

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

From: Councillor Nick Gowrley Leader and Cabinet Member for Assets & Investment	Report Number: CMU8
To: Council	Date of meeting: 26 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 invest a total of £2.575m into the redevelopment of the Regal Theatre in Stowmarket, in association with Stowmarket Town Council. The support is in the form of a £1m loan, a capital grant of £1.56m and a capital allocation of £15k to remodel the car park beside the Theatre. This decision demonstrates the Council's commitment to Stowmarket as our key town within the district, builds on the cultural and creative offer that already exists in Stowmarket and will enable the town to establish a more vibrant and sustainable town centre. The development is also anticipated to have a number of economic benefits for the town as were set out in the report to Cabinet. The Council is now setting up a project team with Stowmarket Town Council to ensure successful delivery of the project in a timely manner.
- 3.2 At the same Cabinet meeting in February the decision was also taken to submit a bid for a strategic property in Stowmarket Town Centre. The Council's bid was successful and contracts have been exchanged on the property. I look forward to being able to tell you more about this purchase and its intended use once the purchase has been completed.
- 3.3 Plans for the regeneration of the Council's former Head Quarters site in Needham Market 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.

Our Priorities 2018/19 (Assets and Investment)

- 3.4 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, to include assets and investment priorities.
- 3.5 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 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 developments in: Needham Market, Stowmarket and Eye. The developments will be a mixture of affordable and market sale homes. Plans will be shared soon, with planning applications anticipated for submission in the 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.

Authorship: Cllr Nick Gowrley

Appendix 1 - Our Priorities 2018/19

Joint priorities
BDC priorities
MSDC priorities

KEY



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 (Shotley); 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)

Assets & Investments

- CIFCO
 - 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)
 - Angel Court - Hadleigh (Linked to Hadleigh HQ)
 - Stowmarket & Needham Middle Schools
 - Paddock 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)
 - Gainsborough 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 Councils)
 - 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)

Environment

- Environment Strategy (Winter 2018-19)
- Deliver sustainable energy schemes
 - PV Panels,
 - Facility battery power
 - Vehicle charging points
- Recycling Rate: BDC 43.63%
- MSDC 45.98%
- Garden Waste (Customer increase)
- Public Realm Review
 - Deliver action plan benefits (Summer 2018 - Winter 2019)
- 6. Trees for Life-Deliver Scheme
 - New-born Children 18-19 (Summer 2018 - Winter 2019)

One Council

Business Case complete (Spring 2018)
Local Poll (Summer 2018)
MHCLG 'Minded to decision' (Autumn 2018)