

Public Document Pack



COMMITTEE:	BABERGH CABINET
DATE:	FRIDAY, 8 JULY 2022 1.00 PM
VENUE:	KING EDMUND CHAMBER, ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH

Members		
<u>Independent Conservatives</u> Jan Osborne John Ward (Chair) Mary McLaren	<u>Independent</u> Clive Arthey Elisabeth Malvisi Alastair McCraw	<u>Liberal Democrat</u> David Busby <u>Green Party</u> Jane Gould

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 that the images and sound recordings could be used 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.

AGENDA

PART 1

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT

Page(s)

- 1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS**
- 3 **TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME**
- 4 **QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**
- 5 **MATTERS REFERRED BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OR JOINT AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

6 **FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST**

Please note the most up to date version can be found via the website:

[Forthcoming Decisions List » Babergh](#)

7 **BCa/22/12 Q4 PERFORMANCE** 5 - 36

Cabinet Member for Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvement

8 **BCa/22/13 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND** 37 - 72

Leader of the Council
Cabinet Member for Economy
Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing

9 **BCA/22/14 HAMILTON ROAD QUARTER (SUDBURY) REGENERATION SCHEME** 73 - 88

Cabinet Member for Economy

10 **BCa/22/15 HADLEIGH A1071 ROADSIDE COMMERCIAL WORKSPACE DEVELOPMENT** 89 - 96

Cabinet Member for Economy

11 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (WHICH TERM 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/these item(s), it is likely that there would be the disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated against the/each item.

The author(s) of the report(s) proposed to be considered in Part 2 of the Agenda is/are satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

12 **BCa/22/15 HADLEIGH A1071 ROADSIDE COMMERCIAL WORKSPACE DEVELOPMENT - RESTRICTED APPENDICES A - D** 97 - 104

Cabinet Member for Economy

13 **RE-ADMITTING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (TERM WHICH INCLUDES THE PRESS)**

Debate on Item 10 and to conduct the vote on the recommendations.

Date and Time of next meeting

Please note that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 5 September 2022 at 2.00 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 the Committee Officer, H. Holloway on: 01449 724681 or Email: Committees@baberghmidsuffolk.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.



Quarter 4 Performance

Babergh District Council

July 2022 Cabinet

Agenda Item 7





This performance report has been developed in collaboration with Cabinet members, Senior Leadership Team and corporate managers. It covers the period January – March (Qtr. 4).

Page 6 We are continuing to support our communities on the journey to digital inclusion working with partners to provide training and gain employability skills as well as access to equipment. Our Chatbot facility has seen an increase of activity of 173% on the previous quarter, as well as an increase of 48% on the number of daily website visits.

We continue our commitment to carbon reduction with the solar panels at Wenham Depot now generating electricity, along with cycling provision being secured for Shotley promoting healthy and sustainable environments. As part of the Queens Green Canopy 80 trees were planted in Hadleigh.

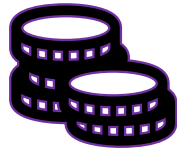
We have also seen the completion of the draft Sustainable Travel Vision be endorsed by the Cabinet, the publication of the Economic Recovery Strategy and the production of the first Climate Change and Biodiversity Annual Report.

Please note:

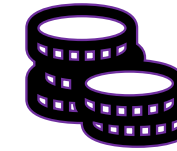
- This is a high-level report, highlighting how the council is performing against its six key priority areas from the Corporate Plan (2019-27). It also gives a snapshot of the overall health of the organisation (including headline performance indicators) and looks in brief towards projects commencing in the next quarter.
- The report provides high level assurance that the council is delivering against the Corporate Plan.

Babergh Economy

Headline Performance Indicators



Two new covid business grant schemes administered:



Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant paid out £976,743 to 312 businesses.

Discretionary Grant paid out £180,938 to 60 businesses.

Total Covid Business Grant Support = £43,841,415



219

Virtual High Street Registrations

*152 Sudbury businesses registered
67 Hadleigh businesses registered*



19 applications received to the Business Innovation Support Scheme. **9** grant offers made.

Economy

Objectives and progress



Objective 1 – Connected and Sustainable :To be one of the best-connected places in the East of England and be a testbed for new innovation in clean growth industries

Progress:

- Cycle parking provision secured for Shotley and improved cycle facilities secured for Copdock Park and Ride site.
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) development work completed and Draft Sustainable Travel Vision endorsed by Cabinet.
- Solar Carports project in Sudbury on track for delivery by end of April 2022.
- Appointed an Architect (KLH based at Sproughton) and Quantity Surveyor for the next phase of the master planning and cost plan (RIBA2 stage) for the Hamilton Road Quarter Regeneration.
- Successful £90k grant confirmed for Changing Places bid for Babergh from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) with 50% of that attributable to Belle Vue Café accessible toilets.
- Planning application for park entrance submitted and pending determination for Belle Vue, Sudbury.
- Good levels of early interest in units at Hadleigh employment site.

Page 8

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Develop specific sector intelligence for key sectors to inform investment and business support in Clean Growth.
- Develop costed pipeline of projects in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).
- Sign Legal Agreement with Ipswich Borough Council for the use of retained business rates at Sproughton Enterprise Zone.
- Work with Suffolk County Council (SCC) to develop projects linked to Active Travel phase 2 funding.
- Prepare bid for Sudbury Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) and continue to develop Masterplan for public engagement.
- Progress to next stage all capital projects/pipeline.
- LCWIP strategy and Sustainable Travel Vision to be published and promoted.
- Work with SCC on next steps for Bus Back Better initiatives following Government decision not to award funding to Suffolk.

Economy

Objectives and progress



Objective 2 – Innovative and Creative :We will become a growing area for Innovation, Enterprise and Creativity in the East

Progress:

- Launched and administered a grant programme to support businesses impacted by the Omicron variant as part of an extension to the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) funding.
- Economic Recovery strategy published setting out key workstreams and activity needed to help the economy recover post-covid.
- Virtual High Street – end of initial 18month pilot period. New Service Level Agreement with developers to outline responsibilities moving forward. Suffolk Growth funding still in progress with extra resource and Digital Skills Programme available for businesses for free.
- Development of our first 'Cultural Strategy' encompassing visitor economy and heritage proposed.
- Draft Brantham screen cluster commission report received for discussion with developer.
- Hadleigh Market – new management contract approved by Cabinet.
- Development of a marketing campaign promoting attractions and holidays within Babergh developed in association with Visit Suffolk.

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Publication of refreshed Evidence Base.
- Commence development of new Economic Strategy to sit alongside Recovery Plan.
- Commence delivery of Innovate Local programme through opening of Innovation Hub in Sudbury.
- Begin project planning for 2nd Innovation Awards later this year.
- Begin project planning for Local Energy Showcase in Spring 2023.
- Development of an Inward Investment website to ensure the District is promoted to investors as a place to locate.
- Support plans for redevelopment of key employment/development sites including Brantham, Sproughton and Delphi.
- "What's Next Events" planned for Sudbury, focusing on how we can work with partners and set the future direction of the Vision work. Due for Summer 2022.
- Commission consultant to support development of new Cultural Strategy.
- Launch tourism campaign in time for Easter break.

Economy

Objectives and progress



Objective 3 – Successful and Skilled :We will raise levels of aspiration and ambition in our districts and recognise and celebrate our success

Progress:

- Innovate Local – Market stall scheme agreed to continue for 2022 after initial pilot funded by Suffolk Growth with the addition of Sudbury supporting new businesses in the District.
- Q3 claim submitted for Welcome Back Funding in line with Government deadlines. Scheme has now ended, and Q4 claims from towns and districts are being completed.

Page 10

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Launch a “trade local” scheme to celebrate the innovation from our businesses during Covid-19 and maintain ongoing local business to business trade.
- Scope an innovation futures pilot with a local school.
- Development of workspace strategy and delivery plan across the District to ensure we have sufficient workspace.
- Full reconciliation of Welcome Back Fund and submission of Q4 claim.
- Further Careeriosity sessions to showcase career opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) and creative subjects
- Progress expansion of Innovate Local programme for market stalls to include Sudbury market.
- Work on investment plan for new Shared Prosperity Fund commences.

Babergh Environment

Headline Performance Indicators



16,769

Garden waste subscribers

The total number of subscriptions continues to increase with the overall total rising by 598 subscriptions this year, and by over 1000 compared with 2020/21

Page 11



60

Standard trees planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy

planted at Broom Hill Hadleigh, including 20 Oak trees to provide succession for existing veteran Oak on site.



90

Incidents of fly tipping

The overall trend for fly tipping incidents for the past 3 years shows a return to figures in line with pre pandemic incidents for the full years, 19/20 - 294, 20/21 - 516 and 21/22 - 318.



17.8%

of recycling collected was identified as contaminated or too small to process (under 45mm)

*There has been a slight reduction in contamination rate of 0.61% compared to Q3
Items included mainly bags or bagged waste, glass, food waste or dirty containers and wood.
(Data from Materials Recovery Facility input sample)*



98%

of fly tips cleared in 48 hours

Fly tipping data relates to tips on public land only

Environment

Objectives and progress



Objective 1 – To achieve the Councils’ ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030, following the adoption of the Carbon Reduction Management Plan.

Progress:

- The 56 solar panel array at Wenham Depot, generating 21.8kW, was commissioned and is now connected to the Grid and generating electricity.
- The new water filtration system at Kingfisher leisure centre has been commissioned, with improved water quality and energy and CO2 savings being made.
- A preliminary bid has been submitted to the Office of Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) for 75% of the capital funding for electric vehicle charging points in 7 Babergh carparks. The bid is first scrutinised by the Energy Saving Trust who decide whether it can progress to the full application process.
- The main construction work on the solar car ports at the Kingfisher in Sudbury has been completed, with project completion scheduled for Q1 2022/23.
- Work has commenced on scoping/feasibility of further potential decarbonisation works at leisure centres.
- Implementation of converting as many fleet vehicles to using HVO fuel completed; 24 waste and public realm vehicles have moved to this fuel type from diesel.

Page 12

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Continue to monitor the performance of the new water filtration system at Kingfisher leisure centre, to assess the merits of possibly rolling out the technology to the Councils' other leisure centres.
- Progress work on the bid to OZEV for funding of electric vehicle charging points.
- Progress work on scoping/feasibility of further potential decarbonisation works at leisure centres.
- Commission the solar car ports at the Kingfisher leisure centre car park.

Environment

Objectives and progress



Objective 2 – Improve the biodiversity of the district, consistent with the biodiversity pledge adopted by the Council

Progress:

- New Biodiversity Project Manager recruited. Richard Parmee starts on 3 May. This provides full time resource for managing our biodiversity improvements across the district.
- Working with Public Realm Operations team we are mapping sites where changes in mowing regimes will enhance wildflower potential. This work will be led by the Biodiversity Project Manager once in post.
- Tree Canopy Report and Tree Inventory Report finalised, update paper to Cabinet in progress.
- For the Queens Canopy we planted 60 standard trees at Broom Hill in Hadleigh, this includes 20 Oak trees to provide succession for existing veteran Oak on site. Trees funded through the Local Authority Treescapes Fund which includes funding for 3 years of management and maintenance.
- Following selection to become a trial organisation for Natural England’s Green Infrastructure tools, officers have attended training workshops.

Page 13

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Tree canopy web map production and launch of online platform for public to access ward by ward tree canopy data.
- Work with Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk District Council and Ipswich Borough Council on another Local Authority Treescapes Funding bid.
- Review last years Tree and Hedgerow application programme and plan relaunch of scheme.
- Look to recruit a Geography graduate to work with us on a tree strategy data project – using Natural England Green Infrastructure tools and tree data to identify land suitable for tree planting across the district.

Environment

Objectives and progress

Sustainable environment for all



Objective 3 – To promote a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment for our districts.

Progress:

- The Food and Safety team continue to follow the Food Standards Agency’s Recovery plan to tackle a large backlog of inspections and new food registrations. We are ahead of schedule. This has been helped by appointing temporary officers using Covid funds. We should be back up to date by September.
- The team has continued to help Trading Standards with their work with Avian Flu outbreaks in the district.
- The second phase of consultation for development of the councils first parking strategy has commenced with a briefing to cabinet members on 11 March 2022.
- The councils first climate change and biodiversity annual report was agreed.
- Working with the Suffolk Waste Partnership to develop a workplan and start an educational and promotional campaign to reduce contamination in recycling and increase glass recycling performance.
- Further work on a new model for Waste Services to implement the requirements of the Resource and Waste Strategy and member briefings on work to date.

Page 14

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Parking Strategy – key stakeholder engagement will take place including briefings with Town and Parish Councils, local interest groups and the wider public.
- Climate change and biodiversity annual report - a version for publication is being developed for the council website.
- Installation of solar compactor smart bins in 3 locations.
- Clean Air Day is taking place in June, we will be working in partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to focus on the problem of motorists idling their car engines outside GP surgeries.

Successful Health and Safety Prosecution

A steel stockholder company based in Sproughton, has been ordered to pay almost £516k for health and safety offences.

Brisko Scaffolding Ltd pleaded guilty and was sentenced for multiple health and safety offences at Chelmsford Magistrates Court in February.

They must now pay a total of £515,527.65 including costs of £15,527.65 to the council and a victim surcharge of £170 for the offences, which date back to an accident on 21 November 2019.

Officers inspected the company after an employee suffered a life-changing injury following an accident at work, due to a lack of necessary health and safety measures being in place.

The council served the company with a Prohibition Notice, prohibiting them from moving whole stacks of steel bundles in one go.

Unfortunately, following further evidence provided by the injured employee, the council found the company had failed to comply with the notice.

Following representations made by Babergh District Council's prosecutor David Smithet at court, Brisko Scaffolding Ltd was sentenced for the following offences:

- Failing to provide a safe system of work, as required by Section 2(2)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and contrary to Section 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974;
- Failing to provide adequate instruction supervision or training, as required by Section 2 (2)(c) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and contrary to Section 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974;
- Failing to carry out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment, as required by Regulation 3(1) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and contrary to Section 33(1)(c) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974;
- Failure to comply with a Prohibition Notice contrary to Section 33 (1)(g) of the Health and Safety at Work Etc Act 1974

Customers

Headline Performance Indicators

Combined data for both councils



3,758
daily
web visits (av.)

48% increase from last quarter. Stricter cookie controls are masking a proportion of visits. We have also seen 25,097 online forms submitted during Q4.



592/372
calls per day (av.) total
visits to the CAP

15% increase from Q3.
Total of 315 customers attended the Sudbury/Hadleigh and Shotley CAP.



86
email responded to
per day (av.)

21% increase from last quarter.



303
Social media responses
issued

Decrease of 67% from Q3



56
compliments

Increase of 8% from Q3



4.56
out of 5

77% of customers rated 5/5 for our online form process (no change from Q3)



22%
abandon rate

8% increase from Q3



3 min & 55 sec
wait time (av.)

Wait time has increased from 2 mins 22 in Q3. Due to Council tax billing and storm Eunice call increase



4,599/2,637
chatbot and automated
telephone sessions

Chatbot activity increased by 173% from Q3 and automated telephony up 81% from Q3.



203
stage 1 complaints

Increase of 18% from Q3 (however a 6% decrease from Q4 last year)

Customers

Objectives and progress



Objective 1: We will implement the technology capabilities that support and enhance customer and employee experience, invest in our people to give them confidence to use and promote digital services and tools, and underpin this with an ethos and culture of listening and engagement.

Progress:

- Our automated telephone survey was implemented in January 2022 and we had a 7% response rate. Customers provided an overall score of 3/5 for customer satisfaction and a 64% first point of contact resolution rate. We are currently reviewing processes where customer satisfaction was lower to ensure we can implement improvements to our processes.

Our complaints policy has now been completed and will be reviewed in early April by our Senior Leadership Team.

We implemented our automated telephone service for Council Tax and Business rates over the annual billing period, as a trial to understand usage and 123 customer opted to use this option.

What we plan to do next quarter:

- We will launch our new complaints policies from May, once we have completed an internal roll out of the policy.
- The new complaints process will also allow for customers to complete a transactional survey at the end of the complaints process, to help us make iterative improvements as a result of feedback.
- We will be promoting our automated telephone survey as we did not achieve a representative sample of the calls (7%).
- We have implemented a navigation bot on our website to integrate with our current chatbot to help signpost customers to relevant webpages related to any other queries, so far we are seeing this being used for Council Tax queries and will continue to monitor use.

Customers

Objectives and progress



Objective 2: We will develop and deliver a phased approach to supporting customers with digital inclusion and digital upskilling by working with like-minded community partners and using insight and intelligence to baseline our approach and measure our success.

Progress:

We have now created our Babergh and Mid Suffolk virtual badges with IDEA [*IDEA: Develop digital, enterprise and employability skills for free. Win career-enhancing badges and gain internationally recognised awards*](#) and the additional webpages will be launched in early April.

We have created and signed off an approach to working with our tenants on digital inclusion, using the tenants survey to identify areas of need. We will shortly be commencing a pilot with BSEVC (a Suffolk based charity with an aim to ensure people in Suffolk can access the support they need within their community) working in our sheltered housing schemes to help support tenants who wish to go online to gain additional skills or access to equipment.

We have created a digital skills heat map to help us identify particular wards (based on publicly available data) that may be at higher risk of digital exclusion to help pinpoint locations of need for future events.

What we plan to do next quarter:

- We will track and monitor our webpage activity to make iterative changes based on customer activity and demand.
- We will be working with our sheltered tenants to codesign the approach to delivering tenant focused digital skills across both Districts, with a view to then extend this work to our general needs tenants.
- We will be using the digital heatmap data to help pinpoint location where additional digital skills support will be needed.

Customers

Objectives and progress



Objective 3 – We are committed to putting our customers first by reviewing our current processes and re-designing them to ensure that they are simple, intuitive and maximise the use of technology.

Progress:

- Our NVQ second cohort has now completed their final assessment and many of the projects will be going live in May.
- We will be exploring an additional cohort, once the previous cohorts projects have been completed and benefits have been realised.
- We are continuing to work with Citizens Advice and have been exploring options of locations for a digital hubs trial and are linking this with the work around the cost of living crisis and single systems working and our digital inclusion heatmap.
- We have commenced the initial demos for our digital platform, to replace our website and online forms and create a simple and intuitive digital customer experience.

• Page 19

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Creation of a Business Process Reengineering Framework to help us to create greater efficiencies and improve customer satisfaction and experience alongside our NVQ cohorts.
- Continuation of work with Citizens Advice to explore opportunities to create digital hubs across the districts.
- We will be looking to formalise the approach of a resident survey to help us to baseline our new performance outcomes framework.
- Our digital platform work will continue at pace to help us identify a supplier to improve our online experiences (through our websites and forms).



Babergh Communities

Headline Performance Indicators



Community Grants

(cumulative Q1 - Q4)



£141,228.41

Capital Grant Allocation

Page 20

£115,928

Community Restart Allocation

£14,077.62

Minor Grant Allocation

£271,234.03

Total amount of funding offered through Capital, Minor and Community Restart

£48,368.00

S106 Funds Allocated

17

Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise (VCSE) supported

Community Safety

Anti-Social Behaviour cases reviewed by the ASB partnership for 2021/22;

137

ASB cases reviewed

0%

of ASB cases open more than 6 months

3

ASB community triggers called for
100% of community triggers responded to within statutory timeframe

The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced the Community Trigger. The trigger is designed to give victims of ongoing ASB the right to request a review of their case, and bring agencies together to take a collaborative approach to finding a solution.

Communities

Objectives and progress



Objective 1: To create great places to live and to empower local people and communities to shape what happens in their area

Progress:

- Virtual "Connect & Catch Up" sessions held monthly. In March, two sessions were held for statutory and voluntary organisations providing information on the Suffolk & North East Essex Long Covid Assessment Service.
- Officers are working with a range of partners which will see the national Armed Forces Day celebrated in Hadleigh. Initial plans are for a static parade and salute on Thursday 23 June in the afternoon followed by an early evening reception. £3,000 has been secured from the Armed Forces fund to deliver activity and celebration packs for the local community. Support has also been secured from Adnams Brewery.
- Stage 1 of the 2022 UCI Women's Tour starts in Colchester and finishes in Bury St Edmunds. The race will enter Suffolk at Brantham before travelling through more of the Babergh countryside, passing through Hadleigh and Lavenham. Monday 6 June is after the Bank Holiday Weekend, giving us the opportunity to extend the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. We are working with communities, businesses, schools and cycling clubs along the route both on the day and in advance to highlight the benefits of cycling for exercise but also the importance of road safety on our rural roads.
- Support is being provided to Jubilee events and projects under the Festival of Suffolk Banner and resources for community event organisers being kept updated and published on our Communities webpages.
- Youth Forum: A survey has been circulated to high schools across Babergh. The results of which will be used to inform the work of the newly established Youth Forum which is likely to be up and running in Spring. The questions focused on health, community safety and local democracy. Results from the survey are due 6 May.
- Formal quarterly partnership and performance meetings are now established and embedded with an agreed proforma for completion by Leisure Provider (Abbeycroft Leisure) to inform discussions.
- Communities Team members have joined each of the Suffolk Volunteering Strategy working groups to help develop delivery alongside partners.

Communities

Objectives and progress



Objective 1: To create great places to live and to empower local people and communities to shape what happens in their area

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Virtual "Connect & Catch Up" sessions to continue to be held two to three times a month for statutory and voluntary organisations.
- Armed Forces Day: We will be engaging local schools, businesses and community groups in the event which will give thanks for all our armed forces personnel in a number of roles and deployments both locally and around the world.
- The Women's Tour: We will continue engaging with communities, schools, businesses and parishes along the route to make sure people are aware of the best places to watch the race and where they can take part in activities. We will also continue work on highlighting the benefits of cycling for exercise and importance of road safety.
- Continue to plan Community Events associated with the Queen's Jubilee, Women's Tour and Armed Forces Day.
- Scoping on the Community Awards to be completed by end of Q1. Size and scale will form part of the planning around the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.
- Newly established Youth Forum to be up and running with results from the survey circulated across high schools in Babergh. Results are due in May.

Communities

Objectives and progress



Objective 2 – To effectively deliver our Community Safety Statutory responsibilities deliver on the priorities agreed within the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) Action Plan.

Progress:

- Support continued for the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership, Chair and Vice Chair. Partnership met to consider progress against Modern Slavery Strategy and update on position around strategic assessment.
- The new Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for the County was approved in January by the Safer Stronger Communities Board. Officers are involved in action planning to drive the strategy.
- Upgrading of the CCTV system and transfer of monitoring and maintenance to West Suffolk Council is complete. 8 cameras have been installed and are operational in Hadleigh. 15 of the 16 cameras in Sudbury have been installed and are operational. 10 'static' cameras are in use and 1 deployable mobile camera which is in Sudbury.
- Domestic Abuse 'Champions' group established to develop an action plan of initiatives to be delivered across the Council and within our communities.
- A total of 33 Anti-Social Behaviour cases were reviewed by the Anti-Social Behaviour partnership in quarter 4.
- Babergh is currently second highest users of ECINS in County. Initially established to record medium and high risk ASB cases, the Community Safety team also now record 'low' risk cases for better accountability. This allows a better audit trail on cases which get reassessed and upgraded to a higher matrix.
- Significant amount of Criminal Exploitation and County Lines training has taken place with WSCSP partners, ranging from St Giles STOP training to workshops delivered by the Children's Society on the National Referral Mechanism. Regular representation from BDC to monthly meetings to discuss individual cases and a working relationship has developed with the Criminal Exploitation Hub that deals with geographical 'areas' of concern.
- Prevent Week of Action took place at the end of February which was promoted through social media channels. Including a Councillor webinar, a professional's toolkit, online quiz for members of the public.

Page 23

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Continue to support the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and meet in May to agree strategic assessment, priority areas and action plan.
- 16th CCTV camera to be installed and fully operational in April.
- Support work to develop Modern Slavery Strategy.
- Section 11 Audit to be reported to SLT in April, depending on the outcome of audit an action plan will be developed.

Communities

Objectives and progress



Objective 3 – To deliver a Community Grants Services that is inclusive and transparent, supports community participation & activity and works with Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to develop thriving communities

Progress:

- Capital: 72% of funding has been allocated to 13 projects.
Pipeline projects include a new community Café for the Bridge Project at AFC Sudbury, the renovation of Long Melford's Cordell Place, play area, new floodlights at Lavenham Tennis Club, Tattingstone Community Shop, Sproughton play area, and a new referee hut at Woolverston United Football Club.
- Minor: 64% of funding allocated to 17 projects. Projects include new car park at GoStart Community Transport, new equipment for Sudbury in Bloom, energy efficient lighting at Boxford Village Hall and toward supporting the Long Melford Biodiversity Group.
- Revenue Grants: £141,868.00 awarded to 17 organisations.
- Community Restart Funding: 100% allocation, £115,928.00 to 73 community groups and projects.
- Locality awards: 78 applications processed and 67% of funding spent.
- S106 has been allocated towards 6 projects including new play equipment in Lawshall and new fencing at the Kings Road play area in Glemsford. Funding has been offered to Bentley towards their play area surfacing, and a site visit was carried out at Glemsford. We are currently awaiting their completed application and have ringfenced the Section 106.

Page 24

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Continue to progress Pipeline projects.
- Revenue Grant offer letters to be complete by mid-April.
- To begin the roll out of £25,000.00 allocation towards Jubilee Funding.
- Locality Awards training to be given and Locality Awards to be handed over to Locality Officers within the Communities Team.



Babergh Wellbeing

Headline Performance Indicators



26



Children attended Family Park Cooking in Sudbury and Hadleigh during February Half Term.

67% spaces filled in Sudbury and 100% spaces filled in Hadleigh.

105

attendees to outdoor exercise classes

7

Families supported in Hadleigh through Chill, Chat and Play.

5

Mums took part Chill, Chat and Play buggy walks.

100% of mums reported improved wellbeing and bond with their baby.

23

Children attended Adventure Days in Sudbury during February Half Term.

84% spaces were filled.

8

Primary schools have taken part in the Active Schools programme.

Active travel was increased by 19.5%.



81

Children attended free swimming sessions during February Half Term.



Wellbeing

Objectives and progress



Objective 1 – To develop the Councils first Wellbeing Strategy to ensure that we put the wellbeing of our communities at the heart of everything we do.

Progress:

- Many free activities were available throughout Babergh during February half term for children in receipt of free school meals. 38 children attended Hadleigh Pool and Leisure Centre and 43 attended Kingfisher Leisure Centre for swimming sessions. There were 49 children that attended the Adventure Days and Family Park Cooking. Those that took part in the activities are full of praise, one parent said *"The day gives my children confidence being in a different environment, we learn new skills and we make friends whilst having an amazing day which we all enjoy. The food pack is an added bonus to the day, financially and it encourages the children to help cook the recipes from the cards."*
- An evaluation of the 3-year Active Schools Programme demonstrates that the project has improved pupil's attendance towards physical activity and increased teacher confidence as well as increasing active travel by 19.5%.
- The Our Parks initiative run in partnership with Suffolk County Council (SCC) saw outdoor group exercise classes held in open spaces in Great Cornard. The evaluation shows that free outdoor exercise classes benefit those who are inactive and for a range of reasons unlikely to visit an indoor facility. As such we are progressing funding options with SCC which may see a continuation of the sessions although this will be delivered through our local leisure providers rather than the national Our Parks initiative.
- ICOPE project - led by the Age Care Technologies (ACT) and supported by the Integration and Partnerships manager with logistics and trying to recruit volunteers for the project launched in the South Rural area.
- Dementia Orientation Boards in situ at Hadleigh Pool and Leisure Centre with another organisation being sought to trial the boards.
- Working with Abbeycroft Leisure to develop health pathways offering those referred by GPs and discharged from hospital, with long term conditions, a package of rehabilitation at Hadleigh and Kingfisher Leisure Centres.



Wellbeing

Objectives and progress



Objective 1 – To develop the Councils first Wellbeing Strategy to ensure that we put the wellbeing of our communities at the heart of everything we do.

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Holiday Activity Fund (HAF): Plans are being finalised for the Easter Holidays, there will be a wide range of activities available for children in receipt of free school meals across Babergh such as holiday camps, arts and crafts, drama, filmmaking, family cooking, football and much more!
- Active Schools: It is well documented that Covid-19 has seen a negative impact on young people's physical and mental health and as such we are working with Active Suffolk on a second phase of the project due to be launched in April.
- Working with Suffolk County Council on a funding bid to establish free outdoor group exercise classes aimed at families and adults.
- ICOPE project participants are set to be communicated with early April with partnership support from Abbeycroft Leisure.
- Awaiting feedback from the Dementia Orientation Boards at Hadleigh Pool and Leisure Centre. If these have been a success, the aim is to roll out to other locations in the South Rural INT area.

Babergh joins forces with GPs to keep residents fit

Working in partnership with Abbeycroft Leisure the council is continuing to grow the number of GP referral programmes at their leisure centres.

Through the programmes, doctors refer patients with common medical conditions such as obesity, hypertension, or type 2 diabetes, to the councils' local gyms for a programme of tailored exercise over a set period.

Once on the road to recovery, patients are then encouraged to continue their rehabilitation and improved health through a longer-term membership.

This programme is available at Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury, funded by the NHS West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group. Hadleigh Pool and Leisure as become the latest to join in February, as a one-year pilot to test demand, funded by the NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group. Residents who feel they may benefit from a referral should speak to their GP in the first instance.

Nigel Westwell has Parkinson's and uses the GP referral scheme at Hadleigh Pool and Leisure. He said:

"Due to having Parkinson's I was very concerned about my body strength as most people with Parkinson's are susceptible to trips and falls and this was something I wanted to avoid.

"Before I joined the scheme I would often stagger when I walked, but now I have improved my strength and balance and I stagger much less.

"I've really enjoyed the sprints on the bike which have made my legs much stronger, and the upper body training has made me feel better overall. I am now able to manage my symptoms better, I'm sleeping better, and it's given me a good appetite."



Babergh Housing

Headline Performance Indicators



29

Households placed into temporary accommodation

The demand for Temporary Accommodation has increased during the last quarter. However, the team continue to be incredibly busy and dealing with lots of new cases.



13

New Affordable Homes Built or Acquired (9 built for social rent, 4 S106 acquisitions – ART)

There continue to be issues with the availability of materials and social distancing requirements for the construction industry which is causing some delays.



51

cases where homelessness has successfully been prevented or relieved

The team are continuing to work diligently to prevent and relieve homelessness wherever possible.



52

Properties relet (not temporary accommodation)

There has been an increase in the number of homes available to let, which is really positive for those needing somewhere safe to call home.



104 %

of disabled facilities grants spent and committed



40

average number of days for standard VOID re-lets

Void times have increased for a variety of reasons, including hard to let properties, properties held to meet hospital discharge and delays in Building Services. Building Services & their contractors have experienced increased sickness absence, including Omicron, increased demand and operational demands

Housing

Objectives and progress



Objective 1 – Enabling delivery and provision of homes within the Districts.

Progress:

- Babergh Growth achieved listed building consents for development at Corks Lane.
- There were 12 housing specific planning applications granted, which will deliver 21 homes.
- Handover of 9 council homes for social rent in Brantham and publicity event.
- A positive Homes England audit report for Brantham (development funded by Homes England).
- Initial garage review completed. Opportunities rated for more detailed feasibility to delivery of new council homes.

Page 30

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Design work for public consultation on new scheme in Babergh District.
- Completed sales of all the shared ownership homes the Council delivered or purchased in 2021/22.
- Handover of new council homes on sites delivered by developers in Sudbury and Wherstead.
- Enter into contract with developer for delivery of new council homes in Lavenham.

Housing

Objectives and progress



Objective 2 – Digital transformation to improve services to our residents

Progress:

- Private Sector Housing and Independent Living Service have updated web pages and made more forms available online improving the customer journey
- A new process has been implemented by Choice Based Lettings to match supporting documents for a housing application – this will speed up assessments, resulting in tenants being housed quicker.
- Begun work on our Tenant Engagement Strategy - a video inviting tenants to help shape it will be sent out at the end of April along with a survey.
- Begun the Capita One project and are currently working on the preparatory steps of the move to the cloud. The move will improve our back-office systems, resulting in a better service for our customers.

Page 31

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Collating contact details for Private landlords to facilitate more targeted communications to landlords via e-newsletter.
- Develop online reporting for damp and mould and processes for direct referral to our specialist contractors.
- Continue to work on our new and improved Sheltered Housing web pages with better use of video, images and maps.
- Issue our first targeted e-bulletin to those on universal credit to encourage tenants to update their gov.uk accounts.
- Undertake a small survey to understand tenants' views on the My Home Bulletin and help shape future editions.
- Go-live of the Voids and Workflow module in Open Housing.
- Rollout of the first vans with the van stock module.
- Kick off the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Open Housing module.
- Rollout of Remote Assist to other teams and increasing the usage of the product.

Babergh Health of the Organisation

Headline Performance Indicators

Combined data for both Councils if not specified



7.80

average no. of days
sickness per FTE

*This compares to 6.61 days at
West Suffolk and 5.57 days at
East Suffolk for the year to date
(Apr – Mar 2022).*



1219

Total number of days lost
to sickness

*Top 2 reasons for absence
23.58% Coronavirus (294 days lost – our highest at
any point during the pandemic)
18.13% Musculo Skeletal*



64,600

Babergh Twitter
impressions

*'impressions' are the number of
times a Twitter
user sees our Tweets*



93,445

Babergh Reach for
Facebook

*'reach' is the number of unique users
who had any content from our Facebook
page or about the page enter their screen*



924

Babergh Committee /
Council meeting views

*There were 10 meetings in Q4, with
10 members of the public attending, as well
as 3 joint meetings with 49 YouTube Views*

Health of the Organisation

Objectives and progress



Objective 1 – Develop and implement a comprehensive 'People' Strategy that ensures we are a great organisation to work for, that our people are supported to learn and grow, energised and enabled to deliver our ambitions

Progress:

- Results from the first employee pulse survey were available towards the end of February and an action plan has been developed to focus on the key areas identified for development.
- Line manager Wellbeing modules went live at the end of January - a series of short learning modules to upskill line managers in supporting the mental health of their teams.
- Successfully completed our intern recruitment for June start.
- People plans were agreed with Corporate Managers and learning and development needs analysis were completed for the next 12 months.
- Work continued on hybrid working workstream with completion of the learning needs survey, detailed FAQ's for our people and updated guidance.

Page 33

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Develop and launch our 2nd employee pulse survey.
- Launch the all employee wellbeing modules.
- Commence equality, diversity and inclusion workshops.
- Finalise our organisational development proposition for the next 12 months and submit for sign off to People Programme Board.
- Deliver sessions to our employees relating to our offering relating to financial support.
- Continue with our review of all HR policy and processes.
- Go live with the new HR induction for new employees.

Health of the Organisation

Objectives and progress



Objective 2 – Provide robust effective management of the Councils finances, including our capital projects and contracts. We will use our resources in a sustainable way and prioritise based upon our Corporate Plan.

Progress:

- Communications/workshops to Extended Leadership Team (ELT) on the Finance Transformation Plan.
- Replacement Financial Management System PID and Business Case to SLT, specification completed and procurement commenced.
- 2022/23 Budgets presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Council.
- Treasury Management, Investment & Capital Strategies presented to Joint Audit & Standards Committee and Council.
- General Fund and HRA 2021/22 Quarter 3 reports presented to Cabinet.
- External audit of the 2020/21 accounts commenced.

Page 34

What we plan to do next quarter:

- 2021/22 Draft Statement of Accounts to be prepared.
- Tender evaluation and award of contract for replacement Financial Management System.
- Audit update to Joint Audit and Standards Committee.

Health of the Organisation

Objectives and progress



Objective 3 – Effective and efficient management of our property portfolio to make the best use of our assets.

Progress:

- Plans to trigger the lease break and reconfigure the Gold floorplate at Endeavour House were approved at Cabinet enabling the project to progress into technical design and planning.
- Leased former retail units at Borehamgate, Sudbury to new tenants the Bridge Project and Innovation Labs
- Secured planning consent for change of use of small parcel of surplus land at South Suffolk Business Centre to accommodate Go Start Community Buses (see case study highlights)
- CIFCO made full debt repayment to the Council and its rent collection averaged 96.73% over the last 12 months, which is above the industry average

Page 35

What we plan to do next quarter:

- Progress into delivery phase of the proposals for Endeavour House and continue to develop the proposals to deliver the Accommodation and Agile Strategy for touchdown and depot requirements for BMSDC.
- Continued programme of assets reviews, including a compliance review and compiling an asset inventory for general fund held land and property.
- Council Owned Companies to continue to monitor progress against agreed Business Plans and begin to plan for next business plan periods.

A new start for Go Start Community Transport



Page 36

- A new homebase for Go Start Community Transport at South Suffolk Business Centre
- Go Start were successful with grant and CIL funding to create a new parking area on an unused area of surplus land adjacent to the car park at South Suffolk Business Centre
- Occupation of the land by way of a Licence to Occupy completed.
- Change of use planning consent obtained by the Strategic Property Team to facilitate the completion of the CIL funding of 75% of the project costs.

Agenda Item 8

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Cabinet	REPORT NUMBER: BCa/22/13
FROM: Cllr. John Ward, Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy & Cllr. Mary McLaren Cabinet Member for Communities & Wellbeing	DATE OF MEETING: 04/07/2022
OFFICER: Fiona Duhamel, Asst. Director Economic Development & Regeneration	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB358 By General Exception

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update on the development of the Council's draft UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan and associated public engagement activity.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Proceed as per recommendations to note the process that has been followed to develop an Investment Plan for submission to Government by 1 August. This is the preferred approach as it allows us to proceed with the final drafting of our Investment Plans and aligns to the decision process of other Local Authority partners across Suffolk whom we have been working with on the potential for jointly funding countywide initiatives.
- 2.2 The Cabinet could choose not to support the process being followed for developing an Investment Plan and consulting stakeholders. However, as the aspirations within the Shared Prosperity Fund programme align closely with our corporate ambitions and any change to the process now could result in significant additional work needing to be carried out in advance of a fixed Government deadline which may not be possible.
- 2.3 The Cabinet could choose to delay making a decision, however, the Government's timeline for submission of our Investment Plan is fixed. As we can only draw down the funding allocated to us by submitting our Plan using the Government template by 1 August, any deviation or delays would potentially cause us to miss this deadline and jeopardise receipt of our funding.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To note progress on the development of the draft investment plan which is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.2 To note the consultation process underway that will inform the final Investment Plan.

- 3.3 To agree delegation to the Assistant Director for Economy and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio holders for Economic Development & Communities to finalise the Investment Plan prior to submission to government.

REASON FOR DECISION

The receipt of Shared Prosperity Funding to implement the initiatives contained within the draft Investment Plan will provide a unique opportunity to support economic growth and community activities for our Districts.

This key funding opportunity could help to address the substantial loss of funding following the UK's EU Exit and loss of access to European Funding for employment & skills projects.

A robust set of investment priorities in the draft plan will enable the Council to provide funding for skills, employment, culture and community projects in the local area and wider county to support the Levelling Up agenda and create opportunities for all bringing true inclusive growth to local communities.

4. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In April 2022 the Government launched the £2.6bn UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to support the levelling up agenda.
- 4.2 Contrary to what had been expected, it was announced that District/Borough Councils would be responsible for managing this fund, rather than County Councils.
- 4.3 The aim and purpose of this funding is to provide a successor to EU Structural Funds (ESF) and to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Full details of the fund are available in the prospectus - [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108414/ukspfprospectus.pdf).
- 4.4 Whilst the scheme has been promoted by Government as replacement for EU Funds, there are significantly fewer funds available than had been available via EU schemes, so any project allocation will need to be carefully managed.
- 4.5 The fund will empower each place to identify and build on their own strengths and needs at a local level, focused on building "pride in place".
- 4.6 It will enable local areas to build a package of funding, drawing on their programmes such as Levelling Up Fund or employment and skills support to maximise impact and simplify delivery.
- 4.7 Underneath the overarching aim of building pride in place and increasing life chances, there are three UKSPF investment priorities: communities and place; supporting local business; and people and skills. There are detailed objectives associated with each of these priorities which are aligned to the relevant Levelling Up White Paper mission.
- 4.8 In years one and two of the fund, the priorities will be "Community and Place" and "Supporting Local Business", whilst "People and Skills" is the priority for spend in year three.

- 4.9 Authorities are encouraged to identify activities that would support these objectives in their area, including any interventions that are best delivered at a larger scale in collaboration with other Authorities or wider partners. This would be informed via engagement with local stakeholders and partners.

5. DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR INVESTMENT PLAN

- 5.1 In order to access the fund, Councils must develop an Investment Plan which sets out its priorities, outcomes and outputs for each year of funding.
- 5.2 The Investment Plans must be linked to the priority themes and deliver against specific interventions that will support the delivery of Government aims and ambitions in order to be approved.
- 5.3 The closing date for submission of these Investment Plans is 1st August 2022. Decisions on the Plans are expected by October which means any activity before formal approval would be at risk.
- 5.4 Officers have set up an internal working group led by the A.D. from Economy & Regeneration and attended by relevant Officers from across Economy and Communities teams, with engagement with colleagues in Housing to ensure that the Investment Plan reflects the breadth of challenges facing our communities, residents and businesses.
- 5.5 Potential projects have been identified from a range of adopted Council Strategies including the Communities and Wellbeing Strategies and the Economic Recovery Plan to ensure that the funding helps to deliver against recognised need within the District and meet agreed outcomes.
- 5.6 These projects have been grouped into wider thematic areas to provide for future flexibility and are undergoing a wide stakeholder engagement process to make sure they are supported locally.
- 5.7 A Suffolk wide working group has also been set up to facilitate discussions relating to shared areas of delivery e.g. skills and business support, with the potential for local funds to be “top sliced” to support delivery of Suffolk wide priorities.
- 5.8 Wider negotiations have also been taking place with partners including the New Anglia LEP and Suffolk County Council Skills Team in order to understand the scale of the projects that are coming to an end of their EU funding and which could or should be funded via SPF to ensure continuity of delivery.
- 5.9 The Investment Plans will set out the key principles of how the Council is intending to allocate its funding across the three years, however, there will be some flexibility within the process that allows for adaptation of the programme to meet local needs if circumstances change over the next 3 years.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Government expect lead local authorities to engage widely with local partners – including current deliverers of EU structural fund interventions and managing authorities, arms-length bodies of government, neighbouring local authorities, voluntary and community representatives, civil society organisations higher and further education and business representative and strategic bodies. This will ensure

that local investment plans complement and do not duplicate other provision and that interventions are delivered at the appropriate scale.

6.2 The SPF officer working group identified a number of potential projects from the Communities and Wellbeing Strategies and the recently adopted Economic Recovery Plan and grouped these into 6 broad project themes which are under consultation:

- Town Centre and Cultural Programmes
- Events and Festivals
- Recruitment Support:
- Business Support including net zero activities:
- Skills and Employability Support:

6.3 The consultation exercise has also asked partners and stakeholders to prioritise government investment proposals and to identify any gaps in provision or to suggest potential project partners to support delivery of schemes.

6.4 The consultation with local partners and stakeholders has been carried out primarily via an online survey which will help to understand local priorities and identify project partners. This is running from 13/06–01/07.

6.5 Consultees have included Councillors, Town centre Vision Boards, Health & Wellbeing partners including CCG, VCSE partners, Cultural Groups, Local Chambers and Business Groups, Town & Parish Councils and MPs.

6.6 A shared approach to consultation with larger partners and key stakeholders across Suffolk via a joint survey to identify priority areas for intervention has been agreed. This has reduced duplication and helped to streamline communication about major programmes. This consultation ran from 10/06 -26/06.

6.7 Partners for this Suffolk wide collaborative approach include the Arts Council, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the Colleges and University, SALC, Community Action Suffolk, Natural England, Environment Agency, CBI and FSB. Some of these partners may also respond to the District survey if they have a specific local interest.

6.8 All consultations must be completed by the beginning of July to allow priorities to be reassessed in light of feedback from stakeholders and for a final Investment Plan to be compiled and submitted to government by the 1 August.

7. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

7.1 The Corporate Plan (2019-27) is designed to address the challenges and seize the opportunities facing the districts, and their organisations, for the foreseeable future. In relationship to the matters contained within this report, the Council's strong local leadership role to build great communities for living, working, visiting and investing in is particularly relevant.

7.2 The Shared prosperity Fund allocation will help us to achieve our Vision to build "Great communities with bright and healthy futures that everyone is proud to call home".

- 7.3 It will support our Strategic Priorities on the Economy as a “place that is known for strong growth in innovation and creativity, for being highly connected and sustainable with the best skilled workforce in the East”.
- 7.4 It will support our Strategic Priorities for our Communities and the Wellbeing of our Communities as a place that is ‘Attractive, successful and connected for people to live and work’ and for ‘Families to lead active, healthy, safe and independent lives, with children having the best start in life and managing their own health and wellbeing’.
- 7.5 The SPF will also help to deliver on the key Goals of our recently published Economic Recovery Plan – Connected and Sustainable, Innovative and Creative and Skilled and Successful - specifically:
- 7.6 Inclusive growth and support – working with our partners and cross council to deliver healthier outcomes in our economies as part of our joined-up recovery programmes
- 7.7 Strength in innovation – driving resilience and re-growth of our places through innovation in sustainability and climate change, and capitalise on the positive behaviour change post pandemic
- 7.8 Resilience – ensure our businesses develop resilience for the future, enabling them to inspire and be aspirational within our communities

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Each district has been allocated monies and will be responsible for developing distinct Investment Plans that deliver on identified local need and managing spend.
- 8.2 Although match funding is not required and will not form part of the investment plan assessment criteria, all lead local authorities have been strongly encouraged to consider match funding from the private, public and third sectors and leverage options when selecting communities and place and supporting local business interventions to fund. This will maximise the value for money and impact of the Fund
- 8.3 Each lead local authority will be able to use up to 4% of their allocation to manage the necessary Fund administration, such as project assessment, contracting, monitoring and evaluation and ongoing stakeholder engagement.
- 8.4 Local Authorities will each receive £20,000 in year 1 to support the development of their Investment Plans. It is expected that this will be received in the Autumn when the Investment Plan is signed off alongside the first year’s payment.
- 8.5 Funding for the first year will be announced in October 2022 following approval of Investment Plans but must be spent by the end of the financial year (March 2023).
- 8.6 This is split as follows;

Babergh	22/23	23/24	24/25	Total
Allocation per year	£121,604	£243,208	£637,204	£1,002,015
Revenue split	£109,444	£211,591	£509,763	
Capital split	£12,160	£31,617	£127,441	

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report or in the development of the Investment Plan.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT

10.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risks as set out below:

Risk Description	Risk Number	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
We may not understand the needs and aspirations of our businesses	Risk 5	3	3	Linking our business data and intel with partners. Increasing our direct business engagement with key sectors through our Chambers of Commerce, Growth Hub and other business support organisations. We have increased evidence based including Visitor Economy 'Volume and Value' studies and Economic evidence base refresh.
Decline in our key towns impacts upon economic prosperity of the districts	Risk 8	3	3	Visions for prosperity in place across 5 key towns – Stowmarket, Needham, Sudbury, Hadleigh and Eye. Programme of workshops and engagement with local groups and communities via "What's Next events". Steering Groups established for

				Sudbury and Stowmarket.
We may not be able to help communities become more sustainable	Risk 9	3	3	Officer capacity added to help communities deliver Neighbourhood Plans. Town and Parish Council Liaison meetings in place and frequency increased. Community and Wellbeing Strategies adopted by full Council.
Delays to sign off of our Investment Plan		Medium	High	Significant preparatory work to ensure that Investment Plans are developed in line with Government guidance. Regular attendance at webinars and events to ensure that we have up to date knowledge of the process.
UKSPF not providing sufficient funds to deliver programmes without match funding		Low	High	Under current guidance, match funding is not necessary, but desirable. We will ensure that if this advice changes we will adjust our project plan accordingly.
Delays to appointment of project partners to deliver schemes		Medium	High	Significant preparatory work is already underway to develop Project Initiation Documents for year 1 and year 2

				projects which should identify potential challenges which can be mitigated at procurement stage
--	--	--	--	---

11. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

11.1 *Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) not required*

11.2 The interventions being proposed within the draft Investment Plan will support people, businesses and communities across our Districts and will create opportunities for all. The plan is intended to tackle and prevent inequalities and will be monitored through regular reporting to Government against the outcomes set out in the Investment Plan.

11.3 A number of the interventions will be designed specifically for people who have been long term unemployed or who have multiple barriers to work and as such, this programme will positively support these hard to reach communities.

11.4 The SPF will specifically support the group suffering from 'deprivation/ socio-economic disadvantage'. Since a key objective of the Shared Prosperity Fund is to support the delivery of the Government's 'levelling up' and inclusive growth agenda, it can be clearly demonstrated that the initiative will have a positive impact on this protected characteristic.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no environmental implications directly associated with this report.

13. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(a) Draft Babergh Investment Plan	
(b) BMS Consultation Survey	

14. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

14.1 ***Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus*** - [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

15. **REPORT AUTHORS** *Michelle Gordon, Corporate Manager Economy & Business, Vicky Moseley, Corporate Manager Communities & Wellbeing and Nicola Healy, Funding & Business Analyst*



UK Government

**LEVELLING
— UP —**

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Investment Plan Drafting Template

Version 2
May 2022

Your location

To be eligible for funding, you will need to be applying on behalf of a lead authority in one of the [delivery geographies](#).

Select the lead authority

For Scotland and Wales only: Who else is this investment plan being submitted on behalf of? Select all that apply

Your details

Name – Nicola Healy

Email address – Nicola.healy@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Phone number 01449 724938

Organisation name Babergh District Council

Local challenges and opportunities

In this section, we will ask you:

- If you've identified any challenges or opportunities, you intend to support
- Which of the UKSPF investment priorities these fall under

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

Babergh is amongst the least deprived third of Local Authority areas in England, but relative deprivation is rising. Deprivation is made more challenging as it is often hidden, dispersed amongst areas with more affluent households. Housing costs are high, which when combined with low wages and skills levels, and now increased unemployment and significantly more people claiming out of work benefits, leads to financial hardship, ill health and inequality. Homelessness has risen during the pandemic, as has food poverty. We have comparatively high levels of fuel poverty. As an aging demographic, dementia is a growing issue and there is a need to support our growing aging population to remain independent and in good health for as long as possible. Mental health issues have increased during the pandemic for all age groups and referrals to mental health services have risen significantly. Domestic abuse has also increased. Isolation and loneliness has become an even bigger issue over the last year for both young and old. A quarter of the population don't take regular exercise and 1:4 year 6 children are overweight or obese. Anti-Social Behaviour and County Lines drug related issues are an issue of concern in some parts of the districts. As predominantly rural districts, many of our places lack adequate transport provision and sometimes also broadband. Access to green spaces, parks and woodlands involves more travel and has a lower reported rate of use than might be expected. Some residents therefore experience barriers to opportunities and social mobility.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

Comments from stakeholders reflected that they had observed the above similar patterns and were keen to see these prioritised. They were also keen to see an increase in support for families and young people as they were concerned about lasting social, economic, emotional, and educational impacts of the pandemic for these groups. Digital isolation was also an area of concern as there was recognition that increasingly digital isolation can also exacerbate social isolation, having become an important part of community connectivity and communication in addition to in person contact.

Overall, there was recognition of the importance of enabling and supporting individuals at greatest risk, and those experiencing the greatest health inequalities, to be better able to take care of themselves and their health. Similarly, there was concern to identify groups and communities who find it more difficult to seek help.

The importance of delivering wellbeing improvements through behavioural change, integrated working and pooling resources and expertise was also recognised.

Stakeholders were keen to build on the unprecedented levels of community volunteering during the pandemic to increase social capital and strengthen civic participation. Similarly, they wanted to see a continuation of the collaborative approaches and innovative ways of working adopted by partners during this period.

The importance of prevention and early intervention was an underpinning theme in many of the discussions. Finally, our engagement work identified a shared ambition to enable communities to live and stay well, take control of their own mental and physical wellbeing and to be able to do so locally, where they live and work.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

2021 Inter Departmental Business Register (ONS) data showed that 98.3% of businesses within Babergh are classed as micro or small business.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

The average pay (both weekly and hourly) in Babergh and Mid Suffolk remains below the average for the UK, but more significantly below the average for the East. However from April 2020 to April 2021 ONS reported the highest level of growth in median weekly pay figures for full-time

employees since 2008. The average increase in the UK was 4.3% however both districts have seen higher than average increases with a weekly median increase of £41 (8.3%) for Babergh and £86 (16.8%) for Mid Suffolk. This is really encouraging evidence of growth within BMSDC for our residents, but it is important to focus on ways to continue to reduce this gap further

ONS data from 2020 shows that qualification levels in Babergh are below average compared to the rest of the UK with only 39.2% of those aged between 16-64 having a qualification level of NVQ4 and above (the UK average for this qualification being 43.1%).

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

Interventions

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Interventions you've chosen for each year of funding
- Outcomes you want to deliver
- Any interventions that are not listed here
- How these interventions fall under the UKSPF investment priorities, and your rationale for them
- Interventions not included in our list will be assessed before being approved, where you will need to show a clear rationale, how the intervention is value for money, what outcomes it will deliver and how you will monitor and evaluate the intervention. This may include a theory of change or logic chain.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	?
Jobs safeguarded	?
Increased footfall	X
Increased visitor numbers	X
Reduced vacancy rates	X
Greenhouse gas reductions	
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility	X
Improved perception of facilities/amenities	X
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
Increased users of facilities / amenities	X
Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project	?
Increased use of cycleways or paths	X
Increase in Biodiversity	
Increased affordability of events/entry	?
Improved perception of safety	X
Reduction in neighbourhood crime	X
Improved engagement numbers	X

Improved perception of events	?
Increased number of web searches for a place	X
Volunteering numbers as a result of support	?
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	X
Increased take up of energy efficiency measures	
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	X
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	?
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

E1: Improvements to town centres & high streets

E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces

E4: Enhancing existing cultural, historic & heritage institutions offer

E5: Built & landscaped environment to 'design out crime'

E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities

E7: Support for active travel enhancements in local area

E8: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area

E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects

E10: Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams & leagues

E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups

E12: Community engagement schemes, local regeneration

E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living

E14: Relevant feasibility studies

E15: Digital connectivity for local community facilities

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

No

Explain how each intervention meets the Communities and Place investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

n/a

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

n/a

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Communities and Place investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

**Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?
All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).**

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	?
Jobs safeguarded	?
Increased footfall	X
Increased visitor numbers	X
Reduced vacancy rates	X
Greenhouse gas reductions	
Number of new businesses created	X
Improved perception of markets	?
Increased business sustainability	X
Increased number of businesses supported	X
Increased amount of investment	X
Improved perception of attractions	?
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm	X
Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity	X
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	?
Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	?

Number of new to market products	?
Number of R&D active businesses	?
Increased number of innovation active SMEs	X
Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services	X
Increased number of innovation plans developed	X
Number of early stage firms which increase their revenue following support	X
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	X
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	
Number of businesses increasing their export capability	?
Increased amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed	?
Number of businesses with improved productivity	X
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	?
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

E16: Open markets & town centre retail & service sector

E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy

E19: Investment in research & development at the local level

E21: Development of innovation infrastructure at a local level

E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems

E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators & accelerators

E26: Growing the local social economy

E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

No

Explain how each intervention meets the Supporting Local Business investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

n/a

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	
n/a	

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority and the location of the proposed project.	
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	
As above	

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.	
Outcome	Tick if applicable
Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support	X
Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups [and/or] increased employability through development of interpersonal skills	X
Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	X
Number of people in supported employment [and] number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services	X
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services	X
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support	X
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	X
Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months	X

Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance	X
Number of people in education/training	X
Increased number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	X
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	X
Increased number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace	X
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	X
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	X
Number of people gaining qualifications, licences, and skills	X
Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education, and training.	X
Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions	X
Number of people with proficiency in pre-employment and interpersonal skills (relationship, organisational and anger-management, interviewing, CV and job application writing)	X
Multiply only - Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.	
Multiply only - Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2.	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

E33: Employment support for economically inactive people

E35: Enrichment & volunteering activities

E38: Local areas to fund local skills needs

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

No

Explain how each intervention meets the People and Skills investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

n/a

**Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?
All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).**

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

n/a

ENGLAND ONLY: People and Skills interventions can only be used in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 if you have identified a local voluntary and community provision, previously supported by the European Social Fund, at risk of closure. If you have not identified a suitable provision, you will not be able to select interventions for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and your investment plan will not be approved.

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS for 2024-2025 WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Yes

Describe the projects for 2024-25, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED A LOCAL VOLUNTARY PROVISION AT RISK AS PART OF YOUR PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITIES?

Yes	No
(If Yes) Describe the local voluntary provision at risk and your rationale for supporting it.	
Provide the European Social Fund Project Names and Project References for this voluntary and community provision at risk.	
What year do you intend to fund these projects? Select all that apply.	
2022-2023	2023-2024
2024-2025	
Describe the projects for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.	
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	

SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY	
HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
Yes	No
Describe the projects, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.	
n/a	
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	

n/a

Approach to delivery and governance

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Structures you have in place to support delivery
- Support you have from stakeholders and the local community
- How you've engaged with MPs as part of your investment plan
- Opportunities you have identified to work with other places

Places need to show how MPs that cover the lead local authority have been engaged on the investment plan and whether they support it. More detail on the role of MPs can be found here.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Have you engaged with any of the following as part of your investment plan? Select all that apply.

Public sector organisations	Private sector organisations	Civil society organisations
-----------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------

Describe how you have engaged with any of these organisations. Give examples where possible.

Summarise the governance structures you have in place, including how any advisory panels or associated partnership groups are made up

Confirm all MPs covering your lead local authority have been invited to join the local partnership group.

Yes	No
-----	----

Are there MPs who are not supportive of your investment plan?

Yes	No
-----	----

(If Yes) Who are the MPs that are not supportive and outline their reasons why.

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?
Mid Suffolk District Council West Suffolk Council? East Suffolk Council? Suffolk County Council?

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY
How have you considered your public sector equality duty in the design of your investment plan?
Review LUF and/or Freeport bids Equality statements and amend accordingly
How will you consider your public sector equality duty when implementing your investment plan, including in the selection of projects?
As above

RISKS
Have you identified any key risks that could affect delivery, for example lack of staff or expertise?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.
Have you identified any key fraud risks that could affect UKSPF delivery?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.

Capacity and capability

In this section, we will ask you about:

- The capacity and capability of your team to manage funding
- The resources you have in place for work related to UKSPF

Your answers here will help us know how to support you with delivery. They will not affect the amount of funding you will get.

Answer as honestly as possible.

TEAM RESOURCE
How many people (FTE) will be put in place to work with UKSPF funding?
Describe what role these people will have, including any seniority and experience.

- Strong capability: Has extensive experience and/or a proven track record of delivery in this area.
- Strong capacity: High degree of confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Some capability: Has previous experience of delivery in this area.
- Some capacity: Confident that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Limited capability: Does not have previous experience and/or no track record of delivery in this area.
- Limited capacity: Limited confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area. Additional resource may be needed to support delivery.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
How would you describe your team's current experience of delivering funding and managing growth funds?		
Very experienced	Some experience	No previous experience
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for subsidies?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for subsidies?		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Communities and Place interventions you have select?

Yes No

How would you describe your team’s current capability to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?

Strong capability Some capability Limited capability

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

[Large empty text area for describing key capability challenges]

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

[Large empty text area for describing further support]

How would you describe your team’s current capacity to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?

Strong capability Some capability Limited capability

Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

[Large empty text area for describing key capacity challenges]

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

[Large empty text area for describing further support]

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Supporting Local Business interventions you have select?

Yes No

How would you describe your team’s current capability to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?

Strong capability Some capability Limited capability

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

--

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

--

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?

Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
-------------------	-----------------	--------------------

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

--

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

--

PEOPLE AND SKILLS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the People and Skills interventions you have select?

Yes	No
-----	----

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?

Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
-------------------	-----------------	--------------------

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

--

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		

SUPPORT TO DELIVERY UKSPF	
All lead authorities can use up to 4% of their UKSPF allocation to support the delivery of their chosen interventions but by exception, lead authorities will be able to use more than 4%. Are you planning to use more than 4%?	
Yes	No
(If Yes) Explain why you wish to use more than 4%.	

Approvals

Before submitting your investment plan, you should have approval from your:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Section 151 Officer
- Leader of your lead authority

Do you have approval from your Chief Executive Officer for this investment plan?

Yes

No

Do you have approval from your Section 151 Officer for this investment plan?

Yes

No

Do you have approval from the leader of your lead authority for this investment plan?

Yes

No

If you do not have approval from any of these people, please explain why this is:

n/a

Additional documents

You will have received an email giving you access to a folder where you will need to upload supporting evidence to your investment plan. All applicants must complete and upload the following spreadsheet to the folder prior to submitting their investment plan:

- UKSPF Expenditure Profile spreadsheet
- UKSPF Indicative Deliverables spreadsheet

Your investment plan submission will be considered incomplete without the required documents.

Have you completed and uploaded the two spreadsheets to the SharePoint folder as requested?

Yes

No

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Survey

This survey is part of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's (BMSDC) stakeholder engagement/consultation for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and will take approximately 9 minutes to complete.

BMSDC have identified 6 thematic areas and projects as being in line with the government priorities for this fund, and we would like you to rank these in order of importance, with 1 being the highest local priority.

There then follows 3 questions from central government asking what you think the top 3 challenges that need to be prioritised in each of the next 3 years are. You will also be able to provide suggestions for interventions.

Your answers will help set our priorities and shape the investment plan.

If you have any questions about the Fund or would like a fuller discussion, please email: BMSDCEconomicdevelopment@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

As you complete this survey, we will collect some of your personal information (as a legitimate interest under the Localism Act 2011) to help us assess and improve service delivery in the council's area and share these improvements to our services with you through regular communications. Your feedback may be included in any reports, publications and/or website updates relating to this project. Your individual responses and personal details may be shared with other local authorities in Suffolk. Any responses will be anonymised and aggregated so that no individuals can be identified. For more information, visit our website: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/the-council/your-right-to-information/>

ABOUT YOU

1. What is your name? *

Enter your answer

2. What is the name of the organisation you are responding on behalf of (where applicable)?

Enter your answer

3. Which district are your responses about? *

- Babergh
- Mid Suffolk
- Both

6 KEY PROJECT THEMES

Community Engagement and Development includes projects such as:

- Youth social prescribing
- Diversionary schemes
- Community Leadership programme
- Community digital infrastructure project
- Community Supermarkets

Town Centre and Cultural Programmes includes projects such as:

- Love Exploring app
- Stowmarket Creative Wayfinding and Placemaking
- Sudbury Creative Wayfinding
- Sudbury Sculpture Trail

Events and Festivals includes projects such as:

- Heart of Suffolk makers and producers festival
- Events & Festivals Coordination

Recruitment Support includes projects such as:

- Targeted recruitment support for businesses
- "Why not in work" app

Business Support includes projects such as:

- Flexible business demand led learning modules
- Supporting Social Enterprises to Start Up and Scale Up
- NALEP Growth Hub costs

Skills and Employability Support includes projects such as:

- Participation and Youth Employment
- Long Term Unemployed
- Apprenticeship Support
- Progression into and within the Workforce

4. With 1 being the highest local priority and 6 the lowest, place the 6 themes in your preferred order of importance

Community Engagement and Development

Town Centre and Cultural Programmes

Events and Festivals

Recruitment Support

Business Support

Skills and Employability Support

TOP 3 CHALLENGES

1. COMMUNITIES AND PLACE

Please select what you see being BMSDC's 3 greatest priorities for you and your organisation.

1. Town centres and high streets
2. Community and neighbourhood infrastructure (including green spaces, watercourses, community gardens etc)
3. Culture, arts and heritage enrichment and activities
4. Designing out crime
5. Active travel and public transport enhancement
6. Visitor economy and tourism promotion
7. Support for volunteering and social action projects
8. Sports and recreational activities and access
9. Voluntary sector skills and capacity building
10. Community engagement in key local decisions
11. Cost of living crisis
12. Digital infrastructure for local community facilities

5. What is your number 1 choice from the list above? *

Enter your answer

6. What is your number 2 choice from the list above? *

Enter your answer

7. What is your number 3 choice from the list above? *

Enter your answer

8. Please tell us any suggested projects in relation to your top 3 identified investment priorities

Enter your answer

TOP 3 CHALLENGES:

2. SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

Please select what you see being BMSDC's 3 greatest priorities for you and your organisation.

1. Town centre and high street improvements
2. Town centre and high street business support
3. Promotion of visitor economy
4. Support towards the manufacturing sector
5. Investment in research and development
6. Support and investment to business innovation
7. Access to business support at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow, and innovate - including through local networks
8. New and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, 'incubators' and 'accelerators' for local enterprise
9. International business events and conferences
10. Business support for social enterprises, communities, and business cooperatives

11. Export support for overseas trading
12. Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy
13. Business support to drive employment growth

9. What is your number 1 choice from the list above? *

Enter your answer

10. What is your number 2 choice from the list above? *

Enter your answer

11. What is your number 3 choice from the list above? *

Enter your answer

12. Please tell us any suggested projects in relation to your top 3 identified investment priorities

Enter your answer

TOP 3 CHALLENGES

3. PEOPLE AND SKILLS

Please select what you see being BMSDC's 3 greatest priorities for you and your organisation.

1. Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.
2. Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills** provision for people who are unable to access training through the adult education budget or wrap around support detailed above.
3. Supplemented by financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications
4. Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing
5. Essential digital skills, including communicating the benefits of getting (safely) online, and in- community support to provide users with the confidence and trust to stay online
6. Tailored support to help people in employment
7. Technical and vocational qualifications
8. Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions
9. Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors

13. What is your number 1 choice from the list above? *

Enter your answer

14. What is your number 2 choice from the list above? *

Enter your answer

15. What is your number 3 choice from the list above? *

Enter your answer

16. Please tell us any suggested projects in relation to your top 3 identified investment priorities

Enter your answer

17. Should you wish to be involved further in this work, please provide details below

Enter your answer

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 9

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: CABINET (BABERGH)	REPORT NUMBER: BCa/22/14
FROM: Cabinet Member for Economy	DATE OF MEETING: 08/07/22
OFFICER: Fiona Duhamel	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB335

HAMILTON ROAD QUARTER (SUDBURY) REGENERATION SCHEME

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report a draft masterplan for a two-phased mixed-use regeneration scheme at Hamilton Road/Borehamgate area of central Sudbury. This follows design works undertaken by KLH Architects for Babergh District Council from early April 2022.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet approval of funding for progressing this work, following public exhibition engagement in June 2022 on the draft masterplan, for its next stage of design works and associated programme delivery milestones.
- 1.3 To note the linked Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) bid submitted by Babergh District Council's Regeneration Team, in collaboration with Suffolk County Council Highways Authority, for a package of regeneration and local transport (bus route) improvements in Sudbury, which includes the HRQ regeneration scheme.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- (a) **Reverse the previous decision of Cabinet.** Not recommended. Cabinet at its meeting of 13 September 2018 (Report B/Ca/18/34 refers) resolved a preferred regeneration option (cinema and mixed-use development) and approved an associated development prospectus. The reason for this decision was to assist the opportunity, within Sudbury, to gain much needed investment to deliver part of the Councils Vision for Sudbury, with the development of the Hamilton Road Quarter.
- (b) **Repeat re-marketing of the site based on the 2018 prospectus.** Not recommended. The market has consistently failed to respond to the opportunity to invest and bring forward the site, due to the site complexities including bus station needing to be relocated to on-street stops.
- (c) **Babergh District Council continue to de-risk the site for investment and seek to secure a development partner (retaining flexible options on the type of delivery model to be used).** This work to include developing all relevant strategies for site consolidation and assembly, design masterplan and viability appraisals for delivering the required mixed-use leisure-led regeneration. Recommended option.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

- 3.1 That Cabinet endorse 'in principle' the draft masterplan scheme design layout attached as Appendix A.
- 3.2 That Cabinet confirm its preference for a two-phased approach towards developing the whole site, including its preference to explore a partnership with Babergh Growth Ltd to deliver Phase 1 of the site - which would be primarily residential.
- 3.3 That Cabinet approve up to a maximum of £500k from the strategic priorities reserve, with all capital elements funded from the capital regeneration fund. This would be used for progressing the regeneration scheme design to RIBA 3 Stage equivalent. It would also include the development of a high-level cost plan and property and development strategies, including spatial co-ordination, as part of a full business case to be presented to Cabinet later in the year.
- 3.5 That the Assistant Director for Economic Development and Regeneration be delegated authority to agree heads of terms following any successful negotiations with Babergh Growth in respect of delivering Phase 1 of the site.
- 3.6 That Cabinet note the summary information contained within Appendix B to this report relating to the Council's re-submission of proposals to UK Government for Levelling Up Funding at Round 2 stage.

REASONS FOR DECISION

- 1. This decision will assist the opportunity, within Sudbury, to gain much needed investment to deliver part of the Sudbury Vision Programme, with the development of the Hamilton Road Quarter.

4. KEY INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The 'Hamilton Road Quarter' is strategically located between the rail station and the high street/market, between Great Eastern Road and King Street in the heart of Sudbury. This area's potential for mixed-use holistic regeneration considerably improving asset connectivity across the wider town - whether on-foot, by cycle or via public transport - is not being realised.
- 4.2 A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 'Hamilton Road Quarter, Sudbury Development Brief' was adopted by Babergh District Council in February 2010. This was adopted to provide clear guidance for the appropriate, comprehensive redevelopment of the area covered by Local Plan policy SD06. It provides a general policy context, a detailed site analysis, a design response to this (in which design principles are set out) and indicates the parameters for the development process. Land around the Bus Station, Sudbury, is proposed for a mixed-use redevelopment featuring retail, leisure or other commercial uses. Residential development forming an integral part of a mixed-use scheme will be acceptable.
- 4.3 At its meeting of 13 September 2018 (Report B/Ca/18/34), Cabinet considered its strategy towards unlocking investment in Sudbury town centre. It resolved to endorse

a preferred approach of a cinema leisure-led development incorporating residential and retail units. At the same time, it endorsed a development prospectus to enable marketing of the site nationally to gain development interest and investment into the scheme.

4.4 Despite that subsequent marketing campaign, the site remains stalled and without investment. Market feedback on this failure has been that the non-consolidated site complexities (including over 50 registered titles) and, more importantly, the continued central presence of the bus station remain significant barriers. These are deterring private sector development and investment. From the viability and development appraisal work to date the potential return on investment levels are, without further public sector de-risking, unattractive for commercial developers.

4.5 The Council has therefore, including through the Covid pandemic period, been undertaking a variety of intervention works to support de-risking the site. This aims to increase the likelihood of unlocking the delivery of the site towards achieving the shared ambitions of the Council, its Vision Group partners and the local community. This has included:

- masterplanning design concept draft preparation via Babergh Growth, the Council's Joint Venture Development Company, and subsequently externally procured architects (KLH based at Sproughton);
- due diligence work including obtaining legal report on title, site investigations and surveys, condition reports;
- acquisitions, negotiations and buy-ins of non-Council owned parcels and properties, and preparing a CPO strategy should it become necessary;
- capital funding and investment bid writing;
- soft marketing, stakeholder and open public engagement; and
- Chartered Surveyor viability and feasibility appraisals and property strategy development.

4.6 A Round 1 Levelling Up Fund bid application including HRQ regeneration, supported by a broad range of partners including James Cartlidge MP for South Suffolk, was submitted to UK Government in June 2021. It was rejected despite later departmental feedback confirming it was a '*strong strategic fit*' and the assessors having had '*reasonable confidence in its deliverability*'.

4.7 An updated Round 2 Levelling Up Fund package submission has been prepared for the HRQ regeneration scheme, combining with Suffolk County Council Highways Authority's bus infrastructure and route/junction/active travel improvements. Central government's capital funding intervention would significantly boost the deliverability and marketing appeal of the scheme and help secure the development and investment partnerships needed. An overview summary of the bid content is attached at Appendix B. Bid outcomes are expected to be announced during the autumn of 2022. The MP for South Suffolk has again given his formal priority level support to the Round 2 submission.

5. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

5.1 The Corporate Plan (2019-27) is designed to address the challenges and seize the opportunities facing the districts, and their organisations, for the foreseeable future. In relation to the matters contained within this report, the Council's 'strong local

leadership role to build great communities for living, working, visiting and investing in' is particularly relevant.

- 5.2 The Joint Economic Recovery Plan references the Councils leading a programme of place-based Vision and Invest programmes for the market towns across both districts, including the 'Sudbury Vision' brand. An outline of the potential investment opportunity has been discussed at the Sudbury Vision partnership and stakeholders who were supportive of this initiative, including for Levelling Up Fund bidding.
- 5.3 A regeneration scheme of this nature and scale has multiple cross-cut impacts and significant social value. Strategic priorities linked for this matter include:
- (a) Rejuvenate our vibrant market towns
 - (b) Thriving, attractive, sustainable and connected Communities
 - (c) Local places are inclusive, safe, and accessible for walking, cycling and public transport
 - (d) Homes in high quality sustainable environments, served by jobs and community facilities, appropriate green space, effective transport links and other necessary infrastructure
 - (e) A robust financial strategy

Further, this project would deliver:

- (f) town centre regeneration outputting a mixed-use scheme in line with Planning Policy SD06 and previous Cabinet resolutions
 - (g) a key Sudbury Vision Programme project providing stimulus and momentum to further town investment
 - (h) opportunities for energy efficient and environmentally sustainable homes and units, contributing positively towards climate change action plan
- 5.4 The Strategic Asset Management Plan to 2025 aims to support business development and regeneration and encourage commercial activities by:
- Providing suitable accommodation for employment of the right type in the right place supporting the development of job opportunities and skills within our districts
 - Maintaining flexible lease terms
 - Undertaking property development
 - Improving availability and use of employment land
 - Undertaking considered acquisitions and disposals which meet specific criteria

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Full business case financial information including updated scheme cost estimates and development viability appraisals will be reported to a later Cabinet meeting for consideration. Levelling Up Fund capital grant application outcome should be known during the autumn of 2022.
- 6.2 The Council has already invested significantly in the assembly of the site and related due diligence, site investigations and early design concept work. The architect and cost consultant works up to end of RIBA 2 equivalent stage will have been to the order of a combined value of £106,000 (which includes wider Belle Vue site masterplan work elements).

Without this essential work having been undertaken it would be impossible to submit any tangible Levelling Up Fund proposals, or support securing any potential future funding, investment or partnering opportunities.

- 6.3 Below is the funding proposed, subject to Cabinet resolution, to undertake the next stage of design, costing, development strategy, engagement and business case development work.

Revenue/Capital/ Expenditure/Income Item	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Strategic Priorities Reserve, with all capital elements funded from the Capital Regeneration Fund	Up to £500k	-	-
Net Effect	-£500k	-	-

- 6.4 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-2025 requires the Council to take a medium-term view of the budget through a robust financial strategy that is focused on delivering the six corporate strategic priorities. The Council's main strategic financial aim remains to become self-financing and not reliant on Government funding. The Council's parallel aim is to generate more funds than are required purely for core services, in order to enable additional investment into the district. This requires careful balancing of cost management, income generation and service levels.
- 6.5 Should Cabinet/Council decide not to authorise this project to progress into the next stage of the project development then it will limit opportunities for external funding, including by UK Government, or attracting the investors and developers who will work as the Council's partners to deliver holistic regeneration of the area. The Council would retain its current landlord obligations and rental income stream whilst the area remains an unattractive and underutilised gateway into the town.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are legal implications at all stages of a regeneration project lifecycle. These will be managed, shared and transferred as work stages progress through effective project management, risk register monitoring and later contractual arrangements. Any implications requiring legal review will be picked up and addressed as part of the regular project management work.
- 7.2 Various project strategies (for example procurement, acquisitions and tenant engagement) are being implemented and continuing their development, all of which will have relevant legal consideration and input at appropriate stages. A commercial lawyer from the shared legal team is a member of the HRQ officer group. We will continue to engage and attempt productive dialogue with all affected tenants/landowners.
- 7.3 For the proposed next stage of work, outlined in the recommendations of this report, the next iteration of masterplanning design and spatial co-ordination will consider all updated information and feedback available since the last stage review.

7.4 Public procurement regulations and principles will apply within the development strategies, and subsidy control assessment formed part of the linked Levelling Up Funding bid submission, which has had commercial legal officer input.

7.5 Onward acquisitions, disposals or leasehold agreements will be subject to legal input as required.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risk No.8 (Decline in our key towns impacts upon economic prosperity of the districts) and Risk No.4 (development may remain stifled/unsustainable). Key strategic risks for the next stage are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
BDC discontinue interventions in the site, reinforcing market failure leaving the site under-utilised and degrading	2 - unlikely	3 - bad	De-risk the site. Design to RIBA3 and market an investable mixed-use development attractive to secure investment and developer
Masterplan does not meet Council's brief, Local Plan Policy SD06 and vision objectives	2 - unlikely	3 - bad	Continue the project team working of internal officers, stakeholders and external specialists including regular reviews and audit
Lack of scheme buy-in or support from some sections of the public and some tenants	3 - probable	3 – bad	Action engagement plan including stakeholders/public exhibition and incorporate feedback into next stage design where viable
Failure to secure investment or development partner stalls the development	3 - probable	3 – bad	De-risk the site. Phase the delivery considering use of Council's Development Company for part, if viable business case based on draft masterplan. Continue marketing
External Levelling Up Fund application is	3 - probable	3 - bad	Develop robust and compliant bid for

rejected, making scheme undeliverable			deliverable scheme with priority MP and other stakeholder support. Viability business case modelling with and without LUF
Failure to provide strong local leadership within 'Sudbury Vision' Programme stifles wider town investment opportunities	2 - unlikely	3 - bad	Progress design of a holistic and deliverable regeneration scheme to demonstrate positive leadership intervention and give programme confidence
Legal risks – e.g. challenge to planning, CPO, ownerships and other consequential time and cost risks	3 - probable	3 - bad	Development of property strategies including legal input. Indemnities and insurances. To be reported further in full business case and linked governance steps
Up front borrowing costs for forward funding works not being capitalised, and remaining a revenue sunk cost, if project does not create asset	2 - unlikely	3 - bad	Clearly identifying and allocating capital spend activities and utilising capital regen reserve. Minimising revenue cost exposure

8.2 Monthly full risk register updates are made as part of the project management work and are reported, by exception, to the project board and cabinet portfolio holder briefings. As the project progresses into operational work the register will expand into more detailed specific risks including allocations to named project team members and including a cost and probability estimate to quantify each risk.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 A 'drop-in' format public exhibition in central Sudbury took place between 16-18 June 2022 which showcased progress under RIBA2 masterplan stage for HRQ as well as showcasing a variety of town project updates from local partners. This was well attended by over 440 people. Engagement will remain ongoing through the Sudbury Vision working and with the town council, tenants, prospective new occupiers and local stakeholders.

- 9.2 Close collaborative working with Suffolk County Council Highways Authority on Sudbury transport improvements, including bus and junction work, remains ongoing and relevant to the Levelling Up Fund bid.
- 9.3 Acquisitions and marketing negotiations will continue, aiming to secure key properties, anchor tenant and lessees. Direct multi-channel engagement with existing tenants and landowners remains ongoing.
- 9.4 A cross-cut officer group of internal services (including Planning and Heritage, Infrastructure, Assets, Regen and Economy, Housing, Legal, Communities and Finance colleagues) and external specialisms has been established for many months and continues to drive the programme forward. This work has ensured that due diligence work has been thorough and that risks remain suitably identified, mitigated and managed.
- 9.5 Planning processes will follow in due course in terms of enabling formal responses to proposals.

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

- 10.1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Initial Screening has been undertaken and identified no impact on one or more of the 9 protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. No full assessment is required arising from the matters contained within this report. This mixed-use development will in design and construction incorporate accessible design features, including for building access and parking, in accordance with prevailing Building Regulations and/or British Standards where applicable.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 A sustainability strategy is in development for the scheme’s buildings, infrastructure and open spaces. This also incorporates the Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk Housing Design Guide and New Homes Technical Specification (May 2022).
- 11.2 Development of the site will have associated environment impacts requiring full planning, assessment and mitigation. The initial design work incorporates environmentally efficient building options, with design ambitions including Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) elements, Passivhaus equivalent standard residential, BREEAM certification and other relevant design standards. This will be considered further as part of business case and linked development strategies.
- 11.3 Sourcing local craft skills and materials is also part of the design brief and its heritage considerations. Rooftop solar PV and Low-Zero Carbon and self-consumption energy opportunities and cost savings for occupiers are also being explored. Biodiversity planting and features are proposed, within new public spaces and public realm areas, to further embed green infrastructure and mitigate carbon impacts.

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
-------	----------

APPENDIX A: Masterplan Design Concept (in development) July 2022 Update	Attached
APPENDIX B: Levelling Up Fund Round 2 Bid Summary Overview	Attached

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX A

(1 of 3)

Draft Masterplan
Concept
Development by KLH
Architects
(June 2022)



Aerial view of the site as existing



Locally listed - "should be preserved as a good example of a late Victorian commercial office"



Unique oval corbelling detail



A repeat of the oval corbelling detail found on an adjacent restaurant



Historic photograph of the Great Eastern Road corner block



Fascadism of newly converted Great Eastern Road corner block



Established development grain and 3 storey scale terrace



Existing service and parking use of the site



Existing block penetration



Aerial development massing sketches; existing, previous and proposed



Historic 1904 map showing original building uses on brownfield site



Map of plot sale circa 1849



North Street frontage of Hamilton Road Quarter, Sudbury



East Street frontage of Hamilton Road Quarter, Sudbury



APPENDIX A

(2 of 3)

Draft Masterplan
Concept
Development by KLH
Architects
(June 2022)



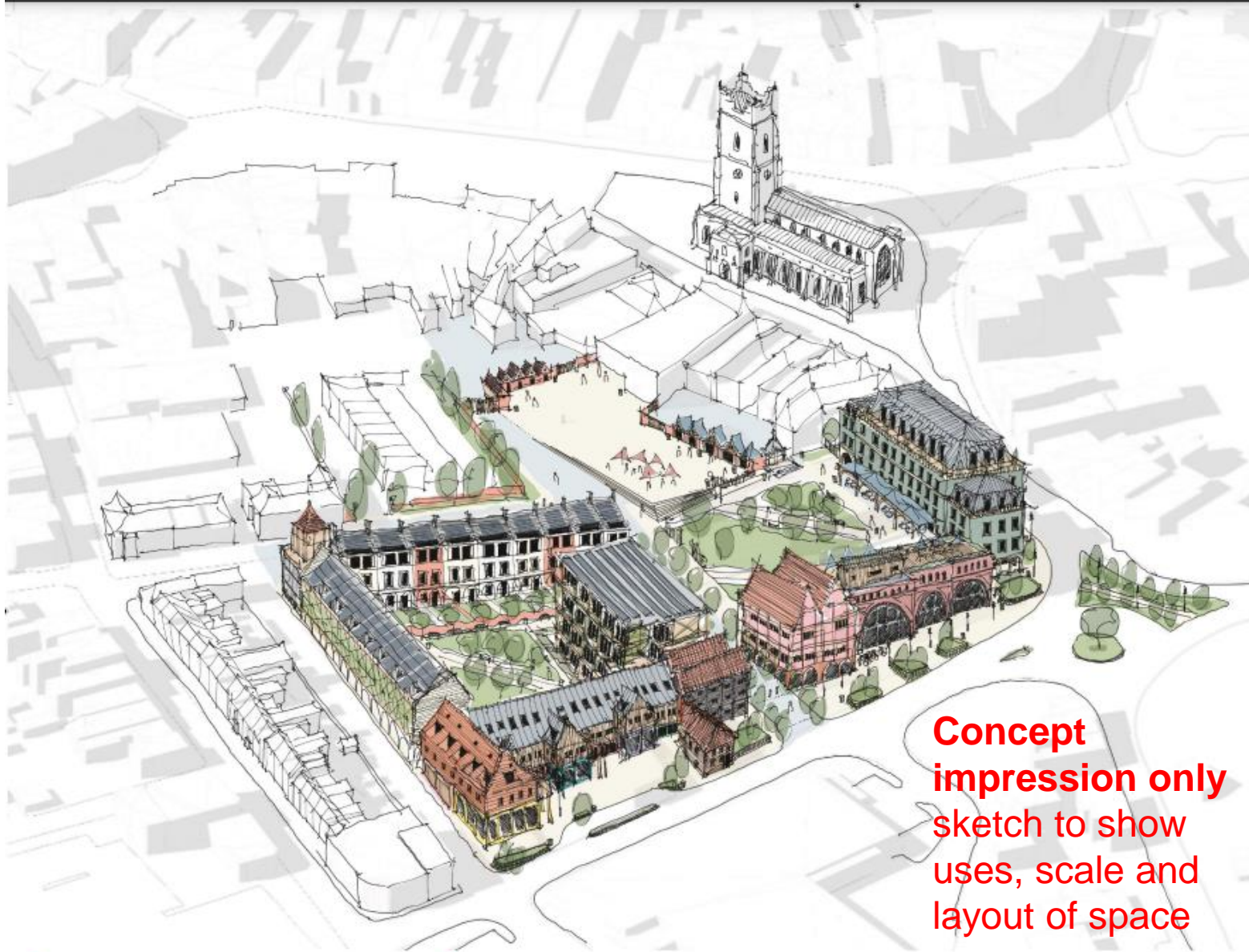
- Residential Accommodation**
- Town houses (9)
150m² x 9 = 1,350m²
 - Flats 2b4p (27)
80m² x 27 = 2,780m²
 - Flats 1b2p (67)
60m² x 67 = 4,020m²
 - **Total 8,150m² (94 + 9)**
- Commercial Accommodation**
- Shops, Restaurants and Community Centre 2,250m²
 - Cinema 1,260m²
 - Hotel 60 Bed = 2,000m²
 - **Total 5,510m²**



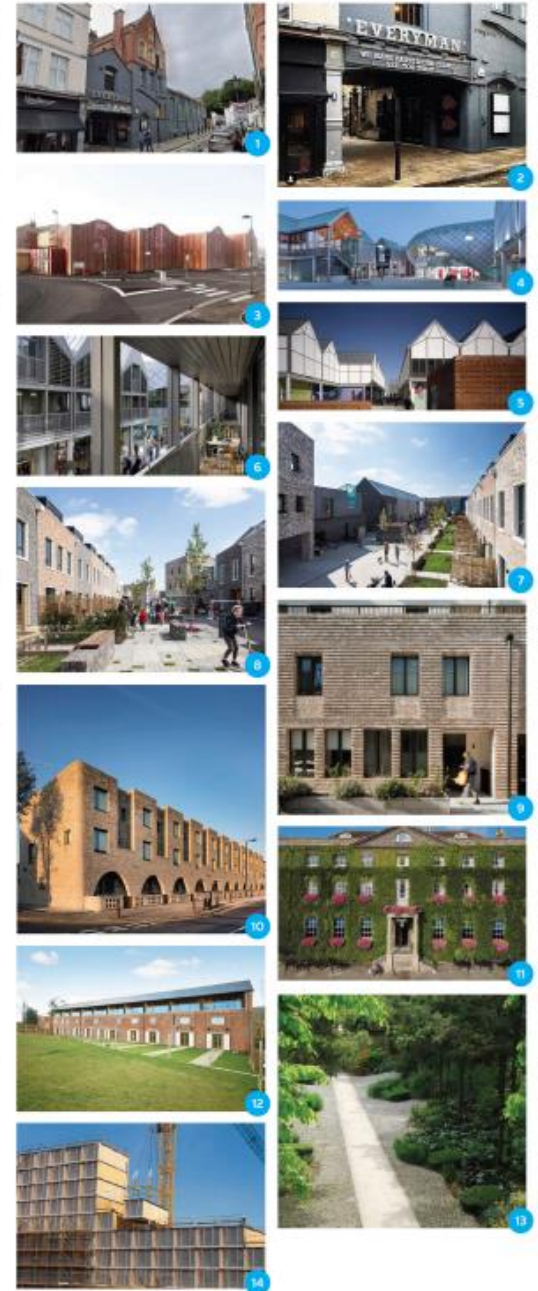
APPENDIX A

(3 of 3)

Draft Masterplan
Concept
Development by KLH
Architects
(June 2022)



**Concept
impression only
sketch to show
uses, scale and
layout of space**



- 1 Everyman Theatre Hampstead - Integrated mass, brick pannels
- 2 Everyman Theatre Hampstead - Under-croft entrance
- 3 Cine 32 by Encore Heureux, South France - form expressed
- 4 The Arc, Bury St Edmunds - Commercial street interaction
- 5 The Arc, Bury St Edmunds - Vernacular form
- 6 The Arc, Bury St Edmunds - Residential flats over shops
- 7 Marmalade, Cambridge - Community/Innovation Centre
- 8 Marmalade, Cambridge - Housing and Materiality
- 9 Silchester Estate, London - Brickwork detailing, shadows and texture
- 10 McGrath Road, Peter Barber, London - Brickwork detailing, arch form
- 11 The Angel, Bury St Edmunds - 90 bed hotel - form and rythm
- 12 Snape Maltings - Residential form, materiality and terraces
- 13 Parc André Citroën, Paris - Landscaped planting boundary
- 14 Jakarta Hotel, Amsterdam - Offsite pre-fabricatied rooms/modular

Aerial perspective development massing sketch this drawing is illustrative and seeks to show the separation of masses.



This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX B

LEVELLING-UP FUND ROUND 2 BID BY BABERGH DC – SUMMARY OVERVIEW

June 2022

About the fund / BDC previous bid

- The Levelling Up Fund is designed to invest in **infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK**. The £4.8 billion fund **will support town centre and high street regeneration, local transport projects, and cultural and heritage assets**. The fund runs until 2024/25.
- It is now into its second round of bidding with applications to be submitted by noon on **06 July 2022**. The funding scheme is overseen by several government departments working collaboratively so no one single department decides bid approvals. UKG has explicitly said it is not committing to any further bidding rounds past Round 2.
- Babergh DC led a £6.363m Round 1 bid in June 2021, working closely with SCC Highways, for the **same package it is now re-submitting for Round 2**. Central government debrief confirmed that BDC's first bid was a 'strong strategic fit' and with the reasonable confidence of assessors that it could be delivered.
- It is a **capital only fund** and package bids of up to three separate projects aligned to deliver the aims of the fund (up to a **maximum value of £20m** combined). The themes are **REGENERATION > TRANSPORT (SMALLER/LOCAL) > CULTURE & HERITAGE**

Priority place indexing and support

- Local Authority areas are indexed into **three levels of dependency/needs** assessment.
- Category 1 areas (determined as most in need) received additional capacity funding grants of £125k to help them prepare LUF bids including procuring external economist and other specialist support. Babergh District receive nothing as **indexed as Category 3 (lowest)**. The Regeneration Team are leading co-ordination of bid preparation for the District, again with input from SCC Highways colleagues. The Team has commissioned some external expert support on specific elements, albeit limited, and using the work already underway for Hamilton Road Quarter masterplanning. This involves architect, cost consultant, chartered surveyor and WSP transport consultants for transport element.
- Constituency MPs can support bids in their area at two levels – higher priority pro-forma support or general stakeholder/representative letter (lower weighting). James Cartlidge MP has signed off his priority-level support for the LUF2 package, and he fully supported the previous unsuccessful bid.
- Bids will be evaluated on basis of 4 criteria:

Characteristics of Place (including priority index category) > Strategic Fit > Economic Case > Deliverability

What are we bidding for in Round 2?

Two aligned Sudbury projects as per Round 1 (one Regeneration and one Transport):

1. Hamilton Road Quarter Mixed-use (cinema and leisure led) Regeneration – new homes, retail, leisure and commercial space with enhanced public realm connectivity and thoroughfare created linking Great Eastern Road to King Street/Church. Removing the existing bus station and eyesore

derelict brownfield land to consolidate regeneration site and de-risk for investment. An updated concept masterplan was shared (in a private session) with the town council on 14 June 2022 and public engagement at the 'What Next for Sudbury' event at Town Hall took place between 16-18 June. The LUF element for HRQ regeneration is remaining property acquisitions, which are eligible for support under the fund, and a small contribution towards secure cycle storage at the Kingfisher Leisure Centre (40 spaces).

2. Bus and active travel improvements (is an iteration of the previous Pinch Point DfT bid in 2019) – improved junctions and flow including new mini-roundabout at the 'Waitrose' Great Eastern/Station Road junction, opening up new on-street bus stops and infrastructure at more convenient routes and locations around the town. This will improve community opportunity to use public transport, benefit bus operator efficiency, better support town assets/businesses and improve air quality whilst reducing carbon emissions.

Other information about the bid

- Tactically we will again bid in the £6m-£8m range given Babergh's 'lowest' dependency rating. Final bid figure not available at time of reporting.
- Specifically, the regen project bid will include acquisition of remaining properties in the regeneration area to de-risk the site further, including moving bus station to on-street, for securing external developer and investment. We cannot share this information detail as commercially sensitive and active negotiations ongoing. Only successful bids application forms are published (redacted) in due course.
- We may, subject to further business case and approvals, consider using Babergh Growth as development partner for Phase 1 (predominantly residential part of scheme). For phase 2 will re-market to procure a developer.
- Stakeholder support for the LUF bid is being sought, including STC letter of support, and continuing input into design refinements from group work and engagement opportunities will continue.
- Suffolk are also pulling together a county bid on a larger transport scheme of active travel and related local projects for the County, but these are mainly focused on Ipswich locality. This does not impact our District bid, which is under a separate 'constituency' provision.
- The bidding process is complex and resource intensive with robust end-to-end forecasts on programme management, costs, delivery strategy, economic case, value for money and impacts/benefits expected by UK Government. Getting a strong and well-evidenced bid together in time has been a significant challenge but we are confident that we will put forward the best case and opportunity possible for Sudbury.

Agenda Item 10

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: CABINET (BABERGH)	REPORT NUMBER: BCa/22/15
FROM: Cabinet Member for Economy	DATE OF MEETING: 08/07/2022
OFFICER: Fiona Duhamel	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB331

HADLEIGH A1071 ROADSIDE COMMERCIAL WORKSPACE DEVELOPMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report back to Cabinet with an interim progress update (see also confidential appendices), further to its high-level business case consideration and resolutions of 08 June 2021 (Paper BCa/21/7 refers).
- 1.2 To note that the transfer to the Council of approximately 1.5 acres of allocated employment land is now being finalised. This transaction is facilitated via a S106 agreement with Persimmon Homes as part of the adjoining housing development scheme (Weavers Meadow) in Hadleigh.
- 1.3 To seek Cabinet approval for the freehold disposal, following the marketing period, on the terms agreed and outlined in the confidential appendix, of the convenience/retail portion of the site (approx.1870m²) AND to authorise the recycling of that capital receipt towards the wider employment scheme.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 (a) DO NOT PROGRESS WITH DESIGNING A SCHEME – rejected by Cabinet at its meeting of 08 June 2021

(b) PROGRESS WITH THE DETAILED DEVELOPMENT OF A VIABLE SCHEME AND BUSINESS CASE, TO BEST ACHIEVE STRATEGIC REGENERATION PRIORITIES, TO BE REPORTED BACK TO CABINET – resolved by Cabinet at its meeting of 08 June 2021 and progressed accordingly

Now:

(c) PROCEED with the freehold disposal of the convenience retail / potential drive-thru area of the site, on the basis of the draft Heads of Terms provided at Confidential Appendix B to this report. Recommended given a productive period of marketing undertaken, following Cabinet's June 2021 authorisations and funding, and the positive impact on whole scheme viability and deliverability from gaining a capital receipt.

(d) DO NOT PROCEED with the freehold disposal at this time or opportunity. Not recommended given the previous Cabinet resolutions and marketing period undertaken.

<p>3. RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>RECOMMENDED TO CABINET</p> <p>3.1 That Cabinet note progress on wider scheme design development, marketing advice received and pre-let tenant engagement.</p> <p>3.2 That Cabinet approve the disposal of Part A of site (shown on the site plan attached as Confidential Appendix A), following extensive marketing, on the basis of the draft Heads of Terms (attached as Confidential Appendix B).</p> <p>3.3 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration to conclude the legal agreement on transfer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Assets and Investments and Cabinet Member for Economic Development.</p> <p>3.4 That Cabinet authorise the re-use of 100% of the capital receipt proceeds from the freehold disposal within the wider scheme development.</p>	
<p>REASONS FOR DECISION</p> <p>1. The Council has secured a small parcel of employment land which it can directly invest in to address market failure and develop as a viable scheme to provide needed workspace, employment opportunities and support for the local community of Hadleigh and surrounding area.</p>	

4. KEY INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At its meeting of 08 June 2021, Cabinet considered an outline design concept and business case for using its own land (pending transfer) for directly delivering evidence-based employment opportunities at Hadleigh, alongside the A1071 Ipswich Road. Persimmon had been temporarily using the employment land as a site compound but are now relocating and remediating this site – finally enabling its transfer to the Council now the S106 trigger-point has been passed and planning obligation resolved.
- 4.2 Cabinet has resolved its preference for an optimal ‘low-density’ scheme design - incorporating up to 10 (ten) B1 (light industrial) use units and an anchor tenant facility including office space over two floors (approx. 304m²). Also incorporating an A1 use retail/convenience store (approx. 325m²), which is now subject to the recommendations of this report regarding a freehold disposal opportunity.
- 4.3 Cabinet resolved to instruct the Assistant Director for Economic Development and Regeneration to progress with the next package of diligence, design and preliminary marketing work. It allocated £100,000 of funding for this to be undertaken, with the outputs to then be reported back to Cabinet for its further consideration. Cabinet agreed ‘in principle’ support for delivering the scheme up to a cost envelope of £2.25m of borrowing within the Capital Programme for 2022/23, and subject to a further decision with the outputs review.

- 4.4 Of the three investment and return scenarios presented, Cabinet resolved its preference for letting the built units to generate a longer-term revenue stream for the Council and to retain control and flexibility. It was reported that this option, in addition to those gains, brings additional risks – higher exposure to long term borrowing, letting risks (e.g. void periods) and increased management resource and maintenance costs. Since this decision, negotiations with a prospective key anchor tenant, having long leasehold requirements, has supported this option. The opportunity for a capital receipt from a freehold disposal of the convenience/retail portion of the site has also since arisen, and this provides an enabler opportunity to further support the business case investment and delivery.
- 4.5 We attach as Appendix C (Confidential) the design layout draft being prepared by the Council's appointed architect Barefoot & Gilles including schedule of accommodation.

MARKETING PERIOD OUTPUTS

- 4.6 Marketing of the convenience/retail portion of the site failed to bring forward any tangible interest from convenience store operators on a leasehold basis which was part of the basis for Option 3 agreed previously by Cabinet. It did however bring forward conditional and non-conditional offers to purchase the freehold of that area of the wider site, which would help to improve the viability assessment on the Council's investment, reduce borrowing costs and enable the Council to still generate its preferred longer-term letting income on the units on the remainder of the site.
- 4.7 It is the recommendation of this report that the conditional offer (as shown in Confidential Appendix B) be accepted and on this basis draft Heads of Terms have been prepared for Cabinet consideration and approval.
- 4.8 During the marketing period, the Regeneration Team also followed-up a lead and opened conversations directly with a potential public sector anchor leasehold tenant for an office use on the retained portion of the site and this opportunity remains in discussion but cannot be resolved for this reporting period. If agreement can be reached, this further helps to de-risk the Council's investment but would involve increased up-front development cost to provide an additional office building on the site.

DEMAND (POST-COVID) AND EVIDENCE

- 4.7 This project opportunity arises on the back of the clear evidence reported via the October 2019 MENTA workspace and grow-on space study commissioned by Babergh & Mid Suffolk - which found a shortage in incubator space (1,500sq ft range) in the districts and reported that "ideal locations are on outskirts of population centres with good access, car parking, broadband, mobile signal etc. Locations should also be linked to areas of future housing growth, such as Hadleigh..."
- 4.8 Post-Covid reports and evidence-refresh in 2021 from MENTA show that demand is still outstripping supply for small affordable workspace units in the local area, and the recent marketing agent consultancy has reinforced this position. There is confidence that good specification units in an accessible location will let well and for a market rent. The Council could also still consider selling units and the sale market is also strong.

- 4.9 This recovery and regeneration focused project directly responds to delivering affordable starter workspace unit opportunities in the growing town of Hadleigh. The site is immediately on the A1071 with good onward links to A14 and A12 - regional level corridors for economic growth and key economic and productivity infrastructure.
- 4.10 It will support local jobs and clustering of small start-ups/fledgling business and enterprise, and deliver against the evidenced gaps and market failure. Public sector intervention can stimulate sustainable small developments of this type and in market town outskirts locations.
- 4.11 Acquiring this plot demonstrates a pro-active local leadership commitment by the Council to improving community and employment development from private sector housing schemes.

5. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

- 5.1 The Corporate Plan (2019-27) is designed to address the challenges and seize the opportunities facing the district, and its organisations, for the foreseeable future. In relationship to the matters contained within this report, the Council's strong local leadership role to build great communities for living, working, visiting and investing in is particularly relevant.
- 5.2 The Joint Recovery Plan references the Councils leading a programme of place-based Vision and Invest programmes for its market towns across both districts, including the 'Invest in Hadleigh' brand. An outline of the potential investment opportunity has been discussed at the Hadleigh Invest Board of stakeholders who were broadly supportive of this initiative.
- 5.3 Strategic priorities linked for this matter include:
- (a) Rejuvenate our vibrant market towns (including our Vision and Invest programmes)
 - (b) Thriving, attractive, sustainable and connected Communities
 - (c) A robust financial strategy
- 5.4 The Strategic Asset Management Plan to 2025 aims to support business development and regeneration and encourage commercial activities by:
- Providing suitable accommodation for employment of the right type in the right place supporting the development of job opportunities and skills within our districts
 - Maintaining flexible lease terms
 - Undertaking property development
 - Improving availability and use of employment land
 - Undertaking considered acquisitions and disposals which meet specific criteria

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-2025 requires the Council to take a medium-term view of the budget through a robust financial strategy that is focused on delivering the six corporate strategic priorities. The Council's main strategic financial aim remains to become self-financing and not reliant on

Government funding. The Council's parallel aim is to generate more funds than are required purely for core services, in order to enable additional investment into the district. This requires careful balancing of cost management, income generation and service levels. (See attached confidential appendix C)

- 6.2 The capital receipt for the sale of the land identified for convenience retail/drive thru will support the viability of the wider development. With rising build costs as a result of departure from the EU, cost of living rises and supply chain issue due to global pressures, small workspace schemes continue to be challenging to deliver as rental values do not necessarily support viability of development. Leadership from the Council in bringing this site forward by recycling the capital receipt will provide much needed employment space in Hadleigh.
- 6.3 Costs continue to be reviewed for the remaining area of the site and viability may be improved through the introduction from the marketing process of a new office use. A final report and recommendations for delivery on this part of the site will be brought back to Cabinet later in the year. Should Cabinet decide not to authorise this project then it is likely an onward land sale only will follow, which will unlikely deliver against the market failure or opportunities otherwise likely for this small employment allocation.
- 6.4 The Regeneration Team will continue to explore external funding opportunities for development elements as the project progresses (for example capital grants associated with carbon reduction or localised energy generation), which have potential to reduce costs and further improve viability.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The transfer of land is subject to S106 obligations, including the trigger point at which the land is available for transfer to the Council from Persimmon.
- 7.2 Onward disposals or leasehold agreements will be subject to legal review as required.
- 7.3 Site investigations, surveys and diligence continue and any implications requiring legal review will be picked up and addressed as part of the project management work.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risk No.7 (Lack of workspace delivered in our districts due to market failure). Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Failure of the Council to deliver investment in the site will reinforce market failure and leave the site under-utilised	2 - unlikely	3 – bad	Design and construct a viable commercial development with an acceptable return on investment for BDC

Selling the whole site would result in loss of control on uses, miss income generation opportunities and strategic priorities delivery	2 - unlikely	3 – bad	Sell part of the site only to support delivery of the remainder. Retains control of strategic priority objectives (e.g. workspace/ jobs creation and mid-term financial strategy)
Failure to provide strong local leadership within ‘Invest in Hadleigh’ Programme stifles wider town investment opportunities	2 - unlikely	3 – bad	Delivering a viable scheme demonstrates positive leadership intervention and supports confidence across the programme
Lack of control on end-uses from disposed area of site, resulting in lack of stakeholder/community support and possible reputational risks	3 - probable	3 – bad	Some higher residual risk remains as not fully within Council control or subject to planning risk. Heads of terms offer some mitigation and uses will be subject to planning process/engagement
Investment is made but demand for units and rental profiles are less than anticipated, negatively impacting business case	2 - unlikely	3 – bad	Marketing advice shows strong demand (leasehold and freehold disposal) with good rental profile opportunities. Evidence base refresh has been undertaken post-Covid. Delivering the right quality and spec of units. Secure anchor tenant
Preference for retention and letting of all units will create flexibility but introduce maintenance and management costs, void period liabilities etc.	3 - unlikely	3 – bad	Will be further modelled in updated development appraisal. Secure anchor tenant. Headroom in rental levels to balance void and

			management risks. Sale options not excluded
--	--	--	--

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 Engagement will continue through the Invest in Hadleigh Board and with the town council, prospective occupiers and local stakeholders.
- 9.2 Marketing negotiations will continue, aiming to secure anchor tenant and lessees.
- 9.3 Initial high-level discussions on the potential of a scheme have been had with the Planning Team and Strategic Assets colleagues, and this will progress to pre-application including highways.
- 9.4 Planning process will follow in due course in terms of formal responses to proposals.

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

- 10.1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Initial Screening has been undertaken and identified no impact on one or more of the 9 protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. No full assessment is required arising from the matters contained within this report. This commercial and workspace development will incorporate accessible design features, including for building access and parking, in accordance with prevailing Building Regulations and/or British Standards where applicable.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Development of the site will have associated environment impacts requiring assessment and mitigation. The initial design work has proposed roof mounted solar PV, to provide self-consumption energy opportunities and cost savings for occupiers. Also electric vehicle charging points and biodiversity planting and features are proposed to further embed green infrastructure and mitigate carbon impacts.
- 11.2 Any A1 use facility on the disposal part of the site will likely be well used by new residents in the locality as well as commuters, as will electric vehicle charging point (EVCP) infrastructure. The Council as developer will be able to specify sustainability and energy efficiency in design (e.g. roof mounted solar PV) towards the net zero carbon ambitions of Suffolk by 2030.

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
A: Proposed Freehold Disposal area of site CONFIDENTIAL	Attached
B: Draft Heads of Terms CONFIDENTIAL	Attached

C: Barefoot & Gilles Design Layout Plan CONFIDENTIAL	Attached
D. Outline of Financial Business case to Support Economic Growth Workspace development - CONFIDENTIAL	Attached

Agenda Item 12

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank