

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

From: Councillor Christina Campbell Cabinet Member for Environment	Report Number: CMU23
To: Council	Date of meeting: 23 October 2018

TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

1. Overview of Portfolio

- 1.1 The Environment Portfolio covers several distinct service areas. This report provides a snapshot and summary of recent work.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council notes the report.

3. Key Activities/Issues – July to September

Waste Service

Suffolk Waste Partnership Projects

- 3.1 Negotiations for the tender of the MRF (Sorting and Marketing of Mixed Dry Recyclables) contract are continuing to take place and will be concluded in November with the new contract commencing in May 2019.
- 3.2 Working through the Suffolk Waste Partnership, officers have been developing a Waste Planning Guidance document with the aspiration of the forming part of Suffolk Design Guide now under development. SWP officers held a training workshop with planners from Babergh and Mid Suffolk and Ipswich in June, the session was well received and will help further development of the document.
- 3.3 The Suffolk Waste Partnership along with its counter parts in Norfolk have launched their joint Food Waste Reduction initiative working with environmental charity 'Hub-Bub' on the 2-year project.

Sustainable Environment Service

Environmental Protection and Environmental Management

Solar PV Bulk Buy

- 3.4 More than 2,800 Suffolk residents have so far registered for this council-led group buying scheme for solar panels in partnership with iChooser, the group buying specialist. The successful contractor for this scheme is EEC Ltd, a renewable energy specialist which has installed more than 15,000 renewable energy systems over the last nine years. The project has 'morphed' into a joint scheme with other Essex and Norfolk local authorities and more than 5,000 households over the three counties have registered. The expected outcome is 2.5 MW of installed solar power, which will save some 880 tons of CO2 emissions. Registration remains open to households

until 19th October. It is free to register and there is no obligation to buy. Registrants will also be invited to information events being organised throughout the three counties.

Electric Vehicle Charge Point - Highways England Network Funding

- 3.5 This is a BMSDC led project for a network of rapid Electric Vehicle charging points along the A12, A14 and A11 for which the tender process has recently been completed. Installations will be subject to UKPN mobilisation and all work needs to be complete by March 2019.

Planning Enforcement Service

Work is continuing on transferring all of the planning enforcement historical data to the new Uniform system. This has been a protracted issue which along with problems in recruitment has seen an increase in the number of enforcement cases currently under investigation by the team. From 2014 to 2017 cases were consistently held at/around 180-200 at each authority. Due to the IT problems the reporting tools in Uniform do not currently function as required and so the estimated number of cases is around 220 cases in Babergh and 250 in Mid Suffolk. However, the Data Information team now have recruited additional staff to complete transferring the Planning Enforcement team's data.

Heritage Service

Business as Usual

- 3.6 Up to 30/09/18 we received 1,322 consultations, enquiries and service requests and processed 1,354 consultations, enquiries and service requests, as detailed below. In considering the 'balance' between incoming work and work undertaken, it should be noted that many work requests are carried forward from one reporting period to the next or have consultation timeframes that span the quarterly periods.

	Received since 01.04.18	Processed since 01.04.18
Consultations on applications for planning permission and Listed Building Consent	997	1,016
Consultations on applications to discharge planning conditions	164	161
Pre-application enquiries (charged for service)	68	75
Defending appeals against refusal of planning/listed building consent	23	19
External consultations (e.g. applications to change to colour of listed buildings)	37	39

Miscellaneous enquiries/requests	33	44
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Food and Safety Service

- 3.7 Partnership work between the Food & Safety team, the Public Health team and the other district and borough councils saw the launch of the Take Out Eat Well award (TOEW) in September. This extends the current healthy catering award scheme to fully include take-aways as part of a Suffolk strategy to combat the growing obesity problem. The Chinese Chequers in Stowmarket and Pizza Rosso have been involved in the development of the scheme.
- 3.8 A simple caution was administered by the Corporate Manager to the Pitstop mobile food outlet based in Stratford St Mary for food hygiene offences.
- 3.9 Changes to Animal Licensing Legislation come into effect on the 1st of October 2018 with The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018. These regulations update and bring together licensing legislation relating to Pet Shops, Riding Establishments, Breeding and Boarding activities and Performing Animals. New standards and model conditions have been created alongside the regulations themselves. Performing Animal licensing comes to district councils when previously it was a County Council function. As is often the case with legislative changes, much of the detail has been published at a very late stage so that the full implications of any changes are still being assessed by the Food and Safety team.
- 3.10 A warehouse safety campaign, identified and planned through the Food and Safety service plan, will commence in October and run through until the end of the financial year. Part of the work involved will be to update records and identify more of the warehouse businesses that come under local authority health and safety jurisdiction in the two districts.

Licensing Service

- 3.11 The Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Principles document is now out to consultation and will be reported back to Licensing Committees before going on to Full Councils in December 2018 for adoption.
- 3.12 Premises licensing applications are high at the moment with around 18 new MSDC premises licence applications and full variations, events and diversification applications coming in over the past few months.
- 3.13 The Licensing Team reported to Licensing and Regulatory Committee on a revised Mid Suffolk's Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Principles document, that will take effect from January 2019 for a three-year period.
- 3.14 Changes to Policing framework in Suffolk from 1st Nov 2018, affecting Mid Suffolk and Babergh including Licensing Service, were discussed between Licensing Team, Environmental Protection and Suffolk Constabulary on 17 Sept 2018 so that approach and processes integrate seamlessly into the local working arrangements and processes.

- 3.15 The Gambling Act 2005 statutory policy revision is now out to consultation and will be reported back to Licensing Committees before going on to full Councils in December 2018 for adoption.
- 3.16 Mid Suffolk DC (Strategic Asset Management Team) now hold a flexible premises licence for the ex-NatWest Bank building purchased previously by the Council. This will add-value to the asset and enable flexible licensable uses in support of the local community and economy.

Building Control Service

Collaborative working across Suffolk

- 3.17 The Suffolk wide collaborative working development plan continues to be developed. A successful bid was made to the Transformation Challenge Award (TCA) fund to support the implementation of the development plan. Recruitment for a project manager is currently underway.
- 3.18 Following the publication of the Hackitt review on building regulations and fire safety the Government have issued a statement fully supporting the recommendations of the review and that a detailed implementation plan will be set out in the autumn. This is likely to involve changes to the law. There is talk within the industry, and particularly in local authority building control, about the implications which will need to be considered once known.
- 3.19 Implementation of the ISO9001 quality management system (QMS) is currently underway, procedures will need to be aligned with those of the QMS. This is being implemented across Suffolk as part of the collaborative working. Competency levels of the surveying staff will need to be assessed in line with the competency matrix of the QMS which are in line with the recommendations of the Hackitt review.

Public Realm Service

- 3.20 The locations to plant a memorial avenue of Oak trees, one in each District, to commemorate the end of the 1914-18 Great War has been agreed. Debenham will be the location in Mid Suffolk and Beaumont Park in Hadleigh.
- 3.21 A Public Conveniences Strategy was agreed by both councils in July.
- 3.22 The Litter Innovation Fund pilot period has been extended into September. Initial feedback has indicated that since the level of rubbish in bins has been monitored this has greatly assisted the teams to deploy staff resources where they are actually needed. Several parish Councils have expressed an interest in buying the special bins as the new design is encouraging more people to place their rubbish in the bins rather than around them.
- 3.23 Fly Tips collected during this period are as follows:

BDC:

July	22
August	34
September	20

- 3.24 **Grass Cutting:** following the cessation of grass cutting in both Districts during July and most of August grass cutting has commenced following the rain (albeit small amount) experienced at the end of August. It is amazing how quickly the grass recovers and the grass cutting on the usual 3-week cycle is now back in full swing.

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October 2018