

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT



Cllr Stephen Burroughes - JANUARY 2017

May I firstly wish you a very Happy New Year!

- **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18 TO 2020/21**

January's Cabinet meeting kicked off with a decision on the programme of capital expenditure for the next four years and a revision of the current year's programme. The capital programme has been compiled taking account of maintaining an affordable four-year rolling capital programme, ensuring capital resources are aligned with our Business Plan, strategic vision and corporate priorities and to maximise available resources by actively seeking external funding and disposal of surplus assets.

While Suffolk Coastal remains committed to continuing to find innovative ways of making savings through increased partnership working and improved efficiency, we need to make sure that we are in a position to protect frontline services, help provide more affordable homes and support economic development in the District.

Suffolk Coastal is already the strongest economy in Suffolk. Our Business Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy for the next four years focus on how we, as a council, can invest in our local communities to enable them to flourish.

- **BUDGET**

We are working to develop a harder-edged, commercial approach to providing our services, in order to protect the local tax payer. The Council is faced with a steep reduction in the money it gets from central Government, and, through its partnership working with Waveney District Council, it has also drastically reduced its staffing numbers and spending, while still protecting its frontline services.

Suffolk Coastal has been very successful in getting our spending under control, while still improving performance and safeguarding services. However, it is important we do not rest on our laurels. We need to build on this success. In developing our budget for next financial year (2017/18), we are focusing on how we will successfully deliver our Business Plan, while supporting the local economy. We have financial challenges ahead, but Suffolk Coastal has a very strong economy and we are confident we can deliver quality services, while continuing to make efficiency savings and building for the future.

We need to help businesses develop, while driving the provision of more housing, particularly extra affordable homes. We also need to continue to deliver our Enabling Communities Agenda which aims to provide essential grants and support to help make communities stronger and more able to do things for themselves.

We have an ambitious Business Plan to deliver in a challenging financial climate, but we are driving forward on all fronts, such as looking at a merger with Waveney District Council and also moving to more economical new offices.

- **MERGER DECISION – SIMULTANEOUS CABINET MEETING WITH WAVENEY**

A Simultaneous Cabinet Meeting for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils has been arranged for 23 January to consider the proposed merger of the two councils, prior to a report being presented to Full Council on 26 January 2017. We have now brought together results from the independent telephone survey conducted by ComRes and the wider engagement campaign asking residents to submit their views on the plans and will consider these results.

- **SPECIAL CABINET**

There will be a special Cabinet Meeting on 31 January, to determine the Council's response to the Sizewell C Stage 2 public consultation at 6.30 pm in the Deben Conference Room at East Suffolk House. Suffolk County Council will be conducting a separate meeting. The Stage 2 consultation for Sizewell C runs until 3 February 2017 and it is important that your feedback is submitted online at: <http://sizewell.edfenergyconsultation.info/>

OTHER NEWS

- **BEACH HUT CONSULTATION**

The consultation asking the public to consider how beach hut services should be managed in the district will be launched as soon as the detailed questions have been finalised. Please reassure people that the consultation will last for the full six-week duration. 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 Cabinet to consider later in the year.

- **CAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

The work to improve Melton Riverside Car Park is hoped to be completed on schedule. The work to the car park will involve a general clean up of the parking and picnic area and some realignment of the parking area to create an additional 20 car parking spaces. The car park surface will then be re-dressed, increasing the total number of parking spaces to 50.

Once the work to this car park is completed, the Council hopes it will provide better access for regular users of the Country Park as well as providing extra parking for those using the nearby facilities at the station and new district council offices, providing additional public parking at times of peak demand such as major planning meetings. The improvement works to the Thorpe Road Car Park in Aldeburgh are planned to begin on 16 January 2017 with the hopes of completion by Easter.

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