



AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 2022 – 5.30 PM

Members of the Council are summoned to a meeting of the Babergh District Council at King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Tuesday, 22nd November, 2022 at 5.30 pm.

For those wishing to attend, there will be time for reflections 5 minutes prior to the commencement of the Council meeting.

Arthur Charvonja
Chief Executive



BABERGH COUNCIL	
DATE:	TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2022 5.30 PM
VENUE:	KING EDMUND CHAMBER, ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH

This meeting will be broadcast live to YouTube and will be capable of repeated viewing. The entirety of the meeting will be filmed except for confidential or exempt items. If you attend the meeting in person you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed and to the possible use of the images and sound recordings for webcasting/ training purposes.

The Council, members of the public and the press may record/film/photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded.

**PART 1
MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT**

Page(s)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

**3 BC/22/32 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
ON 25 OCTOBER 2022**

To follow

**4 BC/22/33 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND
LEADER 9 - 10**

In addition to any announcements made at the meeting, please see Paper BC/22/33 attached, detailing events attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

**5 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE
WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 11, the Chief Executive will report the receipt of any petitions. There can be no debate or comment upon these matters at the Council meeting.

6 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The Chairman of the Council to answer any questions by the public of which notice has been given no later than midday three clear working days before the day of the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 12.

7 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The Chairman of the Council, the Chairmen of Committees and Sub-Committees and Portfolio Holders to answer any questions on any matters in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affect the District of which due notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 13.

8 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS

CMU1 – Cabinet Member for Economic Growth 11 – 16

CMU2 – Cabinet Member for Planning 17 – 19

9 COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS

10 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

10a TO CONSIDER THE MOTION ON NOTICE RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR LINDSAY

Residents of our district are deeply concerned about water quality and the impact of regular wastewater discharge, which includes untreated sewage, into our local rivers and seas and the impact on wildlife and on human health.

Last year, we know that there were 288 sewage storm overflow spills into Babergh District's rivers, including the Stour, for a total duration of 1,861 hours (more than a fifth of the year). The Stour is widely used for swimming, boating and fishing.

As the district's population rises with new housing, releasing sewage into rivers is no longer an emergency-only situation occurring as a result of severe storms, but an everyday occurrence even in 'normal' rainfall.

Anglian Water is a statutory consultee to major planning applications but its response relates to whether it has capacity in the sewage network, rather than whether it has treatment capacity. We believe Anglian Water needs to be encouraged to consider its sewage treatment capacity in the light of rising numbers of homes and businesses in the district.

Motion

This Council resolves to:

1. Ask the chair of the scrutiny committee to invite senior officers of Anglian Water plus senior representatives from the Environment Agency and Natural England to attend a meeting to answer questions on the current levels of sewage discharge.
2. Ensure that in gathering evidence for future iterations of the local plan the council consider the cumulative impact of sewage when deciding the overall level of housing and other development. The council notes that decisions about allocations in the Joint Local Plan will be guided by an updated Water Cycle Study. This should take into account the impact of combined sewer overflow spills on water courses.
3. Ask Anglian Water, from this date onwards, in its planning consultation responses for major development, to clarify which treatment works will be managing the sewage; whether it has the information available to assess the impact on the number or duration of sewage discharges into local rivers or seas, and if it does have this information to share it (noting that this can only be requested not required).
4. Request that planning officers, from now onwards, include in all reports relating to major development a specific section on the impact on watercourses, including the potential for the development to affect sewage outflow into watercourses (i.e. cumulative impact), or to flag if this information is not fully available, so that this information (or the lack of it) is clearly and transparently set out.

Proposer: Cllr Robert Lindsay

Seconder: Cllr John Ward

10b

TO CONSIDER THE MOTION ON NOTICE RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR WARD

INTRODUCTION TO THE MODEL DEBATE NOT HATE CAMPAIGN MOTION

The Model motion is a template that councillors and councils can use to publicly demonstrate their commitment to improving the quality of public and political debate and challenging abuse and intimidation of people in public life by signing up to the LGA Debate Not Hate campaign.

Councils that have passed a motion should email debatenotehate@local.gov.uk to be added to the public list of organisations supporting the campaign. Councils who've signed up will receive more information of how councils can support the campaign and improve support for councillors in their local area. Councillors can find more information on the [Debate Not Hate campaign website](#).

Model Debate Not Hate Motion:

The intimidation and abuse of councillors, in person or otherwise, undermines democracy; preventing elected members from representing the communities they serve, deterring individuals from standing for election, and undermining public life in democratic processes.

This council notes that increasing levels of toxicity in public and political discourse is having a detrimental impact of local democracy and that prevention, support and responses to abuse and intimidation of local politicians must improve to ensure councillors feel safe and able to continue representing their residents.

This council therefore commits to challenge the normalisation of abuse against councillors and uphold exemplary standards of public and political debate in all it does. The council further agrees to sign up to the LGA's Debate Not Hate campaign. The campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the response to and support for local politicians facing abuse and intimidation.

In addition, the council resolves to:

- Write to the local Member of Parliament to ask them to support the campaign
- Write to the Government to ask them to work with the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of politicians
- Regularly review the support available to councillors in relation to abuse and intimidation and councillor safety
- Work with the local police to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of councillors and their families
- Take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers

Proposer: Cllr John Ward
Secunder: Cllr Sue Carpendale

Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 20 December 2022 at 5.30 pm.

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 Committee Services on: 01473 296472 or Email: Committees@babergmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Introduction to Public Meetings

Babergh/Mid Suffolk District Councils are committed to Open Government. The proceedings of this meeting are open to the public, apart from any confidential or exempt items which may have to be considered in the absence of the press and public.

Domestic Arrangements:

- Toilets are situated opposite the meeting room.
- Cold water is also available outside opposite the room.
- Please switch off all mobile phones or turn them to silent.

Evacuating the building in an emergency: Information for Visitors:

If you hear the alarm:

1. Leave the building immediately via a Fire Exit and make your way to the Assembly Point (Ipswich Town Football Ground).
2. Follow the signs directing you to the Fire Exits at each end of the floor.
3. Do not enter the Atrium (Ground Floor area and walkways). If you are in the Atrium at the time of the Alarm, follow the signs to the nearest Fire Exit.
4. Use the stairs, not the lifts.
5. Do not re-enter the building until told it is safe to do so.

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BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL - 22 NOVEMBER 2022

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENT	LOCATION	DATE	CHAIRMAN	VICE CHAIR
OCTOBER 2022				
BMSDC Innovation Awards 2022	Wherstead Park	20-Oct	✓	
NOVEMBER 2022				
Abbey Gardens Rose Garden Remembrance Service	The Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds	12-Nov	✓	
Hadleigh Remembrance Parade and Service	Royal British Legion and St Mary's Church, Hadleigh	13-Nov	✓	
Shotley Commonwealth War Graves Remembrance Service	St Mary's Church, Shotley	13-Nov		✓

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Agenda Item 8

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

To: Council	Report Number: CMU1
From: Cllr John Ward, Leader and Cabinet Member Economic Growth	Date of meeting: 22 November 2022

TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

1. Overview of Portfolio

- 1.1 This report summarises the key areas of activity and sets out the priorities for this financial year for the Economic Growth portfolio. This portfolio includes two main areas of work; (a) Economy and Business and (b) Regeneration and Capital Projects - with the latter also providing project management services for wider Council large capital projects. A summary of services within the Portfolio include – inward investment, funding bids and management, skills development, town centre regeneration and pipeline, economic analysis and business grants. The peer review in 2022 recognised the positive impact and contribution of the service on local businesses and against the Council’s own strategic objectives.
- 1.2 Over the past 12 months, officers have been focused on delivery of the Recovery Plan with progress against the plan outlined below. However, significant challenges continue for businesses in the District including the ongoing impact of Brexit resulting in labour and supply chain issues and the growing cost of living concerns. It is important to continue to monitor the situation and divert staff and other resources, if required, to ensure the local economy and businesses are supported.

2. Recommendation

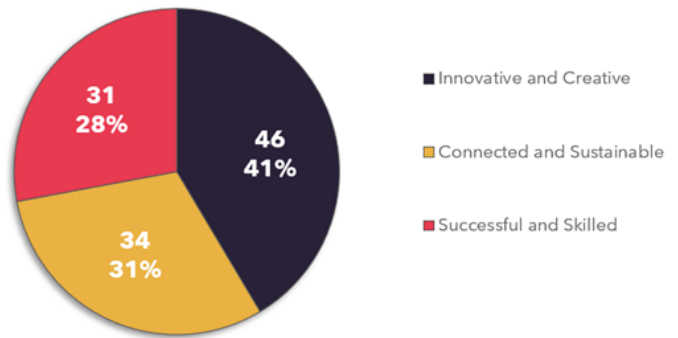
- 2.1 That Council notes the report.

3. Recovery Plan Update

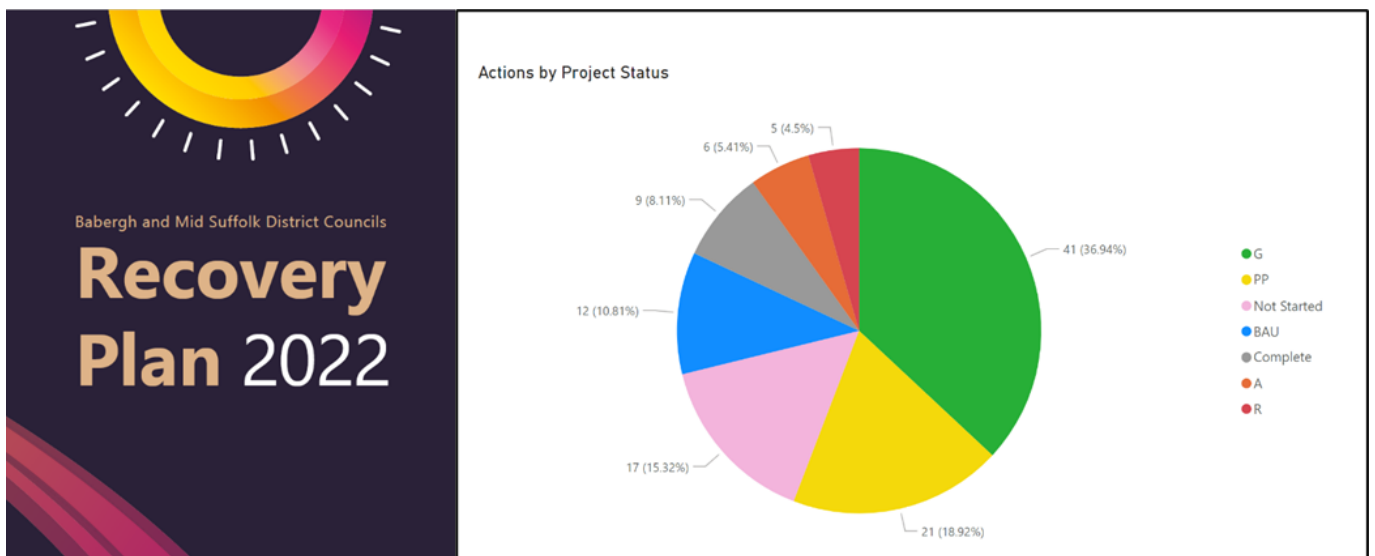
The Recovery Plan was launched by the Councils in 2021 and contained over 100 actions to support businesses, town centres or regeneration delivery. It focused on the following categories of support, under the overarching banners of REACT, RECOVER and RE-GROW.



RECOVERY PLAN ACTIONS BY THEME



The Plan focuses on the three areas above with activity underway in each category.



37% of projects are green with only 4.5% being red. Those projects not started fit into the delivery within the 5-year timeframe of the plan.

10% fit into 'business as usual' category and over 10% of activities are now complete.

4. Key updates

Economy and Business

- 4.1 The team continue to support businesses to grow and become more resilient through a range of measures.
- 4.2 The final Covid Grant programmes have been completed with 8,476 payments of £42,865,040 made to businesses across Babergh since March 2020. Fraud, audit and reconciliation returns to BEIS and HMRC are being managed by colleagues in Audit, SRP, Finance and Economy.
- 4.3 The Business Innovation Grant scheme launched in 2021 provides grants across 4 categories and has so far supported 11 businesses in Babergh with £29,287 of funding. This has supported the delivery of projects worth over £76,000. [Babergh & Mid Suffolk Grants » Babergh Mid Suffolk](#)

- 4.4 Work has started on a first ever Cultural, Heritage and Visitor economy Strategy which will help provide us with the evidence needed to support and strengthen these sectors across Babergh and building their long-term growth over the next 5-10 years. It will help to define our priorities, set out planned programmes of work for delivery, set criteria for grant aid - being very clear about the outcomes we'd like to see achieved and be used to seek and attract more investment, investing more in facilities and infrastructure and through better collaborations and partnerships. A series of workshops for businesses and stakeholders has been organised alongside a cross party member working group to ensure collaboration and partner engagement in the process.
- 4.5 The Council held its first face to face Innovation Awards in October 2022. With 10 award categories and sponsors, 160 attendees and over 60 nominees the event was a great success and ran at no cost to the District other than staff time due to the success securing event sponsorship.



- 4.6 Launch of the Innovate to Elevate scheme at the 2022 Innovation Awards has opened up a fully funded programme of fast track growth opportunities for small businesses. Match funded and co delivered by the University of Essex, and supported by Innovate UK, the scheme will see business supported in a range of areas such as product development ,innovation and commercialisation.

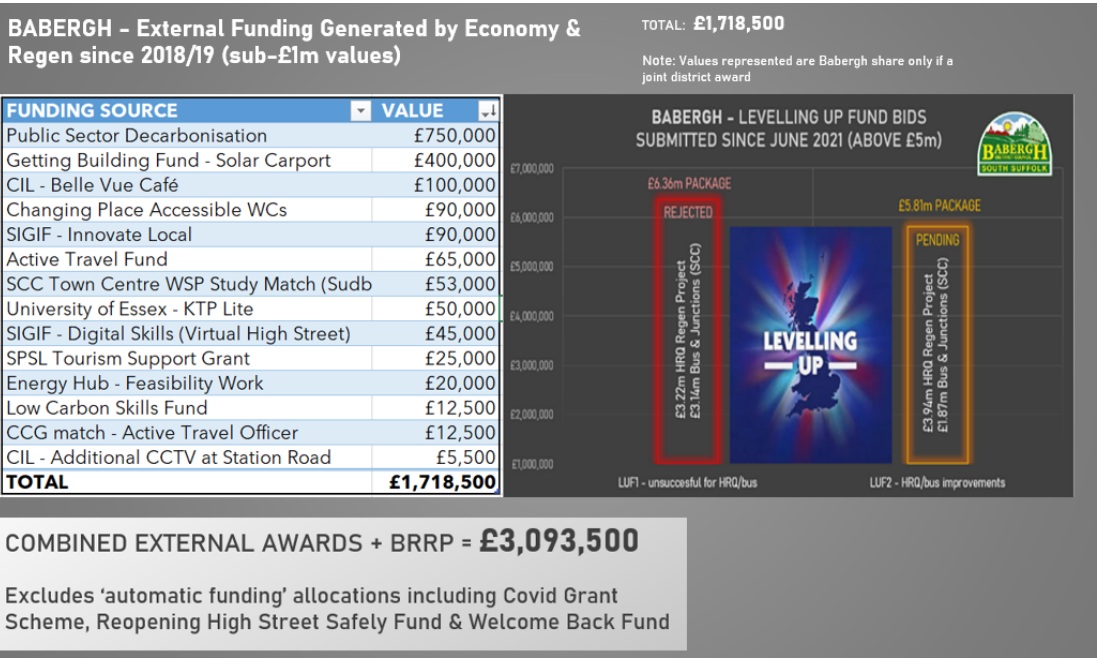
<https://www.essex.ac.uk/business/expertise/funding-opportunities/innovate-to-elevate>

Regeneration and Capital Projects

- 4.7 Progress on capital projects and regeneration has been good with high-profile schemes such as St. Peters Cultural Venue and Gainsborough's House supported by the Council through capital funding and officer expertise/resource. With Gainsborough's House opening later in 2022 and St. Peters during 2023, these cultural assets continue to be a key part of the regeneration and economic vitality of Sudbury town centre.
- 4.8 Planning has now been secured for a new accessible park entrance at Belle Vue Park, with a linked café facility under design development and 5-year park improvement plan published in January 2022. Discussions continue in respect of the adjacent site sale which has been progressed to planning after many years without viable or deliverable uses coming forward for the house and former pool site.
- 4.9 Work continues to bring forward a new mixed-use scheme for the Hamilton Road Quarter combining with SCC-led bus and junction improvements. Masterplan concepts having been developed and exhibited during summer 2022.
- 4.10 A small commercial light industrial unit development alongside the A1071 at Hadleigh is being led by the Council, to address market failure and support local business and employment. A planning application is targeted for submission in early 2023.
- 4.11 The team has developed highly collaborative project and programme management approaches, embedding construction industry good practice, successfully supporting the wider Council's capital assets and works including Leisure Centre capital investments and climate action plan including localised microgeneration developments.
- 4.12 Solar PV installed canopies have been installed covering 40 parking bays adjacent the Kingfisher Leisure Centre – generating up to 16% of the total annual electricity demand of the centre, saving over 30 tonnes of carbon emissions per annum and combining with battery storage to power 7 new electric vehicle charging points. It will be operational at the end of this month. Whilst the project has been impacted by global delays in some energy technology components the project will be delivered under budget (by c.£100k) for the Council's investment. The Regeneration Team also successfully gained a £400k central government grant towards capital costs. Learning from this project will guide future microgeneration investment opportunities.

Funding

- 4.13 In order to support project delivery, officers continue to work on essential pipeline, preliminary and de-risking work to help secure match funding and there has been notable successes - although announcements around the £5.8m Levelling Up Fund Bid for Sudbury are still awaited.



Town Centres

- 4.14 The Council continues to support and develop cross town partnerships and business support through a range of measures.
- 4.15 The Welcome Back Fund allocated a total of £161,673 projects across Babergh. This fund supported Sudbury with funding for projects including a temporary town centre ambassador, street bunting, green Sundays and heritage open days tours and talks. In Hadleigh the funding was used to turn a redundant BT phone box into a visitor information point, purchase new planters and hanging baskets, support the Christmas fayre and market and a midsummer festival of flowers.
- 4.16 The Virtual High Street now has 236 businesses in Babergh and is no longer just operating in Sudbury and Hadleigh but now has businesses from Long Melford, Lavenham, Hintlesham, Kersey Mill, Little Waldingfield, Glemsford, Boxford, Acton, Great Cornard and Little Cornard, with more areas on the list to reach. The platform is now national with Queue Technology selling licences for Bury Greater Manchester and South Staffordshire, which Babergh have received a small return on investment which is being put back into marketing and promotion such as our Christmas Campaign encouraging public to support their local businesses and using the VHS for festive experiences and last minute gifts.
- 4.17 The Innovate Local Market Stall scheme which started in Hadleigh in 2021 but now has reached into Sudbury market for 2022 and has currently supported 13 businesses across the two towns, ranging from plants, sustainable clothes, and homemade candles. The scheme offered new businesses a free place at a regular town market with free support and equipment. Businesses have gone from testing their business to public on a market stall from just online sales as part of Innovate Local to investing in equipment and resources to attend further markets in the region and wider.

- 4.18 Innovation Labs Sudbury soft-launched in June and opened for members in September and in spite of some initial infrastructure challenges is now growing its membership. The team at Innovation Labs are also working with local partners and schools to offer cost effective enterprise and collaboration spaces.
- 4.19 The Sudbury What's Next public exhibition was held in June and organised by the Sudbury Vision group and showcased a range of projects under the Vision Programme for public feedback. These included Market Hill, St Peter's redevelopment, Sudbury Culture Group, Hamilton Road Quarter, Innovation Labs and Gainsborough House redevelopment. The three-day event was attended by 442 people with 60 survey responses post event plus 78 taking part in the Hamilton Road Quarter online consultation. The feedback from the event and survey will be fed into current and future project developments, and the direction of the Vision programme.

5. Future Key Activities

- 5.1 Work started on tendering packs for changing place facilities at Flatford Mill after securing funding of £45,000 from Government.
- 5.2 Final sign off for the proposed new workspace units in Hadleigh due in December 2022. This scheme will provide new smaller units for growing businesses and responds to a demand study carried out before and after the pandemic which identified that there is a lack of workspace in the District. It will also generate a longer-term rental income stream for the Council from the initial capital investment.
- 5.3 The Council will continue to work hard to drive investment into the district and support owners of key employment and stalled town centre sites to bring this land back into economic use e.g. Delphi, Vanners and Brantham.
- 5.4 Will continue to develop an Inward Investment website to ensure the District is promoted to investors as a place to locate, grow and explore. Additionally work to produce content for Visit Suffolk and to promote additional locations for Screen Suffolk locations database will continue. Babergh has been very sought after over the last year as a filming location with some notable high-profile film and TV content being produced in areas such as Lavenham, Kersey and Long Melford as well as filming for an Ed Sheeran production in Pin Mill.
- 5.5 The Council will continue to develop the 'Love Explore' platform to include walks in Shotley Peninsula and as part of delivery of the adopted Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan, will seek to expand walking and cycling routes across the district to ensure such routes can support residents and tourists alike.
- 5.6 The portfolio will be undertaking a three-year programme of central government grant funded activities through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural Prosperity Fund. Bringing in £1,00,2015 and £621,369 respectively, the programmes will deliver against key govt and Babergh economic and community/wellbeing priorities such as business support, skills development and town centre interventions.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

To: Council	Report Number: CMU2
From: Cllr Clive Arthey Cabinet Member for Planning	Date of meeting: 22 November 2022

TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING

1. Overview of Portfolio

1.1 The role includes the following responsibilities:

Ensure the Council carries out its statutory duties as Local Planning Authority;
Ensure Development Management makes good quality and timely decisions;
Ensure that the Council has up-to-date Planning Policies that have a positive impact without unduly restricting development;
Ensure Heritage and Planning Enforcement functions are efficient and effective; and
Ensure the Building Control service is delivered effectively.

1.2 These collectively deliver the following outcomes:

- Protect and enhance our built and natural environment
- Understand what housing and employment sites are needed
- Unlock the barriers to sustainable growth
- Help create and maintain sustainable communities
- Agree where growth goes
- Liaise with neighbouring authorities to fulfil our Duty to Cooperate

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Council notes the report.

3. Key Activities

3.1 The Joint Local Plan has continued to progress through its examination and a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) was agreed at last month's Council meeting. Officers have been scoping and drafting a range of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's), addressing affordable housing, biodiversity and trees, wellbeing and health as well as sustainable construction. The scope of these are fully detailed in the LDS.

3.2 At this month's Cabinet meeting Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding of more than £185,000 was allocated to community projects. As well as the Council's own CIL expenditure, since the beginning of the year more than £880,000 has been allocated directly to Town and Parish Councils across the District through Neighbourhood CIL Payments.

- 3.3 The CIL expenditure framework has also been revised following meetings of the cross-party working group and was approved by Council in October. One of the main changes was the increase in the threshold for community projects to £100,000.

This year has also seen a positive and pro-active approach to CIL debt recovery with more than £245,000 of outstanding CIL debt recovered. These cases can be complicated but I am pleased by the work our debt recovery officer, Debby Osak, is doing which demonstrates our commitment to collecting all CIL contributions that are due. CIL is a known up-front cost for developers and we will take robust action, through the Courts if necessary, to secure it. Parishes experiencing growth need their CIL to provide the necessary infrastructure to accommodate that growth.

- 3.4 Moving to the development management side of things, performance on planning applications (as judged by MHCLG statistics) for 'majors in time' in the year to 21st October 2022 was 79% (19 cases). For non-majors Babergh decided 96.2% applications (599 cases) in time.

- 3.5 Up to the summer the Development Management team continued to experience a high volume of applications, but this has slowed a little in recent months and planning fee income is now below forecast. Income from pre-application advice is delivering against forecast and Planning Performance Agreement income is above forecast.

- 3.6 Our Heritage service has provided consultation advice in relation to more than 280 applications since the beginning of the year. The team are actively looking at potential service improvements including widening the scope of possible pre-application advice to help to recover a greater proportion of operational costs and reduce reliance upon negotiation during the lifetime of an application. This would be expected to improve outcome certainty for applicants and safeguard timely processing of applications as part of any improved service offer.

- 3.7 In relation to Planning Enforcement, the service has received reports of more than 250 planning breaches since the beginning of the year and has closed over 200 investigations over the same period. A cross-Council, cross-party, working group has met several times over the course of the year to revise and update the Councils' Joint Local Planning Enforcement Plan and I am pleased by the progress we are making.

- 3.8 The recruitment market has been challenging across the planning service in line with the national picture. Officers continue to explore new approaches to attracting the right candidates and we continue to 'grow our own' by offering development opportunities to prospective candidates. This has helped with some recent recruitment into the Enforcement team.

- 3.9 Neighbourhood Plans continue to make positive progress. Several plans have been 'made' including at Boxford, Little Cornard and Long Melford. Bentley will be at referendum in December. Leavenheath and Stutton are both awaiting examination, Lawshall is at consultation and Holbrook, Sproughton and Wherstead have recently submitted their draft plans.

- 3.10 Building Control have been addressing the introduction of new Regulations in July along with preparing for changes necessary to address the new Building Safety Act.

4. Future Key Activities

- 4.1 The next formal stage of the Joint Local Plan will be the public consultation on proposed modifications to the plan. We await feedback from the Inspectors of the plan before we can move to this stage.
- 4.2 Bids for CIL expenditure will continue to be worked on, with the next round of funding anticipated in May or June next year.
- 4.3 The revised Joint Local Planning Enforcement Plan will be completed and adopted in the early part of next year.
- 4.4 We will continue with everyday activities associated with planning applications across development management, heritage and enforcement.
- 4.5 With a number of Neighbourhood Plans at submission and examination stage it remains important that we continue to provide effective support to the groups working on them.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Overall our Planning Teams continue to deal with high demand on a day-to-day basis. Most importantly, we must maintain momentum and engagement on the Joint Local Plan to ensure the timely adoption of Parts 1 and 2. We must provide for the infrastructure requirements of communities, and we will continue to focus on decisions made on individual planning applications to improve the efficiency and quality of our decision-making processes.

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