**SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**



***Cllr Stephen Burroughes July 2017***

* **Financial Year Outrun Report 2016/17**

We have a very positive report on the Council’s financial performance for 2016/17 in respect of the General Fund, Reserves, the Capital Programme and the Collection Fund. The key points to highlight are:

* Through careful and effective budget management the Council delivered savings and achieved additional income, which helped to meet spending pressures and reduction in Government Grant.
* The Council increased its General Fund balance by £74k, to £4.194m, maintaining a prudent level of around 3%-5% of gross expenditure.
* The Council was able to increase its Earmarked Reserves by £8.571m. £6.676m of this was to the Business Rate Equalisation Reserve. This was due to rates income above the Governments baseline and a one-off transfer of a surplus from a prior year reduction in the appeals provision.
* The Capital Programme expenditure for 2016/17 was £4.096m, funded from external grants and contributions, capital receipts and capital reserve. The Council did not borrow in 2016/17 to finance its capital expenditure and consequently remains debt free.

The final outturn position is subject to the audit of the Statement of Accounts which will be submitted for approval to full Council in September 2017.

* **Charging for Food Hygiene Rating Scheme Re-Visits**

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has revised its guidance to allow local authorities to charge for revisits to reassess food businesses, under the FHRS, when the revisit happens at the request of the Food Business Operator. This report seeks Cabinet approval to add a charge of £110 + VAT for these revisits, where they occur at the request of the business and where there is no statutory requirement to provide a re-inspection.

Charging for re-inspections was discussed and supported by the Suffolk Food Liaison Group with a view to introducing a common approach across Suffolk local authorities. This approach is consistent with one of the 3 themes within the East Suffolk Business Plan, which is ‘financial self-sufficiency’ and that we should charge for services provided by the Council, where appropriate.

* **Economic Development and Regeneration Staffing Budget**

It is proposed that the role of the Programme and Partnerships Manager within the Economic Development and Regeneration team is extended for a further two years. This contract extension is required to provide the Council with the resource to develop and manage tourism delivery partnership arrangements, project manage the Sizewell C economic assessment and SCDC’s beach hut development programme. Securing this resource will directly support the delivery of three Business plan actions and will also contribute towards the wider economic growth and financial self-sufficiency aims of the plan.

* **Suffolk Show 2017**

Hundreds of families visited our ‘Get Active in Suffolk Coastal’ stand in the Sports Village at Suffolk Show. Children of all ages got involved in the 50m cycle sprint, which took part in the ‘Wattbike’ competition, decorating wooden bikes to celebrate the impending arrival of the Tour of Britain to Suffolk on Friday 8 September. The show also gave us the opportunity to shout about our multi-million pound Leisure Redevelopment Programme. More events happening this summer include Women On Wheels and Operation Camouflage. One of our aims within the East Suffolk Business Plan is to increase access to quality leisure, cultural facilities and activities that support and promote healthier lifestyles. Hopefully our presence at the Suffolk Show helped people find out more about getting active in Suffolk Coastal.

* **Official opening of East Suffolk House**

Over 100 guests were present to see the Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk, Lady Clare, Countess of Euston, carry out the opening duties – amid praise for the design of the new building. Suffolk County Council Chairman, Stephen Burroughes also attended the event. This project has recognised that bringing this project home on time and within budget was a major achievement for the council. The fact we have achieved this without creating any extra tax burden on local people is something we can all be proud of. Importantly, we have now got a modern, energy-efficient headquarters, which will enable us to continue to provide high quality services to local people. We can prove that government buildings can be attractive, and functional and provide good value for money!

* **Suffolk Armed Forces Weekend 2017**

A highly successful ‘Suffolk Armed Forces Weekend 2017’ took place at the end of June, which attracted thousands of people into Felixstowe for a fun-filled weekend, with a serious side. As well as providing entertainment for all the family, the event recognised the huge contribution made by our servicemen and women, as well as marking the important 350th anniversary of the Dutch attack on Landguard Fort (which was the last time foreign forces launched an armed landing on English soil). On both days visitors included many military personnel and their families enjoyed a great day out, including live music, historical re-enactments, children’s entertainment, an air display and fireworks.

The Suffolk Armed Forces Weekend was a county event, hosted by Suffolk Coastal District Council and held in Felixstowe. It was very much a community event, supported by a variety of organisations such as the Suffolk Armed Forces Community Covenant, Royal British Legion, Felixstowe Town Council, Suffolk County Council, Landguard Fort Trust and the Royal Marines Association.

* **Coastal Conference**

Tickets are now available for the Suffolk Coast Forum Conference 2017. The event at Trinity Park, Ipswich, on Friday, 6 October, is the 6th annual community conference being staged by the Suffolk Coast Forum. This year’s conference focuses on valuing our coast. It aims to bring together the reasons why the coast is so important to our communities, our businesses, our economy, culture and heritage, as well as our environment. The speakers and workshops will put forward the compelling case for building the future of our coast through planning, investment and management – outlining the many innovative ways in which this can and is being done here and elsewhere.

The conference is free of charge. However, we would recommend booking your place early at: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/suffolk-coast-and-estuaries-community-conference-2017-tickets-26964786402](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/suffolk-coast-and-estuaries-community-conference-2017-tickets-26964786402)

**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