

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

From: Councillor Simon Barrett Cabinet Member for Economy	Report Number: CMU22
To: Council	Date of meeting: 23 October 2018

TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY

1. Overview of Portfolio

- 1.1 Increasing jobs, productivity and supporting our businesses to thrive and grow
- 1.2 Attracting and encouraging inward investment
- 1.3 Business friendly and collaborative strategies to support being 'Open for Business'
- 1.4 Build relationships with local businesses
- 1.5 Liaise with neighbouring authorities and other organisations such as NALEP, SELEP and the Haven Gateway Partnership to support cross-border economic development and investment.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Council notes the report.

3. Key Activities/Issues Over the Past Six Months

- 3.1 'Visioning for Prosperity' work for Greater Sudbury communities continues to progress. Cabinet approved the recommendations at its meeting of 11th June 2018 and the final documents were presented to the public at an open day at the Sudbury Town Hall on 21st June 2018.
- 3.2 The Open for Business Team continue to support the South Suffolk Taskforce, led by local MP James Cartledge, to explore options for the future of the Delphi site in Sudbury and supporting the local economy. Officers are currently working with New Anglia LEP to develop an options appraisal for the site. Babergh have been working hard with Suffolk County Council and legal team to ensure a smooth handover of ownership to BDC on 1st September 2018 of the South Suffolk Business Centre, located near to the Delphi site. The SSBC is currently 100% occupied, supporting local SMEs and building maintenance and improvements are currently taking place/being negotiated with County.
- 3.3 Work with Suffolk Chamber of Commerce has continued so the Council can support their ambition to develop a Central Suffolk Chamber that covers the Mid Suffolk and Babergh area.
- 3.4 Negotiations with Lavenham Parish Council have continued successfully following the decision by Babergh Cabinet to the disposal of the freehold title of 2 Lady Street, Lavenham CO10 9RA. Officers are currently working to ensure a smooth transition.

- 3.5 Discussions with Suffolk Libraries have continued with a view to their providing some visitor information services as happens elsewhere in the County. The first Library to deliver this activity in Babergh will be Long Melford with others to follow depending upon success.
- 3.6 Cabinet agreed the recommendations set out in report BCa/18/16 for the regeneration of Belle Vue Park and surrounding areas at its meeting on 12th July 2018.

4. Future Key Activities

- 4.1 Progressing all of the above to next stages.
- 4.2 Officers will also be continuing several collaborative and commercially sensitive lines of conversation with some significant businesses, attractions and developers. This increases the potential for high value inward investment and links to unlocking stalled sites and promotion of our Enterprise Zone/Food Enterprise Zone designated sites. This work also potentially helps to create jobs, increase the options for our micro and SME businesses, increase value of existing businesses and attract New Anglia LEP and central government investment, including vital infrastructure. Influence and networking is growing with businesses, utility sectors and other partner organisations – all focusing on sustainable growth, jobs and productivity.
- 4.3 Tourism strategy work streams will continue to progress. Senior Officers will be thanking TIC staff for their contribution to the organisations.
- 4.4 Officers will continue to work with SCC and other stakeholders to progress Skills and Youth Employment Service strategy during the next period.
- 4.5 Officers will also be progressing regulatory policy/local standards reviews in Gambling Act 2005 and Taxi/PHV matters.
- 4.6 Continuing to support the inaugural 'Stars of Babergh & Mid Suffolk' Community and Business Awards preparations, nominations and event – to be held at St.Mary's Church, Hadleigh on 18th October 2018.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The above demonstrates that the Councils are continuing the good momentum that has been achieved on key activities and collaborations delivering against set priorities. As well as justifying Officer activity the Open for Business strategy also outlines the breadth of work underway and demonstrates the Councils' impact. There is a lot of other supportive activity and 'business as usual' engagements underway in addition to the above report headlines. The next period will push all of the above work on further, and the key activities in section 4.

Authorship: Councillor Simon Barrett