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MID SUFFOLK CABINET	
DATE:	MONDAY, 6 JUNE 2022 8.30 AM
VENUE:	KING EDMUND CHAMBER, ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH

Councillors
<u>Conservative and Independent Group</u> David Burn Julie Flatman Jessica Fleming Peter Gould Lavinia Hadingham Suzie Morley (Chair) Harry Richardson John Whitehead Gerard Brewster (Vice-Chair)

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AGENDA

PART 1

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT

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Cabinet Member for Economic Growth
Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

12 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (TERM WHICH INCLUDES THE PRESS)**

To consider whether, pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public should be excluded from the meeting for the business specified below on the grounds that if the public were present during this item, it is likely that there would be the disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated against the item. The author of the report proposed to be considered in Part 2 of the Agenda is satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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Date and Time of next meeting

Please note that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 4 July 2022 at 10.30 am.

Webcasting/ Live Streaming

The Webcast of the meeting will be available to view on the Councils Youtube page: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSWf_0D13zmegAf5Qv_aZSg

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact the Committee Officer, H. Holloway on: 01449 724681 or Email: Committees@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

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Agenda Item 3

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **MID SUFFOLK CABINET** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 4 April 2022

PRESENT:

Councillor: Suzie Morley (Chair)
Gerard Brewster (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: David Burn
Jessica Fleming
Lavinia Hadingham
John Whitehead
Julie Flatman
Peter Gould
Harry Richardson

In attendance:

Councillors: Andrew Mellen

Officers: Assistant Director – Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer (EY)
Corporate Manager – Governance & Civic Office (JR)
SRP Operations Manager (AW)
Corporate Manager – Economy & Business (MG)
Sustainable Travel Officer (KD)
Senior Governance Officer (HH)

Apologies:

None

109 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Whitehead declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 10 in his role as Director of Gateway 14 Ltd.

110 MCA/21/46 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2022

It was RESOLVED:-

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 7 March 2022 be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

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

None received.

112 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

None received.

113 MATTERS REFERRED BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OR JOINT AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES

There were no matters referred.

114 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

The Forthcoming Decisions List was noted.

115 MCA/21/47 COUNCIL TAX ENERGY REBATE 2022/23

115.1 The Chair invited the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Whitehead to introduce the report.

115.2 Councillor Whitehead provided an overview of the report and proposed the recommendations, as detailed in the report.

115.3 Councillor Brewster seconded the recommendation.

115.4 In response to questions from other Members attending the meeting, the SRP Operations Manager responded that Government had recently changed the guidance and the hardship funding put in place could not be paid to landlords, but to those who were the main occupants.

It was RESOLVED:-

That Cabinet gave authority to the Assistant Director for Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to agree the discretionary Council Tax Energy Policy, in accordance with the relevant Government guidelines.

That Cabinet gave authority to the Shared Revenues Partnership (SRP) Operations Manager to administer the scheme for the Council Tax Energy Rebate and the discretionary Council Tax Energy Policy.

REASON FOR DECISION

To provide support to households to pay energy bills.

To enable the implementation of the discretionary policy.

116 MCA/21/48 BMSDC SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL VISION & LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

116.1 The Chair, Councillor Morley, invited the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Fleming to introduce the report.

116.2 Councillor Fleming outlined the background for the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and summarised the main points in the

report.

- 116.3 Councillor Fleming proposed the recommendations, as detailed in the report which was seconded by Councillor Richardson.
- 116.4 Councillor Brewster supported the LCWIP in principle but had concerns regarding specific proposals in the report such as Ipswich Street in Stowmarket.
- 116.5 The Sustainable Travel Officer advised that the list of schemes in the LCWIP was based on desires of the public identified during the public consultation. Suffolk Highways would consider the proposed schemes and decide what kind of infrastructure would be possible.
- 116.6 In response to Councillor Gould's questions regarding adding new schemes to the LCWIP and the possibility of distribution of resources back to the County for the LCWIP scheme, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Fleming stated that the decision for local schemes would be part of the negotiations for the County deal for the funding from Central Government.
- 116.7 The Cabinet Member responded to further questions from Councillors and stated that the Council had to be broadly consistent with other authorities and follow the established matrix for the schemes, though there was room for some flexibility.
- 116.8 The Sustainable Travel Officer responded to further questions from Councillors and advised that the LCWIP was not compulsory, but that Government would look favourably on authorities, who had one in existence. Further that it was no longer an option for members of the public to add schemes to the list. However, the website remained live with news, project updates and contact details to enable an open conversation for the LCWIP. She added that the consultation had received over 800 responses.
- 116.9 In response to Councillor Burn's question regarding monitoring of progress for the Scheme, officers responded that the Council was working closely with Suffolk County Council (SCC) and Suffolk Highways to oversee how progression could be made on the listed schemes.
- 116.10 The Sustainable Travel Officer responded to questions from other Members attending the meeting on issues including community transport, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding and how the LCWIP would be used by planning officers.
- 116.11 During the debate Councillor Richardson thanked the Sustainable Travel officer and the Cabinet Member for Environment for the work undertaken for LCWIP. It was a valuable piece of work for the District, and he appreciated the input from the public consultation. The document was a live document, and that it was important to promote active travel and to support the Joint Wellbeing Strategy agreed last September.

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That the joint Councils' draft LCWIP and Sustainable Transport vision be endorsed.**
- 1.2 That the completion of the final documentation be delegated to the Assistant Director for Economic Development and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment.**

REASON FOR DECISION

Endorsement is recommended so that the LCWIP can be supported and utilised as recommended by National Government guidance. The Sustainable Travel Vision will be used to inform the public about our key values, aims, ambitions and narrative around Sustainable Travel. The LCWIP will also be made public, but the key functions of this document are to inform SCC Highways and our own planning directorate of our active travel infrastructure ambitions, in order to capture opportunity for delivery.

117 MCA/21/49 FREEPORT EAST FULL BUSINESS CASE

- 117.1 The Chair, Councillor Morley, invited the Cabinet Member for Economy, Councillor Brewster to introduce the report.
- 117.2 Councillor Brewster provided a background summary for the proposed Business Case and an overview of the report.
- 117.3 Councillor Brewster proposed the recommendations in the report, which was seconded by Councillor Whitehead.
- 117.4 The Corporate Manager for Economy and Business responded to questions from other Members attending the meeting including options for existing business to relocate to the Gateway 14 site, sustainable and carbon neutral schemes for the site and food designation options for the businesses located on the Gateway 14 site.
- 117.5 During the debate Councillor Fleming thought that the Gateway 14 development had great synergy for the development of low carbon and related technologies in the region and she considered future 'green' developments including solar energy and the option of a rail connection to the site, should that become viable.

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That the submission of Freeport East Full Business Case (FBC) be endorsed.**
- 1.2 That the Assistant Director Economy & Regeneration and the S.151 Officer be given delegated authority in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members for Finance and Economy, to finalise**

the detail on the Freeport East FBC on behalf of Mid Suffolk District Council.

- 1.3 That the proposed incorporation model for Freeport East i.e. Company Limited by Guarantee be approved, and that Cabinet make a recommendation to Full Council on nominations for a MSDC director.**
- 1.4 That a retained business rates policy be approved in principle.**
- 1.5 That forward funding from the Growth & Efficiency Fund of £80,000 per year for 2 years in advance of retained business rates be approved.**

REASON FOR DECISION

Achieving Freeport status for the G14 site and the wider Freeport East region will provide a unique opportunity for significant economic growth.

This once in a generation opportunity will leverage in substantial additional funding to support the delivery of G14 alongside providing investment in skills, infrastructure and investment projects in the wider area to support the Levelling Up agenda and provide opportunities for all and true inclusive growth for our communities.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11:32 am.

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Chair

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Agenda Item 8

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Mid Suffolk District Council Cabinet	REPORT NUMBER MCa/22/2
FROM: Cabinet Member for Planning	DATE OF MEETING: 6 th June 2022
OFFICER: Tom Barker, Assistant Director for Planning and Building Control	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB351

RESPONSE TO NATIONAL GRID NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE EAST ANGLIA GREEN OVERHEAD LINE PROJECT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To allow Cabinet to debate the matter formally as the project is perceived as controversial, to seek comments on the proposed joint response of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and request delegation to the Assistant Director for Planning and Building control to send the response.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 To respond to the consultation with the response as set out in appendix a.
- 2.2 To respond to the consultation with proposed amendments to the responses set out in appendix a.
- 2.3 To not respond to the consultation.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To respond to the consultation.
2. That the Assistant Director for Planning and Building Control, in collaboration with the Cabinet Members for Planning, consider any proposed amendments to the suggested response and be authorised to make amendments before submitting a response to the Government.

REASON FOR DECISION

To ensure the comments of the councils are set out for consideration by National Grid in the further stages of the project.

4. KEY INFORMATION

The East Anglia Green Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project is a development scheme of overhead electricity lines proposed by National Grid.

The development is required to reinforce the electricity transmission network and enable connection of offshore wind generation projects, contributing to the government’s net zero and 50 by 30 objectives.

The proposal includes:

- 60 km new 400 kV overhead line between Norwich and Bramford
- 120 km new 400 kV overhead line between Bramford and Tilbury
- underground cables through Dedham Vale AONB
- new 400 kV substation, to be connected into the new Bramford – Tilbury circuit, to connect North Falls and Five Estuaries offshore wind farms.

5. LINKS TO JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN

The Corporate Plan identifies strategic priorities, which include the environment, economy, housing, wellbeing, our customers and our communities. The project affects strategic priorities through its proposals.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to responding to the consultation.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Planning Act 2008 sets out provisions for the NSIP pre-application process including a duty for the proposer to consult parties including the local authorities and local communities affected.

The comments submitted by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils respond to the statutory consultation being carried out.

There is no legal requirement to respond to this consultation.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

This report is linked with item 14 of the Councils’ Significant Risks, The Councils may be perceived to be untrustworthy and have a poor reputation. This may prevent it from entering into positive partnerships, secure funding and ultimately may affect our ability to work with partners, businesses and key stakeholders in achieving our strategic priorities. The key risk is set out below: -

Risk Description	Likelihood	Seriousness of impact	Mitigation measures
Failure to engage with communities and provide community leadership at a local level	Highly unlikely	Bad / serious	Ensure local representation is summarised within the consultation

9. CONSULTATIONS

As part of the handling of the statutory consultation Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have consulted technical advisers including:

- BMSDC Environmental Health Officers
- BMSDC Economic Development Officer
- Place Services – Heritage
- Place Services – Ecology
- Place Services – Landscape

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required as this is a response to a consultation.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Through responding to the consultation, the impact on the environment might be mitigated if the proposals responds to the issues highlighted by technical advisers as set out in the proposed joint response from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

12. APPENDICES

A. Draft joint response (to follow)

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Consultation documents available here: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/east-anglia-green>

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Agenda Item 9

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Cabinet	REPORT NUMBER: MCa/22/3
FROM: Cllr Harry Richardson, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing	DATE OF MEETING: 06.06.2022
OFFICER: Nadeem Murtuja, Assistant Director for Communities and Wellbeing	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB343

Cost of Living Report and Action plan

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a phase one 5 Point Plan covering the next 6 months to respond to the emerging Cost of Living Crisis.

- 1.1 A phased approach is being taken due to the potential challenges ahead that cannot be fully predicted at the present time given the global challenges, market volatility, rising inflation and the everyday changing landscape regarding people's household budgets. This plan will therefore be kept under review and also refreshed in the autumn in preparedness to tackle winter pressures.
- 1.2 This plan is not intended to fully plug the financial pressures in the personal budgets of people, instead it focuses on two things, firstly to provide the best possible support to cope with cost of living issues through a variety of interventions at our disposal, and secondly to prevent people from falling into crisis through measures that will encourage wellbeing, self-enablement and community resilience.
- 1.3 Predictions from a range of think tanks, including ONS is that living standards will significantly fall and the Bank of England has warned that inflation could rise to 10% and the country could enter a recession. There are a wide variety of factors, including the war in Ukraine, market volatility, costs associated with supply chains and inflation rates, which will all have a cumulative impact on residents' lives, including our own workforce and that of our partners.
- 1.4 The interventions that we are proposing are only a starting point. They are mainly outward facing, however, where appropriate, they are also targeted at our own workforce.
- 1.5 By thinking ahead now in terms of people's needs and how we respond provides both the Council with the ability to further adapt our own service delivery infrastructure to meet the likely emerging needs that we cannot fully predict yet, underpinned with the aim of maintaining optimum service delivery for those areas that we are responsible for.
- 1.6 Working in partnership with Suffolk County Council and other system wide partners, under a principle of collaboration (as per the Overview & Scrutiny recommendation), coupled with building on the work that we have already implemented, will enable us to maximise all the levers at our disposal to respond to the emerging crisis that will

impact on all people in our District differently – ranging from anxiety and isolation to economic impacts.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 To rely on just Government support and co-ordinate that activity and hope people can find their own solutions.
- 2.2 To pull together a bespoke plan that will provide residents and our workforce with assurance and confidence that they are not alone and that the District Council will utilise all levers available to connect systems to support people with advice and support on the cost of living issues. Alongside this, recognising that key to any recovery related to the emerging crisis is to maintain wellbeing under the principles of prevention, empowerment, self-enablement and activities that build community resilience, so that people at a locality level can support each other too.
Recommended.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Agree the 5 Point Plan attached at Appendix One.
- 3.2 Delegate to the Assistant Director for Communities & Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing to keep this Plan under review and to update this in response to emerging need.

REASON FOR DECISION

Provides assurance and confidence, ensuring that well established systems intra-connect to respond to the emerging needs of people through effective co-ordination and service delivery. The plan includes a range of measures that focus on providing advice and support, maintaining people's good health, building on the investments the Council have already made since the launch of its respective Communities and Wellbeing strategies and bringing forward an initial suite of interventions that will help the Council improve as a system long term, including the appointment of a Cost-of-Living Co-ordinator.

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 The emerging cost of living crisis will impact on some people and communities more than others, further exacerbating inequalities that people were already experiencing as a result of the pandemic.
- 4.2 In March the Office of Budget Responsibility predicted that UK living standards will fall at their fastest rate since the 1950s and it will take until at least 2024 to return to pre-covid levels. It said that the fall in 2022-23 would be the biggest in a single financial year, since modern records began in 1956-57, and that it would take until 2024-25 for inflation adjusted living standards to return to their pre-pandemic levels. They predicted that disposable income would fall by 2.2% in 2022-23 as earnings from work fail to keep up with soaring inflation.
- 4.3 The Bank of England in early May predicted that the country risks entering into a recession and that it has seen inflation rising to a 40 year high, potentially above 10% by the year's end, when a further energy price cap is expected to be implemented.

- 4.4 The National Institute of Economic and Social Research estimates 1.5m British households, one in 20, will soon face bills for food and energy which will exceed their disposable income after housing costs. It also forecasts the country could enter a recession at the latter end of this year, thus the need to refresh this plan in the Autumn.
- 4.5 A survey by the consultancy firm BritainThinks found the cost of living was now the dominant concern for UK households, with 90% worried about the effects of rising prices. The report suggested that 10% of people were already struggling to stay afloat.
- 4.6 Other similar studies, such as the one conducted by Shawbrook Bank showed that 18% of people were already losing sleep over the issues and that managing their finances was the leading cause of stress.
- 4.7 Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice works closely with foodbanks in the district. A report on food bank usage showed that:
- Demand for food parcels in 2021 was double what it was in 2019 before the pandemic.
 - Most food parcel referrals were for single people, yet the number of food referrals for families with children has trebled between 2019-21
 - 43% of people who asked for a food parcel had a disability or long-term health condition.
 - the main issues faced by those seeking support from foodbanks were associated with benefits and debt.
- 4.8 Coupled with the above, the cost of oil has also spiralled and is affecting circa 1.5m households across the country, often but not exclusively those that live in our rural areas.
- 4.9 Both CAB in Stowmarket has been provided with a one-off in-year 30% uplift in their grants to maintain capacity and operations to deal with the emerging demand.
- 4.10 The most recent performance dashboard from Health colleagues in April found that more than 50% of Social Prescribing referrals from primary care in the Suffolk-wide system were now for welfare support, debt management and advice reasons.
- 4.11 Concerns are also being expressed that people who live independently or in care homes will be adversely affected if they stop receiving visits from relatives and friends, which is likely cause other impacts in the system. Think tanks are already reporting that people are travelling less due to the soaring cost of fuel.

The number of children and young people reliant on free school meals in Mid Suffolk is 1677.

Free School Meals is recognised by most as a key national indicator for poverty and it is likely that these families will be affected disproportionately, coupled with those on low household incomes.

- 4.12 The impact of Covid has resulted in all organisations having to rethink and digitise their operating models and that has also impacted on how consumers use services. This has in effect provided extra resilience in the system for it to be more rapid, agile and respond to people's need on the issues that are affecting people's lives.
- 4.13 Anecdotally the system is beginning to pick up evidence that the emerging crisis is now having an impact on residents, and this also includes feedback from elected Members.
- 4.14 Our view is that focusing on cost of living issues alone will not mitigate against the health impacts that have already been exacerbated by the pandemic, so we need to focus on people's wellbeing too. We are therefore taking a two-pronged approach as outlined in the attached action plan: a) support and advice to deal with the cost of living issues; and b) supporting people to maintain/take responsibility for their own wellbeing. These are areas and systems that we have already invested in, both from a strategy and financial perspective.
- 4.15 It is important to note that it will be necessary to apply discretion to support people and prevent them falling into crisis and this should not be seen or promoted as a universal offer. Discretionary policy implementation is not new to local government and would be operated within the context of local pre-agreed criteria, where these are not set externally.

We have been working with CABs at locality level and as a result we believe we are amongst the first Districts in the country looking to appoint a specific post that will focus on cost of living – titled Cost of Living Co-ordinator. This post will build on the substantial operations we already have in place including customer services, housing and welfare support and external partnerships to ensure that partners are talking to each other in meeting people's needs. In exceptional circumstances this post will also provide a case management function that focuses on delivering appropriate outcomes for people and their families at the cusp of crisis. The post will work across both Babergh and Mid Suffolk and will be funded by a payment received by the Council from DLUHC.

Recap of the work we have been undertaking

- 4.16 The County Council are bringing together a range of stakeholders from across the districts to form a Poverty Board. This will help us to bring resources, understand issues and implement joint initiatives to manage the impact of the emerging crisis.
- 4.17 The Council already provides funding to Citizen Advice with a rolling 3-year core grant provision to ensure there is longevity in providing support to people; this complements current housing/welfare support provision within the Council and the circa 30% one-off in year uplift. We therefore already have well established systems to provide support and advice to build on.
- 4.18 Through our tenancy support management, our approach is one of support first. Income Officers look at each tenant individually, assessing their wider situation rather than just rent owed. This may involve signposting to other agencies that can assist, such as Citizens Advice or referring to our in-house Tenancy Support Officers, who can help with maximising income, budgeting and negotiating with creditors.

- 4.19 We joined the Suffolk Information Partnership (SIP) initiative, led by Suffolk County Council across Customer Services and Housing to ensure that we are able to securely make referrals to over 70 statutory and voluntary organisations.
- 4.20 As part of our Shared Revenues Partnership we make best use of our Discretionary Housing Payment budget, which supports customers whose rent is restricted due to the Local Housing Allowance, Bedroom Tax or Benefit Cap.
- 4.21 Our Council Tax Reduction Scheme offers up to 95% reduction in Council Tax for working age residents and 100% reduction for pension age residents.
- 4.22 New tenants that have homes as part of our own housing stock are called by their rent officer within the first 2 weeks of their tenancy. This identifies issues and provides greater support to tenants at an earlier stage. This is beneficial as it builds rapport and tenants know who to go to should they get into difficulties with their rent. It also means we can assist with benefit claims earlier on or help with referrals for debt. This support also includes utilisation of the Household Support Grant.
- 4.23 Alongside positive interventions locally to support people to cook healthier meals, the Department for Education have committed to three years' funding for the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme which provides free activities and meals during school holidays to young people who are eligible for free school meals. Our officers are coordinating this programme, making sure that it is available to those families most in need. The Family Park Cooking sessions are a great example of this whereby families are encouraged to cook inexpensive, healthy meals together and minimise food waste.
- 4.24 We will be looking to expand our social prescribing offer/model to include additional partners so that we are able to support our residents to maintain good health, whether that be use of our green spaces or having affordable access to leisure provision. This will be ratified in due course.
- 4.25 We will continue to explore with our partners how we can address issues like isolation and loneliness by considering interventions such as a discretionary travel voucher scheme in appropriate circumstances where there is hardship. In essence we will continue to monitor the crisis and respond accordingly.

The 5 Point Plan

- 4.26 The measures we are bringing together, and introducing, can be listed under the following 5 Points:

Cost of Living:

- 1) Co-ordinating Government Support to ensure it reaches those people who need it.
- 2) Exercising discretion when providing welfare support and advice to support those people who could potentially fall on hard times.
- 3) Maximise partnership working and established systems to provide targeted support in localities where there is a particular trend and need, implementing a targeted 'family-first approach'.

Preventing Crisis:

- 4) Maintain Good Health – whether that be referrals for mental health support, discounts at our gyms and swimming pools, promotion of free local exercise activities and sports clubs, engaging in community-led “wellbeing” initiatives, volunteering and socialising via local initiatives.
- 5) Access to food and nutrition – whether that be participating in healthy eating exercises/initiatives, organising a community garden to grow produce, setting up a Community Larder or providing extra support to local food banks to meet any unmet need.

6) LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

- a. The joint Corporate Plan is designed to address the challenges and provide opportunities for the wellbeing of our communities. Its vision is to have ‘Great communities with bright and healthy futures that everyone is proud to call home’.
- b. The joint Corporate Plan is underpinned by six strategic priorities. The 5 Point Plan seeks to support ambitions that cut across all six strategies.

7) LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- a. There are no legal implications associated with this report.

8) RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Those most vulnerable and in most need do not receive the support they need	Medium	High	Co-ordinating and promoting Government support to ensure that available help gets to those people who need it. Exercising discretion when providing welfare support and advice to support those people who could potentially fall on hard times.
Support provided to our communities and those most in need is not sufficient, aligned or coordinated.	Medium	High	Maximise partnership working and established systems to provide targeted support in localities where there is a particular trend and need, implementing a targeted ‘family-first approach’.

			Appointment of a dedicated Cost of Living officer to co-ordinate work and maintain strong partnership arrangements.
The impacts of the Cost of Living Crisis reduces the overall wellbeing and resilience of our communities	Medium	High	Continued support for communities to maintain good health – whether that be referrals for mental health support, discounts to our gyms, engaging in community-led “wellbeing” initiatives, volunteering and socialising via local initiatives. Continued support for communities to access food and nutrition – whether that be participating in healthy eating exercises/initiatives, organising a community garden to grow produce, setting up of a Community Pantry or providing extra support to local food banks to meet any unmet need.

9) CONSULTATIONS

- a. A number of Member briefings have already taken place where the 5 point plan has been shared, most recently at an all Member briefing on 28th April 2022.
- b. Discussions have also taken place with partners including Health Partners, advisory services and the Suffolk Collaborative Communities Board.
- c. There have been internal officer discussions with the Senior Leadership Team, Finance, Housing, Shared Revenues Partnership, Communities and Customer Services.

10) EQUALITY ANALYSIS

- A. There is no requirement to complete an EQIA at this time. The plan is intended to tackle and prevent inequalities, and these will be monitored by the pulling together of the data set under point 2 of the plan.

11) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- a. There are no environmental implications directly associated with this report.

12) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs and funding for each task are set out in the action plan. At this stage, the action plan does not require additional funding from the council over and above that already set aside in the budgets for 2022/23. The availability of the range of external funding sources referenced in the action plan at Appendix One of this report, including the new Cost of Living Co-ordinator post, is noted.

13) BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Meeting pack for Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board Agenda – 12 May 2022 (with specific note to the cost of living report, including tackling poverty action plan) [Meeting Documents - Committee Minutes \(suffolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/Meeting-Documents-Committee-Minutes)

14) REPORT AUTHORS

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5 Point Action Plan

Cost of Living Crisis

A whole system approach to support residents respond to the cost of living issues and enable individual and collective wellbeing through a suite of preventative / personalised measures

Foreword

The emerging cost of living crisis will impact on some people and communities more than others, further exacerbating the inequalities that people were already experiencing as a result of the pandemic.

In March the Office of Budget Responsibility predicted that UK living standards will fall at their fastest rate since the 1950s and it will take until at least 2024 to return to pre-covid levels. It said that the fall in 2022-23 would be the biggest in a single financial year since modern records began in 1956-57 and that it would take until 2024-25 for inflation adjusted living standards to return to their pre-pandemic levels. They predicted that disposable income would fall by 2.2% in 2022-23 as earnings from work fail to keep up with soaring inflation.

The Bank of England in early May predicted that the country risks entering into a recession and that it has seen inflation rising to a 40-year high, potentially above 10% by the year's end, when a further energy price cap is expected to be implemented.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research estimates 1.5m British households, 1 in 20, will soon face bills for food and energy which will exceed their disposable income after housing costs. It also forecasts the country entering a recession at the latter end of this year, thus the need to refresh this plan in the autumn.

A survey by the consultancy firm BritainThinks found the cost of living was now the dominant concern for UK households, with 90% worried about the effects of rising prices. The report suggested that 10% of people were already struggling to stay afloat.

Other similar studies, such as the one conducted by Shawbrook Bank showed that 18% of people were already losing sleep over the issues and that managing their finances was the leading cause of stress.

Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice works closely with food banks in the district. A report on Foodbank usage showed that:

- Demand for food parcels in 2021 was double what it was in 2019 before the pandemic.
- Most food parcel referrals were for single people, yet the number of food referrals for families with children has trebled between 2019-21.
- 43% of people who asked for a food parcel had a disability or long-term health condition.

- The main issues faced by those seeking support from foodbanks were associated with benefits and debt.

Coupled with the above the cost of oil has also spiralled and is affecting circa 1.5m households across the country and will also affect our rural communities who also rely on oil for their energy. A report by Public Health England and the UCL Institute for Health Equity¹ expresses concern that cold homes as a result of fuel poverty will further exacerbate health inequalities – that is why this action plan will need to be refreshed in preparedness for winter pressures, which will also require a rethink on an appropriate suite of interventions.

The most recent performance dashboard from Health colleagues in April found that more than 50% of Social Prescribing referrals from primary care in the Suffolk-wide system were now for welfare support, debt management and advice reasons. Concerns are also being expressed that vulnerable or isolated people who live independently or in care homes could be adversely affected if they stop receiving visits from relatives and friends – which will likely cause other impacts in the system. Think tanks are already reporting that people are travelling less due to the soaring cost of fuel.

We have provided the CAB in Stowmarket with an in-year 30% uplift to their grant so that they are able to maintain capacity and operations to deal with the emerging demand of our residents.

A further concern is still the number of children and young people reliant on free school meals and in Mid Suffolk this is 1677.

Free School Meals is often described as an indicator of poverty and it is likely that these families will be affected disproportionately by the crisis, coupled with those on low household incomes. It is therefore incumbent that those people that need our support receive it and that must include access to well-paid work. We will run campaigns that will focus on promoting responsible employer responsibilities, debt and finance management advice throughout the two districts and encourage our partners to do the same.

Our Approach:

The impact of Covid has resulted in all organisations having to rethink and digitise their operating models and that has also impacted on how consumers use services too.

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https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKewiT6O7r6dv3AhVSQkEAHaxsBp8QFnoECAQQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Ffingertips.phe.org.uk%2Fdocuments%2FFuel_poverty_health_inequalities.pdf&usg=AOvVaw13PniBAAhQ_FjA6Fu3088J

This has in effect provided extra resilience in the system, for it to be more rapid, agile and respond to people's need on the issues that are affecting people's lives. Anecdotally the system is beginning to highlight issues that the emerging crisis is now having an impact on residents and this also includes feedback from elected Members.

Our view is that focusing on cost-of-living issues alone will not mitigate against the health impacts that have already been exacerbated by the pandemic so we must focus on wellbeing too. We are therefore taking a two-pronged approach as outlined in this action plan: a) provide support and advice to deal with the cost of living issues and b) support people to maintain/take responsibility for their own wellbeing. These are areas and systems that we have already invested in, both from a strategy and a financial perspective, so we are better placed than most to continue our efforts to ensure that everyone has good health.

It is important to note that it will be necessary to apply discretion to support people and prevent them from falling into crisis and this should not be seen or promoted as a universal offer. Discretionary policy implementation is not new to local government and would be operated within the context of local pre-agreed criteria, where these are not set externally.

We have been working with the CAB at locality level and as a result we believe we are among the first Districts in the country looking to appoint a specific post that will focus on Cost of living – titled Cost of Living Co-ordinator. This post will build on the operations we already have in place, including customer services, housing and welfare support and external partnerships to ensure that all partners talk to each other in meeting the needs of people. In exceptional circumstances this post will also provide a case management function that focuses on attempts to deliver appropriate outcomes for people and their families at the cusp of crisis.

Recap of the work we have undertaken thus far:

The County Council have brought together a range of stakeholders from across the districts to form a Poverty Board. This will help us to bring together resources, understand issues and implement joint initiatives to manage the impact of the emerging crisis.

The Council already provides Citizen Advice with a 3-year core grant provision to ensure there is longevity in providing support to people. This complements current housing/welfare support provision within the Council and the circa 30% in year one-off uplift, therefore we already have well established systems to provide support and advice to build on.

Through our tenancy support management functions, our approach is one of support first. Income officers look at each tenant individually, assessing their situation rather than just rent owed. This may involve signposting to other agencies that can assist, such as Citizens Advice, or referring to our in-house Tenancy Support Officers, who can help with maximising income, budgeting and negotiating with creditors.

As part of our Shared Revenues Partnership we make best use of our Discretionary Housing Payment budget, which supports customers whose rent is restricted due to the Local Housing Allowance, Bedroom Tax or Benefit Cap

Our Council Tax Reduction Scheme offers up to 95% reduction in Council Tax for working age residents and 100% reduction for pension age residents.

New tenants are called by their rent officer within the first 2 weeks of their tenancy. This identifies issues and provides greater support to tenants at an earlier stage. This is beneficial as it builds rapport and tenants know who to go to should they get into difficulties with their rent. It also means we can assist with benefit claims earlier on or help with referrals for debt. The Household Support grant is used where appropriate.

Alongside positive interventions locally to support people to cook healthier meals, the Department for Education have committed to three years' funding for the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme which provides free activities and meals during school holidays to young people who are eligible for free school meals. Staff at B&MSDCs are coordinating this programme, making sure that it is available to those families most in need. The Family Park Cooking sessions are a great example of this whereby families are encouraged to cook inexpensive, healthy meals together and minimise food waste.

We will be looking to expand our social prescribing offer/model to include additional partners so that we are able to support our residents to maintain good health – whether that be use of our green spaces or having affordable access to leisure provision – this will be ratified in due course.

We will continue to explore with our partners how we can address issues linked to isolation and loneliness by thinking of innovative interventions. In essence we will continue to monitor the crisis and impact closely and respond as a system in the best way we can to meet those needs.

This 5 Point Plan

The measures we are bringing together, and also some we are introducing, are built on the partnerships we have formed and our track record of always being able to respond as a system with maturity and by putting people at the heart of everything we do. Our 5 Point Plan is as follows:

Cost of Living:

- 1) **Co-ordinating Government Support** to ensure it reaches those people who need it.
- 2) **Exercising discretion when providing welfare support and advice** to support those people who could potentially fall on hard times.
- 3) **Maximise partnership working and established systems to provide targeted support in localities** where there is a particular trend and need, implementing a targeted family-first approach.

Preventing Crisis:

- 4) **Maintain Good Health** – whether that be referrals for mental health support, discounts at our gyms and swimming pools, engaging in community-led “wellbeing” initiatives, volunteering and socialising via local initiatives.
- 5) **Access to food and nutrition** – whether that be participating in healthy eating exercises/initiatives, organising a community garden to grow produce, setting up of a Community Larder or providing extra support to local food banks to meet any unmet need.

We believe putting these measures in now, together with the announcements we made during the budget earlier this year, provides us all with the best opportunity to come through this crisis together. We will of course continue to monitor the changes to people’s lives carefully and continue to respond swiftly and decisively where we can. We will keep this plan under review and update it in response to emerging need, also ensuring that it is reviewed in the autumn when we have further information and in preparation for winter pressures.

Cllr Suzie Morley



Co-ordinating Government Support

Cost of Living Crisis: 5 Point Action Plan

Point 1: Co-ordinating Government Support

Task	Lead (dept)	Assigned to	Timeframe	Cost & Funding Source	Benefit and potential Impact
Residents that are eligible for Council Tax Energy Rebate of £150 receive it: Bands A-D	Shared Revenue Partnership /Finance	Assistant Director Corporate Resources	April 1 st , 2022, - 30 th Sept 2022	Funding from Government MSDC £5,199,300	Residents could use relief to offset against other living standard issues.
Energy Rebate Discretionary fund - for households in need who would not otherwise be eligible for a	Shared Revenue Partnership/Finance	Assistant Director Corporate Resources	April 1 st , 2022, - 30 th November 2022	Funding from Government MSDC £161,250	The Council's discretionary policy is being developed and we will publish this alongside details of how to apply once the details have been confirmed.

Council Tax Energy Rebate.					
Household Support Grant of £5.1m invested across the Suffolk System to support residents against the following categories: (Food, Clothing and Utilities). The Suffolk System maximises our capacity to deploy the voluntary	Suffolk County Council / Housing Welfare Support	Assistant Directors Housing / Communities	April 1 st 2022	£5.1m (Govt. funding) for Suffolk-wide System.	The fund will help households with the cost of essentials such as food, clothing and utilities (where there is a specific need identified). https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils/household-support-fund-final-guidance-for-county-councils-and-unitary-authorities-in-england#establishing-eligibility

**and
community
sector to
receive
referrals via
a “warm
handover”
and for the
provider to
meet the
residents
needs.**



Providing welfare support and advice

Point 2: Exercise discretion and provide welfare support and advice for people who need it the most.

<p>Through the Council's Shared Revenues Partnership to make best use of the available Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) budget to support those whose rent is restricted due to Local Housing Allowance, Bedroom Tax or Benefit Cap</p> <p>Page 34</p>	<p>Shared Revenues Partnership</p>	<p>Assistant Directors Housing / Corporate Resources</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>DWP Grant £68,636 MSDC</p>	<p>DHP can help people with housing costs, including those affected by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefit cap • Removal of the spare room subsidy in the social rented sector • Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates • Financial hardship <p>You may get a DHP to cover housing costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there is a liability to pay rent and a rent shortfall exists after Housing Benefit or UC Housing Costs are paid and the household budget is insufficient to meet that shortfall. • For a short period to allow time for household adjustments to contracts and subscriptions. • To facilitate a move that removes ongoing dependency on DHP <p>DHPs cannot cover council tax or rent arrears</p>
<p>Council Tax Reduction Scheme offers up to 95% reduction in Council</p>	<p>Shared Revenues Partnership</p>	<p>Assistant Director</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Subject to eligibility</p>	<p>Supports working people on low income that may require support and also pension age residents.</p>

<p>Tax for low income working age residents and 100% reduction for pension age residents.</p>		<p>Corporate Resources</p>			
<p>Tenancy Support Management/ Income Officers continue to look at each tenant (in the Council Housing) individually, looking at their situation as a whole rather than just as rent owed. This involves signposting to other agencies that can assist, such as Citizens Advice, or referring to in-house Tenancy Support Officers, who can help with maximising income, budgeting and negotiating with creditors. This also includes utilisation of the Household Support Grant.</p>	<p>Housing and Finance</p>	<p>Assistant Director Housing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Mainstream service delivery; and Household Support Grant (Govt. fund).</p>	<p>Council officers continue to provide holistic support/early intervention to prevent people from falling into debt. This will be enhanced by the Cost-of-Living Co-ordinator to ensure that signposting to other agencies leads to outcomes.</p>



Partnership working

Point 3: Partnership Working/Influencing Systems

Initial scoping of data to support with enhanced visibility of customers who may require multiagency support.

Customer Services / Housing and Welfare Support / Benefits / HR

Assistant Director – Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvement; and Cost of Living Co-ordinator

Initial scoping of data to be undertaken over the summer. A more robust timeline and activities to be prepared once the cost-of-living coordinator has been recruited.

No additional costs – from mainstream budgets

Initial scoping needs to be undertaken to understand the data that key partners hold, as well as identification of internal and external data sets available to support the identification of residents who may be a higher risk of falling into crisis and therefore benefit from additional support. Some of the key areas of focus would include:

Discussions with SODA (Suffolk Office of Data and Analytics) to understand the support they may be able to provide, being specialists in this area.

Work with Suffolk County Council colleagues to explore the LIFT (low-income family tracker) dashboard, as part of Suffolk County Council’s tackling poverty action plan, to understand more about the benefits this data set will provide.

Alongside the identification of key data sets, data governance arrangements, included but not limited to data sharing agreements, would need to be created and agreed with relevant

organisations to facilitate the sharing of information in a compliant manner.

Once the initial scoping has been completed, recommendations will be made to show how the data will be used, alongside proposed interventions and a communications approach to help target those resident cohorts who may be at risk of falling into crisis.

Furthermore, the data will provide us with the evidence base to support with exploring additional initiatives, above those already in place that may need to be explored and where promotion of existing initiatives is required through a communications approach. This approach will need to also be explored with Suffolk County Council as part of the tackling poverty action plan, in which they are looking to roll out regular communications related to support services for those who may require debt or food support.

The types of data that will be explored within the scoping (not exhaustive list) could include:

- Cancellation of direct debits

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council tax/rent arrears - single view of debt - Tenants that rely on oil (alongside oil poverty data) - Workforce sickness rates - Young people skipping school meals - Referrals to mental health organisations - Trends from CABs <p>The list is not exhaustive.</p>
<p>Appoint Cost of Living Co-ordinator (fixed term for 15 months), responsible for (a) – (f) below:</p> <p>(a) Developing/confirming (legally compliant) sharing information protocol between advice agencies and district councils for purpose of multi-agency support to</p>	Customer Services	Assistant Director – Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvement	Summer (following on from the recruitment and scoping exercise).	£60k (inclusive of oncosts) from DHLUC funding.	Make sure that the personal data of customers that the Council shares is only used for its intended purposes.

<p>residents that are at a cusp of falling into crisis. Note: Too narrow a description focusing on information sharing protocol. Could be something as basic as co-ordinating system-wide data sharing and case management??</p>					
<p>(b)Facilitate and bring together key agencies to co-ordinate responses that focus on achieving outcomes. Only on specific cases referred to the Cost-of-Living Co-ordinator.</p>	Customer Services	Assistant Director – Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvement	Summer (following on from the recruitment and scoping exercise).		Following the scoping work, recommendations will be made as to how we will work across the organisations to provide this support.
<p>(c)To analyse partnership data/intelligence from systemwide leaders (SODA) and shared by key partners – for</p>	Customer Services	Assistant Director – Customers, Digital Transformation	Ongoing	Included in the appointment of the Cost-of-Living Co-ordinator	Initial conversations are taking place with Suffolk County Council who have instigated a project to improve the case management approach of the Suffolk Information Partnership

<p>example the Housing/Welfare Support teams / CABs to consider the deployment of pop-up clinics via the Council's partnerships, where the demand arises to meet need.</p>		<p>and Improvement</p>			<p>(SIP). We will collectively working with Suffolk County to reduce duplication.</p>
<p>(d)Customer Services, Housing and Welfare Support Services – refer cases (by exception) to the Cost-of-Living Co-ordinator where all obvious steps have failed and requires more discretionary support from the Council.</p>	<p>Customer and Housing/Welfare Support/Shared Revenues Partnership</p>	<p>AD Customer / Housing Services</p>	<p>Summer 22.</p>	<p>Included in the appointment of the Cost-of-Living Co-ordinator</p>	<p>Some people will require specific support, so that they are not lost in a system, which could cause harm to their mental health and personal resilience if not carefully monitored. Using the scoping and data we collect we will propose a series of support/interventions to help address these needs</p>
<p>(e)To work with communications colleagues to pro-actively drive campaigns that are designed to promote debt and</p>	<p>Customer services</p>	<p>Assistant Director Corporate Resources</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Included in the appointment of the Cost-of-Living Co-ordinator</p>	<p>Once this has been fully scoped via the initial data scoping phase our approach to using the collective evidence to provide additional support e.g. pop up clinics or digital hubs will therefore commence.</p>

<p>financial management advice, household warm grants to alleviate cost of living pressures and encourage people to take greater control as much as possible.</p>					<p>This work will also align with the Suffolk County communications campaign to promote finance advice, as detailed in their reducing poverty action plan.</p>
<p>(f) Alongside the established systems we already have in place, to be the Single Point of Contact for both Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils, key partners and for staff who need access to confidential support and advice relating to the cost of living crisis/in-work poverty related issues and work with HR to provide trends in a timely manner.</p>	<p>Human Resources / Customer Services</p>	<p>Assistant Director Corporate Resources</p>	<p>Ongoing/ agreed with HR and partners (needs led)</p>	<p>Included in the appointment of the Cost-of-Living Co-ordinator</p>	<p>In-work poverty is a specific issue that will impact all sectors, which in turn will have an impact on productivity, service delivery and the economy. Asking for help can also be difficult for employees. Having a Single Point Of Contact in the organisation, in addition to established systems already in place, will provide both choice and a form of “go to” for people who don’t want to raise awareness with colleagues they work closely with. Support in some cases, will be one to one, in other cases it may be attending an advice ‘clinic’ or even an organised talk on ways people can alleviate pressures - based on ongoing analysis of emerging trends.</p>

<p>Stowmarket CAB is provided with 3 Year rolling revenue grants. Grants reviewed annually. Stowmarket CAB receive an immediate circa 30% in year uplift to their funding to provide in-year support to residents.</p>	<p>Communities</p>	<p>Assistant Director Communities & Wellbeing</p>	<p>April 2022</p>	<p>£312,063.00 in revenue grants have been allocated for 22/23 to Mid Suffolk based organisations</p>	<p>Providing a one-year 30%+ uplift to Stowmarket CAB, coupled with 3-year agreements ensures that the district council have invested in the infrastructure needed for residents to seek independent advice. This also enhances the partnership and relationships with the CAB to respond effectively to Cost of living issues.</p>
<p>Suffolk system-wide investment of £1m to be provided to ensure residents that require welfare related advice and support can receive it and that the voluntary and community sector is provided with a “warm handover referral” to meet that need in districts/localities and</p>	<p>Suffolk County</p>	<p>Collaborative Communities Board / Assistant Director Communities & Wellbeing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>£1m for the Suffolk system agreed by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders.</p>	<p>Residents across the Suffolk footprint will be able to access provision/support through local agencies via the voluntary and community sector – the scheme is known as the Suffolk information partnership or “warm handover” (SIP).</p> <p>This enables the whole system to respond, rather than reliance on one part of the system.</p>

**the financial support to
provide the service too.**

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Good health

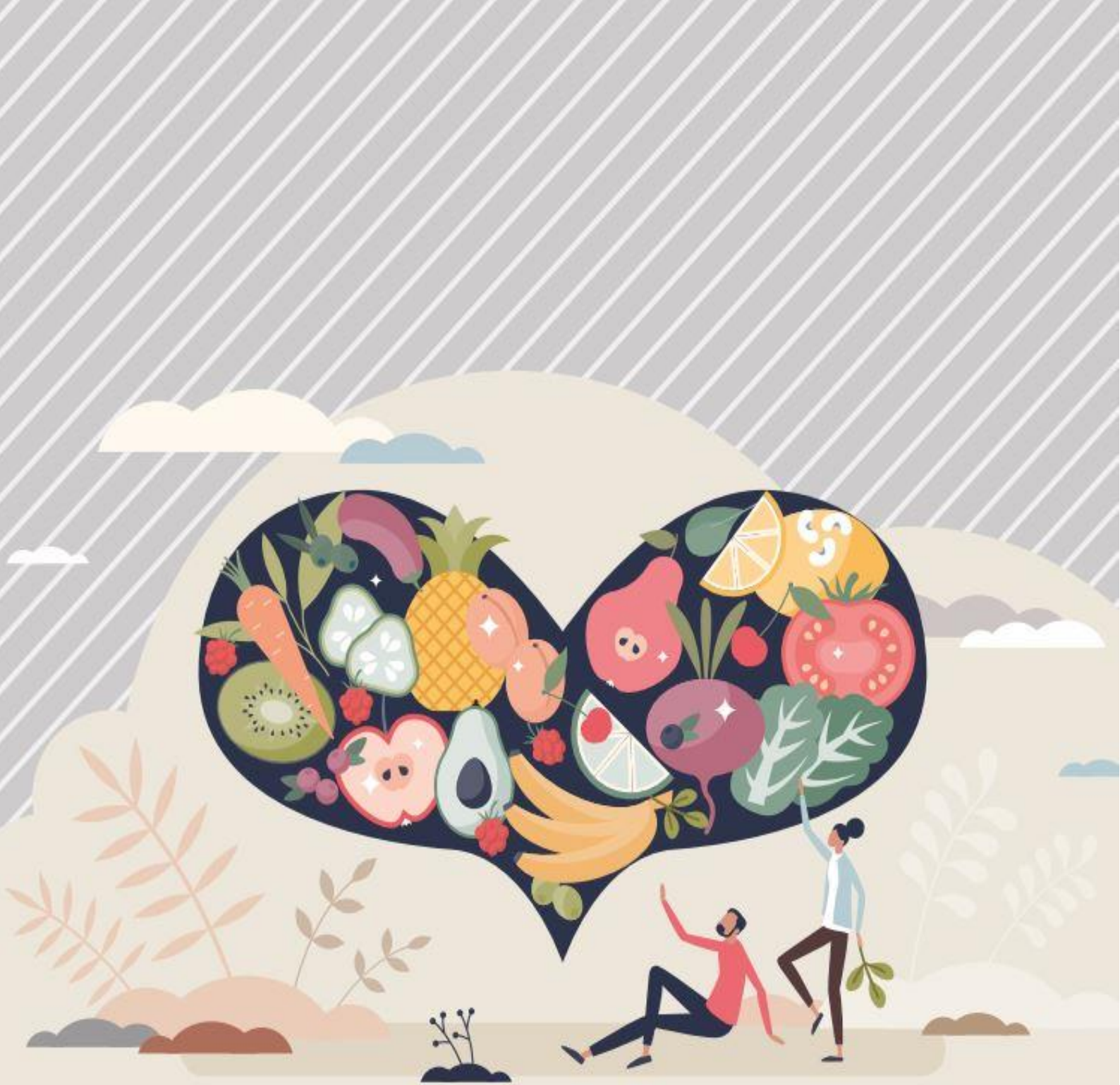
Point 4: Maintain Good Health

<p>The Council with partners and local communities will organise/enable a calendar of family friendly events that everyone can participate in and feel positive about.</p> <p>Page 46</p>	Suffolk wide	Assistant Director Communities & Wellbeing	2022/23	Mainstream delivery	<p>Events that bring people/communities together will support mental health and wellbeing and build community resilience. Communities must be encouraged to engage in as many positive activities as possible to free themselves from the issues relating to the crisis. Council staff/elected members/partners will also be able to speak to local communities about hyper local issues which should influence any internal pivoting of initiatives.</p> <p>The events will be published on the Council Website and through media channels.</p>
<p>Continue and potentially expand community-led mental Health Wellbeing Projects/Support - that we know have worked/or are in the pipeline</p>	Communities	Assistant Director Communities & Wellbeing	2022/23	Community grant funded – work with partners based on need to potentially expand further/commission new	<p>Community led and the VCS are vital cogs in supporting communities to remain resilient. Early sharing of intelligence and early intervention and prevention will provide the Council with the best opportunity to connect residents (particularly the most vulnerable) with initiatives that are in train, or being developed.</p> <p>The Cost of Living Co-ordinator will develop relationships with third sector organisations and work alongside the Communities Team already</p>

					working with community groups and will ensure that this plan is delivered in an inclusive context.
Working with key VCSE partners to understand the impact the Cost-of-Living Crisis is having on their operational infrastructure and any increase in demand.	Communities	Assistant Director Communities & Wellbeing	Ongoing	Through the appointment of the Cost-of-Living Co-Ordinator and Communities Team	Working with key VCSE partners will enable the system to better understand trends, including where there are any unmet needs that the system needs to respond to support residents.
Work with partners to support the most vulnerable via the Local Welfare Assist Scheme with a fuel and travel voucher scheme for the those most in need in our communities.	Communities	Assistant Director, Communities & Wellbeing	August 2022	Part of the £1m fund established by established by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders.	<p>National research predicts that people in care homes, rural communities, including those people who live independently and with disabilities could be disproportionately impacted by the crisis.</p> <p>To explore the possibility of a discretionary scheme that focuses on isolation prevention to help alleviate some of those pressures, as there will be a risk of impact on a range of health related issues including falls, frailty and mental health.</p>

<p>Continue to fund and develop Youth Social Prescribing and expand the model in future working with partners.</p>	<p>Communities</p>	<p>Assistant Director Communities & Wellbeing</p>	<p>2022/23</p>	<p>The Mix – 22/23 £19,788.00 Mid Suffolk: Revenue Grants (Ongoing)</p>	<p>The Mix states that young people go through huge transitions during their school years, physically, emotionally, socially, and educationally. At times the challenge of being in a school environment takes its toll and for some young people, particularly those experiencing disadvantage, may become too much, resulting in behaviour, which the school finds difficult to tolerate. This may lead to temporary or permanent exclusion. Exclusions place a greater pressure on family environments and unfortunately for some young people, a breakdown at school may lead to breakdowns in family homes or in foster care placements. The implications of this on a young person can be drastic, leading to risk taking and harmful behaviours, anti-social behaviour, poor mental health etc.</p> <p>The Mix takes a preventative approach to their youth work in schools by seeking to work in ways that promote emotional fitness, resilience and healthy relationships. Youth workers look to provide the support and opportunities that young people need so they do not get to a point where they require more critical interventions. Youth</p>
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					work offers a completely different approach to what is available in school.
<p>Working with leisure providers to scope out and expand the social prescribing model to extend it to other key partners to utilise established systems.</p> <p>Page 49</p>	Communities	Assistant Director Communities & Wellbeing	August 2022	TBC	<p>Explore opportunities to expand the social prescribing offer to a discretionary scheme that enables partners to refer people into leisure provision that will potentially support good mental health, making people become more health conscious, which will also have knock on benefits in terms of food nutrition.</p> <p>Exploit all local free sport and wellbeing provision.</p> <p>The cost of the model should be a shared endeavour.</p>



Food and Nutrition

Point 5: Access to Food and Nutrition

<p>Extend the DFE funded scheme by extending the Holiday Activities and Food Programme during school half terms for children/young people eligible for free school meals</p> <p>Page 51</p>	<p>Communities</p>	<p>Assistant Director Communities & Wellbeing</p>	<p>3 years</p>	<p>Government Grant from DfE for Babergh & Mid Suffolk</p> <p>£118,385,03</p> <p>B&MSDCs Funding for half terms not covered by DfE funding:</p> <p>£18,000.00</p>	<p>Research has shown that the school holidays can be pressure points for some families. For some children this can lead to a holiday experience gap, with children from low-income households being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - less likely to access organised out-of-school activities - more likely to experience ‘unhealthy holidays’ in terms of nutrition and physical health - more likely to experience social isolation <p>Our HAF programme is a response to this issue, with evidence showing that free holiday clubs can have a positive impact on children and young people, and that they work best when they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide consistent and easily accessible enrichment activities - cover more than just breakfast or lunch - involve children (and parents) in food preparation
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use local partnerships and connections, particularly with the voluntary and community organisation sector
<p>Map any green spaces and allotments (working with Parish Councils) to identify possible sites that can bring communities together to grow their own produce – reinvest in initiatives that have already been successful and community led and that can be repeated elsewhere through the use of community grants.</p>	Communities	Assistant Director Communities & Wellbeing	Ongoing	TBC with Parish Councils + use of community grants + DHLUC funding for Community Leadership Programme.	<p>Facilitating solutions that brings communities and people together to grow their own produce will enable people to be more independent from needing support. There are also other benefits such as behaviour change, understanding of biodiversity and collective community resilience.</p> <p>The districts have a thriving third and community sector that have implemented a range of initiatives that could support local communities. It is integral that these are promoted more widely, coupled with seed funding to get initiatives off the ground that bring a range of key stakeholders together, including schools, VCS organisations, Parish Councils etc.</p> <p>Locality officers/VCS specialists can assist as facilitators for these type of initiatives if needed – most importantly these are progressive measures that increase the pride of people in local places</p>

					<p>and also improves inter-generational interactions, providing everyone with something to do.</p> <p>Community Leadership Programme that will focus on pilots to bring people and stakeholders together to decide, design and deliver local initiatives.</p>
<p>Participate fully in the work commissioned by the County to understand root causes of why people are using food banks and influence the corresponding interventions.</p>	<p>Communities / Suffolk wide system</p>	<p>Assistant Director Communities</p>	<p>September 2022</p>	<p>County funded</p>	<p>Influence locality interventions.</p>

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Agenda Item 10

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: MSDC Cabinet	REPORT NUMBER: MCa/22/4
FROM: Cabinet Member for Housing: Cllr. Lavinia Hadingham and Cabinet Member for Communities: Cllr. Julie Flatman	DATE OF MEETING: 6 June 2022
OFFICER: Assistant Director for Housing, Gavin Fisk, Corporate Manager for Communities, Vicky Moseley	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB356

STOWMARKET LCA – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To respond to the recommendation from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20th September 2021 that urgent action is taken, to build improved joined up working between the Housing Directorate and Citizens Advice, as a top priority and that consideration is given to creating a jointly funded post by Cabinet, in order to move this priority and critical area forward.
- 1.2 To respond to the recommendations from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20th December 2021 that resolved:
- a) To thank the Local Citizens Advice (LCA) Chief officers and their respective staff for the work that they have carried out in the last year. Particularly during the pandemic.
 - b) The Committee are reassured that both LCAs are operating effectively and efficiently and responded well to all questioning from members.
 - c) That the Councils take a single view of debt and implement an integrated system for dealing with housing rent and council tax debt.
 - d) That contact be made with foodbanks with a request that their clients are referred to the LCA for advice on nutrition and budgeting and cookery skills classes.
 - e) Remote virtual operation capability for LCA and other bodies should be provided on an accelerated programme as a matter of urgency, defining locations, IT equipment and applications, training and connectivity.
 - f) That Cabinets be asked to consider the previous resolution of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the 3 year rolling funding arrangements review be subject to indexation on an annual review basis.

- g) That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the LCAs in December 2022.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20th September 2021

- 2.1 Given the emerging cost of living crisis and the impact on residents, to create a jointly funded post to improve system connectivity between Citizens Advice Bureau, Mid Suffolk District Council and wider partners.
- 2.2 To not create a jointly funded post to improve joined up working between Citizens Advice Bureau and Mid Suffolk Council and partners, instead rely on existing relationships and work together effectively through the mechanisms that are already in place.
- 2.3 To reject the option of a dedicated officer being appointed to solely support and improve the existing working relationship between Stowmarket LCA and Mid Suffolk's Housing Service but instead support the Council's proposed Cost of Living 5 Point Plan and support the appointment of a Cost of Living Co-ordinator to maximise partnership working and established systems to provide targeted support in localities where there is a particular trend and need, implementing a 'family first approach'.

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20th December 2021

- 2.4 To accept or reject recommendations that:
- The Councils take a single view of debt and implement an integrated system for dealing with housing rent, and council tax debt.
 - Contact be made to foodbanks with a request that their clients are referred to the LCA for advice on nutrition and budgeting and cookery skills classes.
 - Remote virtual operation capability for LCA and other bodies should be provided on an accelerated programme as a matter of urgency, defining locations, IT equipment and applications, training and connectivity
- 2.5 The councils proposed Cost of Living 5 Point Plan and appointment of a dedicated Cost of Living Co-ordinator will address each of the recommendations above and will work to maximise partnership working and established systems to provide targeted support in localities where there is a particular trend and need.
- 2.6 To accept or reject the recommendation that the 3-year rolling funding arrangement in place for Mid Suffolk CA be subject to indexation on an annual review basis.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Cabinet considers the report from Joint Overview and Scrutiny and agrees their response to the recommendations in the report as detailed in paragraph 4, in line with the Council's response to the Cost of Living Crisis and the five point plan that

will look at a better system of connectivity between partners, including the LCA, the Council and system wide partners.

REASON FOR DECISION

To respond to the recommendations in the report from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 At Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20th September 2021 a review of the Homes and Housing Strategy was conducted.
- 4.2 A recommendation for Mid Suffolk Cabinet was proposed and agreed, which said “In relation to action point 3.13, This Committee (MSDC) recommends that urgent action is taken to build improved joined up working with Citizens Advice & recommends that this is a top priority. Furthermore, that consideration is given to creating a jointly funded post by Cabinet in order to move this priority and critical area forward.”
- 4.3 Action 3.13 in the Homes and Housing Strategy Delivery Plan is: “Build relationships with local Citizens Advice to agree a protocol for joined up working to support individuals and families experiencing complex housing difficulties.”
- 4.4 At a further Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20th December 2021, a review of the Annual work programme of Sudbury and District and Mid Suffolk LCA was conducted.
- 4.5 The recommendations for Mid Suffolk Cabinet proposed and agreed included:

Recommendation	Response
The Councils take a single view of debt and implement an integrated system for dealing with housing rent, and council tax debt.	Officers have been working with LCAs at locality level and are looking to appoint a specific post that will focus on cost of living – titled Cost of Living Co-ordinator. This post will build on the excellent operations we already have in place, including customer services, housing and welfare support, external partnerships etc to ensure that all systems talk to each other in meeting the needs of people. This work will be developed further as part of the delivery of the Cost of Living 5 Point Plan elsewhere on the agenda for today’s Cabinet meeting.
That contact be made to foodbanks with a request that their clients are referred to the LCA for advice on nutrition and budgeting and cookery skills classes	Officers work closely with Foodbanks at District level but also as part of wider system activity. Officers encourage Foodbanks to link in with LCAs regularly and recent reports prepared by Community Action Suffolk show that a significant number of referrals to

	Foodbanks are made by LCAs. Further work has also taken place and will continue to take place to ensure that Foodbanks signpost and offer additional advice where needed.
Remote virtual operation capability for LCA and other bodies should be provided on an accelerated programme as a matter of urgency defining locations, IT equipment and applications, training, and connectivity.	This piece of work has also been identified as part of the cost of living action plan. At present Suffolk County are building shared devices, which will then be tested in locations identified through the data scoping exercise, described within the plan. Initial conversations have taken place with Suffolk libraries as possible host locations for some of the devices. Once the locations have been agreed, through the data scoping exercise taking place in the summer, this approach can be scoped out and agreed with cabinet members.
That Cabinets be asked to consider the previous resolution of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the 3 year rolling funding arrangements review be subject to indexation on an annual review basis.	A rolling three-year funding agreement is in place with Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk. Whether the 3 year funding agreement will be subject to indexation in future years is still to be decided. However, the work developed in the Cost of Living 5 point Plan and additional support already provided by Mid-Suffolk to provide an additional uplift to their revenue grant for 2022/23 is a more informed way of providing ongoing support. The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders have agreed to underwrite £1m of hardship funding across the county, which is also expected to provide direct support to LCAs and the Local Welfare Assistance Service.
That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the LCAs in December 2022	The annual review of LCAs is already part of the Joint Scrutiny Committee's annual work programme.

- 4.6 The vital relationship between the LCA and Mid Suffolk District Council is recognised, hence its inclusion within the Homes and Housing Strategy Delivery Plan and established rolling three-year revenue grant agreement. Housing issues may be only one of multiple issues the LCA may be working with a household to resolve and so a holistic approach to problem solving is only possible where there is a strong working relationship between the LCA and the Council.
- 4.7 Teams across the Council in general have a good working relationship with the LCA and where improvements need to be made these are discussed via regular meetings.

Further means of communication has also been offered to ensure that LCA can always contact a member of the Housing Solutions Team.

- 4.8 Mid Suffolk District Council and LCA are part of the Suffolk Information Partnership (SIP). This allows customers' personal information to be shared between partner organisations via referrals, so individuals can get the help they need. Further mechanisms for increasing integrated working are currently being explored.
- 4.9 Dialogue between the Council and the LCAs has included the need for:
- A resource to better co-ordinate and connect established systems through a multi-agency case work partnership; and
 - Better intelligence gathering that enables the potential deployment of "pop up" services where there is a need.
- 4.10 Supporting people that are impacted by the emerging crisis to access a wide range of opportunities to maintain resilience, health and wellbeing will prevent people from falling into crisis and support people's mental health, which was the principal recommendation in the Director of Public Health's annual report.
- 4.11 There are already mechanisms in place for the LCA and MSDC to work together, and this will be further built upon. The proposed Cost of Living Co-ordinator, if approved as part of the 5 Point Plan, will ensure that partners continue to work together effectively and will build on the existing relationships and systems formed.
- 4.12 If approved, the Cost of Living 5 Point Plan will address the recommendations of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee made at both the 20th September 2021 and 20th December 2021 meetings.

5. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

- 5.1 The provision of advice and assistance by the Citizen's Advice Bureau is strengthened by effective working relationships between the LCA and Mid Suffolk District Council and aligns with both the vision set out in the:
- Homes and Housing Strategy (2019) that everyone should have a suitable home, which enables them to build settled, safe and healthy lives within sustainable and thriving communities.
 - Wellbeing Strategy (2021) that the residents of Mid Suffolk have the best possible conditions for good wellbeing and have lives that are healthy, happy and rewarding.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The £60K identified to fund the Cost of Living Coordinator on a fixed term contract will be ringfenced specifically for this project from funding provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. There will be no additional cost to the council

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
The impacts of the Cost of Living Crisis reduces the overall wellbeing and resilience of our communities.	High	High	Maximise partnership working and established systems to provide targeted support in localities where there is a particular trend and need, implementing a targeted family-first approach. Appointment of a dedicated officer to co-ordinate work and maintain strong partnership arrangements.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 Due to many of the responses being further wrapped up in the proposed Cost of Living 5 Point Plan, many of the issues raised in this paper have been discussed more broadly at all member briefings and with cabinet members, internal teams and partner organisations.

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

10.1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no environmental implications in this report.

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(a) Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council Joint Homes and Housing Strategy 2019 – 2024.	https://www.babergh.gov.uk/assets/Housing-and-Homelessness/Housing-Strategy/Home-Housing-Strategy-Final-21032019-.pdf

(b) Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council Joint Wellbeing Strategy 2021 - 2027	Microsoft Word - Wellbeing Strategy 2021-27.docx (midsuffolk.gov.uk)

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

13.1 None.

14. REPORT AUTHORS

Rebecca Ward, Housing Strategy and Policy Officer

Vicky Moseley, Corporate Manager for Communities

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Agenda Item 11

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Mid Suffolk Cabinet	REPORT NUMBER: MCa/22/5
FROM: Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	DATE OF MEETING: 6 June 2022
OFFICER: Fiona Duhamel	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB348

STOWMARKET, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND LEISURE FACILITIES (SHELF)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Mid Suffolk cabinet on progress on the Stowmarket, health, education, and leisure facility (SHELF) project and recommend approval of the initial business case and Masterplan designs
- 1.2 To update members on the proposed costs of the scheme, the draft funding strategy and request endorsement to Council for approval of the next stage costings to take the project to detailed design phase and submission of a planning application.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Several options for the scheme were considered with the partners, other landowners and key stakeholders, and the option presented in this report provides for the optimum use of the land available to secure maximum wellbeing outcomes.
- 2.2 An initial option to just provide additional facilities on the High school site was considered but this does not create the best conditions for maximising partnership and collaboration across all stakeholders.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

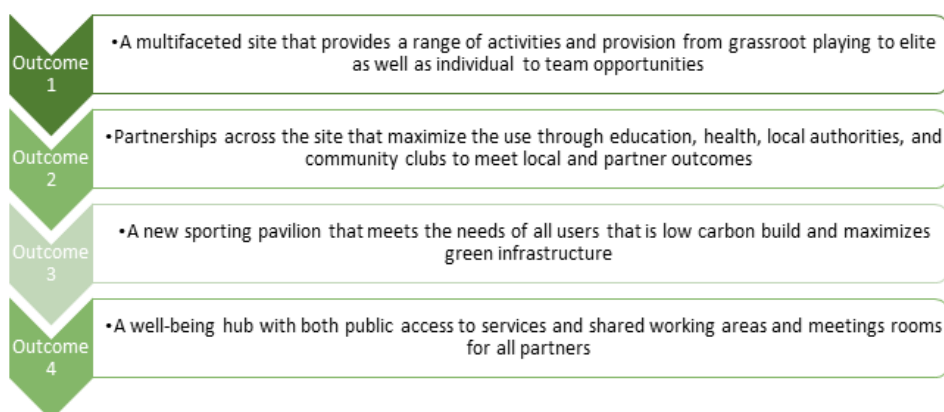
- 3.1 That Cabinet considers and approve the Masterplan (appendix a), and initial Business case (appendix b - restricted) for the proposed scheme which includes an indicative cost plan and funding strategy
- 3.2 That cabinet notes the work to date on the partnership strategy (appendix e - restricted) and future management models (appendix d – restricted) for the new hub in detailed.
- 3.3 That Cabinet endorses the recommendation to Council for further funding to complete the scheme to detailed design stage and submission of a planning application, next management modelling and a 2-year partnership co-ordinator to fully maximise current and future partnership working and collaboration across the site outlined in 6.4

REASON FOR DECISION

This development provides a unique opportunity to create a holistic wellbeing hub in Stowmarket which brings together on one site, education, sport, leisure and health facilities and users. The proposal meets many Council, local partnership and government outcomes but also creates the conditions to stimulate some new and exciting partnerships which enhance opportunities for local communities and provides a regionally significant centre in the town.

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 The proposed Masterplan brings together two key sites, shown in Appendix A. Currently the facilities are operated by different organisations and currently home to a high school, leisure centre, three sports clubs and a children’s nursery the sites whilst operating well, do not benefit from the opportunities which could be created in terms of partnership working including better sharing of facilities to maximise use day and night.
- 4.2 Whilst initially a project set up to resolve issues the school site had with poor quality and a lack of sports facilities for students, it became obvious that opportunities existed to review a wider site area and to take a more holistic look at the partnerships which could be created on the site to maximise use, increase sports participation, and provide positive health and wellbeing impacts for the local community.
- 4.3 The proposed Masterplan and initial business case in Appendix B (restricted) have been developed in partnership with a number of key stakeholders and with Suffolk County Council as owners of part of the site, along with Mid Suffolk Council who own the remainder of the land. These partners range from the High school, a current local primary school and a new primary school under development, the Leisure centre operator, representatives from the local CCGs, Active Suffolk, and Sport England.
- 4.4 The Council and its partners commissioned local architects Saunders Bolton, alongside specialist sports management consultants to develop a masterplan which was capable to operating across partnerships and provided real benefits to the local community.
- 4.5 The initial business case outlines the strategic, economic, commercial, financial and management case for the proposals and outlines the proposed outcomes to be achieved from the proposed scheme. In summary these are:



4.6 Specifically, the Masterplan will create the following facilities which directly contribute to the Councils refreshed Sport and Leisure Strategy adopted in 2021. It is important to acknowledge that *‘Physical activity is the single most important thing you can do to improve your physical and mental health and with 25.4% of adults in Mid Suffolk doing less than 30 minutes of exercise per week improved facilities and integrated support is more important than ever.* This was documented within the Sport England Active Lives Survey within the April 2022 Data Release.

- A 4g football pitch
- A 2g pitch (a range of sports and activities can be played on the pitch)
- A mini track athletics facility
- A new Sport pavilion to replace existing
- A multi-agency wellbeing hub for use by a range of partners
- A Multi Use Games area
- 4 new indoor sport courts
- Additional parking at the Wellbeing hub and pavilion
- Reshaping of the current car parking on the Chilton Fields site
- New cricket square and new nets
- Multi surface perimeter track to encourage information walking and cycling

4.7 Early in the project the Council established a Sports Stakeholder Forum which includes a large number of local sports clubs and societies but particularly those clubs currently using the wider site in some way. The Forum has met regularly and worked with the Council to review plans and provide information on current and planned future use.

4.8 The Council has also engaged with a range of national and regional governing bodies for sport including Suffolk FA, England Athletics, England Netball, Suffolk Rugby and Cricket, British Gymnastics, England Hockey, and others. Their input into the masterplan has been significant as will their ongoing involvement be with their local clubs to support growth, development and future partnership working.

4.9 More recently discussions with health partners have expanded to consider a new Wellbeing Hub building on the site. Whilst discussions with health and County Council partners are still at an early stage, there is an exciting opportunity to explore new ways to deliver community wellbeing services on a single site, bring together health teams in one place and develop more collaborative working across education, sport and leisure and health services. Some of this work is already underway on the site with the development by the High school of new mental health provision for its students, working alongside the Mix and mental health services. The development of this scheme could enable further development of such partnerships.

5. LINKS to CORPORATE PLAN

5.1 Our organisational vision is “Great communities with bright & healthy futures that everyone is proud to call home” alongside our mission to provide strong, proud, and inspirational leadership; striving for excellence, and together building great communities for everyone to live, work, visit and invest in. This project is more than buildings, the site will enable stakeholders to form stronger partnerships to deliver a range of provision and services to benefit local communities, ensuring that provision is accessible to all.

- 5.2 The project will encourage and provide a wider range of opportunities for the community to become active. The partnerships between health, sport clubs, leisure provider and education can provide targeted interventions linked to increased activity and promote wellbeing. This will specifically address the pockets of health inequality within Stowmarket.
- 5.3 The project links directly to the Council's Communities and Wellbeing Strategies and its Economic Recovery Plan but also meets partners strategic outcomes and the recently launched Sport England "Uniting the Movement" strategy 2022-25.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The initial business case and supporting cost plan outlines the projected capital costs of the scheme. As part of the business case there is also a draft funding strategy outlining external and internal funding opportunities to support development. At this stage it should be stressed that the Funding Strategy requires further detailed conversations both locally and with national funders and this will take place over the coming months. However, at this stage it is likely that there will be a need for the Council to become a primary funder of the scheme.
- 6.2 Further work is now required to refine the Masterplan design to obtain more robust capital costs and explore long term financial sustainability and management costs. It is proposed to instruct consultants to carry out the stages of work below.
- Further detailed design work to RIBA 3 – which will enable a planning application to be submitted, a detailed cost plan to be developed and enable detailed funding requests and bids to be submitted
 - Further income and cost projection and modelling to better understand the operational running costs of the new site, any income produced and assess new and existing legal and occupational structures to ensure long term and financial sustainability of the site, facilities, and partnerships
 - Consideration will need to be given to the funding of the funding gap for the project. If borrowing is required, Minimum Revenue Provision and interest costs will need to be built into cost projections.
- 6.3 In respect of the modelling and economic forecasting of the site several assumptions have been made.
- The operational of the site will be revenue cost neutral to the Council except for the early years of the scheme which may require some seed funding
 - That all net revenues from site operations will be re invested into the long-term maintenance (whole life cost) and management of the site to achieve set objectives and outcomes
 - That existing partners operating on the site will be left in no worse financial position from the new facilities and operating model
- 6.4 The next stage of costs outlined under 6.2 above are detailed in the table below.

Cost for next stage of delivery	Total
Further detailed design work	£450,000
Surveys	£87,000
Stakeholder action plan delivery and governance model	£32,000
Sport England grant application costs (if invited to submit)	£15,000
Partnership officer (2-year post)	£62,000
Pre app and Planning application fee (estimated)	£22,000
Building control fee	£2,000
Legal fees	£5,000
Contingency cost	£25,000
Total	700,000

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The current legal structures on the site are complex and require further analysis before any final business case is approved. The sites are broadly in 2 ownerships; Mid Suffolk Council who own the leisure centre, land adjacent and the Chilton Fields Sports sites and Suffolk County Council who own the high school site as education authority. The school site is leased to the Waveney Valley Academies Trust and strict guideline exist in respect of sale or alternatives uses of school land.
- 7.2 The Chilton Fields sports site whilst in MSDC ownership is subject to a lease to the Stowmarket Rugby Club. Negotiations regarding a new lease to the club are currently on hold whilst we move forward discussions around the new facilities.
- 7.3 Whilst it is assumed that no existing clubs or partners will be left in any worse position in terms of site occupancy than they currently have, there is a need to review all structures to ensure that future operation of the whole site is managed in accordance with a set of agreed outcomes and principles. The Councils Sports consultants have outlined some initial concepts in respect of the future management of the site and respective legal structures but as outlined above, further work is required with stakeholders to conclude this area of work and any future recommendations will be brought back to Cabinet as part of the final business case.
- 7.4 The new Wellbeing Hub building is likely to have a range of partners sharing space and consequently will need to have careful consideration of long terms management and legal and operational structures. This will also form part of the final report and Business case to be presented to Cabinet at a later stage.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 The key risks are set out in the initial business case PROTECTED appendix B, page 24.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 Extensive engagement and consultation have been carried out with a range of partners and this is detailed in the initial business case.
- 9.2 However following approval of the initial business case and recommendations contained in this report it is intended to carry out further consultation in Stowmarket Town Centre as part of the “What’s next for Stowmarket Vision event planned for early September. It is planned to commence consultation with students at the primary and high school, teachers, and users of the sports facilities currently on the site in July.
- 9.3 Work is ongoing in terms of consultation with sports clubs, national governing bodies, NHS partners and other potential occupiers of the site. The partnership project group continues to provide overarching governance to the project through monthly meetings and internal officer project group also meets monthly.
- 9.4 Formal consultation will be carried out as part of any future planning application.

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

If any of the protected grounds may be affected as a result of the recommendations in this report a full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will need to be carried out as attached at Appendix F. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required at this point; a full EIA will be completed.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Development of the site would have associated environment impacts requiring assessment and mitigation. The initial design work has proposed roof mounted solar PV and air source heat pumps, to provide self-consumption energy opportunities and cost savings for occupiers. Electric vehicle and bicycle charging points and biodiversity planting and features are proposed to further embed green infrastructure and mitigate carbon impacts.

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(a) Masterplan	Attached
(b) RESTRICTED Initial business case – Stowmarket Health, Education and Leisure Facilities	Attached
(c) RESTRICTED Funding strategy	Attached
(d) RESTRICTED Stowmarket SHELF Management models	Attached
(e) RESTRICTED Stowmarket SHELF Partnership strategies	Attached
(f) EQIA Initial Screening SHELF	Attached

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

13.1 Leisure, Sport, and Physical Activity Strategy – Update 2021

13.2 Wellbeing Strategy 2021 – 2027

13.3 Communities Strategy 2019 - 2036

14. REPORT AUTHORS

14.1 Kate Parnum, Project Regeneration Manager

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TAYLOR WIMPEY CHILTON LEYS DEVELOPMENT
(refer to separate design)

KEY

- Sports hall**
4 courts sports hall (34.5 x 20m)
Further 4 courts shown dotted
- Wellness Hub including:**
Health / NHS
Office
Diagnostic
Consultation
Meeting spaces
Flexible studio
Nursery
Family Hub
- Community pavilion including:**
8 changing rooms
Social viewing area
Community spaces
- Community park run track**
6-lane 130m straight (length circa 1.5 km)
- Floodlit area**
- Proposed path through the site



Scale 1:2000
0 20 40 60 100m

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Agenda Item 13

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