**SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**



***Cllr Stephen Burroughes - MARCH 2017***

* **Civil Parking Enforcement**

Suffolk is one of the few counties in England where district councils do not have this responsibility, and parking enforcement is still carried out by the police. The reality is that parking enforcement is not a priority for Suffolk Police. The lack of enforcement action is seen in communities across the district, with mounting discontent over ‘unpoliced’ illegal parking – in particular at pinch points around schools. There are significant safety issues associated with this and, under current arrangements, District Councils are powerless to enforce a solution. CPE would provide those powers.

The law permits the responsibility for parking enforcement to be transferred from the police to local authorities and income from tickets stays with the authority, potentially enabling self-funding. If we agree to support this proposal, there are decisions to be made on how best to achieve this to break even. This proposal includes a range of options such as on-street pay and display or the development of new car parking facilities, and putting in place a very streamlined enforcement operation, fully integrated with our current off street parking enforcement service.

* **East Suffolk Environmental Policy**

We will be considering the revised East Suffolk Environmental Policy, which aims to bring the policy in line with the priorities set out in the recently adopted East Suffolk Business Plan. The new East Suffolk Environmental Policy evaluates the current priorities within both local and national government and applies them to the environmental agenda within East Suffolk. The policy sets out the Councils’ priorities and current objectives, with an action plan to monitor future progress towards achieving the objectives.

* **Proposed Addition to Enabling Communities Budgets Criteria**

Our Enabling Communities Budgets (ECBs) were established in 2013-14 and have proved a great success, having already supported almost 1,000 community-led projects across the District. Some of us Councillors have looked to use their ECBs to support a project/activity initiated by the Authority, identified in its Business Plan, and/or where it is acting as Accountable Body. This situation has arisen with Operation Camouflage, the Women’s Tour and the proposed Armed Forces Day event in Felixstowe in June 2017.

The current scheme criteria do not allow the Council to support projects where the Council is the accountable body and/or fund holder. The Enabling Communities Task Group is therefore recommending a revision to the criteria that would allow this to happen in exceptional circumstances where there is clear evidence of community benefit and impact.

* **East Suffolk Performance Report**

This is a joint report for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney as it provides an overview of the Councils’ performance and progress against the East Suffolk Business Plan. This Quarterly Performance report covers Quarter 3, the period from 1 October to 31 December 2016. Overall the Council continues to make significant and positive progress in delivering the Business Plan objectives. If there are any instances where performance is not adequately meeting targets, these are highlighted in the report detailing the actions being taken.

* **Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2017/18**

Each year, every local authority must approve a policy strategy, which governs its day-to-day treasury management objectives for that year. The overriding principle is ensuring the security of Council’s money. This report sets out the Council’s Treasury Management Policy Statement, Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 and recommends they are approved and adopted.

* **Draft General Fund Budget 2017/18**

This report not only sets out the proposed Council Tax for this district for next year, it also gives an overview of our financial position against the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Cabinet will be asked to consider and make recommendations to Full Council regarding the; proposed Budget for 2017/18, and to note the position with regard to future years; assessment of reserve and balance movements; Council Tax Base for 2017/18; interim Business Rates position; and proposed Band D Council Tax for 2017/18.

* **Anglia Revenue Partnership – Norwich City Council 113 Agreement**

We are one of seven district/borough working together to provide revenue and benefit shared services through the Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP). The ARP has been approached by Norwich City Council to discuss the potential for ARP to provide strategic and operational management support for the service. A negotiated section 113 agreement will enable partnership working without the need for Norwich to become members of the Joint Committee and in the future may lead to trading and other partnership opportunities.

# Planning documents approval

# We have now formally agreed to adopt the recently Planning Inspectorate approved planning documents which set out site allocations for new homes in the district over the next 10 years.

The Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies Development Plan Document and the Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan will together establish and agree the most suitable land to meet the forecast demand for housing in the district as well as considering the requirements for employment land, town centres, open spaces, infrastructure and other land use planning issues as the Council seeks to implement the Core Strategy. The documents will now become part of Suffolk Coastal’s Local Plan alongside the Council’s Core Strategy which was adopted in July 2013.

* **Coastal teams for Leiston**

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced in January that two more coastal towns in east Suffolk have been awarded Coastal Community status. Leiston and Southwold have been selected to have their own dedicated Coastal Community Teams (CCT), bringing together local people, councils, volunteers and businesses to work together to drive forward future economic growth and prosperity in coastal areas.

Leiston and Southwold CCTs will join three existing CCTs already working in east Suffolk; Deben, Felixstowe and Lowestoft.

The Government is committed to supporting coastal communities and has so far funded 118 CCTs across the UK, giving £1.18m to help drive coastal growth. Leiston and Southwold CCTs will each receive £10,000 from the DCLG to help create an economic plan to provide a focus on prioritising the key economic issues facing the towns.

* **Beach Hut Consultation**

The consultation asking the public to consider how beach hut services are run in the district continues ran until Friday 17 February. The consultation follows December’s Cabinet meeting which considered the review of the beach hut service. This review was set out to identify any service efficiencies and to consider further income generation opportunities, including the recommendations to convert all the current beach hut site licences into longer term leases and the proposed charges. Following the results of the consultation, a revised report will be brought to Suffolk Coastal’s Cabinet to consider later in the year.

**For further information or to ask questions etc. I can be contacted at:** stephen.burroughes@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

**Cllr Stephen Burroughes**

District Councillor for Peasenhall & Yoxford Ward

Suffolk Coastal District Council