

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

From: Councillor Nick Ridley Cabinet Member for Assets & Investment	Report Number: CMU1
To: Council	Date of meeting: 24 April 2018

TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ASSETS & INVESTMENT

1. Overview of Portfolio

- 1.1 Property investment to generate income and regenerate local areas
- 1.2 Make best use of land and buildings across the Suffolk system
- 1.3 Manage our corporate assets effectively

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 This report is for information.

3. Key Activities/Issues Over the Past Six Months

- 3.1 At the Cabinet meeting in February the decision was taken to gift a property in Sudbury, known as Gainsborough Chambers, to the Gainsborough House Society. This decision demonstrates the Council's commitment to contribute to a multi-million pound investment and development in Sudbury known as "Reviving an Artist's Birthplace – A National Centre for Gainsborough". The property was purchased in 2014 by the Council in order to support the ambition of the Gainsborough House Society to develop the site and assists the Society with seeking a balance of funding for the project from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 3.2 Fifteen new Council homes have been built in Glemsford. The homes are a mixture of two and three-bed houses and have been funded by the Council and Homes England grant funding. These homes contribute to the Councils aim to build more affordable homes in its district.
- 3.3 Plans for the regeneration of the Council's former Head Quarters site in Hadleigh are progressing well. Plans have been shared with Councillors, Town Councils and other stakeholders. Following this consultation, the plans will be shared with residents and other interested groups of people in April for their views and comments.

4. Future Key Activities

- 4.1 One of the key pieces of work that we need to undertake over the next few months is the development of an Asset Strategy, so that we have a framework (including governance arrangements) within which to make property investment, maintenance and disposal decisions. Officers will begin work on this later in March, through a discussion with the Senior Leadership Team to identify key objectives. A draft document will then be developed and discussed through the appropriate channels over the next few months.

- 4.2 The final preferred plan for the Head Quarters sites will be put before Councillors for their approval and authority for officers to submit a planning application.
- 4.3 Draft designs are being developed for the Councils own housing development in Hadleigh. The developments will be a mixture of affordable and market sale homes. Plans will be shared soon, with planning applications anticipated for submission in late summer/autumn.

5. Conclusion

There has been a lot of activity and some exciting recent developments over the last few months, and this is set to continue as we look to utilise assets as a way of developing our district and to generate additional income for the Council.

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