provide the brand and destination marketing services that we need in East Suffolk in a cost effective way.

Regarding Visit Suffolk a number of options were considered including reducing funding levels, asking the existing Suffolk DMOs to take over provision of the Visit Suffolk service, and not providing funding for a Visit Suffolk service at all. Ultimately it was felt that Visit Suffolk should be given a further 12 months to demonstrate it could provide the level of service required and show that it could earn sufficient commercial income to become self-sustaining. This would also give the Suffolk DMOs time to develop further and potentially be partners in providing a Visit Suffolk service in the future.

Reasons for Decision

Destination marketing services are critical in ensuring the continuing development of a successful visitor economy. Whilst there is always room for improvement the Suffolk Coast DMO has delivered these services consistently well across East Suffolk and requires a continuing financial commitment from WDC to continue to do so.

VEA/Visit Suffolk has also provided some good PR and marketing outcomes for all of Suffolk including the Suffolk Coastal area but its overall performance has not met the expectations of the Suffolk stakeholders. It is felt that Visit Suffolk should be supported for a further 12 months to see if it can achieve the required levels of service, performance and self sustainability that are set out, or whether it simply cannot deliver at the required level leading to the need for an alternative solution to be found.

CABINET DECISIONS:

1. That WDC enters into a further three year agreement with Suffolk Coast Ltd DMO to provide destination marketing and brand management services in the Suffolk Coastal area, at a cost of £20k p.a. making a total commitment of £60k over the life of the agreement.
2. That the decision to provide funding for 12 months to support the VEA/Visit Suffolk brand and marketing service across Suffolk (up to a maximum of £10,000, and a limited management role to oversee the agreement on behalf of the Council) be approved.

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| Declarations of Interest / Conflicts of Interest | None |
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| Meeting Date | Wednesday, 14 February 2018 |
| Call-In Period | Monday, 26 February 2018 to Friday, 2 March 2018 |
| Implementation Date (If no Call-In activated) | Monday, 5 March 2018 |

Councillor M Bee
Leader of the Council

CABINET DECISION NOTICE

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| Cabinet Area | Resources |
| Title of Report | Draft General Fund Budget 2018/19 |
| Report Reference | REP1605 |

Purpose of Report

To consider and make recommendations to Full Council regarding the:

- proposed Budget for 2018/19, and to note the position with regard to future years;
- assessment of reserve and balance movements;
- proposed Class C discount of 100% on empty and unfurnished properties is increased from the current policy of one week to two weeks and then apply full charge;
- Council Tax Base for 2018/19 (for noting);
- proposed Band D Council Tax for Waveney District Council of £162.27 for 2018/19, an increase of £4.86 or 3.09%;
- Government's offer made on 19 December 2017 to the local authorities in Suffolk that they all participate in the Business Rate Pilot for 2018/19.

Options Considered

MTFS and General Fund Budget – The MTFS is an essential element in achieving a balanced budget and sustainable medium term position, whilst setting a balanced budget for the coming year is a statutory requirement. Consequently, no other options are appropriate in respect of this.

Efficiency Plan – The Council could have chosen not to submit an Efficiency Plan in order to take advantage of the Secretary of State's four-year finance settlement offer. However, it was clear from the offer that if the offer was not to be accepted then future levels of Government funding could not be guaranteed, so this option was not considered to be appropriate.

Reason for Decision

To bring together all the relevant information to enable Members to review, consider and comment upon the Council's General Fund revenue budgets before making recommendations to Council on 21 February 2018.

To seek wider Member consideration of the forward budgets beyond 2018/19, and Council Tax proposals in this report to balance the budget for 2018/19 and future years.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO FULL COUNCIL:

To recommend that Full Council:

1. Approves the General Fund Revenue Budget as set out in this report and summarised in Appendix B6, and notes the budget forecast for 2019/20 and beyond;
2. Approves the Reserves and Balances movements as presented in Appendix B7;
3. Approves the Efficiency Strategy attached as Appendix B8;
4. Approves that the current Class C discount of 100% on empty and unfurnished properties is increased from one week to two weeks and then apply full charge;
5. Accepts the Government's offer made on 19 December 2017 to the local authorities in Suffolk that they all participate in the Business Rate Pilot for 2018/19;
6. Notes the Council Tax Base of 36,193.92 for 2018/19; and
7. Approves a Band D Council Tax for 2018/19 of £162.27.

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| Declarations of Interest / Conflicts of Interest | None |
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| Meeting Date | Wednesday, 14 February 2018 |
| Call-In Period | The call-in provisions will not apply to the above recommendation as it is not a Cabinet level decision. |
| Implementation Date (If no Call-In activated) | Not Applicable |

Councillor M Bee
Leader of the Council

CABINET DECISION NOTICE

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| Cabinet Area | Leader of the Council |
| Title of Report | East Suffolk Performance Report – Quarterly Performance, Quarter 3 2017/18 |
| Report Reference | REP1604 |

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| Purpose of Report | |
| To receive a Corporate Performance update for the period 1 October to 31 December 2017. The new East Suffolk Performance Report is a joint report for both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils and provides an overview of the Councils' performance and progress against the deliverables within the East Suffolk Business Plan. | |
| Options Considered | |
| None. Quarterly Performance Reports enable the Cabinet, other Members of the Council and the public to scrutinise the performance of the Council against key indicators and targets in accordance with the approved Business Case and identified corporate priorities. | |
| Reason for Decision | |
| To ensure that Members are kept updated on the performance of Council services. | |
| CABINET DECISION: | |
| That the East Suffolk Performance Report for Quarter 3 be received. | |
| Declarations of Interest / Conflicts of Interest | None |

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| Implementation Date (If no Call-In activated) | Not Applicable. |

Councillor M Bee
Leader of the Council

OPEN CABINET DECISION NOTICE – FOR EXEMPT ITEM

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| Cabinet Area | Housing |
| Title of Report | Purchasing Section 106 Properties – Increase in Purchase Price (Exempt Report) |
| Report Reference | REP1804 |

Purpose of Report

To consider the approval of additional expenditure for the purchase of Section 106 properties, following negotiations over the specification for the homes.

Options Considered

All other options were considered, however they were rejected as they were not in the best interests of the Council.

Reason for Decision

The development of this scheme will deliver a total of 16 new homes for rent to a specification that is acceptable to the Council, which offers the Council value for money and that will contribute to the delivery of a number of the Council's key priorities, as set out in the East Suffolk Business Plan.

CABINET DECISIONS:

1. That the purchase of 16 new affordable housing properties, to be built by the Building Company as discussed at the meeting, at the location as discussed at the meeting, for the sum as discussed at the meeting be approved.
2. That the allocation of the sum as discussed at the meeting, from the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme, and the sum as discussed at the meeting of Right to Buy receipts, be approved in order to purchase the properties.
3. That Delegated Authority be granted to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, the Head of Legal & Democratic Services and the Chief Finance Officer, to enter into all necessary contracts/transfers on terms that best protect the Council's interests, to purchase the properties, within the sums approved in recommendations 1 and 2 above.
4. That Delegated Authority be granted to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Chief Finance Officer to increase the overall purchase price, by a maximum of the sum as discussed at the meeting, to cover the cost of any minor amendments during the contract period.

Declarations of Interest / Conflicts of Interest

None

Meeting Date

Wednesday, 14 February 2018

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Councillor M Bee
Leader of the Council

OPEN CABINET DECISION NOTICE – FOR EXEMPT ITEM

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| Cabinet Area | Housing |
| Title of Report | Strategy for Spending the Government’s Community Housing Fund – Proposed Scheme with Hastoe Housing Association at Southwold (Exempt Report) |
| Report Reference | REP1563 |

Purpose of Report

To seek permission to award a grant from the Community Housing Fund to assist the delivery of 5 affordable homes in Southwold.

Options Considered

1. The Council considered a “do nothing” approach, but recognised this would risk the opportunity to secure grant funding and bring additional resources from central government into the district. Therefore, this option was rejected.
2. A contract which agrees payment on completion minimises the Council’s exposure to risk, whilst producing homes which will make a positive contribution to residents living in Southwold and the wider community.

Reason for Decision

The scheme offers the Council value for money and will contribute to the delivery of a number of the Council’s key priorities, as set out in the East Suffolk Business Plan. It will also play a significant role in assisting the Southwold and Waveney Valley Regeneration Society (the Community Benefits Society) to achieve their aim of providing a community hub in the town.

CABINET DECISIONS:

- 1) That the allocation of a total grant of the sum as discussed at the meeting, from the Community Housing Fund, to deliver the 5 additional affordable homes at the site, be approved.
- 2) That Delegated Authority be granted to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Chief Finance Officer, to negotiate and enter into the required funding and nomination agreement with Hastoe, on terms that best protect the Council’s interests.

Declarations of Interest / Conflicts of Interest

None

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**Councillor M Bee
Leader of the Council**

OPEN CABINET DECISION NOTICE – FOR EXEMPT ITEM

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| Cabinet Area | Operational Partnerships |
| Title of Report | Outline Business Case for Beccles Quay (Exempt Report) |
| Report Reference | REP1574 |

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| Purpose of Report | |
| To consider the outline business case for Beccles Quay. | |
| Options Considered | |
| None. The Council is obliged to seek to correct the register of title and to seek a way forward for the long term future of Beccles Quay. | |
| Reason for Decision | |
| The Council has a legal obligation to correct the register of title with the Land Registry and to seek a way forward for Beccles Quay in the longer term. | |
| CABINET DECISIONS: | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That negotiations continue with Beccles Town Council regarding the phased transfer of Beccles Quay. 2. That ongoing transfer negotiations regarding staffing continue. 3. That maintenance of the areas discussed at the meeting, continue for the period of time, as discussed at the meeting. 4. That the revenue generated, as discussed at the meeting, be used in the manner as discussed at the meeting. 5. That a sum, as agreed at the meeting, be transferred, to cover the maintenance and inspection of items, as discussed at the meeting, during the transition period. | |
| Declarations of Interest / Conflicts of Interest | None |

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