

## BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>From: Leader of the Council</b>	<b>Report Number: <big>BCa/17/70</big></b>
<b>To: Babergh Cabinet</b>	<b>Date of meeting: 10 May 2018</b>

### SUFFOLK'S FRAMEWORK FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 As part of the work undertaken on 'devolution', Suffolk local authorities commissioned work to aid the development of a non-statutory spatial strategy, which was a core part of the 'deal'. This work continued even after the demise of devolution and it was agreed by the Suffolk Leaders that the Councils should formally receive this work (as summarised within Appendix 1).
- 1.2 This report, and the recommendations at section 2, fulfil the commitment the Leader of the Council gave his peers to table the summary formally at Cabinet.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the contents of the document entitled: Suffolk's Framework for Inclusive Growth – a Summary (Appendix 1);
- 2.2 That the document entitled: Suffolk's Framework for Inclusive Growth – a Summary (Appendix 1) be used to: (a) inform County-wide work on the use of 'Pooled Business Rates'; (b) support and inform responses to third party consultations on growth and infrastructure; and, (c) support and prioritise - on a local and county-wide basis - funding bids for infrastructure to the Local Enterprise Partnership and other bodies;
- 2.3 That future infrastructure and strategic planning work for Babergh and Mid Suffolk (including the production of the Joint Local Plan) pays due regard to the contents of the document entitled: Suffolk's Framework for Inclusive Growth – a Summary (Appendix 1) and the full AECOM report referred to at paragraph 13.1 of the report, which is recognised as a non-statutory document.

**Reason for Decision:** To note the Summary document for Suffolk's Framework for Inclusive Growth and to recognise the AECOM report as a useful piece of research and evidence to inform a range of future decisions.

#### 3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The suite of work to create Suffolk's emerging 'Framework for Inclusive Growth' (which includes the AECOM work) has cost around £350,000 so far. The AECOM work was commissioned by Suffolk County Council and funded by monies received from Government as part of a 'Transformation Challenge Award'. As a consequence, it has not cost Babergh or Mid Suffolk District Councils any money (although officer time did go into supporting the production of the document).

#### 4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The report is not considered to have any legal implications although it should be noted that Suffolk's Framework for Inclusive Growth – a Summary and the full AECOM report are non-statutory documents that are part of an emerging suite of evidence that together will form the broader framework.

#### 5. Risk Management

- 5.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risk No. 1d 'If we do not secure investment in infrastructure (schools, health, broadband, transport etc.), then development is stifled and/or unsustainable'.

- 5.2 Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
There is a lack of clarity as to the status of the document which could confuse stakeholders.	1	1	Consider this report and agree the recommendations (as written or as varied to provide comparable certainty)
Other Suffolk Authorities do not take the same approach as Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils which could create a perception that Suffolk Authorities do not appear to be working together.	3	1	Discussions have taken place at Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and Ipswich Policy Area Board. At present it does not appear that Suffolk Coastal or Waveney District Councils will be taking to their Cabinet.

#### 6. Consultations

- 6.1 There has been extensive consultation as the work has progressed – much of it within various councils but also at events hosted by groups such as the Chamber of Commerce.
- 6.2 There has been no formal public consultation on the document. It is a piece of consultancy work that contributes towards the overall evidence-base that supports inclusive growth.

## **7. Equality Analysis**

7.1 The report is not considered to have any equality and diversity implications.

## **8. Shared Service / Partnership Implications**

8.1 This paper does not have any shared service or partnership implications.

## **9. Links to Joint Strategic Plan**

9.1 Suffolk's Framework for Inclusive Growth contributes to all of the priorities within the Joint Strategic Plan. It most closely aligns to the outcomes associated with Housing Delivery and Business Growth and Increased Productivity and will contribute towards unlocking the barriers to growth.

## **10. Background**

10.1 As part of the preparatory work undertaken on 'devolution', Suffolk local authorities commissioned work to aid the development of a non-statutory spatial strategy, which was an essential part of the proposed 'deal'. The work continued despite devolution proposals not moving forward and it has now been agreed that the Council should consider one the product of this work.

10.2 This part of the work is now complete and is the subject of this report. The full document is over 100 pages long so a shorter 5-page summary has been produced, which is attached at Appendix 1.

## **11. Options considered**

11.1 The document that was commissioned is now complete – so it is effectively a matter of public record. What the Council chooses to do with it is the matter that Cabinet need to consider. The options can be grouped into the following categories:

(1) Not publicly publish the document: This isn't appropriate bearing in mind the fact the document exists and significant public funds have been spent on its production;

(2) Rely on other Councils to publish the document: This is a valid option but would mean that the Council does not formally get to decide what it thinks of the document or what weight it might give to it;

(3) Acknowledge (or otherwise) the merits of the main strategic elements of the document (e.g. the diagram on page 3 of Appendix 1); and,

(4) Set out how the document relates to the Local Plan process.

11.2 Effectively, the decision to publish this report means that the only remaining options are how to address options 3 and 4 above.

11.3 Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have advocated sustainable growth as part of the current Joint Strategic Plan. The AECOM report has not been through the processes that would be required to give it statutory weight (for example Strategic Environmental Assessment and public consultation) so it is suggested that in respect

of option 3, the Cabinet note the contents of the report rather than highlighting any particular elements.

- 11.4 It is recommended that the work (which has been informed by a thorough consideration of evidence) should form the basis for the use of growth related funding within the control of Suffolk's local authorities, and in response to consultations and bidding rounds held by others.
- 11.5 Finally, in relation to Option 4 above, it is important to note that the document was only ever intended to inform a non-statutory document, not to be an intrinsic part of the Statutory Development Plan. It will form part of the evidence base that underpins Suffolk's Framework for Inclusive Growth and at a local level will inform the Councils' Infrastructure Delivery Plan that will sit alongside the Joint Local Plan.
- 11.6 Therefore recommendation 2.3 advocates that future Local Plans have 'due regard' to the documents (both the Appendix and the full document).

## 12. Appendices

Title	Location
(a) Suffolk's Framework for Inclusive Growth	Attached.

## 13. Background Documents

- 13.1 AECOM Report (June 2017): A report on the development of a Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Framework (SPIF) for Suffolk.

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