

## **MSDC COUNCIL – 20 NOVEMBER 2023**

### **ITEM 5 – LEADER’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **1. Cosy Homes**

Last week, the council was able to launch the Mid Suffolk Cosy Homes scheme.

This £2million investment will make hundreds of homes in our district more energy efficient, lowering their energy bills and reducing their carbon emissions in the process.

This work will be carried out free of charge for those people who are eligible - funding the likes of loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and draft proofing works.

It is aimed at private homeowners in our district meeting the criteria, and landlords with less than five properties. We want to improve the EPC rating of hundreds of homes.

For more details about the criteria and how to apply, I would encourage people to visit our website. I would also encourage members to spread the word to your communities about this excellent scheme, which I acknowledge was funded by cross-party agreement on last year’s budget.

#### **2. Financial support for those impacted by flooding**

It is a month since severe flooding hit a number of our communities, and for many of our residents the process of recovery continues. Can I pay tribute to members who got stuck in to help their communities during the immediate crisis and since.

The Government has announced grants for homes and businesses that were impacted - £500 for homes, and £2,500 for businesses – to assist with initial recovery costs.

Mid Suffolk District Council has been working with neighbouring districts and Suffolk County Council to get these grants to those eligible as quickly as we can. We will be able to start distributing funding before the end of this month.

I would like to remind everyone that all reports of property flooding need to be submitted via the Suffolk County Council website. We will be reviewing our response to the flooding to see what could be improved – and also how we can build more resilience into our communities.

#### **3. Gateway 14**

And, finally, tomorrow I will be attending the official unveiling of the new building at Gateway 14 to be occupied by garden and leisure products retailer The Range.

Completion of this building is a significant milestone for Gateway 14 and Mid Suffolk. By bringing its operations to Stowmarket, The Range is creating hundreds of new jobs for the region and providing a boost for the local economy.

They are also the first business to come to Gateway 14 – with the site taking shape as a major landmark for business and innovation in the east, we hope that more businesses will soon join. I am really pleased that the building has been constructed with high environmental standards, as we want this whole development to be an exemplar of good, sustainable practice.