

Public Document Pack



COMMITTEE:	JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	MONDAY, 23 JANUARY 2023 11.30 AM
VENUE:	KING EDMUND CHAMBER, ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH

Members	
<u>Babergh Conservative Group</u> Melanie Barrett Siân Dawson	<u>Mid Suffolk Green and Liberal Democrat Group</u> Terence Carter Keith Scarff Keith Welham (Co-Chair)
<u>Babergh Independent Conservative Group</u> Adrian Osborne	<u>Babergh Green and Labour Group</u> Robert Lindsay
<u>Mid Suffolk Conservative and Independent Group</u> James Caston Paul Ekpenyong Dave Muller	<u>Babergh Independent Group</u> Kathryn Grandon John Hinton (Co-Chair)

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AGENDA

PART 1

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT

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- 1 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTES**
- 2 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
- 3 **JOS/22/38 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2022** 5 - 8
- 4 **TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME**

5 **QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

To consider questions from and provide answers to members of the public on any matter in relation to which the Committee has powers or duties and of which due notice has been given in accordance with the Committee and Sub-Committee Procedures Rules.

6 **QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**

To consider questions from and provide answers to Councillors on any matter in relation to which the Committee has powers or duties and of which due notice has been given in accordance with the Committee and Sub-Committee Procedure Rules.

7 **JOS/22/39 REVIEW OF THE CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND VISITOR ECONOMY STRATEGY** 9 - 22

8 **JOS/22/40 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTION TRACKER** 23 - 30

9 **RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)**

To consider, whether, pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified below on the grounds that if the public were present during this item, it is likely that there would be the disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated against the item.

The authors of the report propose to be considered in Part 2 of the Agenda are satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

PART 2

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED

10 **JOS/22/41 TO CONFIRM THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE OF THE MEETING ON 19 DECEMBER 2022** 31 - 32

11 **RE-ADMITTING THE PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)**

Date and Time of next meeting

Please note that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 20 February 2023 at 9.30 am.

Webcasting/ Live Streaming

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

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact the Committee Officer, A. Norman on: 01473 296384 or Email: Committees@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Introduction to Public Meetings

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Agenda Item 3

BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILS

Minutes of the meeting of the **JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Monday, 19 December 2022

PRESENT:

Councillor: John Hinton (Co-Chair)

Councillors: Melanie Barrett James Caston
Austin Davies Siân Dawson
Kathryn Grandon Adrian Osborne
David Muller BA (Open) MCM
RAFA (Councillor)

In attendance:

Councillor(s): Mary McLaren – Babergh Cabinet Member for Communities
Alastair McCraw – Babergh Cabinet Member for Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvement

Officers: Corporate Manager for ICT and Programme Management (MH)
Corporate Manager for Governance and Civic Office (JR)
Lead Officer for Overview and Scrutiny (AN)

Guests: Sally Longmate – Chief Executive Officer of Suffolk Association of Local Councils

Apologies:

Councillor(s): Terence Carter
Paul Ekpenyong
Keith Welham (Co-Chair)

49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

49.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Carter, Ekpenyong and Welham.

49.2 Councillor Davies substituted for Councillor Welham.

50 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

50.1 None declared.

51 JOS/22/29 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2022

- 51.1 Councillor Barrett requested that the minutes be amended to cover questions asked concerning “community supermarkets”.
- 51.2 Councillor Muller proposed that the minutes be approved as amended.
- 51.3 Councillor Grandon seconded the proposal.
- 51.4 It was resolved that the amended minutes of the Joint meeting held on the 21st November 2022 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

52 JOS/22/30 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE BABERGH MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2022

- 52.1 Councillor Adrian Osborne requested that the minutes be amended to detail Councillor Jan Osborne’s attendance and the questions answered in her capacity as Cabinet Member for Housing.
- 52.2 Councillor Barrett proposed that the minutes be approved as amended.
- 52.3 Councillor Osborne seconded the proposal.
- 52.4 It was resolved that the amended minutes of the Babergh meeting held on the 21st November 2022 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

53 JOS/22/31 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MID SUFFOLK MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2022

- 53.1 It was resolved that the minutes of the Mid Suffolk meeting held on 22nd November were confirmed and signed as a true record.

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

- 54.1 None received.

55 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

- 55.1 None received.

56 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

- 56.1 None received.

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

- 57.1 Sally Longmate, CEO of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC), presented the report to the Committee outlining before Members the purpose of the association, the association's operating model, the support services provided to councillors, clerks, and councils, the business plans and objectives, the outcomes of the latest annual report, the benefits provided to members of the association, and training opportunities provided to members.
- 57.2 Councillor Davies questioned if the Suffolk Association of Local Councils had liaison meetings with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. The CEO of SALC responded that work had been undertaken to connect the two organisations and that a relationship was emerging.
- 57.3 Councillor Caston queried the uptake on training courses for Councillors and Clerks and whether the roles and responsibilities of both positions were explained in these courses. The CEO of SALC responded that uptake on training courses was high, particularly due to courses moving online rather than being conducted face-to-face, and that the roles and responsibilities of Councillors and Clerks were covered in the training modules.
- 57.4 Councillor Dawson questioned if the Suffolk Association of Local Councils were involved in resolving issues concerning the code of conduct. The CEO of SALC responded that all code of conduct issues were referred to the appropriate Monitoring Officer.
- 57.5 Councillor Dawson further questioned the protection and support offered to Councillors. The CEO of SALC responded that it is the Chair and the Clerk of Parish Councils that have access to their services and that support was provided to Councils on the whole as a corporate body.
- 57.6 Councillor McLaren, Babergh's Cabinet Member for Communities, questioned what support is provided to Parish Councils who cannot afford to attend multiple training courses. The CEO of SALC responded that as much support as possible was provided to Clerks of these Councils to ensure that the Councils are operating as expected.
- 57.7 The Cabinet Member for Communities further questioned if the price for training courses had altered due to these modules now being online rather than face-to-face. The CEO of SALC responded that the prices had not changed due to the scheduling of these training courses being more flexible and accessible.
- 57.8 Councillor Grandon queried what additional support the Suffolk Association of Local Councils would like from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. The CEO of SALC responded that there was a need for more communication and collaborative working between the District and Town/Parish Councils.
- 57.9 The report was noted.

58 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC (TERM WHICH INCLUDES THE PRESS)

59 JOS/22/33 INFORMATION BULLETIN - PROTECTION AGAINST CYBER-ATTACKS (CONFIDENTIAL PRESENTATION)

59.1 This item was considered in confidential session.

60 RE-ADMITTING MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC (TERM WHICH INCLUDES THE PRESS)

61 JOS/22/34 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

61.1 No comments made.

62 JOS/22/35 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTION TRACKER

62.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Action Tracker was noted.

63 JOS/22/36 BABERGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN

63.1 Councillor Grandon requested that the title for the “Education, Skills and Employment” item due to come to Joint Overview and Scrutiny on the 20th February be reviewed to better reflect the purpose of the item.

63.2 The Babergh Work Plan was noted.

64 JOS/22/37 MID SUFFOLK OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN

64.1 The Mid Suffolk Work Plan was noted.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11:47am.

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Chair

Agenda Item 7

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee	REPORT NUMBER: JOS/22/39
FROM: Cllr. John Ward and Cllr. Harry Richardson– Cabinet Members for Economic Development	DATE OF MEETING: 23/01/2023
OFFICER: Fiona Duhamel, Director – Economic Growth and Climate Change	KEY DECISION REF NO.

Review of the Development of the Culture, Heritage, and Visitor Economy Strategy

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To review the work undertaken so far in developing the Strategy including internal and external stakeholder and partner engagement.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the contents of this report, provide scrutiny and, where appropriate, provide written and/or verbal recommendations to Cabinet.

REASON FOR DECISION

To inspect thoroughly the process undertaken to deliver the councils first Culture, Heritage, and Visitor Economy strategy, with the ambition to shape the future growth of the districts and provide a prospectus for investment.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils believe cultural, heritage and visitor economy infrastructure supports the creation of places in which people want to live, work and visit, and recognises these sectors as a driver for growth, investment, and wellbeing.
- 3.2 The Councils' ambition is to work with partners to use culture to improve health and wellbeing, understand the innovative partnerships that can be created between cultural providers and educational institutions, recognise the uniqueness of our heritage connections including constable country and wool towns, and celebrate new attractions being planned and major public and private investment heralding significant opportunities for the economy.
- 3.3 The Councils recently undertook a peer review challenge which identified that we need to create compelling place narratives for the districts, highlighting the unique selling points of each place. This strategy will be a key part of that activity through helping to identify and distil the unique cultural, heritage and visitor economy attributes for specific geographies within the districts.
- 3.4 In order to deliver on these ambitions, the Councils agreed to develop our first comprehensive culture, heritage, and visitor economy strategy to clearly set out our ambitions over the next 10 years.

3.5 This new strategy and associated evidence base will provide a springboard for our ambitions, using our rich and diverse culture, heritage and visitor economy offer as driver for tourism and economic growth.

3.6 It will define our priorities, set out planned programmes of work for delivery, set criteria for grant aid - being very clear about the outcomes we'd like to see achieved and be used to seek and attract more investment, investing more in facilities and infrastructure and through better collaborations and partnerships.

4. **KEY INFORMATION**

4.1 In September 2022, Creative Tourist (CT Consults) were contracted to deliver a Culture, Heritage and Visitor Economy Strategy and Action Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk, providing a 5–10-year evidence base.

4.2 Their approach is as follows:

Step 1 – Scoping and researching – defining the scale and scope of the development project.

Step 2 – Engaging and testing – exploring issues and building engagement through consultation and critical thinking; test the pillars of the Strategy – its themes and strategic priorities

Step 3 – Prioritising and defining – developing the aspirations and values into a Strategy and action plan; taking ownership by creating a route map.

4.3 This allows the Strategy development process to be open and flexible, factoring in influencing factors that may not have been present when the original brief was created in June 2022, e.g., cost-of-living crisis, further changes in government (policy), post-pandemic funding, other major local authority strategies to align with, and so on.

4.4 The research, consultation and analysis phase was conducted between October and December 2022. One-to-one consultations were conducted with representatives from a variety of culture, creative, tourism and other sectors. Document **(A)** under the appendices sets out who responded to consultation, from a larger database of over 150 contacts, which also served the workshops.

4.5 A number of outstanding consultees may also be re-approached at a later date, subject to need. Previous consultees may also be re-contacted to conduct follow-up interviews to explore key issues in more detail

4.6 Some of those consulted also participated in the four in-person workshops that took place across Babergh & Mid Suffolk. A series of stakeholder engagement workshops were held at The Bank, Eye, Jimmy's Farm & Wildlife Park, Wherstead, Gainsborough's House, Sudbury and The John Peel Centre for Creative Arts, Stowmarket in November 2022. These workshops tested some early and emerging themes developed from the desk research and one-to-one consultations already undertaken, through use of stimulus questions and facilitated discussions. Attendees included community, cultural, heritage, sport and voluntary groups and organisations; businesses; creative practitioners; and Council officers. Please see document **(B)** under the appendices for a full list of attendees.

4.7 Stimulus sheets were used to help workshop participants to explore the issues around one of four thematic topics, framed from the responses of earlier 1:1 consultations. These sheets identify early discussion topics and give an indication of the issues and opportunities raised during the consultations. These sheets are shared under document **(C)** in the appendix.

- 4.8 A cross party member working group has been set up and has met twice to date with more meetings planned. This group has been used to test early outcomes from the stakeholder consultation and the insights report and has helped to shape the work of the consultants.
- 4.9 An internal staff working group including colleagues in Economy, Climate Change, Communities, Planning, Heritage, Public Realm and Communications has also been convened alongside the cross party member working group to ensure that we have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities in relation to the culture, heritage and visitor economy sector across the organisation and can build this into the delivery plan in due course.
- 4.10 Additionally, extensive desk research has been undertaken to build the picture of existing documents, strategies, data and evidence relating to Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils-led past and current initiatives and other relevant agencies and organisations. This has built a picture of Babergh & Mid Suffolk's strengths and needs in a local, county and regional context.
- 4.11 A dynamic online map of cultural and creative assets is available to continue to be populated at <https://bit.ly/3WQvB8M>. With over 300 categorised entries, it includes theatres, museums, heritage assets, arts centres, visitor attractions, creative infrastructure and supply chain, cinemas, events and music venues, public art, community hubs, visitor attractions and active lifestyle offer.

5. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

- 5.1 The joint Corporate Plan is designed to make sure our places are known for strong growth in innovation and creativity, for being highly connected and sustainable – with the best skilled workforce across the East. With a vision for 'Our communities are well connected and valued by residents and visitors' and 'All our communities are attractive, successful and connected places for people to live and work'.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications from this report. Any financial implications identified in the Action Plan, and related to council activity, are expected to sit within current council budgets.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 The dashboard report has been shared for consultation with the cross-party Member Advisory group for feedback and comment.

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

- 10.1 There is no requirement to complete an EQIA at this time.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no direct environmental implications directly associated with this report

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
a) List of contacts for 121 telephone and face to face stakeholder engagement	Attached
b) List of attendees at in-person workshop sessions	Attached
c) Culture heritage and tourism consultation workshop discussion topics	Attached

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

13.1 None

14. REPORT AUTHORS

Zoey Banthorpe – Arts and Culture Lead

Michelle Gordon – Corporate Manager, Economy & Business

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 23 January 2023
Review of the Culture, Heritage, and Visitor Economy Strategy

List of contacts for 121 telephone/face to face stakeholder consultations.

Name	Role	Organisation
Pete Waters	Executive Director	Visit East of England
James Allen	Innovation and Sectors Manager	New Anglia LEP
Alex Casey	Co-Director	Suffolk Art Link
Alex Till	Chief Executive	MENTA
Jayne Knight	Arts Development Manager	Suffolk County Council
Prof. Gurpreet Jagpal	Pro Vice-Chancellor, Business and Entrepreneurship	University of Suffolk
Jim Horsfield	Operations & Business Development Manager	Screen Suffolk
Lucy Bayliss	Head of Creative Programmes	Dance East
Iain Dunnett	Growing Places Fund Senior Coordinator	New Anglia LEP
Jenny Cousins	Director	The Food Museum
Mark Bills	Director	Gainsborough's House
Arabella McKessar	Development Officer	Gainsborough's House
David Marsh	Events & Theatre Manager	The Regal Theatre and Cinema
Anna Fielding	Manager	Wingfield Barns
Allison Burke	Development Officer	St. Peter's Church / Arts Venue
Ruth Philo	Project Founder, Painter	Pasture Place
Edward Tollemache		Helmingham Hall & Gardens
Simon Peachey	Manager	Flatford Mill
Oliver Paul	Co-Owner	Suffolk Food Hall / Shotley Tourism Action Group
Paula Booth	VE Strategic Lead, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Officer	Suffolk County Council
Richard Hunt	Strategic Lead for the Visitor Economy	Suffolk Growth Partnership
Helen Cutting	Brand Manager	Visit Suffolk
Peter Brooke	Chair	The Bank, Eye
Debbie Ball	Founder, CEO, Strategic Management Coordinator	Kinetic Science
Sara Holman	Head of Engagement	Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Judith Thompson		Stowmarket Stories
Holly White	Administrative Officer	High Tide
Miles Barry	Author	Easterly Artists, Suffolk Open Studios
Hayley Field	Co-Director	Suffolk Artlink
Emily Walden	Marketing and Digital Communications Officer	Eastern Angles
Rebecca Marshall-Potter	Director	Folk East
Jayne Austin	Secretary	Association for Suffolk Museums
Bruce Leeke	CEO	Suffolk Libraries
Louise Hardwick	Head of Primary Care Partnerships; Deputy Director of Partnerships and Alliance Delivery	East Suffolk CCG; Ipswich and East Suffolk Alliance
Tom Beese	Arts, Libraries & Museums Project Officer	Suffolk Culture Network, Suffolk County Council

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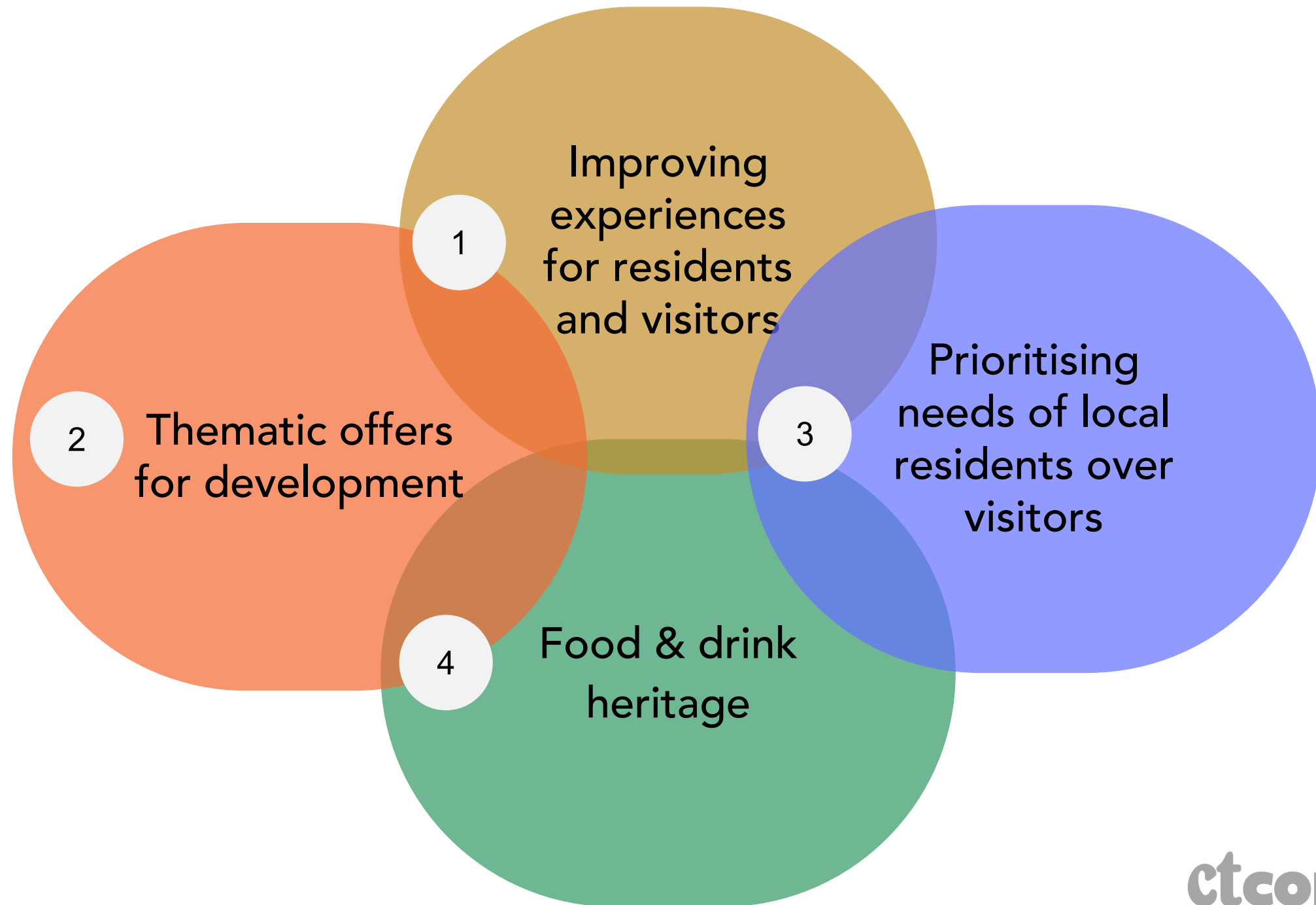
Joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 23 January 2023
Review of the Culture, Heritage, and Visitor Economy Strategy

List of attendees at in-person workshop sessions.

Organisation
All About Ipswich
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
Churches Conservation Trust
De Vere House Accommodation
Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Dream On CIC & Blossom Charity
EA Festival
East Anglian Festival Network
East Bergholt Parish Council
Eye Heritage Group
Eye Magazine
Eye Town Council
Eyes Open Community Interest Company
Footprints Theatre Company
Freelancers
Frinfings
Gainsborough's House
Hadleigh Town Council
Haughley Park Ltd
Heat Design
Hintlesham Hall Hotel
Jimmy's Farm & Wildlife Park
John Peel Centre for Creative Arts
Little Hall Museum, Lavenham
MENTA
New Anglia LEP
Oakmere Solutions Ltd
Orchestras Live
Rattlesden River Valley Network
Rectory Manor Hotel
River Stour Festival
SCC1
Screen Suffolk
Stow Stories

Stowmarket Town Council
Sudbury Common Lands Charity
Sudbury Museum Trust
Sudbury Town Council
Suffolk Artlink
Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Suffolk County Council
Suffolk Growth Partnership
Suffolk Libraries
The Banks Arts Centre
The Bridge Project
The ERD Connection
The Food Museum
The Hotel Folk
The Kinetic Science Foundation
The Offshoot Foundation
The Old Rectory, Kettlebaston
The Pin Mill Studio
The Quay Theatre
Thomas Gainsborough School
Visit Hadleigh
Wingfield Barns

Babergh & Mid Suffolk Cultural Heritage & Visitor Economy Strategy Workshop



Improving experiences for residents and visitors

"What is the main selling point for those that live and work and visit? I don't know."

Need for data and insight to better understand audiences and their behaviours.

Need to broaden audience / visitor demographics.

Issues with visibility of offer for residents and visitors.

"Some people don't want more people to come, but I'd like it to be more vibrant."

Visitor number pressures in certain areas, especially around Stour Valley, Dedham Vale.

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"A lot of people who have lived there their whole life – so lack of comparison to other places. They're making comparisons to the past rather than other places."

"If you support creative industries then it will pay back for the long term and will generate ancillary spend."

"As a resident I've always thought that there isn't enough promotion of existing assets on our doorstep."

"We have too many visitors, so we want to improve experience and engagement rather than attract higher numbers. Capacity is an issue."

How can the visitor experience be more localised?

What are local residents proud of? Where do they take their friends and relatives when visiting the area?

How can the local offer be more visible – to residents and to visitors?

What cultural & heritage assets could be used as hooks for hotspots and itineraries?

What does the 'off season' offer in B&MS look like, for residents and visitors?

What infrastructure is needed to improve visitor experiences?

Which demographics are not attending culture / heritage / tourism attractions?

What barriers are there to them attending currently? How can those barriers be overcome?

How can we be more joined-up across the culture, heritage and tourism sector? Why?

Who is managing audiences / visitors – and their experiences – well?

Where is the sector leadership in B&MS?

How could B&MS disperse visitors from honeypot areas?

"Babergh and Mid Suffolk is clunky, it doesn't have a cohesive identity"

"Babergh and Mid Suffolk is clunky, it doesn't have a cohesive identity."

"There is an artistic heritage worth celebrating."

"Culture needs punk people not cabinet meetings."

"Many artists and writers have lived and worked here over time, but they are seen as individuals, but not as a cluster or movement. We should be championing the region as a centre of landscape to abstraction art."

"Babergh & Mid Suffolk is a Cinderella place – it has good opportunities but it's in the shadow of Bury, Newmarket and Ipswich."

"Unspoilt, quiet, get away from it all, recharge, cosy, pastoral, soft, beautiful, quaint, pretty, charming, 'twee but attractive'."

"There is a personal appeal, a soul to events here. Not WOW moments but we like to be small, be personal, intimate. Mid Suffolk is not grand or overpowering, it's about individual character."

Thematic offers for development

Visual arts heritage

Prioritising outdoor pursuits / water-based activities

Emphasising B&MS' unspoilt quietness as a place to get away from it all and recharge

B&MS has an 'unspoilt quietness' is a place 'to get away from it all and recharge.' Is this the right message? If so, how could this be emphasised? If not, how could it be changed?

How can B&MS make the most of its artistic heritage? What partners are needed to make this successful? What infrastructure needs to be developed or improved?

Growing interest in outdoor pursuits has caused some friction between visitors and residents. Is it better to be on the front foot and better manage outdoor pursuits, or to try and dissuade visitors? Why? How could this be implemented?

What does this mean for residents? What projects and programmes are needed to help residents better engage with these themes?

What's missing from this list? Are there any opportunity areas we have overlooked? What are they?

Suffolk has an ambition to be the 'greenest' county in the UK (greensuffolk.org) but Mid Suffolk is the 4th worst local authority in England for access to public green space.*

Prioritising needs of local residents over visitors

Lack of opportunities for culture / heritage / tourism pathways, study, work experience, paid early career work – young people move away to gain this.

NHS Suffolk & North East Essex ICP is a national leader in social prescribing.

"There are loads of special arts societies (for middle class, retired people), but they're not tapping into everyday people, children and families"

Rural communities and transport challenges make a hyperlocal cultural offer more important
Suffolk Libraries are national leaders in cultural projects.

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"People are a lot more aware of benefits of spending time outdoors in green and blue spaces and for health and wellbeing, recharging, time out to do simple things. Access to countryside exists across the district but have to try harder to find it."

"Those small interactions provide structure to the week and reduce isolation. Local regular things are just as vital as bigger venues."

"Mid Suffolk lacks heart because it doesn't make culture part of people's everyday lives."

"The area is becoming increasingly attractive, to new residents and tourists. Local pride needs to be generated to help both – and help not to neglect existing communities."

How can the sector reach and resonate more with residents?

What venues can be utilised for better access to cultural participation?

How can more opportunities for creativity in the outdoors be developed?

What skills development and early career opportunities could be developed for young people?

How can creative engagement be better utilised for promoting improved health and wellbeing?

What partnerships are needed to help tackle rural isolation?

What does being 'the greenest' place mean for the culture, heritage and tourism sector?

Are cultural opportunities evenly distributed, visible, shared? What could or should change in order to rebalance this?

* ONS – Access to public parks and green spaces dataset 2020 - an average distance of 689.33m to access public green space. Babergh is 40th with 533.15m.

Food & drink heritage

A growing wine production industry in B&MS.

Links with the environment, sustainability and biodiversity

Existing food-related attractions such as Jimmy's Farm & Suffolk Food Hall.

Is this 'the joined-up offer' to prioritise? Does it adequately reflect B&MS' unique identity?

Does this theme balance the needs of residents and visitors? How? (If not, why not?)

How can the sector develop local understanding of B&MS' agricultural heritage? How can the connection with and pride in this heritage grow?

Sharing food is a way to build relationships – how can the local food culture be used to tackle local social issues?

How could this theme explore issues around climate change, biodiversity and appreciation of Suffolk's unique environment?

What partnerships and resources are needed to make the most of this theme?

How can the tourism sector capitalise more on local food heritage and contemporary production?

B&MS could be a sustainable tourism area. What would enable this to grow?

The Food Museum has the potential to grow national significance.

Two Food Enterprise Zones in Stowmarket and Wherstead.

"There are lots of food attractions developing quickly. It's very encouraging."

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"Connecting with food, nature and the environment should be exciting. We want to take away the drudgery of preparing food and make it inspiring"

"Culture-led development is the only game in town. Retail is not the future. Experiences are."

"You don't get big collaborative ideas between heritage sector, never joined up offer."

"Huge number of visitors have expectations about sustainable visit – currently a niche market"

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JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTION TRACKER

The purpose of this action tracker is to document and track the progress of all recommendations made by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This tracker seeks to inform committee members on the implementation of their recommendations and the subsequent decisions reached by Cabinet. This tracker is updated ahead of and following each meeting of the Committee.

Date	Item Ref	Item Title	Recommendations	Key Officer	Progress	Status
19.12.22	JOS/22/32	Review of Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC)	1.1 That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the report	N/A	N/A	Completed

Date	Item Ref	Item Title	Recommendations	Key Officer	Progress	Status
22.11.22 (MSDC Only)	MOS/22/01	Draft General Fund and Housing Revenue Account 2023/24 and Four Year Outlook	1.1. That Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomes this earlier opportunity to consider the draft budget assumptions and thanks Officers for their presentation and clarification.	N/A	N/A	Completed
			1.2. That Cabinet and Officers take account of the comments made at this meeting of the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	ME	05.12.22: Draft minutes provided to key officers and the Cabinet Member for Finance.	Completed
			1.3. That Cabinet explores opportunities to reduce to a minimum the recharges to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) from the General Fund (GF).	N/A	Awaiting update	Ongoing
			1.4. That Officers look further at the Vacancy Management Factor assumption of 5%.	ME	Awaiting update	Ongoing
			1.5. That Officers consider further opportunities to increase garage rents.	ME	Awaiting update	Ongoing
			1.6. That Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee suggests a more prudent assumption in respect of the Pay Award 2023/24.	N/A	N/A	Completed
			1.7. That Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends the cost assumptions for repairs and maintenance be looked at in more detail.	ME	Awaiting update	Ongoing
			1.8. 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 Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	ME	Awaiting update	Ongoing

Date	Item Ref	Item Title	Recommendations	Key Officer	Progress	Status
21.11.22 (BDC Only)	BOS/22/01	Draft General Fund and Housing Revenue Account 2023/24 and Four Year Outlook	2.1 That the draft budget assumptions as set out in the report for the 2023/24 General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budgets be noted.	N/A	N/A	Completed

Date	Item Ref	Item Title	Recommendations	Key Officer	Progress	Status
21.11.22	JOS/22/23	Review of Local Citizens Advice and the Cost of Living Crisis	1.1 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.	N/A	N/A	Completed
			1.2 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.	N/A	N/A	Completed
			1.3 That the Councils facilitate a more collaborative approach between organisations by encouraging the promotion of joint working.	DR	05.12.22: Officers are currently exploring a single multi-disciplinary team, including BMSDC and Citizens Advice officers, to lead on the implementation of the action plan.	Ongoing
			1.4 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.	DR	Awaiting update.	Ongoing
			1.5 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.	DR	05.12.22: The Refreshed 5-Point Action Plan for the Cost of Living Crisis, which touched upon improving support on the cost of living, went before both Cabinets for noting.	Ongoing
			1.6 That a Joint All Member Briefing be arranged for all Councillors on the Cost of Living crisis with input from Local Citizens Advice.	DR	Awaiting update.	Ongoing
	JOS/22/24	Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet Protocol	1.1 That Overview and Scrutiny approves the Scrutiny/Cabinet protocol.	N/A	N/A	Completed

Date	Item Ref	Item Title	Recommendations	Key Officer	Progress	Status
24.10.22	JOS/22/17	Joint Homes and Housing Strategy and the Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2019 - 2024)	3.1 That Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee's 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.	N/A	07.11.22: Draft minutes with a record of the verbal comments and recommendations made by Members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee were provided to the Cabinet Members for Housing for their further consideration.	Completed
			3.2 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.	N/A	N/A	Completed

24.10.22	JOS/22/17		3.3 To ask Portfolio Holders and Officers to consider further provision of financial and physical support to all residents wishing to downsize.	AN	07.11.22: Draft minutes with a record of the verbal comments and recommendations made by Members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee were provided to the Cabinet Members for Housing for their further consideration.	Completed
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Date	Item Ref	Item Title	Recommendations	Key Officer	Progress	Status
30.09.22	JOS/22/8	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Parking Strategy	1.1 That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report and that a verbal presentation of the comments made at this meeting be provided to Cabinet	N/A	03.10.22: Councillor Hinton made a verbal representation at Babergh Cabinet. 03.10.22: Councillor Welham made a verbal representation at Mid Suffolk Cabinet.	Completed
			1.2 That Cabinet is requested to carry out further work to replace (<i>reduce</i>) carparking demands with alternatives by looking at other areas that have done so successfully.	FD		
			1.3 That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee asks that a report be provided to the Committee in due course to review the progress on the Parking strategy implementation plan.	FD	30.09.22: Confirmed that progress reports will be provided to Overview and Scrutiny once implementation had begun.	Ongoing
30.09.22	JOS/22/9	Shared Revenues Partnership - Council Tax Reduction Scheme	1.1 That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends to Cabinet Option 3 as the preferred option for the Consultation for the Council Tax Reduction (Working Age) Scheme.	N/A	03.10.22: Babergh and Mid Suffolk Cabinet voted unanimously to consult on Option 3 as set out in Appendix B of this report as the basis for a revised (Working Age) Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24	Completed
	JOS/22/11	Recommendations from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group for Rural Transport	1.1 That Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Babergh Cabinet that an analysis of the unmet demand for community transport in the district be carried out.	AN	01.11.22: Will be timetabled to go to Cabinet at the next Overview and Scrutiny Strategy meeting between the Overview and Scrutiny Chairs and the Leaders. 01.12.22: Timetabled to go to the March Cabinet meetings.	Ongoing
			1.2 That the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet that Suffolk County Council be informed of the apparent lack of publicity of community transport across the district, and to encourage joint working between Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and Suffolk County Council to promote community transport services.	AN		
			1.3 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends to Cabinet that the feasibility of providing an electric bus project throughout the district, similar to that being implemented by Mid Suffolk be investigated.	AN		
			1.1 That Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Mid Suffolk Cabinet that, as part of the development of the electric bus project, local consultations to elicit unmet transport needs should be carried out – one covering an urban area and one covering a rural area.	AN		

30.09.22			1.2 That the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committees recommend to Cabinet that Suffolk County Council be informed of the apparent lack of publicity of community transport across the district, and to encourage joint working between Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and Suffolk County Council to promote community transport services.	AN		Ongoing
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Date	Item Ref	Item Title	Recommendations	Key Officer	Progress	Status
27.06.22	JOS/22/2	Capital Investment Fund Company (CIFCO CAPITAL LTD) Business Trading and Performance Report	1.1 That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny committee notes the CIFCO Business Plan and Business Trading and Performance and ask that the minutes of this meeting be taken into account at Full Council.	N/A	25.10.22 and 27.10.22: Minutes were attached as Appendix E as part of the CIFCO item that went to both Babergh and Mid Suffolk Full Councils for consideration.	Completed
			1.2 That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that the CIFCO Business Plan and Business Trading and Performance is robust for 2022 – 2023	N/A	N/A	Completed
			1.3 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Full Council that future CIFCO business plans continue to be scrutinised by the Councils' Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee and then reported to Council.	N/A	25.10.22 and 27.10.22: Babergh and Mid Suffolk Full Councils voted in favour of Recommendation 3.3 "That future CIFCO Business Plans continue to be scrutinised by the Councils' Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee and then reported to Council."	Completed

Date	Item Ref	Item Title	Recommendations	Key Officer	Progress	Status
25.04.22	JOS/21/30	Draft Empty Homes Policy	1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee compliments the officers on the report and presentation and recommend to Cabinet that the policy be adopted taking in to account the following recommendations:	N/A	04.07.22 and 05.07.22: Babergh and Mid Suffolk Cabinets voted in favour of Recommendation 1.1 "That Option 1 - the new Empty Homes Policy, as set out in Appendix A of this report and considering the recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 25th April 2022 be approved".	Completed
			1.2 That Overview and Scrutiny considers that the maxim loan of £20k is insufficient and asked that Cabinet raise the level of loans and consider if a nominal rate of interest should be applied.	N/A		
			1.3 That loans for works to improve for energy efficiency of homes should also be available.	N/A		
			1.4 That the information in the communication plan is strengthened including publicity via Parish Council and local community groups and that a briefing note be circulated to Councillors when the policy is adopted.	N/A		
			1.5 That Cabinet be asked to monitor the budget for empty homes this year and consider whether an increase is required for 2023/24.	N/A		
			1.6 That further quantitative information is provided to members of the committee on the empty homes' loans and the financial implications for the Councils.	N/A		

25.04.22	JOS/21/30		1.7 That close working is encouraged with the Homelessness Outreach officers.	N/A		Completed
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Date	Item Ref	Item Title	Recommendations	Key Officer	Progress	Status
21.03.22	JOS/21/25	Review of Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP)	1.1 That the Committee note the contents of this report	N/A	N/A	Completed
			1.2 That the comments made by the Committee regarding the name of the partnership and the format of the action plan be reported back to the WSCSP.	N/A	21.03.22: Passed on to representatives from BDC and MSDC to feedback to the WSCSP.	Completed
			1.3 That the reporting toolkit for all Members be updated and circulated	VM		Not Started
			1.4 That a training session be held for all Members to ensure that all Councillors have knowledge and awareness of their role in respect of identifying and reporting crime and safety issues in their area and are able to support their town and parish councils when discussing crime and safety.	VM		Not Started
			1.5 That a simplified version of the action plan is circulated to all councillors with the O&S chair's report to full council on this item.	VM	21.06.22 and 23.06.22: The Chairs reported on the recommendations from JOS/21/25 as part of their annual Overview and Scrutiny update to Full Council.	Completed
			1.6 Review the timing of the WSCSP report based on the meeting cycle of the partnership and ensuring that the most up to date position is reported and to review the format of the report to ensure that the information is clear, concise and has a strategic focus.	VM	04.10.22: Decided by Chairs at Joint Overview and Scrutiny Briefing that the next WSCSP review would take place in June 2023 to allow for a review of the entire year. This review will then come back to committee on an annual basis.	Completed
			1.7 To explore whether the strategic assessment is available from the County	VM		Not Started

Date	Item Ref	Item Title	Recommendations	Key Officer	Progress	Status
17.01.22 (BDC Only)	BOS/21/1	Draft General Fund (GF) 2021/22 and Four Year Outlook	1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the General Fund budget 2022/23 and Four-year Outlook.	N/A	N/A	Completed
			1.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives a report from Cabinet on the outcomes of the performance framework on a six-month basis.	KS		Not Started
	BOS/21/2	Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Four Year Outlook	1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the Housing Revenue Account 2022/23 and Four-year Outlook.	N/A	N/A	Completed
			1.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny recommends that the information about the use of sub-contractors be included in the quarterly performance monitoring report.	KS	07.03.22: Incorporated into the quarterly monitoring report and will become a statutory part.	Completed

Date	Item Ref	Item Title	Recommendations	Key Officer	Progress	Status
13.01.22 (MSDC Only)	MOS/21/1	Draft General Fund (GF) 2022/23 and Four Year Outlook	1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the General Fund budget 2022/23 and Four-year Outlook and asks that the Cabinet Member for Finance and Officers take into consideration the comments made at the meeting.	KS	N/A	Completed
			1.2 That the budget preparation process is reviewed by the S.151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to ensure that the O&S Committee can be involved earlier in the development of the budget, enabling a more strategic approach to scrutinising the budget. Further that the Monitoring Officer and Constitution Working Group reviews the terms of reference for the O&S Committee and the JAS Committee to ensure that financial scrutiny is being undertaken in the most appropriate way.	EY	21.11.22: General Fund Budget and Housing Revenue Accounts now go to Overview and Scrutiny Committees in November to allow for a more strategic and beneficial approach where O&S's recommendations have enough time to be implemented.	Completed
	MOS/21/2	Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Four Year Outlook	1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the Housing Revenue Account 2022/23 and Four-year Outlook	N/A	N/A	Completed
			1.2 That information is provided for the level of council rent compared with other authorities for benchmarking for the current year and the number of tenants receiving rent rebate in the current financial year be provided to Council in February and to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their review of the Budget in the next municipal year.	KS	24.02.22: Figures provided in the February Council papers as requested	Completed
	Mca/21/32	Call In of the Decision from Mid Suffolk Cabinet (06.12.21)	1.1 Refer the matter back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, together with the observations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Cabinet will then take a final decision and that decision cannot be called in.	N/A	07.03.2022: Mid Suffolk Cabinet voted in favour "4.1 That the Cabinet decision on 6 December 2021, to adopt the new Hackney Carriage and Private hire Vehicle Licensing Policy, be confirmed and that the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, particularly in relation to electric vehicles, be referred to officers and the Licensing and Regulatory Committee for further work before being presented back to Cabinet."	Completed

Date	Item Ref	Item Title	Recommendations	Key Officer	Progress	Status
20.12.21	JOS/21/20	Review of Local Citizens Advice	1.1 To thank the LCA Chief officers and their respective staff for the work that they have carried out in the last year. Particularly during the pandemic.	N/A	N/A	Completed
			1.2 The Committee are reassured that both LCAs are operating effectively and efficiently and responded well to all questioning from Members.	N/A	N/A	Completed

Date	Item Ref	Item Title	Recommendations	Key Officer	Progress	Status
20.12.21	JOS/21/20	Review of Local Citizens Advice	1.3 That the Councils take a single view of debt and implement an integrated system for dealing with housing rent, and council tax debt.	VM	06.06.22 and 05.09.22: Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk Cabinet resolved "3.1 That Cabinet considers the report from Joint Overview and Scrutiny and agrees its response to the recommendations in the report as detailed in paragraph 4, and in line with the Council's response to the Cost of Living Crisis and the five point plan that will look at a better system of connectivity between partners, including the CAB, the Council and system wide partners".	Completed
			1.4 That contact be made to foodbanks with a request that their clients are referred to the LCA for advice on nutrition and budgeting and cookery skills classes.	VM		
			1.5 Remote virtual operation capability for LCA and other bodies should be provided on an accelerated programme as a matter of urgency defining locations, IT equipment and applications, training and connectivity.	VM		
			1.6 That Cabinets be asked to consider the previous resolution of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the 3 year rolling funding arrangements review be subject to indexation on an annual review basis.	VM		
			1.7 That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the Local Citizens Advice in December 2022	N/A	21.11.22: A review of the Local Citizens Advice Bureaus and their work on the Cost of Living Crisis is coming to Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November 2022.	Completed
			1.8 Mid Suffolk Cabinet to confirm that funding previously allocated to Thetford and Diss LCA be allocated to Mid Suffolk LCA	N/A	06.06.22: Mid Suffolk Cabinet confirmed at their June cabinet meeting.	Completed
			1.9 Recommendation to Babergh Cabinet that extra funding be provided to Sudbury Citizens Advice to enable greater provision for debt advice across the whole district.	N/A	05.09.22: The Director for Communities confirmed that the Sudbury Citizens Advice has received a 30% uplift in funding.	Completed

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Agenda Item 10

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