

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

From: Councillor Frank Lawrenson, Cabinet Member for Assets and Investment	Report Number: CMU9
To: Council	Date: 24 July 2018

TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ASSETS & INVESTMENT

1. Overview of Portfolio

- 1.1 Property investment to generate income and regenerate local areas
- 1.2 Make best use of land and buildings across the Suffolk system
- 1.3 Manage our corporate assets effectively

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 This report is for information.

3. Key Activities/Issues Over the Past Three Months

- 3.1 At the Cabinet meeting in February the decision was taken to gift a property in Sudbury, known as Gainsborough Chambers, to the Gainsborough House Society. Since February the Gainsborough House Society have recently been informed that their Heritage Lottery Fund Grant has been successful, with a grant of £4.5million. The transfer of Gainsborough Chambers to the society is likely to take place during July.
- 3.2 Consultation has been undertaken during July for the Angel Court affordable housing development of 21 apartments. The consultation was held at the Guildhall in Hadleigh and approximately 20 people attended. All comments will be considered with the final scheme being submitted to planning during August.
- 3.3 Plans for the regeneration of the Council's former Head Quarters site in Hadleigh are progressing well. During June and July proposed plans for the site have come before Council and Cabinet, for agreement to pursue with the planned redevelopment of the site for housing. A full planning application will be submitted during August.
- 3.4 During May interviews were undertaken to appoint the new Assistant Director for Assets and Investments and the MD for the Councils wholly owned company CIFCO. The interviews concluded with the successful appointment of Emily Atack and she will start with BMSDC during August. Emily is coming from Ipswich Borough Council where she held a similar dual role. Prior to working for Ipswich Emily held roles at Bidwell's, Strutt & Parker and Lambert Smith Hampton.
- 3.5 The Cabinet considered the development of Belle Vue at the meeting during July. A further report will be presented to Council, in September, to request funding to support the regeneration and development of the site to assist a key deliverable within the recently launched "Vision for Sudbury".

- 3.6 The Council recently purchased a piece of land at Bakers Mill, Great Cornard from the Long Melford and Sudbury Angling Association, with the intention of creating an off-road route for pedestrians and cyclists between Great Cornard and Sudbury. Work will commence on the footpath and bridge in August.
- 3.7 Discussions have been held with the partners representing the Hardwick House Surgery relocation project, within Sudbury. The Council are working to secure a central location for this important scheme and intend to announce a preferred location once heads of terms are agreed.

4. Future Key Activities

- 4.1 During September a report will be considered, at Cabinet, to assist the wider development opportunities for Hamilton Road, in Sudbury, prior to the site being marketed nationally.
- 4.2 Work is currently being undertaken to review the options, available to the Council, to assist the house building programme, with regards to construction and funding. Options will be presented to Council, prior to November, to enable an appropriate vehicle to be selected to assist the Council in building homes (Market Sale and Affordable) across all its development sites.

5. Conclusion

There has been a lot of activity and some exciting recent developments over the last few months, and this is set to continue as we look to utilise assets as a way of developing our district and to generate additional income for the Council.