

## **BDC COUNCIL - 21 SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **ITEM 7 - QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**

#### **Question 1**

##### **Councillor Beer to Councillor Malvisi, Cabinet Member for the Environment**

At the February 2021 full Council Budget Meeting, we approved the maximum increase in Council Tax and increased car parking charges to be applied in our own Babergh carparks. The reasons stated that at the time were due to the forecast budget position that a 1.8 million deficit. This was presented at many workshops and by finance officers and the Cabinet Member for Finance.

To help balance this position we were given several options;

Introduce the full allowed council tax increase, introduce car parking charges and close the Sudbury Advice Centre.

I voted against these charges being introduced, based on the information supplied at the time.

We now have the final 2020/21 financial outturn, which shows a rather different position , we now have a £725,000k surplus.

So in light of this information will the Cabinet withdraw the introduction of any car parking charges?

This will give our town centres of Sudbury and Hadleigh a breathing space to recover from Covid 19, this would certainly send out the correct message to our hard pressed residents of Babergh and show that as a Council we do listen to our traders and the public at large.

#### **Question 2**

##### **Councillor Jamieson to Councillor Malvisi, Cabinet Member for the Environment**

Although we have been fairly lucky in this country so far, the extremes of weather experienced globally this summer give increased evidence that climate change is happening now. As this is our last council meeting before cop26, will the member for environment advise us and concerned babergh residents if the council are doing anything to encourage a favorable outcome at the conference. I realise we are but a small pebble on the beach but a letter to the government stressing how important this is would not go amiss and would be the least we could do? if every council did the same we could make a difference.