

## MID SUFFOLK COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

<b>From: Councillor Julie Flatman – Cabinet Member for Communities</b>	<b>Report Number: CMU17</b>
<b>To: Council</b>	<b>Date of meeting: 26 July 2018</b>

### TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

#### 1. Overview of Portfolio

- 1.1 The Communities Portfolio includes: Safe Communities (including community safety, anti-social behaviour, safeguarding and the Community Safety Partnership), Strong Communities (including grants, external funding, community development, community rights), Healthy Communities and Policy (including health and wellbeing, Health and Wellbeing Board, health interventions and preventative activity).

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Council notes the report.

#### 3. Key Activities/Issues Over the Past Three Months

- 3.1 **Local Dementia Action Alliances** - As part of the National Dementia Awareness week, the Council's Health and Wellbeing Team supported the Stowmarket Dementia Action Alliance to run a number of events in the town to raise awareness. These included a dementia friends' session which led to 40 new friends pledging their support, a wellbeing class at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre and a market stall and coffee morning at Cedrus House. Events were also held in Eye, including a dementia friends' session and coffee morning at Eye care home which generated 11 new dementia friends.
- 3.2 **Safeguarding Section 11 Audit** - Local Safeguarding Children's Boards have a statutory duty to assess whether agencies in their area are fulfilling their statutory obligations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Communities Team recently completed a full Section 11 Audit, which confirmed that Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils could provide strong evidence that they were compliant with the required standards. The audit was validated by a panel of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, which officers were required to attend in person to discuss the evidence in detail.
- 3.3 **Anti-Social Behaviour** - The Mid Suffolk Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) working group meets bi-monthly and works in partnership with Police, Social care, Housing Association and others to seek to resolve ASB complaints collaboratively. The number of ASB referrals generally increases during the Summer months and this year is no exception. The group addresses a wide range of complaints including neighbour disputes, noise nuisance and inconsiderate parking.

3.4 **Assets of Community Value** - The King's Head, Laxfield. The moratorium was triggered on this asset on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and purchased by a community group on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The Communities Team continues to work with the group supporting fund raising, events and tourism

3.5 **Mental Health Awareness** - As part of the national Mental Health Awareness week 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May, the Council's Health and Well-Being Team within this portfolio worked in partnership with the Human Resources Service and Suffolk County Council to support a range of events and activities to raise awareness of mental health in the workplace. These included workshops on reducing stress and anxiety, yoga, mindfulness, choir singing, a seed swap, origami and art therapy. These were all selected as evidence suggests these activities help to improve wellbeing. There was also an opportunity to hear the stories of guest speakers who contributed to a "human library"; that is individuals who have lived experience of a mental health condition and agreed to share their experiences of living with that condition and their recovery process.

Managers across the organisation have attended a 1 Day training course on Positive Mental Health, designed to assist them to manage mental health and well-being with their staff. In addition, the first cohort of 11 staff volunteers from across the Council have completed the Mental Health First Aider course. A further cohort will follow in August.

3.6 **Community Engagement** - The Council held an exhibition event in April 2018 for the ex-headquarters site in Needham Market, supported by Purcell and LLP (Lawson Planning Partnership). The exhibition provided an opportunity for the general public to receive an update on how the proposed development was progressing, and to feedback their views, prior to the submission of a planning application at the end of August.

The Council, supported by its development partners, Icen and Ingleton Wood, is holding a consultation event on 11th July 2018 engage with the general public on the proposed development of the Needham Market Middle School. These events have been promoted via social media, the local press and a local distribution of flyers to households within the town.

3.7 **Stowmarket Bowls project** - In line with the Council's Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (adopted in December 2017) the Health and Well-Being Team are working to promote bowling as a popular form of activity for older people, encouraging more people to play and join a local club, become more active and connected and reduce loneliness.

As part of this, the Council has partnered with Stowmarket Rookery Bowls Club to help provide outreach opportunities for people to get active and enable the club to become a community hub. Since the launch of the project in April 2018, several community roll-up sessions have been hosted at the club and outreach "taster sessions" have been delivered in 6 sheltered and care home settings (including Cedrus House, Jubilee Court and Hill Lodge). All volunteers taking part have received Dementia Friends training and 3 adult safeguarding leads have been appointed. The club is currently working with the Council's External Funding Officer to secure funds for an upgrade to their facilities so they can fulfil their ambition to become a community hub.

- 3.8 **Ovo Energy Women's Cycling Tour** - The professional Women's Cycling Tour of Britain, which passed through the Mid Suffolk district on 13th June was a great success, attracting significant numbers of spectators and generating some fantastic media attention for the area and what it has to offer. The Councils' Health and Wellbeing Team organised two community events, one at Bosmere Primary School, Needham Market and the other at Stradbroke Community Centre; these attracted around 160 visitors in total. Activities included cycle simulators and an open-air cinema screening. There was also a very good turnout of spectators along the route. In addition to these events, the Council supported a range of other community activities through a small grant fund. Many of these took place on the day, including a decorating bikes initiative at Wilby, a school colouring competition (5 primary schools took part) and a tea party held by Stowmarket Town Council to raise money for Stow Dementia Action Alliance and the Alzheimer's Society. Debenham Leisure Centre also hosted a fun packed activity morning for the children at the local primary school which included a 'bikeability' session.

Hosting prestigious events such as this raises local awareness of cycling, encouraging people to think of it as an alternative mode of transport and also to try out cycling as a means of becoming and staying more active as part of a healthy lifestyle.

**Locality Awards 2017/18** – Available spend £250,000. Actual spend £247,000. See Appendix 1 for spend by category.

#### 4. **Key Activities Planned for the next 3 months**

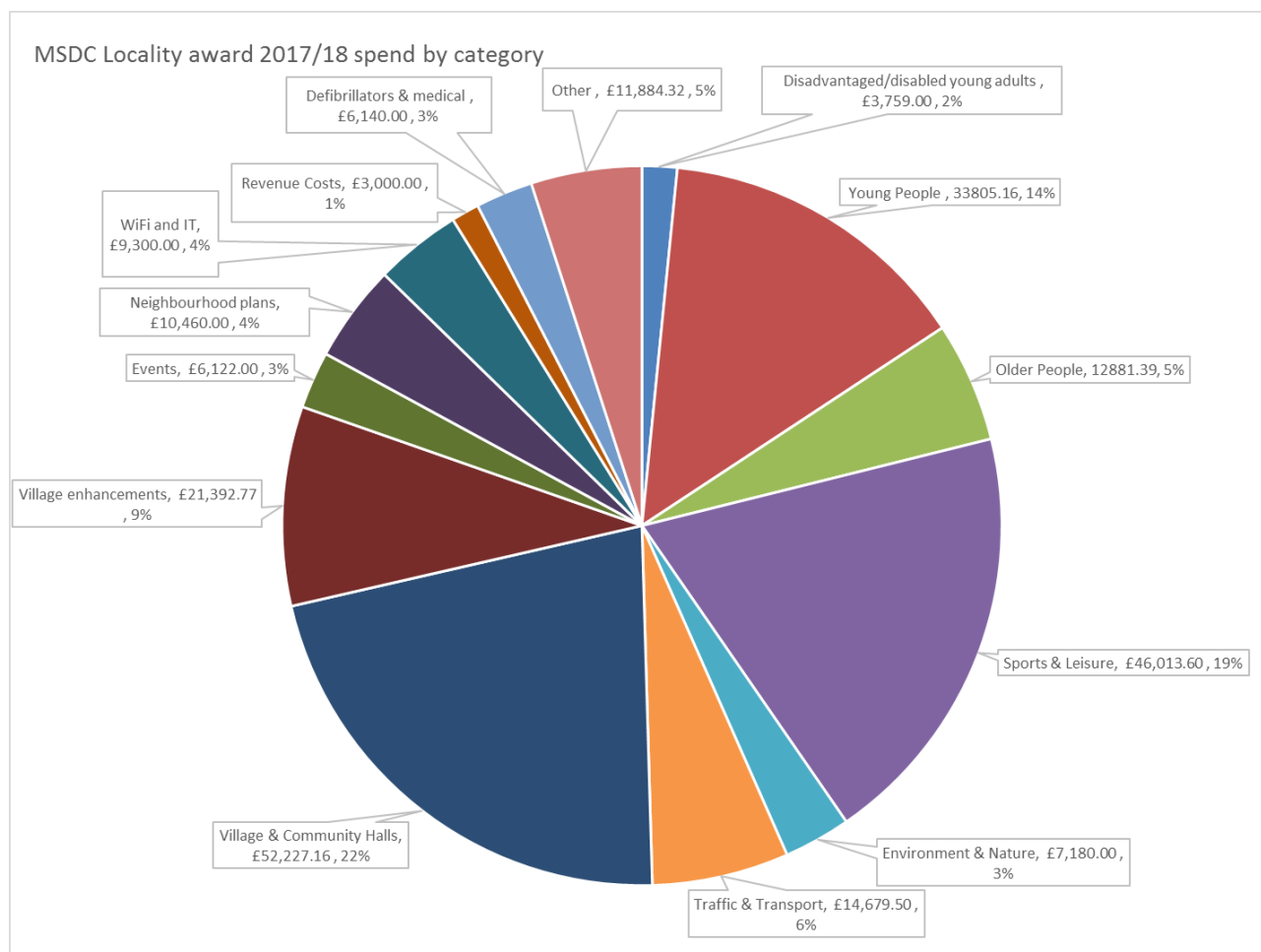
- 4.1 **Active Wellbeing Programme** - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are set to launch a new three-year joint project with Suffolk Sport. Active Wellbeing will be officially launched in Mid Suffolk with a welcome event at Fressingfield Methodist Church on the 17<sup>th</sup> July between 10:00 – 11:30.

Active Wellbeing is a bespoke approach to help those who are physically inactive into more active lifestyles. Active Wellbeing will initially work with the Fressingfield and Stradbroke GP surgeries in Mid Suffolk, celebrating and linking to the great work already taking place within those communities. The programme will also support the development of new activities, where they are needed, to help older people to become and stay active. Working alongside health professionals and the community, Physical Activity Advisors will identify and work with those people most in need of support by delivering clinics in the community.

The Physical Activity Advisors have a wealth of experience in supporting people who have genuine concerns or barriers to becoming more active, such as, cost, transport, management of chronic pain, no one to go with, etc. They will use this knowledge to guide people into suitable activity. There will be a range of options available from free lifestyle activities such as walking and gardening to group classes such as Tai Chi and Pilates.

- 4.2 **New Dementia Action Alliance** – This will be launched in Lavenham on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at the Guildhall. The Councils' Health and Wellbeing Team has been working with their newly formed committee to ensure that they all receive the Alzheimer's Society's recommended dementia friends training. The team has also been working with local businesses to get them to sign up to the Dementia Friends Alliance and train their staff. The launch event will build upon the Golden Age Fair event held earlier in the year and is being supported by the Parish Council and the local Co-Op.

- 4.3 **Community Strategy** – This strategy will be developed in liaison with statutory and community partners over the next six months.
- 4.4 **Community Engagement regarding the Council’s development sites** – This will be on-going.
- 4.5 **The Mid Suffolk multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership’s work to resolve complex cases of anti-social behaviour** – This will continue.
- 4.6 **Town and Parish Liaison meetings** - A recent meeting was held on 12th July in Capel St Mary. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 9 October 2018.
- 4.7 **Mental Health Awareness** – A further cohort of Managers will attend a 1 Day training course on Positive Mental Health in August 2018.
- 4.8 **Locality Awards 2018/19** - deadline for community groups/award recipients to submit the form to the Ward Member 31 December 2018  
- deadline for Ward Members to submit the fully completed form and any supporting information to the Communities team 31 January 2019



Disadvantaged/disabled young adults	holiday activities, camping equipment, Caring with Confidence programme (Suffolk Family Carers)
Young People (under 18's,)	beach party, circus skills, laptop/desk set up, recreational equipment
Older People (over 60's)	dementia summer outing, craft workshops,
Sports & Leisure	sports clubs, scouts, bowls, play areas, equipment
Environment & Nature	nature reserves, conservation, tree work
Traffic & Transport	community transport, speed indication display units, grit bins
Village & Community Halls	furniture, flooring, feasibility studies, smaller works
Village enhancements	notice boards, village maps, village green enhancements
Events	annual events, bouncy castles, play equipment, promotion
Neighbourhood plans	contributions, surveys,
WiFi and IT	installation, hardware, TV, screens
Revenue Costs	supporting groups not covered within usual revenue funding, kitchen / toilet refurbishment
Defibrillators & medical	equipment and training for volunteers
Other	CCTV for Stow Cab. Van purchase for Lofty Heights. Renovation towards MEAL steam engine. Fence for forest school