



AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, 23RD JANUARY 2023 – 5.30 PM

Members of the Council are summoned to a meeting of the Babergh District Council at King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 23rd January, 2023 at 5.30 pm.

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

Arthur Charvonja
Chief Executive



BABERGH COUNCIL	
DATE:	MONDAY, 23 JANUARY 2023 5.30 PM
VENUE:	KING EDMUND CHAMBER, ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH

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

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

Page(s)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

3 BC/22/34 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2022 7 - 14

4 BC/22/35 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND LEADER 15 - 16

In addition to any announcements made at the meeting, please see Paper BC/22/35 attached, detailing events attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

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

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

6 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

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

7 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

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

8 BC/22/36 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT 17 - 22

Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

9 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS 23 - 46

CMU1 – Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing

CMU2 – Cabinet Member for Customers, Digital Transformation & Improvement

10 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET / COMMITTEES

a	BCa/22/38 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION (WORKING AGE) SCHEME 2023/24	47 - 62
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Cabinet Member for Finance, Assets and Investments

At its meeting on 9th January 2023, Cabinet considered Paper BCa/22/38 – Council Tax Reduction (Working Age) Scheme 2023/24. The recommendation set out in the report was accepted.

It was RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

That Option 3 (as set out in Appendix C of the report) be used as the basis for a revised (Working Age) Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24.

In addition the following recommendations as a result of the Governments announcements in the Provisional Settlement relating to the additional local Council Tax Support award for 2023/24.

- That Council approves the introduction of an additional Local Council Tax Support award for 2023/24 of up to at least £25 per recipient where residual liability for Council Tax exists, as permitted under Section 13A (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- That Council gives authority to the Director for Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to agree Local Discretionary Policy as permitted under Section 13A (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to determine the method of distribution for any funds remaining from the additional Council Tax Support Fund for 2023/24
- Links to the Government website containing information on the scheme:
[16/2022: Council Tax information letter - 23 December 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
[Council Tax Support Fund guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

- b **JAC/21/38 HALF YEAR REPORT ON TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2022/23** 63 - 96
- Co-Chair of Joint Audit and Standards Committee
- At its meeting on 28 November 2022, the Joint Audit and Standards Committee considered Paper JAC/21/38 – Half Year Report on Treasury Management 2022/23. The recommendations set out in the report were accepted.
- It was RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**
- 1) **That the Treasury Management activity for the first six months of 2022/23 as set out in report JAC/21/38 and Appendices be noted.**
 - 2) **That it be noted that Babergh District Council’s treasury management activity for the first six months of 2022/23 was in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy, and that the Council has complied with all the Treasury Management Indicators for this period.**
- Note – It is a requirement of the Code of Practice on Treasury Management that full Council notes the Half-Year position.
- 11 **BC/22/37 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS 2022** 97 - 104
- Electoral Registration Officer
- 12 **BC/22/38 SPECIAL URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY OFFICERS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION** 105 - 108
- Chief Executive
- 13 **COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS**
- 14 **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 20 February 2023 at 5.30 pm.

Webcasting/ Live Streaming

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

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact the Committee Officer, Committee Services on: 01473 296472 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.

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If you hear the alarm:

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

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Agenda Item 3

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BABERGH COUNCIL** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Tuesday, 22 November 2022 at 5.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Kathryn Grandon (Chair)
Derek Davis (Vice-Chair)

Councillors:	Clive Arthey	Melanie Barrett
	Simon Barrett	Peter Beer
	David Busby	Sue Carpendale MA MCIM
	Siân Dawson	Mick Fraser
	Jane Gould	John Hinton
	Bryn Hurren	Leigh Jamieson
	Robert Lindsay	Elisabeth Malvisi
	Alastair McCraw	Mary McLaren
	John Nunn	Adrian Osborne
	Jan Osborne	Alison Owen
	Lee Parker	Stephen Plumb
	John Ward	

In attendance:

Officers: Chief Executive (AC)
Monitoring Officer (IA)
Corporate Manager – Governance and Civic Office (JR)
Assistant Manager – Governance and Team Leader (HH)
Professional Lead - Key Sites and Infrastructure (CT)
Debt Recovery & Monitoring Support Officer – Infrastructure (DO)

Apologies:

Susan Maria Ayres B.Ed Hons
Trevor Cresswell
Richard Hardacre
Michael Holt
Margaret Maybury BA (Hons) Ch Th
Mark Newman
Zachary Norman

36 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

36.1 There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.

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

37.1 Councillor Simon Barrett requested clarity on the changes that occurred to the quantity of SRA entitlement for Councillors.

It was RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2022 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

38 BC/22/33 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND LEADER

38.1 The Chair referred Councillors to paper BC/22/33 for noting.

38.2 The Leader of the Council made the following announcements:-

Gainsborough's House

Gainsborough's House finally opened to the public yesterday and in the past week it has received both local and national news coverage. The facilities inside are superb and the external architecture is really impressive. It is quite amazing to think that a small town like Sudbury now has something like this and I am sure the economic benefits to come for the town will be huge. It is the largest art gallery and museum in the county and all who have been involved with this project should be immensely proud of what they have achieved. It couldn't, of course, have happened without the vision and drive of the director, Mark Bills.

Housing Repairs and Maintenance

The death of two-year-old Awaab Ishak after exposure to mould in his family's flat in Rochdale was a tragedy, and I am sure all members will join me in expressing our sympathies to his family.

This sad case has rightly put the standard of social housing in the spotlight. In the last week, housing secretary Michael Gove has written to all housing providers in England, including Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils, calling for an urgent assessment of homes to provide reassurance over standards.

But we didn't have to wait for government to act with this letter: we have already initiated work to address this. Members will be aware that we initiated a full diagnostic review of Building Services earlier in the year. This picked up the need to increase our input into resolving issues around mould and damp.

We have acted on these recommendations. This year, for example, we have trained more people to deliver damp and mould treatment and employed a Damp Specialist Surveyor. We are in the process of recruiting another surveyor to increase capacity.

The well-being of our tenants has always been a priority. Following this case, I can promise members that we will redouble our efforts to ensure the quality of all our homes so that such a tragedy can never happen here.

I have spoken to our new Housing Director, Deborah Fenton, who has updated me on the action already taken this year to resolve any damp and mould issues and further measures planned.

We are also progressing well with our Stock Condition Survey and are developing and costing a retrofit programme.

The housing directorate will also be developing a performance framework to be presented to Cabinets and the Tenant Board every quarter, helping both members and tenants to hold us to account.

This work is just a part of what we are doing to ensure our homes are fit for the future. And be rest assured, Cllr Osborne is working hard with the Director of Housing to ensure this, having contacted her as soon as the DLUHC letter was received.

Chancellor's Autumn Statement

Last week the chancellor announced that Suffolk had secured a devolution deal and that we would get an elected mayor. There will be additional powers and, crucially, funding, in areas such as skills, transport, and housing. The county council, supported by the other members of SPSL, has worked hard to put together a proposal that the government has now agreed to and this is really exciting for the county. There has been some confusion about the use of the term mayor and the relationship between this position and the county council administration. I have confirmed that there will be no change to the current leader/cabinet governance, apart from the leader being directly elected. This is dependent on the completion of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill with its additional provisions for alternative names to mayor.

I don't have any more information yet, but we can expect further announcements in the next few weeks.

End of Term Report

We will be publishing the Babergh End of Term Report next week on 28th November. This highlights what we have been able to achieve during the past almost four years. It has been a unique and challenging time with Covid and now the Cost of Living Crisis, but you will see that, nonetheless, a huge amount has been achieved for our communities and residents. It was completed with the guidance of PLG to ensure that it is non-political so that all of us can use it as we wish and perhaps put our own political spin on it in the forthcoming elections. It will be an online document and we will be able to help those without Internet access to read it at our Customer Access Points.

I would like to thank Jane Kennedy and Francine Tarn for their work in gathering the information together and to Brad Jones and Darren Bird who have done a fantastic job creating an appealing and easy to read publication.

38.3 Councillor Simon Barrett asked if the position of elected mayor would be elected and the leader of the County Council. Councillor Ward replied that in a public statement from the current Leader of Suffolk County Council it was stated that there would be an elected County leader within the current County's leader Cabinet model but the term Mayor would not be used.

39 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

39.1 None received.

40 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Question 1

Mr Riley to Councillor Busby – Cabinet Member for Finance

The audit of the 2020/2021 accounts has been considerably delayed. Was this due to problems with the auditor's resource allocation or were there issues with our accounts which delayed the finalisation of the accounts? In case of the latter, what were the issues?

Response from Councillor Busby – Cabinet Member for Finance

The delay has been caused by resourcing within the actual auditors, it's a common problem over 90% of the councils across the country are late with their return. As far as your second part which is concerning any issues, there are no issues that we've been made aware of by the auditors with our accounts.

Supplementary Question by Mr Riley to Councillor Busby – Cabinet Member for Finance

The accounts show for auditors' expenses that there's almost a double charge, apparently on last year on the previous year, for certification are they doing more work for us, what has caused the increase?

Response from Councillor Busby – Cabinet Member for Finance

I couldn't give you an exact answer for that, we will be looking at that and I can come back to you.

41 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

41.1 None received.

42 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS

42.1 The Chair invited Councillor Ward – Cabinet Member for Economic Growth to introduce report CMU1.

42.2 Councillor Beer asked if any further information could be given regarding planning applications for Belle Vue Park, Sudbury.

42.3 Councillor Ward replied that he had no further update on Belle Vue Park, Sudbury at this moment.

42.4 Councillor McLaren asked if it was too soon to know any auditing outcomes of any potential fraud in covid grant programme applications from businesses.

- 42.5 Councillor Ward replied that he did not have any information but would give an update when the information was available.
- 42.6 Councillor Hinton enquired about funding secured for changing places facilities at Flatford Mill and asked for further information as this was in his ward, but he was unaware of it.
- 42.7 Councillor Ward replied that £90,000 grant funding for two changing places facilities, one at Flatford Mill and one at Belle Vue Park in Sudbury had been successful and the facility at Flatford Mill was being progressed. Councillor Ward also apologised to Councillor Hinton that he had not been informed of this as ward member.
- 42.8 Councillor Lindsay queried the figures in paragraph 5.6 of the report.
- 42.9 Councillor Ward replied that the comma should be after the two making the figure £1,002,015.
- 42.10 The Chair invited Councillor Arthey – Cabinet Member for Planning to introduce report CMU2.
- 42.11 Councillor Simon Barrett enquired when a local plan relevant to Babergh was going to be delivered.
- 42.12 Councillor Arthey replied that the situation regarding the Joint Local Plan had been discussed at the previous council meeting and depending on the agreement of the inspectors and able to keep to the timetable, it was hoped that part one would be delivered next year and part two of the plan would hopefully be delivered the following year.
- 42.13 Councillor Parker expressed his concern regarding paragraph 3.3 that refers to CIL debt recovery and enquired what was the total amount of debt that is outstanding.
- 42.14 Councillor Arthey introduced the Debt Recovery and Monitoring Support Officer – Infrastructure, Debby Osak who reported that significant successes had been made so the current figure was not over £500,000.

43 COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS

- 43.1 There were no changes to placings.

44 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

45 TO CONSIDER THE MOTION ON NOTICE RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR LINDSAY

- 45.1 The Chair invited Councillor Lindsay to introduce and **PROPOSE** his Motion as detailed in the agenda.
- 45.2 Councillor Lindsay elaborated on his Motion.
- 45.3 Councillor Ward **SECONDED** the Motion conveying concern towards to the significant discharges and causes behind it, encouraging Anglian Water to rectify the situation and reduce discharges.
- 45.4 Councillor McCraw began the debate by referencing the work of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Flood Management Sub-Committee paralleling the motion, noting that Anglian Water discharges untreated and semi-treated sewage, as well as extracting river water for their supply and requested the Council to prompt additional bodies of authority.
- 45.5 Councillors debated the definition 'major development' within the Motion and while an amendment for '15 or more' was initially accepted, it was reverted to the original Motion to retain consistency with the definition as defined by the governmental National Planning Policy Framework.
- 45.6 Councillor Hurren endorsed the Motion and questioned whether the Motion should be directed at a different body (Ofwat).
- 46.7 Councillor Davis endorsed the Motion and questioned whether information about the destination of sewage water could be included in planning meetings to Anglian Water.
- 46.8 Councillor Hinton endorsed the Motion, commenting that water authorities use of extreme measures was currently a normal operation.
- 46.9 Councillor Arthey endorsed the Motion but tempered expectations that it would lead to significant change.
- 46.10 Councillor Malvisi endorsed the Motion, noting the adverse effect polluted water has to tourism, the below standard of waterways, the health risks to children, and agreeing to a multifaceted approach; to lobby MPs and use the media if necessary.
- 46.11 By a unanimous vote, the Motion was **CARRIED**.

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1. Ask the chair of the scrutiny committee to invite senior officers of Anglian Water plus senior representatives from the Environment Agency and Natural England to attend a meeting to answer questions on the current levels of sewage discharge.**

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

46 TO CONSIDER THE MOTION ON NOTICE RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR WARD

- 46.1 The Chair invited Councillor Ward to introduce and **PROPOSE** his Motion - Introduction to the Model Debate Not Hate Campaign.
- 46.2 Councillor Ward elaborated on the Motion that was in the agenda.
- 46.3 Councillor Carpendale **SECONDED** the Motion and acknowledged the difficult role of a councillor in divisive issues and the inexcusable danger that arises from inevitable division.
- 46.4 Councillor Melanie Barrett requested clarification on 'zero tolerance' and Councillor Ward clarified it was towards any kind of abuse of any councillor or officer but that precise actions would be situational.
- 46.5 Councillor Melanie Barrett voiced concern of the persisting problem, specifically online, despite the Councillor Code of Conduct, the Nolan Principles, and the Motion, and appealed for greater care with councillor media use.
- 46.6 Councillor Beer commented how this Motion would have assisted the Council with previous matters.
- 46.7 Councillor Dawson requested clarity from Councillor Ward that the Motion would reach behaviour within the executive, to which Councillor Ward reiterated 'zero tolerance' and noted that previous matters were resolved.
- 46.8 Councillor Malvisi commented on the definition of hate, and the hurt of names and words.

46.9 Councillor Fraser remarked on the vagueness of the application of the Motion and requested further support for newly elected Councillors, to which Councillor Ward agreed for a review.

46.10 Councillor Davis commented that he had apologised for previous matters and endorsed the Motion.

46.11 Councillor Simon Barrett expressed doubt about the effectivity of the Motion.

46.12 By a vote of 24 votes for and 1 vote against, the Motion was **CARRIED**.

It was RESOLVED:-

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

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

In addition, the council resolves to:

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

The business of the meeting was concluded at 6.55pm

.....
Chair

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL - 23 JANUARY 2023

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENT	LOCATION	DATE	CHAIRMAN	VICE CHAIR
DECEMBER 2022				
West Suffolk Civic Carol Service	St Edmundsbury Cathedral	05-Dec	✓	
The Bishop's Christmas Drinks Party	The Bishop's House, Ipswich	09-Dec	✓	
Tree planting ceremony	Toppesfield Gardens, Hadleigh	10-Dec	✓	
Ipswich Mayor's - Mince pies at the Mansion	Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich	11-Dec		✓
Solar Carport completion photo call	Kingfisher Leisure Centre, Sudbury	21-Dec	✓	
JANUARY 2023				
'Ukrainian Christmas' service, nativity play and carols at St Edmundsbury Cathedral	St Edmundsbury Cathedral	06-Jan	✓	
Preview of Ipswich Hospital's new Breast Care Centre	Ipswich Hospital	19-Jan	✓	

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Agenda Item 8

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Council	REPORT NUMBER: BC/22/36
FROM: Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 23 January 2023

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT TO BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Babergh District Council on the business conducted at the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 24th October 2022, 21st November 2022 and the 19th December 2022 as well as the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 21st November 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 This report is for noting.

3. KEY INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on the 24th October 2022 and considered the following items:

3.1.1 **JOS/22/17 ANNUAL REVIEW UPDATE OF THE JOINT HOMES AND HOUSING STRATEGY AND THE HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2019 - 2024**

Councillor Jan Osborne – Babergh District Council’s Cabinet Member for Housing – introduced the report to the Committee, outlining the history of the strategy and the purpose of the document.

The Housing Strategy and Policy Officer gave a presentation to the Committee outlining the 9 strategic aims that underpin the strategy, progress on implementation of the strategy and the changes that have been made to update the strategy. The presentation included the references to the refocussed delivery plan, and the status of the 93 actions outlined in the plan.

Members asked questions around a number of different housing topics, including self-build completions, ‘homes for life’, downsizing, anti-social behaviour and electric vehicle charging points.

In response to queries, the Corporate Manager for Housing Solutions provided data relevant to homelessness. Information was also given regarding temporary housing stock and provision of refuge spaces for those escaping abuse. There is a concern around providing for Ukrainian refugees who are approaching the end of their six months with a host family and have not yet been provided with more permanent accommodation.

It was agreed that concerns around the potential for conflict between the Housing Strategies and the Community Strategy be referred to Cabinet. It was also noted that a comprehensive report on the review of council garages would be considered by Cabinet in January 2023.

Following a full debate of the issues:

It was RESOLVED:

- (a) That Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members have reviewed the contents of report JOS/22/17, including the appendices, and requests that the Portfolio Holders and Officers take account of verbal comments made by members of the committee. Also, that Cabinet bears these comments in mind when debating the refocussed delivery plan, the refreshed Joint Homes and Housing Strategy, and the Joint Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.**
- (b) That the committee members support the strategic aims of the Joint Homes and Housing Strategy and agreed that the newly refocussed plan is reflective of the current challenges facing the housing sector whilst continuing to deliver the aims set out in the strategy.**
- (c) To ask Portfolio Holders and Officers to consider further provision of financial and physical support to all residents wishing to downsize.**

3.2 The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on the 21st November 2022 and considered the following items:

3.2.1 JOS/22/23 REVIEW OF LOCAL CITIZENS ADVICE AND THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Councillor Mary McLaren – Babergh District Council’s Cabinet Member for Communities – outlined the role of the Communities Team and input from internal stakeholders; she thanked all officers who had contributed to the Councils’ response to the Cost of Living Crisis.

The Interim Director for Communities presented the report, outlining progress made on the Cost of Living Five Point Plan, including the appointment of a Cost of Living Coordinator, an uplift of 30% in grant funding to Citizens Advice.

The Chief Officers of Mid Suffolk and Sudbury Citizens Advice detailed work they had undertaken in response to the crisis, highlighting an overall increase in demand for their services, especially in respect of advice on benefits, tax credits, debt, utilities, and food. Members asked questions across a wide range of topics, including:

- Difficulty in recruiting volunteer advisors,
- Lack of support from Statutory Bodies, such as Department for Work and Pensions,
- The need for more integrated working and sharing community intelligence,
- Community Supermarkets,

- Utility costs and pre-paid meters
- The impact of the crisis on young people, particularly men under 25

It was RESOLVED:

- That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the contents of the report and commends the work being undertaken in response to the Cost of Living crisis,**
- That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee supports the 30% uplift to Local Citizens Advice and the work being conducted as a result and recommends that this support continues for a further 2 years,**
- That the Councils facilitate a more collaborative approach between organisations by encouraging the promotion of joint working,**
- That Officers work with relevant agencies to understand the situation for young people under 25, specifically men, to build a proactive response to support them as an at-risk group,**
- That Cabinet and Officers explore how we can embed the Cost of Living into the culture of the organisation for all staff when working with residents across all departments as part of a more integrated system of support.**
- That a Joint All Member Briefing be arranged for all Councillors on the Cost of Living crisis with input from Local Citizens Advice.**

3.2.2 JOS/22/24 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AND CABINET PROTOCOL

The Corporate Manager for Governance and Civic Office introduced the report, explaining that the protocol is a response to the Corporate Peer Review. Its aim is to promote a culture of accountability, openness, and transparency within the Councils. The protocol had been endorsed by the Senior Leadership Team and if approved by the Committee would be submitted to Cabinet for their approval.

During a short debate on the protocol, a request was made for training on the call-in procedure.

It was RESOLVED:

That Overview and Scrutiny approves the Scrutiny/Cabinet protocol.

- 3.3 The Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on the 21st November 2022 and considered the following items:

3.3.1 BOS/22/01 DRAFT GENERAL FUND (GF) AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 2023/24 AND FOUR YEAR OUTLOOK

The Corporate Manager for Finance, Commissioning and Procurement presented the report to the Committee outlining:

- the 2023/24 General Fund Forecast carried out in February 2022,
- the current financial position of the 2022/23 General Fund,
- the assumed General Fund 2023/24 costs (including employee costs, contracts, sales, fees and charges, and interest) and funding (including Council Tax, business rates, and Central Government Grants), and the total draft funding surplus.

Members sought clarification on a number of points in the report and presentation and debated a range of issues. It was accepted that this was an early look at the Budget and that things were in a state of flux.

It was RESOLVED:

- (a) That Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomes this earlier opportunity to consider the draft budget assumptions and thanks Officers for their presentation and clarification.**
- (b) That Cabinet and Officers take account of the comments made at this meeting.**
- (c) That more timely quarterly information on the General Fund's and Housing Revenue Account's income and expenditure be used to develop the budget and request that this information be made available to Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

The information was noted.

3.4 The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on the 19th December 2022 and considered the following items:

3.4.1 JOS/22/32 REVIEW OF SUFFOLK ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (SALC)

Sally Longmate, CEO of SALC, presented her report setting out:

- The purpose of the Association and its operating model
- The training and support services provided to councillors, clerks and councils and benefits of membership
- Its business plan and outcomes detailed in the most recent annual report.

In response to a question, Ms. Longmate explained that SALC did not have a role in resolving issues concerning the Councillors' Code of Conduct. That is a matter for the appropriate Monitoring Officer.

Ms. Longmate agreed that there is a need for better communication and more collaborative working between the District Councils, SALC and Town and Parish Councils.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

3.4.2 JOS/22/33 INFORMATION BULLETIN – PROTECTION AGAINST CYBER ATTACKS

This item was considered in confidential session

3.5 At each meeting of the Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Action Tracker and future Work Plans are considered. Up-to-date versions of the Work Plans are available to access on the Councils' website at the following link: [Overview and Scrutiny » Babergh Mid Suffolk](#)

4. REPORT AUTHOR

Councillor John Hinton – Chair of Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Agenda Item 9

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL - CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

TO: COUNCIL	REPORT NUMBER: CMU1
FROM: Cllr Mary McLaren Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing	DATE OF MEETING: 23 January 2023

TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND WELLBEING

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In recent years the Communities' Team has undergone significant changes to its structure, priorities and working practices driven by the need to better focus resources on delivering the priorities of the Corporate Plan and more directly those set out in the Communities Strategy, Wellbeing Strategy, Leisure, Sport & Active Participation Strategy, the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.2 Our vision is for "communities that thrive" now and in the future - built on a balanced and targeted range of services and support, equally accessible to all our residents and their future generations.
- 1.3 Our strategic aim is to provide guidance, support, and inspiration to our communities so we have a clear picture of what we can achieve together now and, in the future.
- 1.4 The Communities Team are responsible for the delivery of 4 Key functions and in their broadest sense cover:
 - Community Safety (ASB & Safeguarding)
 - Health & Wellbeing of Communities
 - Community Development & Grants
 - Leisure, Sport & Active Participation
- 1.5 Each of those functions underpin the Councils Corporate Plan through the delivery of the following Strategies or Plans
 - Communities Strategy
 - Wellbeing Strategy
 - Leisure, Sport & Active Participation Strategy
 - Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Action Plan

- 1.6 In addition to the work delivered within each of the key functions the team also lead on organisational priorities such as leading the community response and management the Home but Not Alone service during the pandemic and more recently the creation of the councils Cost of Living Five Point Plan and subsequent refresh action plan presented at Cabinet on 5th December 2022.

Portfolio Highlights

- 1.7 A key ambition for Babergh District Council and the Communities Team is to develop a greater, more effective culture of working with communities and placing them at the heart of everything we do. To achieve this the Communities Team has implemented a locality role, with identified officers taking responsibility for specific geographical areas. Developing a locality role will be key to making sure that we utilise all our community assets, skills and resources that already exist in our towns and parishes.
- 1.8 The council is also keen to ensure our communities are safe and resilient and features strongly within the Communities and the Wellbeing Strategy. The Communities Team work alongside internal and external teams to ensure that Anti-Social Behaviour is kept to a minimal and appropriate interventions are implemented when necessary. It also manages and contributes towards the delivery of priorities agreed with the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and develops and advises senior officers and councillors on key issues such as Safeguarding, Prevent, Hate Crime, Violence against Women and Girls, Exploitation and Modern Slavery.
- 1.9 The wellbeing of our communities is key theme that weaves into many of our services and is threaded into plans and policies. Our intention is to build upon this work and ensure that our services, projects and initiatives seek to improve the wellbeing of our communities. To do this we work closely with our statutory health partners and voluntary and community sector partners and include initiatives that support our older population with health interventions, those living with dementia as well as children and young people.
- 1.10 A key programme of activity is the work developed to deliver an extended Holiday Activity and Food Programme for children eligible for free to meals. In October, half term activities were provided for children across the district including film making, dance camps, football camps and swimming, run by a variety of providers including Abbeycroft Leisure, Anglia Sport Management, Maxim Sports and Offshoot Foundation and preparation is underway for the Christmas Holiday programme.
- 1.11 The communities team also support communities to be the best they can is through providing grants. Like countless organisations, many of the groups we've been working with have been severely impacted by Covid-19. We've been so impressed to see how hard they're working to adapt and develop new initiatives so that they can continue to offer valuable services and support to communities and residents across Babergh.
- 1.12 We have also been working hard to support the Cost-of-Living work through the establishment and allocation of Winter Warmth grants.

- 1.13 To date we have supported 30 successful projects, awarding a total of £55,000 to provide warm spaces and activities to support older people, vulnerable adults and families and include activities such as monthly film clubs, coffee mornings and after school clubs. Some warm spaces also include a meal and activities whilst some are providing indoor sporting activities for young people with a focus on encouraging healthy lifestyle, building confidence and self-esteem.
- 1.14 Ensuring our residents and families lead active lifestyles is a key priority and our leisure facilities provide key physical assets that plays a critical role in the successful delivery of our strategy and providing activities and services to help get more of our residents active.
- 1.15 We work with Abbeycroft Leisure to provide a fantastic open offer at the leisure facilities, plus offers for residents who are living with long term health conditions who are being supported by an Active Living Referral Pathway. The pathway is supported through GP surgeries, and Social Prescribing teams with 140+ active clients currently across the Kingfisher Leisure Centre and Hadleigh Pool & Leisure Centre and 60% of clients scored improved wellbeing after a 24-week programme.
- 1.16 Appendix One provides greater detail on the work delivered in support of the councils Communities and Wellbeing strategies and Appendix Two includes the current localities & contacts and map.

2. RECOMMENDATION
2.1 That Council notes the report.

3. APPENDICES

Title	Location
1. Communities & Wellbeing - Portfolio Overview	Attached
2. Communities Officers – Locality Areas	Attached

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APPENDIX ONE

1. Communities & Wellbeing - Portfolio Overview

Locality Working

- 1.1 A key ambition of the Council and the Communities Team is to develop a greater, more effective culture of working with communities and placing them at the heart of everything we do. To achieve this the Communities Team has implemented a locality role, with identified officers taking responsibility for specific geographical areas.
- 1.2 Developing a locality role
- Sees residents, communities, business and organisations as equal partners
 - Brings people together to achieve things we cannot do alone
 - Shares powers with local people, and adds value to their local activity
 - Aligns strategic priorities with local communities to deliver joint action
 - Provides the tools and support to local people to take action
 - Shares information, skills and resources and collaborate with partners and people
- 1.3 The benefits to be achieved by locality working are clearly articulated in the adopted Communities Strategy, and would strongly contribute to:
- Increasing active citizenship
 - Increasing local and community ownership of issues and challenges
 - Increasing local solutions
 - Reducing demand for council services
 - Improving Transparency and accountability for local people
 - Providing local communities with the opportunity to influence change
- 1.4 To underpin BDC's approach to locality work, officers work to fully appreciate the need to make use of all community assets, including assessing the resources, skills and expertise available in a community most importantly including the residents themselves. They work with the community around issues that affect and move them into action and support them to determine and take the appropriate action. This requires a real focus on maximising the strengths and assets in an area, and not to focus solely on the negatives and needs.
- 1.5 Every Councillor has a locality budget. This funding is available to support small-scale community groups and projects or contribute towards larger projects. As of 25 November 2022, £20,231.77 has been allocated of the £85,266 Babergh locality budget.

- 1.6 The Communities Team has been divided into three locality areas. Please see the Communities Team Sway below for details. [Communities Team \(office.com\)](#)

Community Safety

- 1.7 The council is committed to ensuring our communities are safe and resilient and features strongly within the Communities Strategy and the Wellbeing Strategy. The Communities Team manages the Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership Panel in Babergh, contributes towards the delivery of priorities agreed with the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and develops and advises senior officers and councillors on key issues such as Safeguarding, Prevent, Hate Crime, Violence against Women and Girls, Exploitation and Modern Slavery.

The Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership

- 1.8 Community Safety Partnerships were set up as part of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 and are made up of representatives from the 'responsible authorities' and includes police, local authorities, fire and rescue, probation and health partners.
- 1.9 Responsible authorities work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer.
- 1.10 The current priorities of the WSCSP that we are working with are:

Criminal Exploitation: including supporting victims, engaging with communities, agreeing an awareness and training programme, tackling drug dealing and supply, safeguarding vulnerable adults at risk and young people being criminally exploited.

Violence against Women and Girls: This priority includes actions to address domestic abuse, sexual violence, modern day slavery and sexual exploitation.

Hate Crime: including the identification and support for victims of hate crime, working with partners to raise awareness and continue to build confidence in our communities to report hate crime incidences.

Prevent: as part of the Government's CONTEST strategy to counter terrorism, "prevent" aims to raise awareness within our communities to stop people being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support at an early stage.

Modern Slavery: Modern slavery is a serious crime being committed across the UK in which victims are exploited for someone else's gain. It can take many forms including trafficking of people, forced labour and servitude.

Fraud: A new priority for WSCSP, adopted in April 2022 to tackle the exploitative methods used by criminals to manipulate people, often targeted at the most vulnerable in our communities.

- 1.11 The council supports the CSP priorities through delivery of individual projects such as the work completed at Belle Vue Park with young people during the summer to deter ongoing ASB and providing young people opportunities to participate in activities of their choice and a safe space from potential exploitation and gang crime.

- 1.12 Working with Active Suffolk it was decided to work with ITFC to provide a youth football drop-in session at the park and sessions ran from April and throughout the summer.
- 1.13 Music areas were also created to so that people could play their music without interference to other residents.
- 1.14 In addition to projects, we also support the priorities through the effective use of campaigns. Currently the council is supporting the White Ribbon Campaign, launched on 25th November. White Ribbon Day is then followed by 16 days of action to end violence against women and this year the council is working with several partners including SCC on promotional material and with Sudbury Rugby Club to raise awareness. A Domestic Abuse Champions Network meeting and Domestic Abuse champion training has also been organised to take place during the 16 days of action. The Communities Team have received Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding training, and many are also DA champions.



Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

- 1.15 The Western Suffolk CSP also has responsibility for domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) to review the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom he/she was related or with whom he/she was or had been in an intimate personal relationship with a view to identifying any lessons to be learnt from the death. This can also include suicide.
- 1.16 Communities Team Corporate Manager and Assistant Manager are a key part of these panels. The purpose of conducting a DHR is to establish what lessons might be learned from the domestic homicide, regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims.
- 1.17 A DHR Review Panel is commissioned by the Chair of the WSCSP and is led by an independent chair and reviews each agency's involvement in the case and makes recommendations to the WSCSP to improve responses in the future. The panel will also consider information from the victim's family, friends, and work colleagues. This information is also shared with the Home Office.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 1.18 Babergh is a safe district to live however, we do recognise that some of our communities are not immune from crime and disorder, including anti-social and other behaviour affecting the local community. Tackling issues when they arise, collaboratively and professionally remains a key priority for the partnership and the Community Safety Team.
- 1.19 ASB activity which is not assessed as high risk, can be referred by members of the community, Police or Councillors. This information is passed to our Community Safety Team and partners to resolve issues, support victims and investigate the use of our enforcement powers in the first instance. We recognise the need for adopting early, low level intervention in anti-social behaviour cases, as mild cases can often escalate if not addressed.
- 1.20 The team are often dealing with neighbourhood disputes, typically with complaints of:
- Foul and abusive language
 - Fly-tipping
 - Screaming and shouting / noise nuisance
 - Safeguarding concerns
 - Waste complaints
 - Littering
 - Parking
- 1.21 In all cases the team's ASB officers will investigate and work with all appropriate partners such as internal housing teams, including private sector housing, relevant housing associations and the individuals / families involved in the dispute to achieve positive outcomes for all.
- 1.22 Often with the effective use of independent mediation services good outcomes are achieved and ongoing support provided
- 1.23 Babergh has an ASB 'professionals' panel which we chair and focuses on high risk, repeat and/or vulnerable victims and each case is managed through the shared case management system and data sharing protocol. From time-to-time high risk ASB incidents occur, and it is imperative that our partnership ASB arrangements and internal ASB arrangements are fit for purpose, well understood, and effectively delivered.
- 1.24 An example of a high risk ASB incident that occurred more recently was Stella Maris, a supported living scheme on the outskirts of Ipswich. It was set up to provide accommodation for vulnerable people with complex needs. The first tenants moved into the flats in December 2018 and over the following 18 months, residents and tenants expressed concerns about noise and antisocial behaviour, but these concerns were not responded to in a way that led to an improvement in the situation. As a result of an independent enquiry by Anthony Douglas all partners involved in the enquiry are fully committed and engaged and have worked together to ensure that all

recommendations in the report are embedded in partnership and multiagency practices and procedures.

CCTV

- 1.25 The team also take a lead on the councils Operational Group that manages the contract with West Suffolk Council to provide a CCTV service in the district, and recently responded to reports of vandalism to a bus shelter and drug related activity within Sudbury.
- 1.26 With limited resources to attend the area regularly officers presented a business case to deploy a mobile CCTV camera at the location which was agreed.
- 1.27 The outcome was favourable with no more costly incidents of vandalism, drug related activity waned and in addition the camera helped assist a MISPER (Missing Person) enquiry.

Safeguarding & Section 11 Audits

- 1.28 Babergh District Council provides a range of services and facilities to the community. The nature of the provision means inevitably employees (permanent, temporary, or contracted) and councillors of the organisation will meet children, young people, adults at risk and their families in a variety of settings.
- 1.29 The Council recognises it has a corporate responsibility towards safeguarding children and young people and adults at risk in those settings and has developed a Safeguarding Policy to ensure that any vulnerable person who encounters an employee, volunteer or any aspect of the council's activities feels safe and protected, is listened to and has their views taken into account. The current policy is being refreshed by the team's assistant manager with a view to being published in the New year.
- 1.30 In addition to leading on safeguarding and the development of a revised policy the community safety team is also responsible for completing an annual review of Safeguarding practices known as Section 11. A section 11 audit was completed in April this year and reviewed by the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership.

Health & Wellbeing

- 1.31 Across Babergh District, our priority is for our residents to lead healthy, safe and independent lives and ensure there are opportunities to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing. We aim to create sustainable places and spaces to maximise health and wellbeing opportunities, as well as reducing health inequalities.
- 1.32 Wellbeing is already a theme that weaves into many of our Council Services and is adopted into plans and policies and our intention is to build upon this work and ensure that our services, projects and initiatives seek to improve the wellbeing of our communities which includes working closely with our statutory health partners and voluntary and community sector partners.
- 1.33 This is being achieved by the Communities Team in a number of ways, including: supporting the older population with health interventions and dementia as well as children and young people activities for those families eligible for free schools' meals.

- 1.34 For those the older population and those living with dementia, we have developed a community offer working with Dementia Connect to support awareness and training needs in the area. In addition, working with Orchestra Live to develop a dementia friendly creative session. The ICOPE project is undertaking assessments with participants aged 75+ living at home to understand their health and wellbeing needs and provide preventative care through community interventions. This work is partnering with local GP surgeries, Social Prescribing teams, Suffolk & Northeast Essex Integrated Care Board (SNEE ICB) colleagues and University of Suffolk to support and evaluate the progress.
- 1.35 In October, half term activities were provided for children across the district including film making, dance camps, football camps and swimming, run by a variety of providers including Abbeycroft Leisure, Anglia Sport Management, Maxim Sports and Offshoot Foundation and preparation is underway for the Christmas Holiday activities and Food programme to ensure there are activities for those eligible for free school meals.
- 1.36 Focusing on health & wellbeing and connecting our partners, has led to our residents being supported through a joined-up approach. Here are a couple of lived experience examples to demonstrate the impact:
- One resident involved in the ICOPE assessment process needed assistance and support with hearing loss, as well as additional support for a family member living with dementia. Through the interventions that were discussed with the assessor from the Communities Team, the resident had the motivation to seek help from the hearing support service in Sudbury and organise some additional home care support for their family member. The discussion they had gave the resident ownership of their own health and wellbeing, supporting them to seek help to live a healthier and happier life.
 - The Sudbury Family Fun event held in August provided an opportunity for all families to have a go at lots of different activities including climbing, music and drumming and family outdoor cooking. 176 activity space were pre-booked by families on the HAF programme and one resident informed the team it was such a lovely day, with no fear of not being able to afford certain activities. There was also a presence from groups and businesses to provide advice and assistance with any cost of living concerns.



- 1.37 We work closely with key stakeholders across Suffolk & Northeast Essex Integrated Care Board (SNEE ICB) and Suffolk County Council to encourage a collaborative and integrated approach around health and wellbeing for our residents. We have been taking an active role in supporting the Core leadership team for each Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) in Ipswich & East Suffolk Alliance ensuring the community development and locality work is discussed and helps achieve the overall INT goals.
- 1.38 We have established and continue to develop the Connect meetings within each INT area, bridging the gap between the Core Leadership Team goals and the challenges faced at a local level. The Connect sessions provide an opportunity for those attending to discuss key issues and collaborate on projects. In addition, Connect & Catch-up sessions have been developed, these are an informal setting where statutory, voluntary and community groups can come together to expand their knowledge on specific topics, listen to guest speakers and discuss ideas, as well as forming further connections with partners and colleagues.

Community Grants & Development

- 1.39 One of the ways that support communities to be the best they can is through providing grants.
- 1.40 Like countless organisations, many of the groups we've been working with have been severely impacted by Covid-19. We've been so impressed to see how hard they're working to adapt and develop new initiatives so that they can continue to offer valuable services and support to communities and residents across Babergh.

- 1.41 The grants team offer support to the community and voluntary sector and can give advice on applying for Babergh grants and external funding (except for grants available to individuals). We use the Funding4Suffolk search portal to help them find available funding. External funding provides an opportunity for organisations to access additional funding to support their cause.
- 1.42 Where organisations are unsuccessful in securing funding we signpost them for support to Community Action Suffolk who can support with funding, governance and training. We believe that through investment in developing their skills in areas such as bid/grant application writing, development of policies they will gain confidence and be successful in future funding applications.
- 1.43 The grants team provides community grants, administers developer contributions and offer funding support and signposting. Capital grants are available to support improvements to existing or the development of community facilities which includes village and community buildings, play areas, sports clubs and recreational facilities. To compliment this, Section 106 can be applied for through the grants team who access the database to see how much funding is available in any given parish. Projects that can be supported are for Open Space, Sport and social infrastructure, recreation, sport and community infrastructure.
- 1.44 CIL funding is available and has a similar criterion to capital funding. Applications are processed by the grants team in collaboration with the CIL team who are the ultimate decision makers. Funding can be applied for to either increase the capacity of existing community infrastructure or provide new community infrastructure.
- 1.45 Through September and October 2022, the grants team administered the Community Development Grants programme distributing £200,000 across Babergh. The aspiration being that every applicant feels supported even if their application was unsuccessful. The funding was awarded carefully, fairly and equitably so that it has the most impact and gets the best outcomes for the residents of Babergh. The financial investment supports with the delivery of local initiatives and activities, where gaps in provision have been identified. We also had the aspiration that every applicant felt supported even if their application was unsuccessful.
- 1.46 Here are just a couple of the incredible organisations that were funded through the Community Development Funding.

COMMUNITY ACTION SUFFOLK – PARENT AND CHILD GROUPS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT - £8,018

- 1.47 This project involves organising training and development opportunities to the volunteer led parent and child groups working across Babergh
- 1.48 Specifically, this funding will allow for the following courses, support, and services to be offered, this will be a combination of direct delivery by CAS, and delivery by expert training providers and the Early Years Alliance in partnership with CAS.

- 1.49 The funding will shore up provision for parents and toddlers, improving the quality and safety of the settings and helping to ensure that each setting is sustainable in the longer term by helping them to become constituted and to get everything in place that they need. Supporting our Communities and Wellbeing strategies



THE SPORTING MEMORIES FOUNDATION - £9,942

- 1.50 Supporting and connecting older sports fans through meaningful reminiscence and physical activities designed to improve mental and physical well-being and to reduce loneliness.
- 1.51 These weekly sessions will feed into a monthly 'Themed' Sporting Memories activity that is linked to a calendar of current sporting events with wider cultural interest such as the Grand National, Wimbledon, the six nations etc all designed to engage a wider range of residents in the care homes including those less interested in sport.
- 1.52 Crucially these sessions will be used to build confidence and encourage residents to take part in new physical exercise. This project supports Babergh's three strategies by providing new local community activities in local places and spaces that have core outcomes towards individuals mental and physical wellbeing.



Leisure, Sport & Physical Activity

- 1.53 In 2021, the Council's Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy was refreshed to reflect the successful delivery of key investment schemes across its core facilities, the

changing nature of sport and leisure activities and the likely impact of Covid 19 on residents and the industry.

- 1.54 The new strategy adopted late summer detailed an extensive set of strategic outcomes focusing on three distinct but interrelated themes:

Active People

- Reduced levels of inactivity amongst communities and in localities experiencing greater health inequalities
- Increased opportunities for all residents to move more through an accessible, diverse and inclusive programme of activities.

Active Places and Spaces

- Sustainable community sport, leisure and physical activity facilities that enable and support all residents to be active
- Green and open spaces providing formal and informal opportunities for all residents to be 'everyday active'

Active Partnership

- A strong, sustainable and strategically aligned ecosystem of partnerships supporting all residents to be more active
- A skilled, knowledgeable and enabled workforce and volunteer base supporting communities to be more active

- 1.55 Ensuring our residents and families lead active lifestyles is a key priority and our leisure facilities provide key physical assets that plays a critical role in the successful delivery of our strategy and providing activities and services to help get more of our residents active.

- 1.56 We work with Abbeycroft Leisure to provide a fantastic open offer at the leisure facilities, plus offers for residents who are living with long term health conditions who are being supported by an Active Living Referral Pathway. The pathway is supported through GP surgeries, and Social Prescribing teams with 140+ active clients currently across the Kingfisher Leisure Centre and Hadleigh Pool & Leisure Centre and 60% of clients scored improved wellbeing after a 24-week programme.



- 1.57 From this programme, one resident who suffered from long-term health issues with back and hip pain stated that since being a part of the referral scheme, they had improved their balance, and significantly reduced the pain suffered. This wouldn't have been possible without the belief and encouragement from the dedicated staff and service they provided. The impact of being part of the programme has allowed that resident to improve their own physical movement and get back to normal life.
- 1.58 A significant contributor to supporting both physical and mental wellbeing of our communities is that offered by our Leisure Provider, Abbeycroft.
- 1.59 A specific priority in the LSPA Strategy is to try and secure community use of sports facilities on schools sites and we continue to work with Gt. Cornard Leisure Centre and Holbrook academy (fitness studio) to ensure a community service is maintained.

2. Future Activities include

- 2.1 Continued work on the refreshed Cost of living Action Plan
- 2.2 Supporting a three-year funded programme of Central Government grants funded activities through the UK Shared Prosperity fund to deliver community and wellbeing priorities such as youth social prescribing, food sustainability, support for social enterprises and youth engagement activities.
- 2.3 Continue to support and enable sustainable VCSE community activity to deliver local initiatives and services through the allocation of community revenue and capital grants
- 2.4 Work with health partners, VCSE and Abbeycroft Leisure to deliver targeted interventions to support wellbeing initiatives using insight and population health management data
- 2.5 Continue to deliver and expand opportunities for young people as part of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme
- 2.6 Develop the councils Domestic Abuse network, increase the number of DA Champions, and raise greater awareness of DA and Violence against women and girls
- 2.7 Continue to develop the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and priority areas

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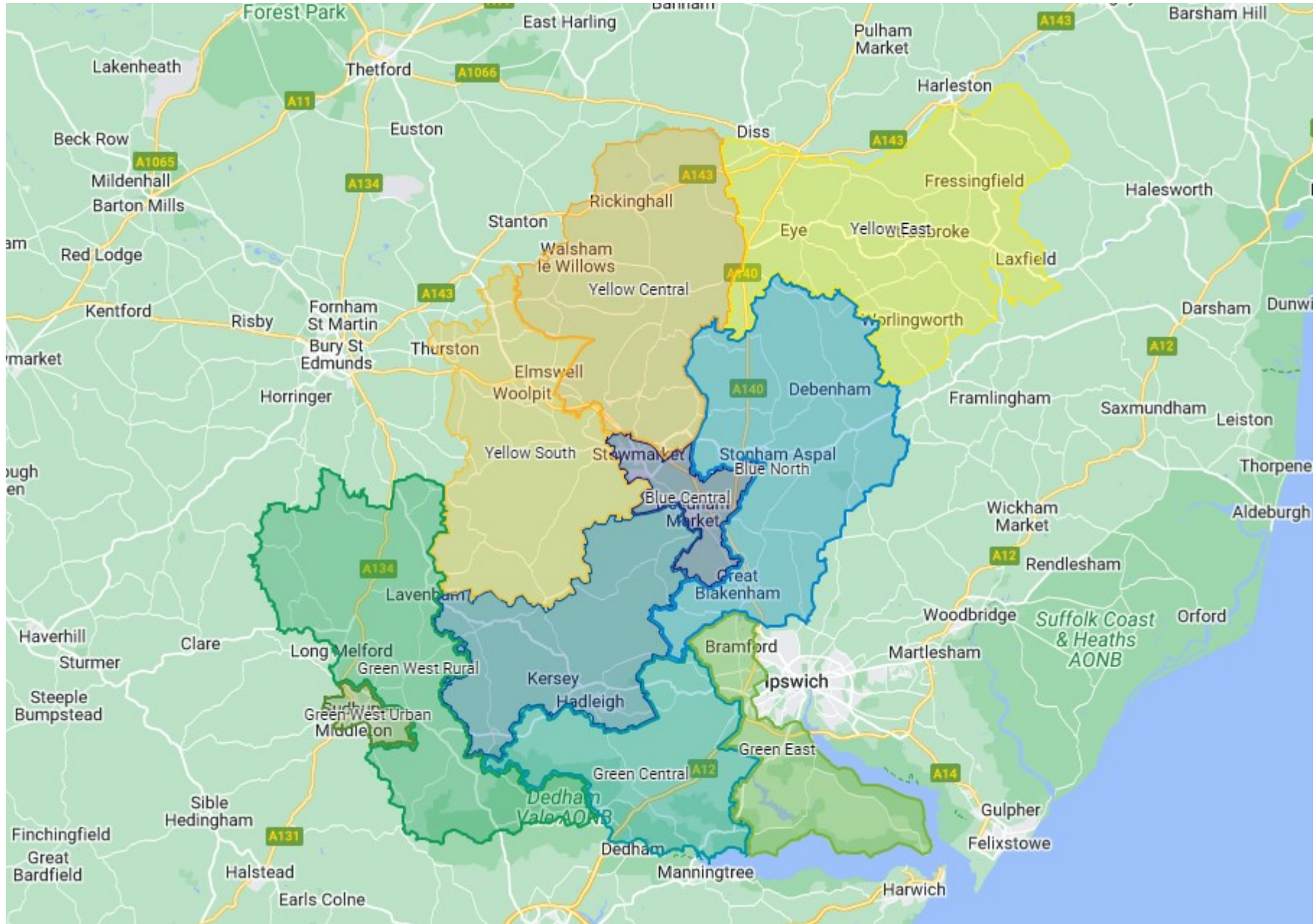
Communities Officers – Locality Areas

Assistant Manager	Locality	Communities Officers
<p>Emma Lea Assistant Manager – Leisure, Sport & Wellbeing Emma.Lea@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk 07874641551 01449 724673</p>	<p>Green West Urban Sudbury and Great Cornard</p>	<p>Sloane Potter Sports and Leisure Sloane.Potter@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk 01449724913</p>
	<p>Green West Rural Chadacre, Lavenham, Long Melford, Assington, Bures St Mary and Nayland</p>	<p>Imogen Tink Grants Imogen.tink@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk 01449 724918</p>
	<p>Green Central Copdock and Washbrook, Brett Vale, Capel St Mary, East Bergholt, Brantham</p>	<p>Peter Watson Community Safety Peter.Watson@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk 07709718196 01449724627</p>
	<p>Green East Bramford, Sproughton and Pinewood, Stour Ganges, Orwell</p>	<p>Tai Ajayi Community Safety Taiwo.Ajayi@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk 07926067940 01449724951</p>
<p>Laura Butters Assistant Manager – Community Grants and Development Laura.Butters@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk</p>	<p>Blue South Battisford and Ringshall, Box Vale, South East Cosford, Hadleigh North, Hadleigh South</p>	<p>Rachel Cattermole Leisure, Sport & Wellbeing Rachel.Cattermole@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk 07926067941 01449724952</p>

Communities Officers – Locality Areas

01449724883 07355029378			
	Blue Central	Stowmarket, Needham Market	Simon Lanning Planning & Engagement Simon.Lanning@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk 07729108592 01449724628
	Blue North	Mendlesham, Debenham, Stonham, Claydon Barham, Blakenham	Sarah-Jane Hatt Grants Sarah-Jane.hatt@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk
Rachael Young Assistant Manager – Community Safety & Resilience Rachael.Young@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk 07599102586	Yellow South	Elmswell and Woolpit Thurston, Rattlesdon, Onehouse, North West Cosford *in officer absence please contact patch cover HR / BT	Bee Taylor Volunteering Bethany.Taylor@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk 01449724881 Hana Richardson Health & Wellbeing Hana.Richardson@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk 01449724882 07355029304
	Yellow Central	Gislingham, Rickingham, Bacton, Walsham-le-Willows, Haughley, Stowupland and Wetherden	Josh Holmes Grants Joshua.Holmes@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk 01449724658
	Yellow East	Stradbroke and Laxfield, Fressingfield, Hoxne and Worlingworth, Eye Palgrave	Ian Rafferty Community Safety Ian.Rafferty@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk 07510921853 01449724679

Communities Officers – Locality Areas



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BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL - CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

TO: Council	REPORT NUMBER: CMU2
FROM: Cllr Alastair McCraw, Cabinet Member for Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvement	DATE OF MEETING: 23 January 2023

TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CUSTOMERS, DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update to Babergh District Council on Portfolio activities. This update focusses on 3 key areas; demand management in customer services, our digital platform project and our new corporate programmes.

2. UPDATE

Demand Management

- 2.1 The Customer Contact Centre experienced higher levels of demand in 2022 when compared to 2021. Most notably a 7%, or 8,601 increase in calls and a 19% increase in e-mails. These increases have been driven predominately by the energy rebate payments and an increase in housing repair calls.
- 2.2 This higher demand, coupled with an increase of officers leaving to take up other job opportunities across the organisation, has had an impact on performance. Average wait times and abandon rates during this period have been higher than 2021 with an average wait time of 4 minutes and 43 seconds and abandon rate of 24% during 2022.
- 2.3 To help manage the demand, we have explored other opportunities alongside backfilling vacant positions. We are currently recruiting three apprentice positions to help us develop a talent pipeline in customer services. These roles will be undertaking qualifications in business improvement techniques, to support with business process reengineering and digital content, to support with improving our digital services from a customer perspective, in line with our digital platform project.
- 2.4 In 2023 we will also be trialling the use of live chat, to provide our customers with an opportunity to interact with an officer via secure online typed messages during our normal office opening hours. This will be a controlled trial of 3 officers, to explore the impact of live chat on our demand and customer satisfaction.
- 2.5 We are recruiting a process improvement officer post to help accelerate our capacity to undertake process reviews across the organisation to reduce failure demand and improve customer satisfaction.

2.6 In addition to the above, and as part of our Digital Platform project, we are undertaking a review of our web content to ensure that all customer journeys (from information provision through to fulfilment) are easier to use. This ease of use will help us to reduce failure demand.

Digital Platform

2.7 We want to ensure that all customers receive high quality services and support. The digital platform project will support us to deliver these aspirations.

2.8 The digital platform is our project for replacing our websites, online forms and exploring how we harness the power of digital to create seamless online experiences for our customers.

2.9 We selected a partner supplier in late September 2022 to help us to deliver this work.

2.10 Placecube, the successful supplier, provides a low code platform with a community ethos where all development on the platform is shared across partners, to ensure 'the public sector never pay twice'.

2.11 Together with the supplier we have been working up a joint plan, with the website replacement taking priority.

2.12 To support delivery of new and updated content across the new websites we recruited 53 customer journey champions from across the organisation to help review our current website content from a customer perspective before re-writing and placing on our new more modern platform.

2.13 We aim to have completed our initial build of our websites by April 2023 and will take an iterative approach to their ongoing improvement, refining the sites, using customer feedback to improve our customer experience.

2.14 Our longer-term plans include reviewing our online customer forms, using business process re-engineering to ensure our highly used forms are improved using the new platform integrations and workflow capabilities, our key processes will be available to customers from the summer of 2023.

Programme Management Office and Corporate Programmes

2.15 The need to continuously improve service, manage demand and meet our financial challenges whilst also achieving our strategic outcomes has guided the identification of 5 potential corporate programmes. This portfolio of programmes will change the way we work, helping us to deliver the best possible services to the people of Babergh.

2.16 These potential programmes are:

Programme Name	Senior Responsible Officer
Data	Sara Wilcock
Climate Change	Fiona Duhamel

Efficiency and Change	Sara Wilcock
People	Kathy Nixon
Wellbeing for Communities	Di Robinson

- 2.17 Senior Responsible Officers are currently in the process of developing Programme Briefs and individual programme governance, alongside further and more granular development on the activities the programmes will undertake to deliver their strategic aims.
- 2.18 The Programme Management Office is developing appropriate governance and reporting mechanisms to support transparency and delivery of these programmes within our existing operating models.
- 2.19 Further information around Programmes will be made available during quarter four of FY 2022/23.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Council notes the report.

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Agenda Item 10a

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Cabinet	REPORT NUMBER: BCa/22/28
FROM: Cabinet Member for Finance Dave Busby	DATE OF MEETING: 9 th January 2023
OFFICER: Melissa Evans – Director Corporate Resources	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB410

Council Tax Reduction (Working Age) Scheme 2023/24

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To propose changes to the Council Tax Reduction (Working Age) Scheme and seek support from Cabinet in recommending to Council that the new scheme be adopted. The Council Tax Reduction (Working Age) Revised Scheme will come into effect on 1st April 2023.
- 1.2 The report includes details of the responses from the 6-week public consultation at Appendix D.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Option 1
Renew the existing Working Age LCTR Scheme to allow an up to 100% maximum reduction for all households.
- 2.2 Option 2
Renew the existing Working Age LCTR Scheme to allow an up to 100% maximum reduction for all legacy benefit households and introduce a simplified scheme for UC customers that will allow 'passport' claims to be automated based on the UC financial data without additional verification.
- 2.3 Option 3
Renew the existing Working Age LCTR Scheme to allow an up to 100% maximum reduction for all legacy benefit households and introduce a simplified scheme for UC customers that will allow 'passport' claims to be automated based on the UC financial data without additional verification. Create a transitional protection scheme to support those households who would be worse off under the simplified UC scheme.
- 2.4 Option 4
Continue with the existing Working Age LCTR Scheme of up to 95% maximum reduction for all households

<p>3. RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>3.1 To recommend to Council that Option 3 (as set out in Appendix C of this report) be used as the basis for a revised (Working Age) Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24.</p>
<p>REASON FOR DECISION</p> <p>3.2 To increase the maximum reduction available to 100% and reduce the number of customers undergoing recovery processes.</p> <p>3.3 To avoid unnecessary means testing and provide equitable access to CTR for all customers who receive welfare benefits.</p> <p>3.4 To reduce the requirement for recalculation of awards for customers on UC with fluctuating earnings.</p> <p>3.5 To ensure that no customer is disadvantaged on the introduction of the new CTR Scheme</p>

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council currently operates two Council Tax Reduction (CTR) schemes:
- CTR State Pension Age Scheme; and
 - CTR Working Age (Local) Scheme
- 4.2 The State Pension Age Scheme is a prescribed scheme and councils are prohibited from changing any aspect of the scheme.
- 4.3 The Council’s CTR Working Age (Local) Scheme (CTRS) was first introduced in April 2013 offering a maximum reduction in Council Tax to eligible households of 91.5%
- 4.4 The Scheme was subsequently revised in 2018 – increasing the maximum reduction available to 95% for both councils whilst allowing customers in receipt of the then new Universal Credit (UC) the same access to CTR as recipients of the legacy benefits which Universal Credit had replaced.
- 4.5 In response to the ‘cost of living’ crisis there is a proposal to renew the Working Age LCTR to allow an up to 100% reduction. Helping the most financially vulnerable across the districts and provide some much-needed support within a well-established scheme.
- 4.6 In order to deliver this support three options have been reviewed with a recommendation for the option that protects the most financially vulnerable, will be least bureaucratic and can also deliver service efficiencies in the future. This is reflected in a new banded scheme that encompasses transitional protection in 2023/24.

5. Background

- 5.1 The CTR schemes 'piggyback' on the means-tested Housing Benefit (HB) scheme using the same calculation method & rules for entitlement. This works well for those customers who receive both Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction although, for a number of customers, this means-testing is undertaken solely to calculate entitlement to CTR. I will refer to these as CTR only cases.
- 5.2 The number of CTR only cases have grown as Universal Credit becomes the primary benefit claimed by new customers requiring help with rent. Additionally, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have been migrating all existing working age HB claimants onto Universal Credit. This migration will continue for legacy benefits at an unspecified date in the future. Whilst a 'natural' migration had been planned, the Coronavirus pandemic caused a significant acceleration in this migration as many existing customers experienced a significant change in their circumstances which required a move from HB to UC.
- 5.3 Since the introduction of the revised scheme in 2018, the caseload profile for recipients of Council Tax Reduction has changed significantly and now almost 60% of CTR customers receive Universal Credit.
- 5.4 The operation of the current CTR scheme is administratively burdensome. UC has award periods which require reviews to entitlement of UC every month for people who work. These reviews generate new award notifications to Local Authorities (LA's) for any change in circumstances which, in turn, prompt a reassessment of CTR awards. The proposals for an up to 100% reduction scheme will also produce a reduction in printing, postage and recalculation of awards.
- 5.5 The efficiencies highlighted above will deliver service savings within the Shared Revenues Partnership. These will be realised through potentially lower financial contributions from Babergh, Mid Suffolk and Ipswich for the financial year following the introduction of a 100% reduction scheme. This could be in the region of £75,000 to £150,000 in subsequent years.
- 5.6 The continual reassessments consequently create Council Tax (CT) adjustments which necessitate the production of a new CT bill. Each new bill notifies the customer that a new instalment plan has been set (satisfying the legal notice period) and of the date when the first instalment falls due. This effectively defers the customer from making CT payments and, just before that new instalment falls due, UC recalculates again, and the process is repeated. This constant deferral causes confusion for customers as to when and how much to pay and can lead to accrual of CT arrear debt. A mechanism which reduces the requirement to recalculate awards would provide clarity for customers with fluctuating earnings and allow for any Council Tax due to be spread over the year.
- 5.7 As the current scheme requires that everyone contributes towards their Council Tax by at least 5%, many CTR customers are left with small balances to pay. These balances are difficult to collect, and recovery processes can lead to customers incurring costs – sometimes the cost of which exceeds the balance to pay. These balances are difficult to collect, and recovery processes can lead to customers incurring costs – sometimes the cost of which exceeds the balance to pay. Moving

to a 100% reduction maximum scheme would mean those customers who are living on welfare benefits alone would have no Council Tax to pay and would not be subject to recovery processes or related costs. The reduction in recovery action will reduce the printing and postage of reminders, final notices and summons'. These processes themselves are generally automated and offer no potential for officer time savings.

5.8 The existing LCTR scheme does not work well for customers in receipt of UC and the proposals detailed within this report will significantly alleviate the pressures of financial uncertainty for this group of customers.

5.9 The additional financial pressures brought about by the current 'cost of living' crisis make this timely for the Council to offer additional financial support to its most financially vulnerable residents

6. Options considered

6.1 Option 1

Renew the existing Working Age LCTR Scheme to allow an up to 100% maximum reduction for all households.

6.2 Moving to a 100% reduction maximum scheme would mean those customers who are living on welfare benefits alone would have no Council Tax to pay and would not be subject to recovery processes or related costs.

6.3 This is the simplest change to introduce but perpetuates the existing problems of Universal Credit customers being put through a secondary means-test process and then being subject to monthly means-tested reviews as UC awards change. As the UC caseload increases, the workload is likely to become unmanageable and lead to long delays for all customers (including those on Housing Benefit) unless there is to be further investment in additional resources.

6.4 Approximately 2459 individuals will be better off. Each customer will gain CTR equal to 5% of their Council Tax liability. An average increase of £1.15 per week.

6.5 Option 2

Renew the existing Working Age LCTR Scheme to allow an up to 100% maximum reduction for all legacy benefit households and introduce a simplified scheme for UC customers that will allow 'passported' claims to be automated based on the UC financial data without additional verification.

6.6 UC claims without additional earnings would be awarded a 100% reduction on their Council Tax automatically based on their calculated UC entitlement. Customers with additional earnings will be managed within the scheme based on the level of earnings they receive as evidenced to and reported by DWP.

6.7 This scheme will maximise the opportunity for automation of UC notifications, offer a transparent scheme that will allow customers to calculate their own entitlement 'at a glance' and dramatically reduce the number of transactions that would lead to new bills/notifications being produced.

6.8 Approximately 2288 individuals will have the same/better reduction with an average benefit increase of £1.32 per week and a maximum benefit increase of £32.77 per week.

6.9 This option could deliver future operational savings of £75,000 to £150,000 in subsequent financial years following the introduction

6.10 **Option 3**

Same as Option 2 above but introduces a Transitional Protection Scheme for Universal Credit customers that would otherwise receive a lower entitlement at the introduction of the new scheme.

6.11 This scheme could operate until a change in circumstances or break in claim. The details of operation are part of the consultation.

6.12 As with Option 2 except approximately an additional 171 individuals will receive Transitional Protection. This results in 2459 individuals having the same/better reduction. The transitional cost for 2023/24 would have an estimated cost of £24.4K to be funded from the COVID19 earmarked reserve.

6.13 This option could deliver future operational savings in subsequent financial years following the introduction.

6.14 This option will ensure that no customer is financially 'worse off' on the introduction of a new CTR Scheme.

7. **LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN**

7.1 Ensuring that the Council makes best use of its resources is what underpins the ability to achieve the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The table below shows the total Council Tax liability and value of Working Age Council Tax Reduction for the current financial year. As CTR is a daily reduction, the value of liabilities and reductions changes on a daily basis as this is affected by the number of live claims and their entitlement to CTR as well as the impact of reliefs and discounts on liabilities for Council Tax itself.

	Gross Liability	CTR 22/23 95% Scheme	Net Liability
Working Age	£3,282,856	£2,478,442	£804,413

8.2 Any additional costs associated with the recommendation are to be funded from the Councils Covid19 earmarked reserve.

8.3 The financial impacts in respect of cost arising from the proposals within this report are detailed within the appendices.

8.4 All calculations undertaken for this report are based on 2022/23 caseload and liabilities.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Section 13A(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) states that the amount of council tax which a person is liable to pay in respect of any chargeable dwelling and any day (a) is to be reduced to the extent if any required by the Council's council tax reduction scheme under section 13A(2). Subsection 13A(1)(c) allows that in any case the council tax liability may be reduced, or if the amount has already been reduced under section 13A(1)(a), to such further extent, as the Council thinks fit. Under Section 13A(2) the Council must make a scheme specifying the reductions which are to apply to amounts of council tax payable in respect of dwellings situated in its area, by (a) persons whom the Council considers to be in financial need, or (b) persons in classes consisting of persons whom the Council considers to be, in general, in financial need. Section 13A(6) confirms the power under subsection (1)(c) includes the power for the Council to reduce an amount of council tax liability to nil.

9.2 Schedule 1A sets the arrangements for council tax reduction schemes. Paragraph 2 details the matters to be included in schemes, for example Paragraph 2(1) states that a scheme must state the class of persons who are to be entitled to a reduction under the scheme, and paragraph 2(3) says a scheme must set out the reduction to which each person in each class are to be entitled, and different reductions may be set out for different classes. Paragraph 4(d) confirms a reduction may be the whole amount of council tax (so that the amount payable is nil). Paragraph 5 of Schedule 1A requires the Council each financial year to consider whether to revise its scheme or replace it with another scheme.

9.3 Before making a scheme, the Council has a duty to (in the following order): (a) consult any major precepting authority which has the power to issue a precept to it; (b) publish a draft scheme, and (c) consult "such other persons as it considers are likely to have an interest in the operation of the scheme." (Schedule 1A Paragraph 3(1)). Once the Council has made the scheme it must publish it in the manner it thinks fit (Paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 1A).

9.4 If a Council fails to consult in accordance with the Act and the so-called Gunning principles on consultation, there is a possibility that any scheme could be subject to a challenge of Judicial Review, and if successful may be set aside. These principles are: (1) proposals are still at a formative stage; (2) there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'; (3) there is adequate time for consideration and response; and (4) 'conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made. The Council should therefore ensure that it consults with anyone who is likely to have an interest in the scheme, provide enough information of the scheme, and sufficiently reasonably time to respond, and it must then properly consider and take into account any responses received.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Corporate / Significant Business. Key risks are set out below:

Key Risk Description	Likelihood 1-4	Impact 1-4	Key Mitigation Measures	Risk Register and Reference
Successful legal challenge to the Working Age CTR scheme changes	1 Highly unlikely	3 Bad/ Serious	Follow legal requirements for public consultation	Finance, Commissioning and Procurement Operational Risk Register 011
Failure to meet the deadlines for agreeing/ implementing the scheme	1 Highly Unlikely	3 Bad/ Serious	Project Management Committee Scheduling Gateway Reviews Test system set-up	Finance, Commissioning and Procurement Operational Risk Register 011

11. CONSULTATIONS

- 11.1 The Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance were consulted in the designing of the options for consideration.
- 11.2 Before any changes could be adopted, the Council was required to:
- consult any major precepting authority which has power to issue a precept to it,
 - publish a draft scheme in such manner as it thinks fit, and
 - consult such other persons as it considers are likely to have an interest in the operation of the scheme.
- 11.3 A period of public consultation was undertaken for 6 weeks based on the scheme as detailed within Option 3. Suffolk County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner were approached directly and invited to respond.
- 11.4 The revised CTR Scheme was published on the Council's Web Site, with attention drawn to it on the "Home" page and elsewhere, including:
- in Social Media posts,
 - in a standard paragraph in every Council Tax, CTR and Housing Benefit letter sent, and
 - in a local press release.
- 11.5 The consultation communication methods ensured that the revised scheme was made available to:

- a) Council Tax liable persons.
- b) Those currently in receipt of a Council Tax Reduction (CTR):
- c) Advisers regarding debt problems – including SCC Financial Inclusion Advice Service and Citizens Advice

11.6 The full survey results are available within Appendix D of this report but importantly 91% of the 53 persons who responded were in favour of simplifying the revised scheme to reduce administrative costs, 79% (42 respondents) supported amending the scheme to offering up to 100% reduction yet only 28% (15 respondents) were in receipt of CTR and as such were potential beneficiaries of the revised scheme.

12. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

- 12.1 The proposals in this report equalise the Pension Age CTR Scheme and the Working Age CTR Scheme by offering up to 100% Council Tax Reduction thus ensuring that as well as age, there won't be discrimination against the other protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy, maternity, race, sexual orientation, religion or belief or because someone is married or in civil partnership)
- 12.2 The law requires that this duty to have due regard be demonstrated in decision making processes. Assessing the potential impact on equality of proposed changes to policies, procedures and practices is one of the key ways in which public authorities can demonstrate that they have had due regard to the aims of the equality duty.
- 12.3 The proposals in this report equalise the pension age CTR scheme and the working age CTR scheme by offering up to 100% council tax reduction thus ensuring age is not a reason for difference in treatment under either scheme.
- 12.4 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required for consultation but will be undertaken prior to any scheme change implementation.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.5 The proposal to amend the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme does not have a detrimental impact on the Council's climate change objectives.

13. APPENDICES

Title	Location
Option 1 Increase the maximum rate of CTR from 95% to 100%	Appendix A
Option 2 Increase the maximum rate of CTR from 95% to 100% and introduce a Banded Earnings scheme for UC customers	Appendix B
Option 3	Appendix C

Increase the maximum rate of CTR from 95% to 100% and introduce a Banded Earnings scheme for UC customers and Transitional Protection.	
Survey Response Analysis	Appendix D

14. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

14.1 JOS/22/9 Council Tax Reduction Scheme

14.2 BCa/22/27 Council Tax Reduction (Working Age) Scheme 2023/24 - Consultation

Option 1

Increase the maximum rate of CTR from 95% to 100% reduction of the Council Tax charge maintaining alignment with the Housing Benefit Scheme.

This provides for the simplest change and allows for all customers to be treated in the same way. The caseload changes on a daily basis but the table below demonstrates the approximate cost of change.

Table 1

Adoption	Cost of CTR 22/23 95% Scheme	Cost of CTR 22/23 100% Scheme	Cost of 1uplift to 100% Scheme (+5% liability)	Caseload on 31st October
Working Age	£2,505,144	£2,658,267	£153,123	2,459

The cost of the CTR scheme is borne proportionally by precepting authorities.

Based on the 2022/23 Council Tax Band D figures, the increase in the scheme costs would impact the preceptors by the following amounts:

Table 2

Cost of uplift to 100% Scheme	Suffolk County Council 73.7%	Police & Crime Commissioner 12.7%	Babergh Council 9.1%	Parish Average 4.6%
£153.1k	£112.8k	£19.4k	£13.9k	£7k

Option 2

Increase the maximum rate of CTR from 95% to 100% reduction of the Council Tax charge maintaining alignment with the Housing Benefit Scheme for legacy customers and introduce a Banded Earnings element to the scheme to account for Universal Credit customers.

This scheme (as modelled) costs BDC just £3k more to support than option 1.

The cost of the CTR scheme is borne proportionally by precepting authorities. Based on the 2022/23 Council Tax Band D figures, the increase in the scheme costs would impact the preceptors by the following amounts:

Table 3

Cost of uplift to 100% Scheme and UC Banded Scheme	Suffolk County Council 73.7%	Police & Crime Commissioner 12.7%	Babergh Council 9.1%	Parish Average 4.6%
£175.4k	£129.3k	£22.3k	£15.9k	£8k

Option 2 was modelled assuming the following income thresholds for customers on UC. These are completely flexible, and both the band thresholds and weekly contribution can be amended.

Table 4 – Income Bands

Income Bands (Monthly)	monthly contribution	Income Bands (Weekly up to)	Weekly contribution
Not in work or less than £290	£0	Not in work or less than £66.92	£0
£290 - £609.99	£35	£140.77	£8.08
£610 - £1159.99	£80	£267.69	£18.46
£1160 to £1844.99	£120	£425.77	£27.69
£1845 - £2369.99	£185	£546.92	£42.69
£2370 - £2899.99	£240	£669.23	£55.39
Over £2900	No entitlement to CTS	over £669.23	No entitlement to CTS

Only those UC customers who earn over £290 per month would need to make any contribution towards their Council Tax and, provided their earnings do not fluctuate greatly, payments would remain the same throughout the year.

The main groups of people who benefit from this scheme are those where the claimant or partner had Carers Allowance or Employment Support Allowance included within their Universal Credit. This is counted as income within the current scheme and 20% of that income is used to reduce weekly entitlement to CTR. Under the new scheme, those customers who do not work are 'passported' to full CTR. Those customers who work and have Carers/Employment Support Allowance, have this 'other' income disregarded as additional income and, as such, see less of a reduction to their weekly entitlement.

93.05% of customers receive the same/better reduction than under the current scheme.

The customers who are adversely affected by this change are those who have Housing Costs included within their UC. The current scheme assumes that the assessed UC level is equivalent to the 'basic living allowance' used for legacy benefit customers and results in higher entitlement to CTR

DRAFT

Option 3

Increase the maximum rate of CTR from 95% to 100% reduction of the Council Tax charge maintaining alignment with the Housing Benefit Scheme for legacy customers, introduce a Banded Earnings element to the scheme to account for Universal Credit customers and Transitional Protection.

Option 3 details are as for Option 2 but, for those customers who would be adversely affected under Option 2, Transitional Protection would be awarded to 'top up' entitlement to that of entitlement levels at the 31st March 2022.

Transitional Protection is awarded under Section 13A (1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which gives Local Authorities the ability to make a further reduction to an established LCTR scheme in saying that the amount of Council Tax which a person is liable to pay in respect of any chargeable dwelling and any day 'may be reduced to such extent (or, if the amount has been reduced under paragraph (a) or (b), such further extent) as the billing authority for the area in which the dwelling is situated thinks fit'. Such additional awards are made at the Councils discretion.

Awards made at the Council's discretion are to be financed by the Council.

Introducing a Transitional Protection Scheme to preserve the award for 23/24 to at least that of the entitlement in 22/23 would have the following estimated cost **£24.4k**

This estimate assumes a Transitional Protection award for the whole of the financial year 2023/24 at the rate of detriment on transfer. However, the scheme will operate in such a way that it 'tops-up' entitlement to the award made in 22/23 and ceases at the point that the customer is better-off on the new scheme. This estimate is therefore a worse case estimate.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils CTR Scheme Survey Results
(53 People Surveyed)

1. Do you pay council tax to Babergh District Council/Mid Suffolk District Council?

Yes – 94% (50)
No – 6% (3)

2. Do you receive Council Tax Reduction?

Yes – 28% (15)
No – 72% (38)

3. Pensioners currently receive up to 100% council tax reduction, while working age customers receive up to 95% council tax reduction. During the council tax year 2023-23, do you support amending the scheme so that all customers can receive up to 100% reduction?

Yes – 79% (42)
No – 21% (11)

4. Do you support simplifying the scheme for Universal Credit customers and reducing administration costs?

Yes – 91% (48)
No – 8% (4)
No Response – 2% (1)

5. Do you support the retention of the scheme for customers not in receipt of Universal Credit that follows the same rules and allowances used for Housing Benefit?

Yes – 81% (43)
No – 17% (9)
No Response – 2% (1)

6. What do you think of the proposed income bands that will apply to Universal Credit customers?

The bands should be set lower – 17% (9)
The bands should be set higher – 15% (8)
The bands seem about right – 23% (12)
I'm not sure – 32% (17)
There should be fewer bands – 6% (3)
There should be more bands – 4% (2)
No Response – 4% (2)

7. Do you want to tell us anything about income bands?

- They are a great idea - if the amount received each month doesn't change as that is confusing and requires a lot of administration on both sides. Having the income bands would mean that it will be more consistent, and I could budget better.

- With the current band proposals, I will be jumping back and forth between 2 bands all year. You should accept a total annual income divided into 12 equal amounts verified by my employer and issue a single council tax bill for the year.
- Consideration needs to be given to carers, as Carer's Allowance is considered as income. Special circumstances should apply to those caring for others, especially if they are living in the same household. People who have a recognised disability, but who are not in receipt of PIP should also be considered for a reduction.
- The income bands should include higher household incomes. We are all struggling and some of us can't access the same help that lower earners earn.
- Not fair that only people on UC are getting help.
- More needs to be considered. Just because a household has a good income doesn't mean they should pay more council tax than neighbours in the same house who claim benefits.
- I support having more bands to stop frequent changes due to income changes. All changes should be for the better of all those who are affected by the changes.
- It will help people know where they are each month, but banding could be better for people on low incomes.
- Council tax bandings should be set across the board for everyone. Those on benefits should not receive a reduction, neither should pensioners.

8. Should other adults in the house contribute towards the Council Tax bill?

Yes – 68% (36)

No – 32% (17)

9. Should the scheme for households on Universal Credit only consider earned income? If yes, Council Tax Reduction will change in a similar way to Universal Credit awards.

Yes – 62% (33)

No – 32% (17)

No Response – 6% (3)

10. Should the scheme for households on Universal Credit be reviewed every year to reflect changes in Council Tax and National Living Wage rates? This would impact upon the value of income bands, non-dependant deductions and Council Tax Contributions.

Yes – 91% (48)

No – 4% (2)

No Response – 6% (3)

11. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a Transitional Protection Scheme for 2023/24 to ensure no customer is financially disadvantaged upon the introduction of a new scheme?

Yes – 79% (42)

No – 13% (7)

No Response – 8% (4)

12. Do you want to tell us anything else about Transitional Protection?

- There should be a transitional period for those it affects.
- The change will impact eventually, just make the change.
- There needs to be a smooth change over especially if during the transition people move.
- Changes should be for the better of all those who are affected by the changes.

13. Changing the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in line with the proposal will save money by producing less bills and statutory notices to print and post out. Do you agree that the Council should always look for ways to work in a more cost-effective, efficient way?

Yes – 96% (51)

No – 0% (0)

No Response – 4% (2)

14. If no, how else could the Council look to make savings?

- Do site visits to evaluate the true need for benefits.
- Get the people who claim benefits to do jobs in the community to earn their money, therefore saving money on paying out for jobs to be done.
- Lobbying the National Government to impose a windfall tax (and a fairer but more expensive income tax system for those who can afford it) to properly fund councils to help those most in need, as well as paying for roads, education, care, services, climate change etc.
- Council tax reductions should be carefully means tested and all adults living in the property should have their income considered for the overall household.

15. Do you have any other thoughts about the scheme that is proposed?

- As a low-income household who can't claim UC due to having a small savings contingency, we are unable to claim financial support. There ought to be opportunities to apply for support available by all agencies for those in our situation.
- It is a great idea. Please make the forms that we need to fill out more user friendly. I gave up on my last attempt at filling one out even though I am probably entitled to help.
- I hope this will mean I will know how much money my council tax will be each month for the whole year, without any more changes during the year. This will mean I will be able to budget better without worrying if next month my council tax will go up, only to find out at the end of the tax year I've paid too much.
- It will result in a net benefit so that must be good. In the current financial climate awareness of the scheme needs to be generated to help those most vulnerable.
- The idea is excellent and humane. It will give benefit and hope to those that are affected.
- Reduce it for everyone. Everyone uses the services. All adults in every household should have their income considered.

Agenda Item 10b

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Joint Audit and Standards Committee	REPORT NUMBER: JAC/21/38
FROM: Melissa Evans, Director, Corporate Resources	DATE OF MEETING: 28 November 2022
OFFICER: Rebecca Hewitt, Corporate Manager – Finance, Commissioning & Procurement Sue Palmer, Senior Finance Business Partner	KEY DECISION REF NO. N/A

HALF YEAR REPORT ON TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2022/23

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report is part of the Councils' management and governance arrangements for Treasury Management activity under the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management ("the Code"). It provides Members with a comprehensive assessment of activities for the first six months of the financial year 2022/23.
- 1.2 The report specifically sets out the performance of the treasury management function, the effects of the decisions taken, and the transactions executed during the first six months of 2022/23 and any circumstances of non-compliance with the Councils' treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report fulfils the Councils' legal obligations to have regard to the Code and there are no other options to consider.

3. RECOMMENDATION TO BOTH COUNCILS

- 3.1 That the Treasury Management activity for the first six months of 2022/23 as set out in this report and Appendices be noted.

RECOMMENDATION TO BABERGH COUNCIL

- 3.2 That it be noted that Babergh District Council's treasury management activity for the first six months of 2022/23 was in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy, and that the Council has complied with all the Treasury Management Indicators for this period.

RECOMMENDATION TO MID SUFFOLK COUNCIL

- 3.3 That it be noted that Mid Suffolk District Council's treasury management activity for the first six months of 2022/23 was in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy, and that, except for one occasion when the Council exceeded its daily bank account limit with Lloyds, as mentioned in Appendix C,

paragraph 4.1 the Council has complied with all the Treasury Management Indicators for this period.

REASON FOR DECISION

It is a requirement of the Code of Practice on Treasury Management that full Council notes the Half-Year position.

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 The 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy for both Councils was approved in February 2022.
- 4.2 The Strategy and activities are affected by several factors, including the regulatory framework, economic conditions, best practice and interest rate/liquidity risk. The attached appendices summarise the regulatory framework, economic background and information on key activities for the first six months of 2022/23.
- 4.3 The Joint Treasury Management outturn report for 2021/22 was presented to Members at the Joint Audit and Standards Committee on 25 July 2022.
- 4.4 The Section 151 Officer is pleased to report that all treasury management activities undertaken in the first half of the year complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Councils' approved Treasury Management Strategy and that both Councils have complied with all the Treasury Management Indicators for this period.
- 4.5 The Treasury Management Indicators aim to ensure that the capital investments of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable and that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice.
- 4.6 Appendix D shows the position on key Treasury Management Indicators for the first six months of 2022/23.
- 4.7 Key points relating to activity for the first half of the year are set out below:
- The economic backdrop during the April to September period continued to be characterised by high oil, gas and commodity prices, ongoing high inflation and its impact on consumers' cost of living, no imminent end in sight to the Russia-Ukraine hostilities and its associated impact on the supply chain, and China's zero-Covid policy.
 - The latest labour market remained tight through the period but there was some evidence of easing demand and falling supply. The unemployment rate 3m per year for April fell to 3.8% and declined further to 3.6% in July. Although now back below pre-pandemic levels, the recent decline was driven by an increase in inactivity rather than demand for labour. Pay growth in July was 5.5% for total pay (including bonuses) and 5.2% for regular pay. Once adjusted for inflation, however, growth in total pay was -2.6% and -2.8% for regular pay.
 - With disposable income squeezed and higher energy bills still to come, consumer confidence fell to a record low in August.
 - The Bank of England (BoE) increased the official Bank Rate to 2.25% over the period. From 0.75% in March, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) pushed through rises of 0.25% in each of the following two MPC meetings, before hiking

by 0.50% in August and again in September. The Committee noted that domestic inflationary pressures are expected to remain strong and so given ongoing strong rhetoric around tackling inflation further Bank Rate rises should be expected.

- UK inflation remained extremely high. Annual headline CPI hit 10.1% in July, the highest rate for 40 years, before falling modestly to 9.9% in August. RPI registered 12.3% in both July and August.
- Investment of surplus funds - As market conditions, credit ratings and bank ring-fencing have changed during the year, institutions that the Councils invest with, and the period of the investments have been reviewed.
- Credit risk scores were within the benchmark A- credit ratings.
- Babergh's overall debt reduced by £7.3m, mainly due to repaying short-term local authority loans.
- Mid Suffolk's overall debt increased by £8.5m, due to taking out more medium-term and short-term local authority loans.
- These changes reflect the ongoing impact of the ongoing economic pressures, the aftermath of Covid19 and the on general income and expenditure activity. COVID grants and S.31 Business Rates grants are held in reserves pending their use to offset continuing expenditure and income losses and expenditure on capital projects continues to be delayed due to shortages of supplies and labour.

4.8 Money market funds, short-term deposits and call accounts are used to make short term investments on a daily basis.

4.9 Appendix A sets out the issues that are impacting on current and future treasury management activity.

5. LINKS TO JOINT CORPORATE PLAN

5.1 Ensuring that the Councils have the resources available underpins the ability to achieve the priorities set out in the Joint Corporate Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 As outlined in this report and appendices.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The legal status of the Treasury Management Code derives in England from regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 (the 2003 Act).

7.2 Local authorities are required by regulation to have regard to the Prudential Code when carrying out their duties under Part 1 of the 2003 Act.

7.3 The latest statutory guidance on local government investments was issued under section 15(1)(a) of the 2003 Act and effective for financial years commencing on or after 1 April 2018. Under that section local authorities "shall have regard to such guidance as the Secretary of State may issue".

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 This report is most closely linked with the Councils' Significant Risk Register, Risk no.13. "We may be unable to respond in a timely and effective way to financial demands".

8.2 The key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
If the Councils lose the investments this will impact on their ability to deliver services.	Highly Unlikely (1)	Bad (3)	Strict lending criteria for high credit rated institutions.
If the Councils achieve a poorer return on investments than planned, there will be fewer resources available to deliver services.	Probable (3)	Noticeable (2)	Focus is on security and liquidity, and careful cash flow management in accordance with the TM Strategy is undertaken throughout the year.
If the Councils have liquidity problems, then they will be unable to meet their short-term liabilities.	Unlikely (2)	Noticeable (2)	As above.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 Regular meetings have taken place with the Councils' treasury advisors, Arlingclose, who also provide important updates on treasury management issues as they arise.

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

10.1 An equality analysis has not been completed because the report content does not have any impact on the protected characteristics.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 All Council activities will need to be reviewed as part of the work of the Climate Change Task Group and have regard to the Councils' ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030.

11.2 Both Councils have joined Arlingclose's ESG and Responsible Investment Service. This will provide advice for ESG integration in the Councils' investment portfolios.

11.3 Following a report (Report JAC/20/21) on 17 May 2021 it was resolved by this Committee to recommend that the Cabinet pushes its fund managers to filter investments in respect of the ESG considerations, looking for positive contributions to tackling our carbon reduction priorities and that the Cabinet considers withdrawing funds from investors who do not adequately address these concerns.

11.4 The Joint Audit and Standards Committee recognised that any decision to withdraw funds should be balanced against financial prudence.

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(a) Background, Economy and Outlook	Appendix A
(b) Borrowing Strategy	Appendix B
(c) Investment Activity	Appendix C
(d) Treasury Management indicators	Appendix D
(e) Glossary of Terms	Appendix E

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

13.1 CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management ("the Code").

13.2 Joint Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 (Paper IRJAC/21/15).

13.3 Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Considerations for the Councils' Joint Treasury Management Strategy (JAC/20/21 and Minute no.37)

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Background, Economy and Outlook

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In February 2012 both Councils adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Councils to approve treasury management half year and annual reports.
- 1.2 The Joint Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 was approved at both full Councils in February 2022. Both Councils have borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and are therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk are therefore central to the Councils' Treasury Management Strategy.
- 1.3 CIPFA published its revised Treasury Management Code of Practice (the TM Code) and Prudential Code for Capital Finance in December 2021. The key changes in the two codes are around permitted reasons to borrow, knowledge and skills, and the management of non-treasury investments. The principles within the two Codes took immediate effect although local authorities could defer introducing the revised reporting requirements within the revised Codes until the 2023/24 financial year if they wish, which both Councils elected to do.)
- 1.4 The Prudential Code includes a requirement for local authorities to provide a Capital Strategy, a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The Councils' Capital Strategy, for the financial year 2022/23, complying with CIPFA's Code requirement, was approved by both full Councils in February 2022.
- 1.5 The Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments (MHCLG, 2018) requires local authorities to produce an investment strategy, covering investments that are not part of treasury management activity. The Councils' Investment Strategy, for the financial year 2022/23, was also approved by both full Councils in February 2022.

2. External Context

2.1 Economic background:

- 2.1.1 The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has continued to put pressure on global inflation and the economic outlook for UK and world growth remains weak. The UK political situation towards the end of the period following the 'fiscal event' increased uncertainty further.
- 2.1.2 The economic backdrop during the April to September period continued to be characterised by high oil, gas and commodity prices, ongoing high inflation and its impact on consumers' cost of living, no imminent end in sight to the Russia-Ukraine hostilities and its associated impact on the supply chain, and China's zero-Covid policy.

Appendix A cont'd

- 2.1.3 Central Bank rhetoric and action remained robust. The Bank of England, Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank all pushed up interest rates over the period and committed to fighting inflation, even when the consequences were in all likelihood recessions in those regions.
- 2.1.4 UK inflation remained extremely high. Annual headline CPI hit 10.1% in July, the highest rate for 40 years, before falling modestly to 9.9% in August. RPI registered 12.3% in both July and August. The energy regulator, Ofgem, increased the energy price cap by 54% in April, while a further increase in the cap from October, which would have seen households with average energy consumption pay over £3,500 per annum, was dampened by the UK government stepping in to provide around £150 billion of support to limit bills to £2,500 annually until 2024.
- 2.1.5 The latest labour market remained tight through the period but there was some evidence of easing demand and falling supply. The unemployment rate 3m/year for April fell to 3.8% and declined further to 3.6% in July. Although now back below pre-pandemic levels, the recent decline was driven by an increase in inactivity rather than demand for labour. Pay growth in July was 5.5% for total pay (including bonuses) and 5.2% for regular pay. Once adjusted for inflation, however, growth in total pay was -2.6% and -2.8% for regular pay.
- 2.1.6 With disposable income squeezed and higher energy bills still to come, consumer confidence fell to a record low in August. Quarterly GDP fell -0.1% in the April-June quarter driven by a decline in services output, but slightly better than the 0.3% fall expected by the Bank of England.
- 2.1.7 The Bank of England increased the official Bank Rate to 2.25% over the period. From 0.75% in March, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) pushed through rises of 0.25% in each of the following two MPC meetings, before hiking by 0.50% in August and again in September. August's rise was voted by a majority of 8-1, with one MPC member preferring a more modest rise of 0.25%. The September vote was 5-4, with five votes for an 0.5% increase, three for an 0.75% increase and one for an 0.25% increase. The Committee noted that domestic inflationary pressures are expected to remain strong and so given ongoing strong rhetoric around tackling inflation further Bank Rate rises should be expected.
- 2.1.8 On 23rd September the UK government, following a change of leadership, announced a raft of measures in a 'mini budget', loosening fiscal policy with a view to boosting the UK's trend growth rate to 2.5%. With little detail on how government borrowing would be returned to a sustainable path, financial markets reacted negatively. Gilt yields rose dramatically by between 0.7% - 1% for all maturities with the rise most pronounced for shorter dated gilts. The swift rise in gilt yields left pension funds vulnerable, as it led to margin calls on their interest rate swaps and risked triggering large scale redemptions of assets across their portfolios to meet these demands. It became necessary for the Bank of England to intervene to preserve market stability through the purchase of long-dated gilts, albeit as a temporary measure, which has had the desired effect with 50-year gilt yields falling over 100bps in a single day.

Appendix A cont'd

2.1.9 Bank of England policymakers noted that any resulting inflationary impact of increased demand would be met with monetary tightening, raising the prospect of much higher Bank Rate and consequential negative impacts on the housing market.

2.1.10 After hitting 9.1% in June, annual US inflation eased in July and August to 8.5% and 8.3% respectively. The Federal Reserve continued its fight against inflation over the period with a 0.5% hike in May followed by three increases of 0.75% in June, July and September, taking policy rates to a range of 3% - 3.25%.

2.1.11 Eurozone CPI inflation reached 9.1% y/y in August, with energy prices the main contributor but also strong upward pressure from food prices. Inflation has increased steadily since April from 7.4%. In July the European Central Bank increased interest rates for the first time since 2011, pushing its deposit rate from -0.5% to 0% and its main refinancing rate from 0.0% to 0.5%. This was followed in September by further hikes of 0.75% to both policy rates, taking the deposit rate to 0.75% and refinancing rate to 1.25%.

2.2 Financial markets:

2.2.1 Uncertainty remained in control of financial market sentiment and bond yields remained volatile, continuing their general upward trend as concern over higher inflation and higher interest rates continued to dominate. Towards the end of September, volatility in financial markets was significantly exacerbated by the UK government's fiscal plans, leading to an acceleration in the rate of the rise in gilt yields and decline in the value of sterling.

2.2.2 Due to pressure on pension funds, the Bank of England announced a direct intervention in the gilt market to increase liquidity and reduce yields.

2.2.3 Over the period the 5-year UK benchmark gilt yield rose from 1.41% to 4.40%, the 10-year gilt yield rose from 1.61% to 4.15%, the 20-year yield from 1.82% to 4.13% and the 50-year yield from 1.56% to 3.25%. The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 1.22% over the period.

2.3 Credit background:

2.3.1 In July Fitch revised the outlook on Standard Chartered from negative to stable as it expected profitability to improve thanks to the higher interest rate environment. Fitch also revised the outlook for Bank of Nova Scotia from negative to stable due to its robust business profile.

2.3.2 Also in July, Moody's revised the outlook on Bayerische Landesbank to positive and then in September S&P revised the GLA outlook to stable from negative as it expects the authority to remain resilient despite pressures from a weaker macroeconomic outlook coupled with higher inflation and interest rates.

- 2.3.3 Having completed its full review of its credit advice on unsecured deposits at UK and non-UK banks, in May Arlingclose extended the maximum duration limit for five UK banks, four Canadian banks and four German banks to six months. The maximum duration for unsecured deposits with other UK and non-UK banks on the Arlingclose recommended list is 100 days. These recommendations were unchanged at the end of the period.
- 2.3.4 Arlingclose continued to monitor and assess credit default swap levels for signs of credit stress but made no changes to the counterparty list or recommended durations. Nevertheless, increased market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and, as ever, the institutions and durations on the Councils' counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remains under constant review.

3 Outlook for the remainder of 2022/23: (based on data of 7th November)

- 3.1 The MPC remains concerned about inflation but sees the path for Bank Rate to be below that priced into markets.
- 3.2 Following the exceptional 75bp rise in November, the Councils' treasury advisor, Arlingclose, believes the MPC will slow the rate of increase at the next few meetings. Arlingclose now expects Bank Rate to peak at 4.25%, with a further 50bp rise in December and smaller rises in 2023.
- 3.3 The UK economy likely entered recession in Q3, which will continue for some time. Once inflation has fallen from the peak, the MPC will cut Bank Rate.
- 3.4 Arlingclose expects gilt yields to remain broadly steady despite the MPC's attempt to push down on interest rate expectations. Without a weakening in the inflation outlook, investors will price in higher inflation expectations given signs of a softer monetary policy stance.
- 3.5 Gilt yields face pressures to both sides from hawkish US/European Zone central bank policy on one hand to the weak global economic outlook on the other. Bank of England bond sales will maintain yields at a higher level than would otherwise be the case.
- 3.6 **Background:**
- 3.7 UK interest rate expectations have eased following the explosive mini budget, with a growing expectation that UK fiscal policy will now be tightened to restore investor confidence, adding to the pressure on household finances. The peak for UK interest rates will therefore be lower, although the path for interest rates and gilt yields remains highly uncertain.
- 3.8 Globally, economic growth is slowing as inflation and tighter monetary policy depress activity. Inflation, however, continues to run hot, raising expectations that policymakers, particularly in the US, will err on the side of caution, continue to increase rates and tighten economies into recession.

Appendix A cont'd

- 3.9 The new Chancellor dismantled the mini-budget, calming bond markets and broadly removing the premium evident since the first Tory leadership election. Support for retail energy bills will be less generous, causing a lower but more prolonged peak in inflation. This will have ramifications for both growth and inflation expectations.
- 3.10 The UK economy is already experiencing recessionary conditions, with business activity and household spending falling. Tighter monetary and fiscal policy, alongside high inflation will bear down on household disposable income. The short- to medium term outlook for the UK economy is bleak, with the Bank of England projecting a protracted recession.
- 3.11 Demand for labour remains strong, although there are some signs of easing. The decline in the active workforce has fed through into higher wage growth, which could prolong higher inflation. The development of the UK labour market will be a key influence on MPC decisions. It is difficult to see labour market strength remaining given the current economic outlook.
- 3.12 Global bond yields have steadied somewhat as attention turns towards a possible turning point in US monetary policy. Stubborn US inflation and strong labour markets mean that the Federal Reserve remains hawkish, creating inflationary risks for other central banks breaking ranks.
- 3.13 However, in a departure from Federal Reserve and European Central Bank policy, in November the Bank of England attempted to explicitly talk down interest rate expectations, underlining the damage current market expectations will do to the UK economy, and the probable resulting inflation undershoot in the medium term. This did not stop the Governor affirming that there will be further rises in Bank Rate.
- 3.14 There has been a material tightening in financial conditions, including the elevated path of market interest rates. In addition, high energy prices continue to weigh on spending, despite an assumption of some fiscal support for household energy bills beyond the current six-month period of the Energy Price Guarantee. As a result, the UK economy is expected to remain in recession throughout 2023 and the first half of 2024, and GDP is expected to recover only gradually thereafter.
- 3.15 Although there is judged to be a greater margin of excess demand currently, continued weakness in spending leads to an increasing degree of economic slack emerging from the first half of 2023, including a rising unemployment rate.
- 3.16 Despite a decline in global price pressures and a significant fall in the contribution of household energy prices to CPI inflation, domestic inflationary pressures remain strong over the next year. But an increasing degree of economic slack depresses domestic pressures further out. Conditioned on the elevated path of market interest rates, CPI inflation declines to below the 2% target in the medium term, although the Committee judges that the risks to the inflation projections are skewed to the upside.

3.17 Arlingclose – Forecast rates (based on data of 7th November)

	Current	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.25	1.50	1.75	1.50	1.25	1.25
Arlingclose Central Case	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Downside risk	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

4 **Local Context**

4.1 On 31 March 2022, Babergh had a net borrowing requirement of £132m and Mid Suffolk had a net borrowing requirement of £112m arising from revenue and capital income and expenditure.

4.2 The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors are summarised in Table 1 that follows.

4.3 **Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary**

Balance Sheet Summary	31.03.22 Babergh £m	31.03.22 Mid Suffolk £m
General Fund CFR	71.555	101.275
HRA CFR	94.031	94.241
Total CFR	165.586	195.516
(Less): Usable reserves	(49.460)	(67.070)
(Less) / Add: Working capital	15.424	(16.869)
Net borrowing requirement	131.550	111.577

4.4 Higher official interest rates have increased the cost of short-term, temporary loans and investment returns from cash assets that can be used in lieu of borrowing. The current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and keep interest costs low.

4.5 The treasury management position on 30 September 2022 and the change during the half year is shown in Table 2 that follows.

4.6 Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

Babergh	31.03.22 Balance £m	Movement £m	30.09.22 Balance £m	30.09.22 Rate %
Long-term borrowing	94.396	(0.275)	94.121	3.20%
Short-term borrowing	26.000	(7.000)	19.000	1.07%
Total borrowing	120.396	(7.275)	113.121	
Long-term investments	11.105	0.000	11.105	4.56%
Short-term investments	8.000	(6.000)	2.000	0.98%
Cash and Cash equivalents	1.714	0.119	1.833	1.03%
Total Investments	20.819	(5.881)	14.938	
Net borrowing	99.577		98.183	

Mid Suffolk	31.03.22 Balance £m	Movement £m	30.09.22 Balance £m	30.09.22 Rate %
Medium / Long-term borrowing	97.335	6.949	104.285	2.68%
Short-term borrowing	29.000	1.500	30.500	1.04%
Total borrowing	126.335	8.449	134.785	
Long-term investments	11.101	0.000	11.101	4.58%
Short-term investments	8.000	(8.000)	0.000	0.93%
Cash and Cash equivalents	2.317	(0.984)	1.333	1.00%
Total Investments	21.418	(8.984)	12.434	
Net borrowing	104.917		122.350	

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1 Borrowing Strategy

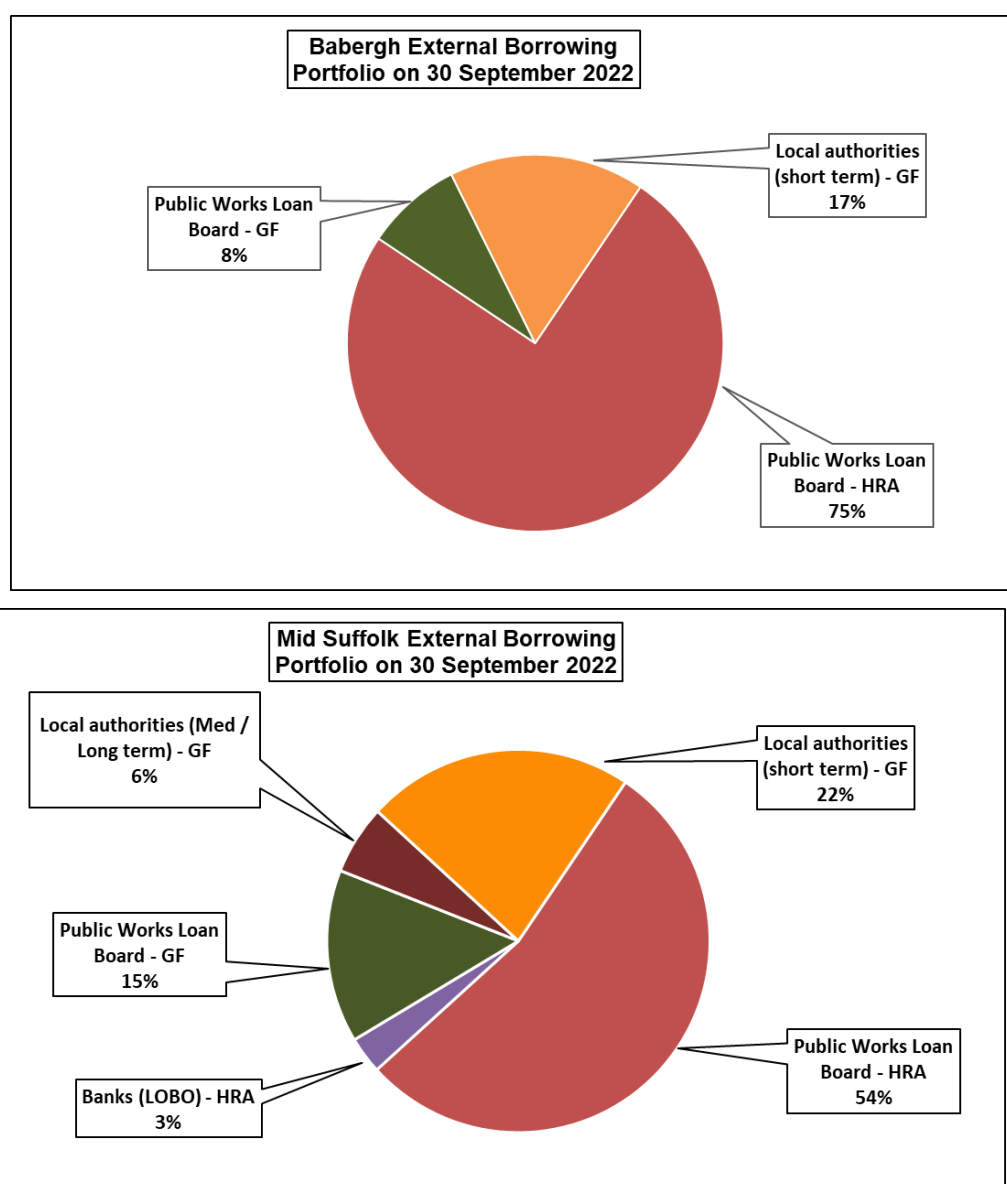
- 1.1 On 30 September 2022 Babergh held £113.1m of loans, a decrease of £7.28m and Mid Suffolk held £128.3m of loans, a decrease of £7m since 31 March 2022.
- 1.2 Babergh has reduced net overall borrowing by making repayments on long term Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans and by repaying short-term local authority loans.
- 1.3 Mid Suffolk has reduced net overall borrowing by making repayments on long term PWLB loans and repaying both medium-term and short-term loans with other local authorities.
- 1.4 The borrowing position on 30 September 2022 is shown in Table 3 that follows.

1.5 Table 3: Borrowing Position

Babergh	31.03.22 Balance	Movement	30.09.22 Balance	30.09.22 Weighted Average Rate
	£m	£m	£m	%
Public Works Loan Board - HRA	84.747	0.000	84.747	3.30%
Public Works Loan Board - GF	9.649	(0.275)	9.374	2.30%
Local authorities (short term) - GF	26.000	(7.000)	19.000	1.07%
Total borrowing	120.396	(7.275)	113.121	

Mid Suffolk	31.03.22 Balance	Movement	30.09.22 Balance	30.09.22 Weighted Average Rate
	£m	£m	£m	%
Public Works Loan Board - HRA	69.037	0.000	69.037	3.30%
Banks (LOBO) - HRA	4.000	0.000	4.000	4.21%
Public Works Loan Board - GF	19.298	(0.551)	18.747	2.30%
Local authorities (Med / Long term) - GF	12.500	(5.000)	7.500	0.53%
Local authorities (short term) - GF	30.500	(1.500)	29.000	1.04%
Total borrowing	135.335	(7.051)	128.285	

1.6 Table 3 - Charts - The Councils' Borrowing Portfolios on 30 September 2022:



1.7 The Councils' chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with the secondary objective of having flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Councils' long-term plans change. The Councils' borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.

1.8 Over the April-September period short term PWLB rates rose dramatically, particularly in late September after the Chancellor's 'mini-budget' prompted a fall in sterling and rise in market interest rate expectations. Interest rates rose by over 2% during the period in both the long and short term. As an indication the 5-year maturity certainty rate rose from 2.30% on 1st April to 5.09% on 30th September; over the same period the 30-year maturity certainty rate rose from 2.63% to 4.68%.

Appendix B cont'd

- 1.9 Although interest rates across the board have risen, short-term borrowing from other local authorities remains at lower interest rates than long term borrowing.
- 1.10 With short-term interest rates remaining much lower, the Councils considered it more cost effective in the near term to use internal resources or short to medium-term loans instead.
- 1.11 The Councils borrowing decisions are not predicated on any one outcome for interest rates and a balanced portfolio of short- and long-term borrowing was maintained.

There remains a strong argument for diversifying funding sources, particularly if rates can be achieved on alternatives which are below gilt yields + 0.80%. The Councils will evaluate and pursue these lower cost solutions and opportunities with its treasury advisor Arlingclose.

- 1.12 The Treasury Management Strategy shows that both Councils have increasing CFRs and estimated net borrowing requirements which are for capital expenditure on schemes including the HRA new build programme, the former HQ sites, Gateway 14 Ltd, and vehicle renewals.
- 1.13 Both Councils repaid medium-term and short-term borrowing in the period.
- 1.14 LOBO loans: Mid Suffolk continues to hold £4m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. No banks exercised their option during the first half of 2022/23.

2 Borrowing Update

- 2.1 CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code is clear that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the capital financing requirement, and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Councils.
- 2.2 PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield. The Councils are not planning to purchase any investment assets primarily for yield within the next three years and so are able to fully access the PWLB.
- 2.3 Acceptable use of PWLB borrowing includes service delivery, housing, regeneration, preventative action, refinancing and treasury management.

- 2.4 Competitive market alternatives may be available for authorities with or without access to the PWLB. However, the financial strength of the individual authority and borrowing purpose will be scrutinised by commercial lenders.

Revised PWLB Guidance

- 2.5 HM Treasury published further guidance on PWLB borrowing in August 2021 providing additional detail and clarifications predominantly around the definition of an 'investment asset primarily for yield'. The principal aspects of the new guidance are:

- Capital expenditure incurred or committed to before 26 November 2020 is allowable even for an 'investment asset primarily for yield'.
- Capital plans should be submitted by local authorities via a DELTA return. These open for the new financial year on 1 March and remain open all year. Returns must be updated if there is a change of more than 10%.
- An asset held primarily to generate yield that serves no direct policy purpose should not be categorised as service delivery.
- Further detail on how local authorities purchasing investment assets primarily for yield can access the PWLB for the purposes of refinancing existing loans or externalising internal borrowing.
- Additional detail on the sanctions which can be imposed for inappropriate use of the PWLB loan. These can include a request to cancel projects, restrictions to accessing the PLWB and requests for information on further plans.

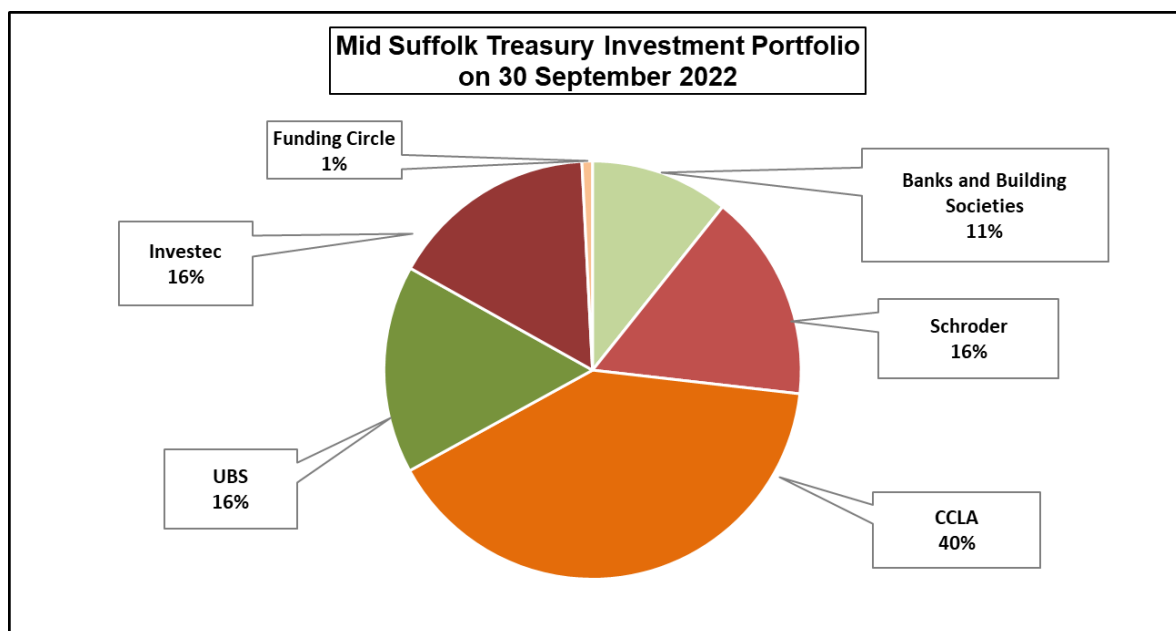
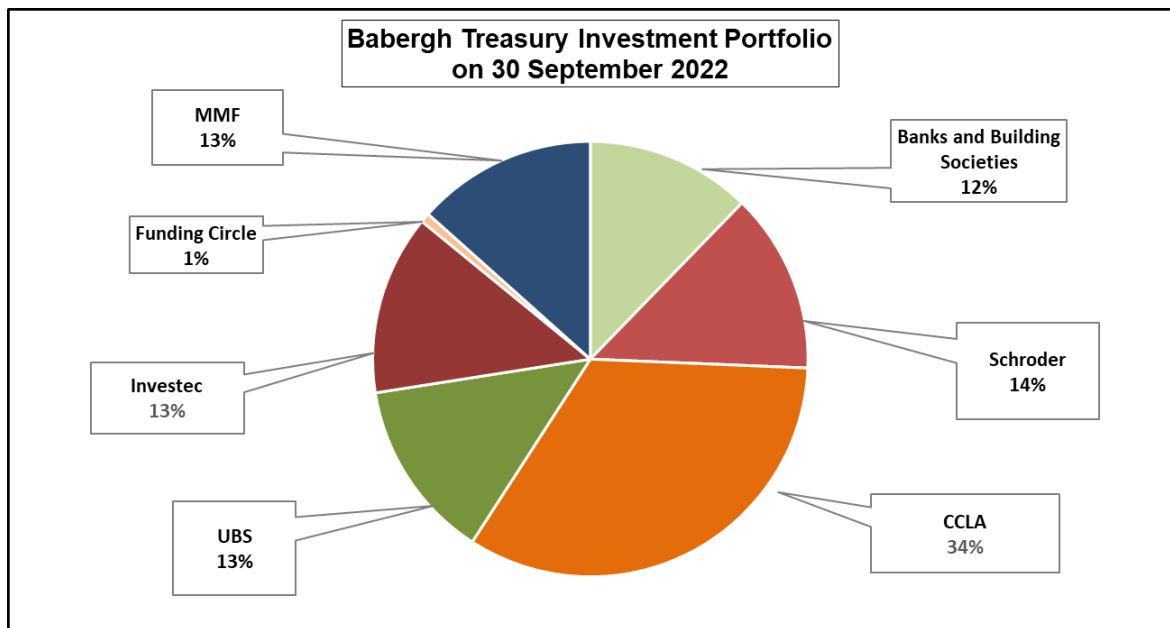
1 Treasury Investment Activity

- 1.1 CIPFA revised TM Code defines treasury management investments as those which arise from the Council's cash flows or treasury risk management activity that ultimately represents balances which need to be invested until the cash is required for use in the course of business.
- 1.2 Babergh and Mid Suffolk hold invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During the first half of 2021/22, Babergh's investment balances ranged between £14.3m and £26.1m. Mid Suffolk's investment balances ranged between £12.4m and £27.2m. These movements are due to timing differences between income and expenditure.
- 1.3 The investment position and weighted average rates during the first six months of the year is shown in Table 4 that follows.
- 1.4 **Table 4: Treasury Investment Position**

Babergh	31.03.22	Movement	30.09.22	30.09.22
	Balance		Balance	Weighted Average Rate
	£m	£m	£m	%
Banks and Building Societies	1.714	0.119	1.833	1.03%
Money Market Funds	8.000	(6.000)	2.000	0.98%
Other Pooled Funds	11.105	0.000	11.105	4.56%
Total Investments	20.819	(5.881)	14.938	

Mid Suffolk	31.03.22	Movement	30.09.22	30.09.22
	Balance		Balance	Weighted Average Rate
	£m	£m	£m	%
Banks and Building Societies	2.317	(0.984)	1.333	1.00%
Money Market Funds	6.000	(6.000)	0.000	0.99%
Other Pooled Funds	11.101	0.000	11.101	4.58%
DMADF	2.000	(2.000)	0.000	0.88%
Total Investments	21.418	(8.984)	12.434	

1.5 The Councils' Investment Portfolios on 30 September 2022:



1.6 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance requires the Councils to invest their funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of their treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Councils' objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

Appendix C cont'd

- 1.7 The increases in Bank Rate over the period under review, and with the prospect of more increases to come, short-dated cash rates, which had ranged between 0.7% - 1.5% at the end of March, rose by around 1.5% for overnight to 7-day maturities and by nearly 3.5% for 9 to 12 month maturities.
- 1.8 By the end of September, the rates on DMADF deposits ranged between 1.85% and 3.5%. The return on the Councils' sterling low volatility net asset value (LVNAV) Money Market Funds ranged between 0.46% - 0.54% p.a. at the beginning of April and between 1.62% and 1.8% at the end of September.
- 1.9 Neither Council made further investments in strategic pooled funds (e.g. pooled property, multi asset and equity funds) during the period.
- 1.10 The average rate of return is significantly higher than the comparable average returns of Arlingclose's other clients, as shown in Table 5 that follows. The progression of risk and return metrics are shown in the extracts from Arlingclose's quarterly investment benchmarking.
- 1.11 **Table 5: Investment Benchmarking – Treasury investments managed in-house**

Babergh	Credit Score	Credit Rating	Bail-in Exposure	Weighted Average Maturity (days)	Rate of Return
31.03.2022	5.04	A+	99%	1	2.44%
30.06.2022	5.15	A+	99%	1	3.19%
30.09.2022	5.20	A+	98%	1	3.87%
Mid Suffolk	Credit Score	Credit Rating	Bail-in Exposure	Weighted Average Maturity (days)	Rate of Return
31.03.2022	4.38	AA-	80%	2	2.57%
30.06.2022	3.99	AA-	62%	3	2.50%
30.09.2022	5.35	A+	96%	1	4.18%

Arlingclose Benchmarks for 30.09.22	Credit Score	Credit Rating	Bail-in Exposure	Weighted Average Maturity (days)	Rate of Return
Similar LAs	4.34	AA-	57%	42	2.23%
All LAs	4.29	AA-	55%	18	2.06%

Appendix C cont'd

- 1.12 Bail-in involves the shareholders and creditors of a failing financial institution meeting the costs, instead of the government. Babergh and Mid Suffolk have a higher proportion of investments in strategic pooled funds compared to total investments, so their bail-in exposure is proportionately higher than the local authorities in Arlingclose's benchmarking group. Babergh and Mid Suffolk have chosen to adopt a strategy of generating higher returns by investing funds available in banks and strategic pooled funds.
- 1.13 Each Council has £11.1m of externally managed strategic pooled equity, property and multi assets funds where short-term security and liquidity are lesser considerations, and the primary objectives instead are regular revenue income and long-term price stability. Since the date of the initial investments, these have generated a total income return, used to support service provision, of £3.17m for Babergh and £3.03m for Mid Suffolk. Both Councils have achieved an average rate of return for the period of 4.6%.
- 1.14 These pooled funds have no defined maturity date but are available for withdrawal after a notice period. Their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Councils' investment objectives are regularly reviewed. Strategic fund investments are made in the knowledge that capital values will move both up and down on months, quarters and even years, but with the confidence that over a three to five-year period total returns will exceed cash interest rates. Investment in these funds has been maintained during the first six months of the year.
- 1.15 Since 2018/19, the International Financial Reporting Standards for pooled funds states that changes in valuations must be taken through the general fund. A statutory override was granted until 2022/23 so these changes will have no impact on the "bottom line" until 2023/24.
- 1.16 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) undertook a consultation on the status of the statutory override, between August and October this year. Under the override, fair value movements in the value of pooled funds are recorded by local authorities in an unusable reserve rather than in the general fund. Their decision is yet to be announced.
- 1.17 It is intended to set aside any increases in valuation to a reserve to mitigate future potential losses. These pooled funds are long term investments and the Councils would not sell the units whilst their value was less than the original investment.

2 Long Term investments – Pooled Fund Performance

- 2.1 The April-September period was a very difficult environment for bonds engendered by global central banks' determination to bring high and persistent inflation under control through increases in policy rates and strong rhetoric. The sell-off in gilts, other sovereign bonds and corporate bonds with a rise in gilt/bond yields (i.e. a fall in price) was reflected in the Councils bond and multi-asset income funds.

Appendix C cont'd

- 2.2 The increase in policy rates in the UK, US and Eurozone and the prospect of low to no growth and a recessionary period ahead was also a challenging period for equities, the FTSE All Share index falling from 4187 on 31st March to 3763 on 30th September, whilst the MSCI World Index fell from 3053 to 2378 over the same period. The fall in equity valuations is reflected in the equity and multi-asset income funds.
- 2.3 Significant financial market volatility and uncertainty remain due to stagflation fears, little sight of the war in Ukraine ending soon and ongoing supply chain issues, a lingering problem over the past 30 months, yet to be fully resolved.
- 2.4 The capital value of the property fund is above that on 31 March. Market values of all the pooled funds on 31 March and 30 September 2022 are as shown in Table 6 that follows.
- 2.5 The Councils' objective is to retain these investments in pooled funds to generate an income return. These are long-term investments and would only be redeemed when capital growth had been achieved. Table 6 that follows is a summary of performance by fund from initial investment date until the most recent return valuation available and details of interest received.

2.6 **Table 6: Pooled Fund Performance**

- 2.6.1 Both Councils invested £5m each into the CCLA Local Authority Property Fund. Babergh purchased 1.657m units on 31 August 2015 and Mid Suffolk 1.632m units on 29 October 2015. The valuations are based on the number of units owned.

2.6.2 **Table 6.1 CCLA Performance**

CCLA	Babergh				
	31.03.21 Balance £m	2020/21 Movement £m	31.03.22 Balance £m	6 months Movement £m	30.09.22 Balance £m
Amount invested	5.000		5.000		5.000
Investment Valuation	4.791	0.840	5.631	0.043	5.674
Cumulative Net Interest received from date of initial investment	1.224	0.189	1.413	0.093	1.506
Annual Performance					
Net Interest received in year	0.209		0.189		0.093
Average Rate of Return for year	4.19%		3.78%		3.73%

CCLA	Mid Suffolk				
	31.03.21 Balance £m	2020/21 Movement £m	31.03.22 Balance £m	6 months Movement £m	30.09.22 Balance £m
Amount invested	5.000		5.000		5.000
Investment Valuation	4.717	0.827	5.544	0.043	5.587
Cumulative Net Interest received from date of initial investment	1.171	0.186	1.357	0.092	1.449
Annual Performance					
Net Interest received in year	0.206		0.186		0.092
Average Rate of Return for year	4.12%		3.72%		3.67%

Appendix C cont'd

2.6.3 Both Councils invested £2m each into the Schroder Income Maximiser Fund on 10 February 2017.

2.6.4 Table 6.2 Schroder Performance

Schroder Maximiser Fund	Babergh				
	31.03.21 Balance £m	2020/21 Movement £m	31.03.22 Balance £m	6 months Movement £m	30.09.22 Balance £m
Amount invested	2.000		2.000		2.000
Investment Valuation	1.540	0.167	1.707	(0.307)	1.400
Cumulative Net Interest received from date of initial investment	0.558	0.108	0.666	0.065	0.731
Annual Performance					
Net Interest received in year	0.103		0.108		0.065
Average Rate of Return for year	5.16%		5.40%		6.44%

Schroder Maximiser Fund	Mid Suffolk				
	31.03.21 Balance £m	2020/21 Movement £m	31.03.22 Balance £m	6 months Movement £m	30.09.22 Balance £m
Amount invested	2.000		2.000		2.000
Investment Valuation	1.540	0.167	1.707	(0.307)	1.400
Cumulative Net Interest received from date of initial investment	0.558	0.108	0.666	0.065	0.731
Annual Performance					
Net Interest received in year	0.103		0.108		0.065
Average Rate of Return for year	5.16%		5.40%		6.44%

2.6.5 Babergh invested £2m in the UBS Multi Asset Income Fund on 26 November 2015, whilst Mid Suffolk invested £2m on 28 March 2017.

2.6.6 Table 6.3 UBS Performance

UBS	Babergh				
	31.03.21 Balance £m	2020/21 Movement £m	31.03.22 Balance £m	6 months Movement £m	30.09.22 Balance £m
Amount invested	2.000		2.000		2.000
Investment Valuation	1.831	(0.095)	1.736	(0.287)	1.449
Cumulative Net Interest received from date of initial investment	0.452	0.080	0.533	0.051	0.583
Annual Performance					
Net Interest received in year	0.103		0.080		0.051
Average Rate of Return for year	5.16%		4.01%		5.06%

Appendix C cont'd

UBS	Mid Suffolk				
	31.03.21 Balance £m	2020/21 Movement £m	31.03.22 Balance £m	6 months Movement £m	30.09.22 Balance £m
Amount invested	2.000		2.000		2.000
Investment Valuation	1.828	(0.095)	1.733	(0.287)	1.446
Cumulative Net Interest received from date of initial investment	0.361	0.080	0.441	0.051	0.492
Annual Performance					
Net Interest received in year	0.103		0.080		0.051
Average Rate of Return for year	5.16%		4.01%		5.05%

2.6.7 Both Councils invested £2m each in the Investec Ninety-One Diversified Income I Fund on 24 May 2019. This fund aims to provide monthly income with the opportunity for long-term capital growth, investing in equities, fixed income investments (e.g. corporate or government bonds) as well as cash and money market funds.

2.6.8 Table 6.4 Investec Ninety-One Performance

Investec Ninety One Series i Diversified Income Fund	Babergh				
	31.03.21 Balance £m	2020/21 Movement £m	31.03.22 Balance £m	6 months Movement £m	30.09.22 Balance £m
Amount invested	2.000		2.000		2.000
Investment Valuation	1.995	(0.097)	1.898	(0.163)	1.735
Cumulative Net Interest received from date of initial investment	0.137	0.071	0.209	0.038	0.247
Annual Performance					
Net Interest received in year	0.075		0.071		0.038
Average Rate of Return for year	3.75%		3.57%		3.82%

Investec Ninety One Series i Diversified Income Fund	Mid Suffolk				
	31.03.21 Balance £m	2020/21 Movement £m	31.03.22 Balance £m	6 months Movement £m	30.09.22 Balance £m
Amount invested	2.000		2.000		2.000
Investment Valuation	1.995	(0.097)	1.898	(0.163)	1.735
Cumulative Net Interest received from date of initial investment	0.137	0.071	0.209	0.038	0.247
Annual Performance					
Net Interest received in year	0.075		0.071		0.038
Average Rate of Return for year	3.75%		3.57%		3.82%

2.6.9 Both Councils invested in Funding Circle on 1 November 2015 and has varied the amounts invested since.

2.6.10 Table 6.5 Funding Circle Performance

Funding Circle	Babergh				
	31.03.21 Balance £m	2020/21 Movement £m	31.03.22 Balance £m	6 months Movement £m	30.09.22 Balance £m
Amount Invested - National	0.166	(0.061)	0.105	0.000	0.105
Total Amount Invested	0.166	(0.061)	0.105	0.000	0.105
Bad debts to date	(0.046)	0.003	(0.044)	0.001	(0.043)
Accrued Interest	0.005	(0.004)	0.002	(0.001)	0.000
Valuation	0.125	(0.062)	0.063	(0.001)	0.062
Income received	0.119	0.002	0.121	0.000	0.121
Servicing costs	(0.014)	(0.000)	(0.014)	(0.000)	(0.014)
Cumulative Net Interest received from date of initial investment	0.100	0.002	0.107	0.000	0.107
Annual Performance					
Net Interest received in year	0.013		0.002		0.000
Average Rate of Return	3.14%		4.30%		4.40%

Funding Circle	Mid Suffolk				
	31.03.21 Balance £m	2020/21 Movement £m	31.03.22 Balance £m	6 months Movement £m	30.09.22 Balance £m
Amount Invested - National	0.162	(0.061)	0.101	0.000	0.101
Total Amount Invested	0.162	(0.061)	0.101	0.000	0.101
Bad debts to date	(0.050)	0.004	(0.047)	0.000	(0.046)
Accrued Interest	0.005	(0.003)	0.001	(0.001)	0.000
Valuation	0.116	(0.060)	0.056	(0.001)	0.055
Income received	0.119	0.001	0.121	0.000	0.121
Servicing costs	(0.014)	0.000	(0.014)	(0.000)	(0.014)
Cumulative Net Interest received from date of initial investment	0.106	0.001	0.107	(0.000)	0.107
Annual Performance					
Net Interest received in year	0.005		0.001		(0.000)
Average Rate of Return	2.98%		4.20%		4.20%

3 Non-Treasury Holdings and Other Investment Activity

- 3.1 The definition of investments in CIPFA's revised 2021 Treasury Management Code covers all the financial assets of the Councils as well as other non-financial assets which the Councils hold primarily for financial return.
- 3.2 Investments that do not meet the definition of treasury management investments (i.e., management of surplus cash) are categorised as either for service purposes (made explicitly to further service objectives) and or for commercial purposes (made primarily for financial return).

Appendix C cont'd

- 3.3 Investment Guidance issued by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) also includes within the definition of investments all such assets held partially or wholly for financial return.

Investment Property

- 3.4 On 5 August 2016 Babergh purchased Borehamgate Shopping centre in Sudbury for £3.56m. This has been classified as an investment property and on 31 March 2022, it was assessed at Fair Value of £2.67m.

Trading Companies

- 3.5 Babergh holds £5m of equity in Babergh Holdings Ltd and Mid Suffolk holds the same in Mid Suffolk Holdings Ltd.
- 3.6 The Capital Investment Fund Company (CIFCO Ltd) is a jointly owned subsidiary of both Babergh Holdings Ltd and Mid Suffolk Holdings Ltd (50% each) and both Councils have loans of £44.7m in CIFCO Ltd. These loans have generated £6.97m (gross) of investment income for each Council since the start of trading.
- 3.7 Mid Suffolk also holds £1.622m of equity and £28.8m of loans in another subsidiary of Mid Suffolk Holdings Ltd, Gateway 14 Ltd, which has generated £4.4m of accrued investment income since 13 August 2018.
- 3.8 Mid Suffolk holds £1.26m of loans in another subsidiary of Mid Suffolk Holdings Ltd, Mid Suffolk Growth Ltd.
- 3.9 Further details are shown in Table 7 that follows.

3.10 **Table 7: Trading Companies activity**

Babergh	Trading Companies - Loans				
	31.3.21	2021/22	31.3.22	6 Months	30.9.22
	Balance	Movement	Balance	Movement	Balance
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
CIFCO Ltd					
Interest Receivable	(3.661)	(2.209)	(5.870)	(1.099)	(6.969)
Interest Payable	0.721	0.249	0.970	0.123	1.093
Cumulative Net Interest received from date of investments	(2.940)	(1.960)	(4.900)	(0.976)	(5.876)

Appendix C cont'd

Mid Suffolk	Trading Companies - Loans				
	31.3.21	2021/22	31.3.22	6 Months	30.9.22
	Balance	Movement	Balance	Movement	Balance
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Interest Receivable					
CIFCO Ltd	(3.661)	(2.209)	(5.870)	(1.099)	(6.969)
Gateway 14 Ltd	(2.426)	(1.216)	(3.642)	(0.748)	(4.390)
Mid Suffolk Growth	0.000	(0.022)	(0.022)	0.000	(0.022)
Total Interest Receivable	(6.087)	(3.447)	(9.534)	(1.847)	(11.359)
Interest Payable					
CIFCO Ltd	1.319	0.481	1.800	0.227	2.027
Gateway 14 Ltd	0.540	0.080	0.620	0.024	0.644
Total Interest Payable	1.859	0.561	2.420	0.251	2.671
Net Interest					
CIFCO Ltd	(2.342)	(1.728)	(4.070)	(0.872)	(4.942)
Gateway 14 Ltd	(1.886)	(1.136)	(3.022)	(0.724)	(3.746)
Cumulative Net Interest received from date of investments	(4.228)	(2.864)	(7.092)	(1.596)	(8.688)

4 Compliance Report

- 4.1 The Section 151 Officer can report that all treasury management activities undertaken complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Councils' approved Treasury Management Strategy, except for one occasion, on 21 April 2022, when Mid Suffolk's bank account balance went above the limit by £509k due to an unexpected capital receipt received too late in the day for the additional balance to be invested.

5 Table 8: Debt Limits

- 5.1 Compliance with the authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt is demonstrated in the table that follows.

Borrowing	Actual Maximum	30.09.22 Actual	2022/23 Operational Boundary	2022/23 Authorised Limit	Complied
Babergh	£127m	£121m	£183m	£198m	✓
Mid Suffolk	£145m	£135m	£246m	£261m	✓

- 5.2 Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the operational boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure.
- 5.3 Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in Table 9 that follows.

5.4 **Table 9: Investment Limits**

Babergh	Actual Maximum	30.09.22 Actual	2021/22 Limit	Complied
Lloyds Bank	£1.841m	£1.833m	£2m	✓
Money market funds	45.08%	13.39%	50%	✓
DMADF	Nil	Nil	No limit	✓
CCLA	£5m	£5m	£5m	✓
UBS	£2m	£2m	£5m	✓
Investec	£2m	£2m	£5m	✓
Schroder	£2m	£2m	£5m	✓
Funding Circle	£0.105m	£0.105m	£1m	✓

Mid Suffolk	Actual Maximum	30.09.22 Actual	2021/22 Limit	Complied
Lloyds Bank	£2.509m	£0.833m	£2m	☒
Barclays Bank	£0.500m	£0.500m	£2m	✓
Money market funds	31.71%	0.00%	50%	✓
DMADF	£3m	Nil	No limit	✓
CCLA	£5m	£5m	£5m	✓
UBS	£2m	£2m	£5m	✓
Investec	£2m	£2m	£5m	✓
Schroder	£2m	£2m	£5m	✓
Funding Circle	£0.101m	£0.101m	£1m	✓

5.5 It should be noted that both Council's treasury management activity for the first six months of 2022/23 was in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy, and that, both Councils have complied with all the Treasury Management Indicators for this period.

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1 Treasury Management Indicators

1.1 The Councils measure and manage their exposure to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

1.2 **Security:** The Councils have adopted a voluntary measure of exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit score of their investment portfolios. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Portfolio Average Credit Score	30.09.2022 Actual	2022/23 Target	Complied
Babergh	5.20	7.0	✓
Mid Suffolk	5.35	7.0	✓

1.3 **Liquidity:** The Councils have adopted a voluntary measure of exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount they can borrow each period without giving prior notice.

Total sum borrowed in the past 3 months without prior notice	30.09.22 Actual	2022/23 Target	Complied
Babergh District Council	Nil	£5m	✓
Mid Suffolk District Council	Nil	£5m	✓

1.4 **Interest Rate Exposures:** This indicator is set to control the Councils' exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interest was:

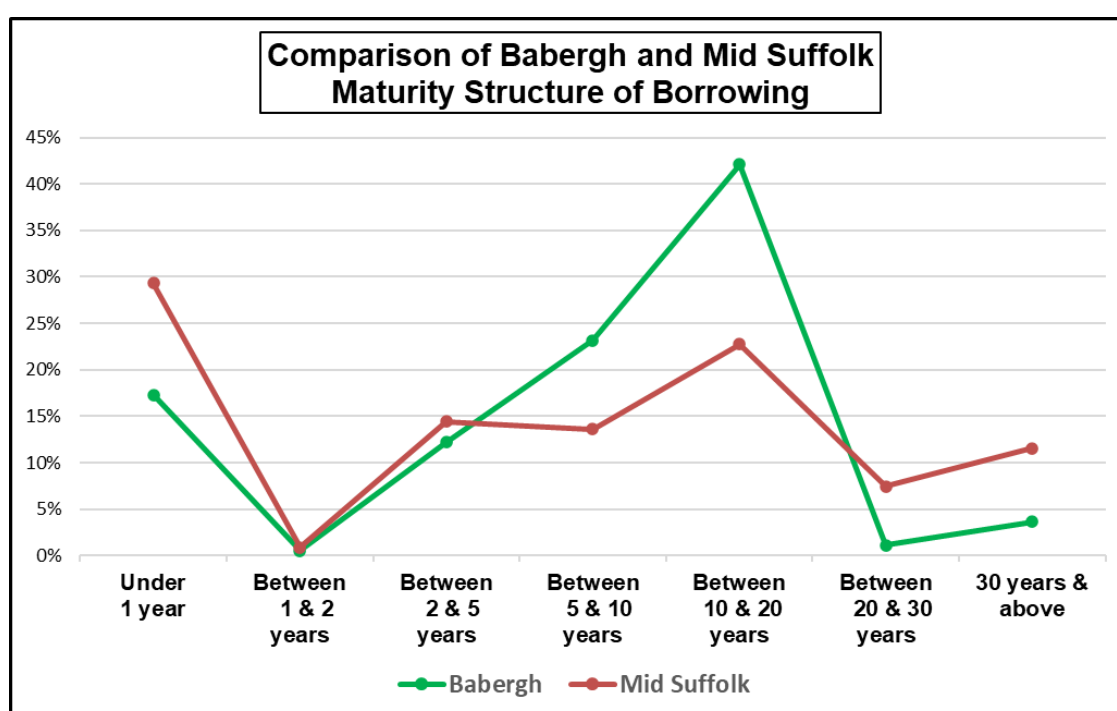
Upper impact on Revenue of a 1% increase in rates	30.09.22 Actual	2022/23 Target	Complied
Babergh District Council	£0.014m	£0.015m	✓
Mid Suffolk District Council	£0.059m	£0.073m	✓

1.5 The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investment will be replaced at current rates.

1.6 **Maturity Structure of Borrowing:** This indicator is set to control the Councils' exposure to refinancing risk. This indicator covers the risk of replacement loans being unavailable, not interest rate risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of all borrowing are shown in the following table:

1.7 Table to show Maturity Structure of Borrowing:

Age Profile of Maturity	Babergh 30.09.22 Actual	Mid Suffolk 30.09.22 Actual	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Complied
Under 1 year	17.29%	29.32%	0%	50%	✓
Between 1 & 2 years	0.50%	0.89%	0%	50%	✓
Between 2 & 5 years	12.17%	14.45%	0%	50%	✓
Between 5 & 10 years	23.17%	13.58%	0%	100%	✓
Between 10 & 20 years	42.11%	22.74%	0%	100%	✓
Between 20 & 30 years	1.13%	7.45%	0%	100%	✓
30 years & above	3.63%	11.56%	0%	100%	✓

1.8 Chart to show the Maturity Structure of Borrowing:

1.9 Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

1.10 **Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than a year:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Councils' exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of their investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end were:

Actual Principal invested beyond year end	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Babergh Actual	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mid Suffolk Actual	Nil	Nil	Nil
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£2m	£2m	£2m
Babergh Complied	✓	✓	✓
Mid Suffolk Complied	✓	✓	✓

Glossary of Terms

BPS	Base Points. A unit of percentage measure equal to 0.01%. Basis points are commonly used when discussing changes to interest rates, equity indices, and fixed-income securities.
CDS	Credit Default Swap. In effect, insurance against non-payment. Through a CDS, the buyer can mitigate the risk of their investment by shifting all or a portion of that risk onto an insurance company or other CDS seller in exchange for a periodic fee. In this way, the buyer of a credit default swap receives credit protection, whereas the seller of the swap guarantees the credit worthiness of the debt security.
CFR	Capital Financing Requirement. The underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure.
CIPFA	The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. This is the leading professional accountancy body for public services.
CPI	Consumer Price Index. This measures changes in the price level of consumer goods and services purchased by households.
CPIH	Consumer Price Index Housing. A measure of consumer price inflation including a measure of owner occupiers' housing costs (OOH).
CCLA	Churches, Charities and Local Authority Property Fund
DLUHC	A Government department – The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (formerly known as the MHCLG)
DMADF	Debt Management Account Deposit Facility.
Funding Circle	Accounts set up to lend money to local and national businesses at competitive rates
GDP	Gross Domestic Product. This is the market value of all officially recognised goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time.
HRA	Housing Revenue Account. The statutory account to which revenue costs are charged for providing, maintaining and managing Council dwellings. These costs are financed by tenants' rents.
Investec Ninety-One	Investec Ninety-One Diversified Income Fund
LIBID	London Interbank Bid Rate. The interest rate at which banks bid to take short-term deposits from other banks in the London interbank market.
LOBO	Lender's Option Borrower's Option. This is a loan where the lender has certain dates when they can increase the interest rate payable and, if they do, the Council has the option of accepting the new rate or repaying the loan.
LVNAV	Low Volatility Net Asset Value. A new type of Low Volatility Net Asset Value Money Market Fund - a new fund category introduced as part of a new regulatory reform of the sector in Europe.

Appendix E cont'd

MHCLG	A Government department – The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
MiFID	The Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (2014/65/EU) (MiFID II). The EU legislation that regulates firms who provide services to clients linked to 'financial instruments' (shares, bonds, units in collective investment schemes and derivatives), and the venues where those instruments are traded.
MPC	Monetary Policy Committee. A committee of the Bank of England which decides the Bank of England's Base Rate and other aspects of the Government's Monetary Policy.
MRP	Minimum Revenue Provision. Local authorities are required to make a prudent provision for debt redemption on General Fund borrowing
NAV	Net Asset Value. The NAV is the value of a fund's assets less the value of its liabilities on a per unit basis.
PWLB	Public Works Loan Board - offers loans to local authorities below market rates.
QE	Quantitative Easing. The purchase of Government bonds by the Bank of England to boost the money supply.
Schroder	Schroder Income Maximiser Fund
SONIA	Sterling Overnight Index Average. The average of the interest rates that banks pay to borrow sterling overnight from other financial institutions and other institutional investors.
T Bills	Treasury Bill. A short-term Government Bond.
UBS	UBS Multi Asset Income Fund (UK) – a pooled fund.

Agenda Item 11

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: COUNCIL	REPORT NUMBER: BC/22/37
FROM: Community Governance Review Working Group	DATE OF MEETING: 23 January 2023
OFFICER: Arthur Charvonia Electoral Registration Officer	KEY DECISION REF NO. N/A

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS 2022

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Council is asked to agree the recommendations of the Community Governance Review Working Group (see Appendix A and B).

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 In March 2022 the Council agreed to conduct a Community Governance Review (CGR) of the Parish and Town Councils the District as well as Parish areas that don't have an elected Parish Council.
- 2.2 The Council delegated the CGR to Community Governance Review Working Group made up of Cllr Zac Norman and Cllr Lee Parker.
- 2.3 The review invited all Parish and Town Councils, Parish Meeting, residents, and other interested parties to make submissions to the review.
- 2.4 Submissions were considered by the Community Governance Review Working Group and published in draft recommendations.
- 2.5 Further submissions in response to the draft recommendations were invite and considered by the Community Governance Review Working.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Council agrees the recommendations contained in Appendix A.
- 3.2 To agree the Future Reviews detailed in Appendix B.

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 A community governance review is a legal process that provides an opportunity for principal councils to review and make changes to community governance within their areas. It involves consulting those living in the area and other interested parties and making sure they have a say in how their local communities are represented.
- 4.2 The Review can consider one or more of the following options:

- 4.2..1 Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes
- 4.2..2 The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes and the creation of town councils
- 4.2..3 The electoral arrangements for parishes (for instance, the ordinary year of election; council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding)
- 4.2..4 Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes
- 4.2..5 Consider other types of local arrangements, including parish meetings
- 4.3 The Review cannot:
 - 4.3..1 Change the number of councillors on Babergh Council
 - 4.3..2 Change the amount of money that a parish council raises through your council tax (known as 'precept')

5. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

- 5.1 The Review is linked to the Communities outcomes in the Corporate Plan as an effective Community Governance Structure enables communities to be “engaged in decision making,”

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs of conducting a CGR must be borne by the District Council however there are limited financial implications associated with this review. The only actual costs of the review are the expenses incurred by undertaking public consultation, i.e., printing and postage. However, officer time will be needed to support the review, estimated at ten full days over the 12-month period. Although the number of hours may increase depending on the outcome of the first consultation. This will be allocated from existing team resources.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Failure to agree the recommendations could result in the Council breaching its statutory duties under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. If, at the conclusion of the review, the Council decides to alter any parish boundary or electoral arrangements a Community Governance Order will need to be made to effect the change. This order will be drafted by the Council's legal team.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 This report is not linked with any of the Council's Corporate/Significant Business Risks.

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
If the Council does not undertake the review it could be in breach of its statutory responsibilities.	1 – Highly Unlikely	2 – Noticeable	Report to Council recommends that the review is agreed.
If the review uses inaccurate or incorrect assumptions or electorate projections the recommendations may not be future-proofed or fit for purpose.	2 – Unlikely	2 – Noticeable	The first stage of the review is a desktop exercise to gather and test relevant data.
If the review does not take into account, the views of local communities they may become disengaged and disappointed with the Council.	2 – Unlikely	2 – Noticeable	The terms of reference sets out the proposals for consultation. The Council must demonstrate how it has considered the views of consultees.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 Formal communication will be sent to all Parish and Town Council, Parish Meetings and Community Groups explaining the review and asking for submissions. The District Council is also required to undertake two rounds of consultation during the review as outlined in the terms of reference.

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

10.1 The CGRWG has considered any equality impacts when formulating its recommendations. A full Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken, and presented to Council, if any of the protected grounds may be affected as a result of the CGRWG's final recommendations.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no Environmental Implications

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
A. Recommendations	Attached
B. Future Reviews	Attached
C. Consultation and Responses	Attached

13. Report Author - Edward McCreadie, Corporate Manager - Electoral Services and Land Charges

Appendix A

Recommendations

Name of Parish/Town Council	Number of Members	Number of Electors	Recommendations
Lawshall Parish Council	7	785	Council is asked to agree the request of the Parish Council for an increase in the number of members from 7 to 9.

Appendix B

1. During the review there were submissions from Sudbury Town Council for boundary changes that would have also affected the District Ward and County Division Boundaries and associated Electoral Arrangements.
2. As these boundaries and electoral arrangements were put in place following reviews carried out the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) and agreed by Parliament, it is beyond the legal power of the Council to make any changes without the agreement of the LGBCE.
3. Due to the timescales of this review, there was not sufficient time to carry out the level of public consultations required by the LGBCE and get the LGBCE to consider making the necessary changes.
4. It is therefore proposed that the Council commit to conducting a further Community Governance Review following the County Council Elections 2025.

Appendix C

Consultation and Responses

1. At the start of the Review, emails were sent to all Town and Parish Councils, Parish Meetings, County Councillors, District Councillors and MPs.
2. Town and Parish Councils were asked to post information about the review on their websites.

There were 15 responses to the first phase of the review, 11 of which asked for no change, the remaining 3 that are not covered in the recommendations are summarised below.

Name of Parish/Town Council	Summary of submissions received	Recommendations/Comments
Sudbury Town Council	Change Town Council Ward Boundary changes and changes in the number of members per ward	See Appendix B
Wherstead	A local resident asked for grouping with another council.	As there was no support from the Parish for this plan it was rejected.
Cockfield	A local resident asked for an increase in the number of councillors	As there was no support from the Parish for this plan it was rejected.

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Agenda Item 12

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Council	REPORT NUMBER: BC/22/38
FROM: Chief Executive	DATE OF MEETING: 23 January 2023
OFFICER: Janice Robinson, Deputy Monitoring Officer	

SPECIAL URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY OFFICERS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report details Special Urgent Decisions taken by Officers for decisions over £150K and are exempt for call-in, in consultation with the Chair of the Council using their delegated powers.
- 1.2 The Officers are required by the Constitution to report these decisions at an ordinary meeting of the Cabinet meeting under Part 2 of the Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council notes the decisions taken under delegated powers by the Chief Executive as detailed in Appendix A.

REASON FOR DECISION

Under Part 2 of the Constitution, Delegations to Officers, Paragraph 7.2 the decision must be reported Council.

3. KEY INFORMATION

- 3.1 Detailed in Appendix A.

4. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE PLAN

- 4.1 N/A

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Detailed in Appendix A.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 To comply with the Council's Constitution.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
That the key decisions in Appendix A taken under delegated powers do not follow the Council's Constitutional Decision process thereby making them unlawful and open to challenge.	Unlikely (2)	Noticeable (2)	To follow the Constitutional decision process

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 N/A

9. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

9.1 N/A

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 N/A

11. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(A) Decisions taken by Officers under Delegated Powers in Accordance with Part 2 of the Constitutions	Attached

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

[Decision - BDC Officer Key Decision Special Urgency - Reward of Contract » Babergh District Council](#)

DECISION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION

Decision Number	Decision Date	Decision
N/A	02.12.2022	To award a contract to Signix for £150,000. The award of this contract is to supply & fit CO, smoke and heat detectors including the recording of detector data.

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