

Leader's Report

1. Governance

Further to my report to last Council, I am proposing a change to the number of portfolios within the Cabinet from seven to eight. (BDC are proposing to stick with the original seven).

In the spirit of openness, transparency and inclusiveness, I have also invited the Leaders of the Green Party and the Liberal Democrats to have a seat on the Cabinet (without portfolio) and they have accepted the invitation.

Details will be presented to the Strengthening Governance Task and Finish Group and will be presented to full Council in April for decision.

2. Assets and Investments

- a. Mid Suffolk has now completed the purchase of Paddock House, Eye and the former Middle School in Stowmarket. Having already completed the purchase of the former Middle School in Needham Market, these purchases show the Council's commitment to investing in our market towns and providing new homes to meet the needs of local people. The three sites cost just over £3m and will provide 98 houses.

A development partner will be selected via a procurement/interview process by the end of May this year, with construction starting in September 2018.

At their meeting on the 6th March the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to adopt a Joint Affordable Homes Development Strategy which will encompass the development of these three sites.

- b. Interviews will be held on the 27 and 28 March for the three Non-Executive Directors of the Capital Investment Fund Company Board. There were 27 applicants and 7 will be interviewed. Cllr. Derrick Haley has been appointed as the member director for MSDC.
- c. One Public Estate is a Government initiative with following objectives: 1. Encourage publicly funded services to co-locate; 2. Create economic growth through releasing land and property sites for housing and jobs; 3. Reduce running costs of central & local government assets; 4. generate capital receipts.

A joint bid made between, BMSDC, Suffolk County Council and Ipswich Borough Council. Our bid has been successful:

The OPE Programme Board has agreed to award the partnership £65,000 for 2016/17 to support the delivery of our programme of work, and £170,000 has been earmarked for our programme in 2017/18. A total of £235k against our bid of £350k. Detail to follow on specific details of funding allocation.

Nick Gowrley