

## BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

<b>From: Councillor John Ward Leader &amp; Cabinet Member for Economy</b>	<b>Report Number: CMU3</b>
<b>To: Council</b>	<b>Date of meeting: 24 April 2018</b>

### TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY

#### 1. Overview of Portfolio

- 1.1 Increasing jobs, productivity and supporting our businesses to thrive and grow
- 1.2 Attracting and encouraging inward investment
- 1.3 Business friendly and collaborative strategies to support being 'Open for Business'
- 1.4 Build relationships with local businesses
- 1.5 Liaise with neighbouring authorities and other organisations such as NALP, SELEP and the Haven Gateway Partnership to support cross-border economic development and investment.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 This report is for information.

#### 3. Key Activities/Issues Over the Past Six Months

- 3.1 'Visioning for Prosperity' work for Greater Sudbury communities is progressing and the team have met with local place shaping groups in Sudbury to look at the outputs so far. Collaborative work continues towards establishing deliverables and activities which link to the visioning project.
- 3.2 Approval of our Joint BMS Economic 'Open for Business' Strategy by both Cabinets in February 2018. This is now being formatted ready for publishing before April 2018.
- 3.3 The New Anglia Economic Strategy 2017-2036 was successfully endorsed by both Cabinets in October 2017 and formally published on 25 October 2017. The next phase of this work is a Local Authority and New Anglia LEP summit on identifying the big opportunities that Norfolk and Suffolk face and what actions and investments are needed to make sure that the people, businesses and communities see the maximum benefits and opportunities from growth. This summit was postponed on 28 February 2018 due to weather but BMS will be represented when the meeting is reorganised.
- 3.4 Discussions continue with Ipswich Borough Council and New Anglia LEP to support the Sproughton 'Space to Innovate' Enterprise Zone. In December 2017 planning applications were submitted for redevelopment of the site to form Sproughton Enterprise Park. This is due to go to planning committee in March 2018.

- 3.5 The Open for Business Team have progressed conversations with SCC and Nwes (management/service contractors) for Babergh DC to take full ownership and control from Suffolk County Council with 24 managed small business units in Sudbury, from June 2018. The Asset and Investments Team has also been involved in this work and Officers have worked well with colleagues in SCC economic development team to move this forward. This is vital to support businesses in South Suffolk and is financially self-sustaining from the rental income.
- 3.6 Significant tourism and visitor economy work is underway – reviewing our directly delivered TIC services, working with SCC/NALEP/Visit East Anglia, Local Tourism Action Groups and Destination Management Organisations to best support the vital visitor economy sectors.

#### **Our Priorities 2018/19 (Business Growth & Increased Productivity)**

- 3.7 The Cabinet Members, with Portfolio's, for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, working with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), have recently completed work on a set of priorities for 2018/19, ahead of the new financial year.
- 3.8 The priorities (attached in full, Appendix 1) align with the Joint Strategic Plan Refresh (2016-2020) and will be used to feed into Service Area Plans and the setting of personal objectives for all staff in 2018/19 to enable the organisation to deliver on these key activities. The priorities for 2018/19 accompany the great work undertaken by all our employees, as part of 'business as usual' to enable the delivery of excellent value for money frontline services.

#### **4. Future Key Activities**

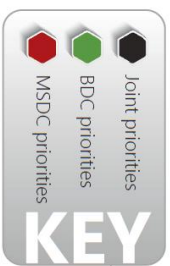
- 4.1 Progressing all of the above to next stages.
- 4.2 Officers will be developing a baseline of evidence and also forming service plans for 18/19 - linked to the Joint Strategic Plan, performance measures, budget work, economic strategy, achievements and successes and team development.
- 4.3 Officers will also be continuing several collaborative and commercially sensitive lines of conversation with some significant businesses, attractions and developers. This increases the potential for high value inward investment and links to unlocking stalled sites and promotion of our Enterprise Zone/Food Enterprise Zone designated sites. This work also potentially helps to create jobs, increase the options for our micro and SME businesses, increase value of existing businesses and attract New Anglia LEP and central government investment, including vital infrastructure. Influence and networking is growing with businesses, utility sectors and other partner organisations – all focusing on sustainable growth, jobs and productivity.
- 4.4 Tourism strategy work streams will progress significantly over the next few months, some of which will form reports to Cabinet.
- 4.5 Officers will continue to work with SCC and other stakeholders to progress Skills and Youth Employment Service strategy during the next period.
- 4.6 Officers will also be progressing regulatory policy/local standards reviews in Gambling Act 2005 and Taxi/PHV matters.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 The above demonstrates that the Councils are developing good momentum on key activities and collaborations delivering against set priorities. As well as justifying Officer activity the Open for Business strategy also outlines the breadth of work underway and demonstrates the Councils' impact. There is a lot of other supportive activity and 'business as usual' engagements underway in addition to the above report headlines. The next period will push all of the above work on further, and the key activities in section 4. As progress is made there will be difficult decisions and choices to be made, including on resource investment, and therefore a clear and transparent strategic approach is crucial to underpinning this.

Authorship: Councillor John Ward

## **Appendix 1 - Our Priorities 2018/19**



# Our Priorities 2018|19

## Housing Delivery

- **Local Plan (5yr Land Supply)** Submitted for inspection by Spring 2019
  - Narrow land supply gap
- **Housing Strategy**
  - Complete (Winter 2018-19)
- **Council Housing Building Programme**
  - 210 Houses Babergh; 90 Mid Suffolk (2018-21)
- **Increase Affordable Housing**
  - Delivery of stalled sites - Increase rate of completions e.g. Ganges (Shottle); **Ashes Farm (Stowmarket)**
- **More empty homes brought back into occupation faster** (Council housing & private)
  - **Increase Temporary Accommodation**
    - Provision in Stowmarket (Autumn 2018)
  - Review demand/feasibility for another facility (Winter 2018-19)

## Housing Delivery

## Assets & Investments

## Enabled & Efficient Organisation

## Business Growth & Increased Productivity

## Community Capacity Building & Engagement

## Environment

## Environment

- **Environment Strategy** (Winter 2018-19)
  - Deliver sustainable energy schemes
    - PV Panels,
    - Facility battery power
    - Vehicle charging points
- **Recycling Rate:**
  - BDC 43.65%
  - MSDC 45.98%
- **Garden Waste** (Customer increase)
- **Public Realm Review**
  - Deliver action plan benefits (Summer 2018 - Winter 2019)
- **Trees for Life-Deliver Scheme**
  - New-born Children 18-19 (Summer 2018 - Winter 2019)

## Assets & Investments

- **CFCO**
  - Financial revenue target & fully invest £50M (Winter 2018-19)
  - Review options to further extend investment (Autumn 2018)
- **Former HQ Sites**
  - Planning application (Autumn/Winter 2018-19)
  - On site (Spring/Summer 2019)
- **Development sites**
  - Planning application (Autumn/Winter 2018-19)
  - On site (Spring/Summer 2019)
  - Ardig Court - Hadleigh (Linked to Hadleigh HQ)
  - **Stowmarket & Needham Middle Schools**
    - **Stowmarket House, Eye**
- **Assets Strategy** - Asset utilisation and approach (Summer 2018)
  - **Bakers Mill** - Great Cornard Bridge solution
  - **Hamilton Rd, Sudbury**
    - Complete feasibility on regeneration work and develop business plan (Summer 2018)
- **Belle Vue, Sudbury**
  - Business case to Cabinet (Summer 2018)
  - Planning application (Summer 2018)
- **Leisure Investment** (Hadleigh, Stowmarket & Sudbury)
  - **Gainborough Chambers Asset Transfer**

## Enabled & Efficient Organisation

- **Financially Sustainable Council**
  - Transformation Programme (Celebrate success of last 5yrs)
  - Finance Strategy 2019-22 and balanced budget 2019-20
- **Customer Strategy (Refresh)** (Summer 2018)
  - Measure and work towards increasing overall customer satisfaction
- **Communications Strategy** (Spring 2018)
  - Programme of key activities
- **Council Recognition**
  - National award application/shortlisting (Spring 2019)
- **Joint Parking Policy** (Winter 2018-19)

## Business Growth & Increased Productivity

- **Deliver Economic Development Strategy**
  - Support for Enterprise Zones
    - Sproughston & Gateway 14
- **Business Awards** (Winter 2018-19)
- **Tourism Strategy** (Spring 2018)
- **Vision for Prosperity** (Town development in partnership with Town Council)
  - Vision for Sudbury (Winter 2018-19)
  - Vision for Stowmarket (Winter 2018-19)
- **TECH Hub Stowmarket**
  - Deliver pilot scheme (Winter 2018-19)
- **Development plan for Stowmarket Nat West Building**
  - Feasibility (Spring 2018)
- **Support Sudbury Bypass**
- **Support A14 improvements and A14 Express Way**

## Community Capacity Building & Engagement

- **Communities Strategy** (Winter 2018-19)
- **Community Grants** (visibility, approach for 2018-19 and outcomes)
- **Community Awards** (Winter 2018-19)
- **Sudbury Skate Park** (Belle Vue)
  - Commence work (Winter 2018-19)
- **Develop cafe/visitor centre Needham Lakes**
  - Feasibility (Summer 2018)

