

MID SUFFOLK SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT FOR COUNCIL – 22 SEPTEMBER 2016

1. Scrutiny Committee Meeting of 1 September 2016

A summary of key items follows - for full details of all the discussions please see the report and the minutes.

- 1.1 Museum of East Anglian Life (MEAL) – Review of Impact:** Following a referral from the Executive Committee, a Task & Finish Group was set up by Mid Suffolk Scrutiny Committee to review the impact of MEAL.
- 1.2** The review was to explore the economic, social and environmental impact of MEAL on Stowmarket and wider Suffolk and a specialist consultancy, Change Consultancy, was commissioned to undertake the impact research using a Social Return on Investment methodology.
- 1.3** The Committee found that the impact of MEAL was significant in all areas researched – health and wellbeing, society and community, education, economy and environment. A key finding was that for every £1 spent by local public sector organisations on funding MEAL, value of £12.33 is created.
- 1.4** This research enabled the Council to measure the impact of MEAL in a variety of different ways and also to prove the overall value to other funders and potential funders.
- 1.5** Members were unanimous in their view that such research was of great value to the District and the learning of it should not only be applied to (and taken on board by) MEAL but also to other external organisations that work with the Council and potentially some of the Council's own work..
- 1.6** Four recommendations have been made to Executive Committee including providing further support to staff to enable them to confidently apply the methodology in other areas of work.

Councillor Rachel Eburne
Chair of Mid Suffolk Scrutiny Committee