

**Council – 21 December 2017**

## **Leaders Report**

### **1. The Budget – some implications for housing**

The Chancellor announced £44billion of capita funding loans & guarantees to support the housing market to deliver 300,000 homes a year on average by the 2020s. An announcement about the details of the housing schemes is expected to be made by Sajid Javid soon. The package includes £15.3billion of new investment and support. Councils will be invited to bid for increases in their HRA caps from 2019/20 up to a total of £1bn by the end of 2021/22. The government will monitor how councils respond to the offer and 'consider whether any further action is needed'. There will be an extra £2.7billion to more than double the housing infrastructure fund; and £400million for estate regeneration.

The Homes & Communities Agency is to expand to become 'Homes England' bringing together money and expertise, and planning and compulsory purchase powers with a remit of ensuring sufficient new homes are provided and an improvement in affordability.

### **2. State of the Nation report 2017 – Social Mobility**

The Social Mobility Commission's latest 'State of the nation' report assesses the progress that Great Britain has made towards improving social mobility. It puts the social mobility index at the heart of the report and ranks all English local authorities into hot spots and cold spots, using a range of 16 indicators for every life stage from the early years through to working lives. The report uncovers a striking geographical divide with London and its surrounding areas pulling away from the rest of the country. Mid Suffolk is placed at 80 out of 324 local authority areas.

### **3. Merger**

Hopefully you are aware that the consultation process has restarted in MSDC and commenced in Babergh. There is a wide range of ways for residents, businesses and shareholders to participate in the engagement, and I would ask you to encourage all your contacts to participate.

Cllr. Nick Gowrley  
Leader - MSDC