**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – JULY 2017**



***Cllr Stephen Burroughes - Framlingham Division***

* **DEborah Cadman to BE new Chief Executive in West Midlands**

Suffolk County Council’s Chief Executive, Deborah Cadman OBE is to take up a new role as the first permanent Chief Executive of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).  She joined Suffolk County Council in 2011 and since then has overseen a dramatic improvement in education attainment levels in Suffolk, improved staff morale and led the careful implementation of over £200million of savings made necessary by reductions in funding from government.

* **Suffolk County Council’S NEW Cabinet 2017/18**

### Leader of the Council, Councillor Colin Noble

#### Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure

### Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Jane Storey

#### Cabinet Member for Broadband and Rural Issues

### Councillor James Finch

#### Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

### Councillor Tony Goldson

#### Cabinet Member for Health

### Councillor Matthew Hicks

#### Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection

### Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger

#### Cabinet Member for Adult Care

### Councillor Gordon Jones

#### Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills

### Councillor Robin Millar

#### Cabinet Member for Families and Communities

### Councillor Richard Smith, MVO

#### Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation

### Councillor Paul West

#### Cabinet Member for Ipswich

To find out more about Cabinet portfolios and contact details please visit https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/the-council-and-its-committees/cabinet/#tab2

* **Ipswich Park & Ride Launch**

The new Park & Ride commercial service run by First Eastern Counties launch took place on Monday 3 July.  The new service will run every 15 minutes from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday.  First’s proposal has enabled SCC to achieve its proposed saving of £0.5m each year.  It is important that we take every opportunity to promote First’s Park & Ride service and use it ourselves.

* **Highways Transformation**

A new Highways Senior Leadership Team was established with effect from 6 March 2017, with appointments made to all Head of Service roles under Phase 1 of the organisational change process. Heads of Service have assisted in the finalisation of the new organisational structure for Suffolk Highways, the preparation of 47 new job and person profiles (JPPs) and the conversion of 43 existing JPPs into the new Suffolk Highways JPP format (which sets out appropriate organisational values and behaviours). The selection process (including interviews) for unmatched staff took place between 13 and 29 June 2017, with appointments made during week commencing 3 July 2017.

Whilst a significant proportion of the changes to Rougham, Halesworth, Lowestoft and Brome Depots are due to be completed by the end of July 2017, accommodation works at Phoenix House will continue into August 2017. The timetable has been impacted by the need to tackle asbestos located in the building and any other traces discovered will further impact upon the accommodation works delivery programme.

Following the introduction of the new Highway Maintenance Operational Plan in May 2016, the number of reactive works orders has reduced from the previous year, even though intervention levels have been enhanced (e.g. to pick up potholes at an earlier stage in their formation). This has assisted in achieving a reduction in the proportion of temporary carriageway reinstatements overall through a revised gang composition and better forward programming of works to undertake multiple repairs of defects at individual sites. The highway maintenance operational gangs have also received follow-up ‘toolbox talks’ to reinforce the message that they should treat any additional potholes found when attending any site to undertake a pre-arranged repair.

The following outlines our current status with carriageway maintenance treatments:

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| --- |
| **Area of Surface Dressing & Machine Surfacing (including Micro Asphalt) 2017/18** |
| Treatment | Carriageway area completed at 21/06/17 (m2) | Remaining area scheduled for completion by 31/08/17 (m2) | Total (m2) | Approximate total length treated (km) |
| Surface Dressing | 1,528,501 | 471,499 | 2,000,000 | 308 |
| Machine Surfacing | 203,171 | 43,603 | 246,774 | 38 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Total carriageway length in Suffolk (km) | 6,588 |  |  |
| Total carriageway treated 2017/18 (%) | 5.25% |  |  |

During the 2016/17 winter season, although it may have appeared mild, we undertook a total of 80 Priority 1 (P1) route and 26 Priority 2 (P2) route gritting runs (compared with the 10-year average of 78 P1 route and 22 P2 route gritting runs).

* **The Great East Swim**

About 2,000 swimmers took part in the Great East Swim on Saturday 17 June, swimming distances between 250m and 10km, with some including the new Swim/Run challenge event. An estimated 6,000 spectators supporting family and friends were there from all over the UK and it was an opportunity to show some of what the county has to offer as a future tourist destination. Amongst the participants were 71 people who had been on the Great East Swim outreach programme. This is a 12 week programme which supports individuals who are inactive or suffering from a long term physical or mental health condition.

The first Great East Run will be run in Ipswich on Sunday 24 September and is 13.1 miles (a half marathon). It has proved very popular and reached its capacity (3,000 runners) six months before the starting pistol sounds. The event has also inspired a 5 month programme led by the Make A Change team, to support inactive people and those living with a long-term physical or mental health issue to train for and take part in the event.

* **Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection Update**

The CQC have published their report following the Inspection of the CYP Health Services: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/new_reports/AAAG4724.pdf>. The content of the report is very positive, in particular regarding the quality of the practice of staff. Whilst acknowledging the staffing issues, the CQC were impressed with the effectiveness, and responsiveness of the service as well as the caring attitude of staff. The service was not given a rating under a revised approach by the CQC for small to medium providers where there are no service specific frameworks or knowledge of comparable services to support consistent ratings decisions. The report contained recommendations regarding policy and process for which an action plan will be submitted and monitored for completion through our governance systems.

* **Broadband**

Suffolk’s Better Broadband Programme continues to go well, having moved above 90% coverage of superfast broadband in the county - so nine out of ten Suffolk premises can sign up to superfast broadband. This is a massive achievement, having raised coverage from around 50% when we started the programme to 90% today. We have just extended the contract targets of the programme, so that by 2020 98% of all Suffolk premises will have access to fibre broadband. This is through re-investment of the public subsidy paid back by BT to SCC as take-up of the new services increases. Over recent months, we have worked with some communities on “self-dig” initiatives to connect some hard to reach properties to the network. Government is currently developing a “Universal Service Obligation” for the final few percent, and we are following with interest what this obligation will look like. We continue to offer via our website vouchers for satellite / Wi-Fi connections for those who would like an interim, stopgap solution whilst the fibre rollout progresses. To access information about the progress and plans for broadband roll-out visit [www.betterbroadbandsuffolk](http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk) or email broadband@suffolk.gov.uk

For further information or questions please contact me at: **stephen.burroughes@suffolk.gov.uk**



**Cllr Stephen Burroughes**

*County Councillor for Framlingham*

***Chairman of Suffolk County Council***