

## BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>TO:</b> BDC Council	<b>REPORT NUMBER:</b> <b>BC/23/16</b>
<b>FROM:</b> Cllr Alastair McCraw - Cabinet Member for Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvement	<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b> 19 September 2023
<b>OFFICER:</b> Jo Hobbs, Corporate Manager - Strategic Policy	<b>KEY DECISION REF NO.</b> N/A

### BABERGH STATE OF THE DISTRICT REPORT 2023

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide elected members with information on the Babergh State of the District Report prior to publication.

#### 2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Publication of the Babergh State of the District Report 2023, included in Appendix A.
- 2.2 Internal use of the State of the District Report only.

#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To note the content of the Babergh State of the District Report 2023 and endorse its publication on the Councils' website during October 2023.

#### REASON FOR DECISION

The State of the District Report provides a key resource for stakeholders and forms part of the evidence-base underpinning our corporate plan refresh.

#### 4. KEY INFORMATION

##### 4.1 Rationale and background

- 4.1.1 The State of the District Report is designed to provide stakeholders – both within the Council and externally - with an overview of the Babergh district, using data and insight around the themes of environment, economy, health and wellbeing, community and housing, as well as general demographic information. It forms part of the evidence-base underpinning our corporate plan refresh.
- 4.1.2 It is intended to publish State of the District reports for both Babergh and Mid Suffolk on the Councils' website during October 2023.

## 4.2 Data sources

4.2.1 The State of the District Report draws on a range of open-source data published at district level by the Office for National Statistics - including from Census 2021 - and a range of central government departments and non-departmental public bodies.

This is supplemented by data either published or held by selected partners from within Suffolk (e.g. Police, Citizens Advice, Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service).

4.2.2 In addition, previously unpublished insights from the 2022 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Residents Survey are also included in relation to levels of personal well-being among residents, as well as their views towards their local area and community, and their ability to access local services. Data related to resident perceptions of the Councils and its services are not included within the reports.

## 4.3 Key messages

4.3.1 The report discusses a range of issues, including:

4.3.1.1 An older and ageing population, with people aged 65 and over expected to account for a third (33.8%) of all residents by 2043.

4.3.1.2 Greenhouse gas emissions, with transport accounting for 40% of emissions within the district in 2021.

4.3.1.3 Key employment sectors (wholesale and retail, manufacturing and education) and productivity within the district, which falls below the county, region and national averages.

4.3.1.4 A lower-than-average proportion of 16 to 49-year-olds holding higher-level qualifications.

4.3.1.5 High levels of resident satisfaction with their local area, but with differences in views towards the local area and community evident between urban and rural communities.

4.3.1.6 Better than average levels of reported health and personal wellbeing, but with challenges and inequalities evident for certain groups.

4.3.1.7 The nature of the housing stock and housing affordability, with median house prices 10.60 times median annual resident earnings (above the East of England average).

## 4.4 Future publications

4.4.1 The State of the District Report will be repeated each year to build a picture of the strengths and challenges faced within the district, highlighting where changes occur in the data. In future years, the reports will be presented at the same time as our Annual Corporate Delivery Plan, in quarter 1 of the financial year.

## 5. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

5.1 The State of the District Report forms part of the evidence-base underpinning our corporate plan refresh.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

8.1 There are no key risks associated with the publication of the State of the District Report.

## **9. CONSULTATIONS**

9.1 The State of the District reports have been discussed with elected members via portfolio holder briefings and Joint Cabinet Briefing.

## **10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS**

10.1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required. There are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from the publication of the State of the District Report at this stage.

## **11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report. Nonetheless, it is noted that the State of the District Report includes centrally published data relating to greenhouse gas emissions, alongside data which reports on selected biodiversity criteria.

## **12. APPENDICES**

Title	Location
(a) Babergh State of the District Report 2023	Attached.

## **13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

13.1 None.

## **14. REPORT AUTHORS**

14.1 Chris Holmes – Research and Insight Lead