

Annual Report Summary (2017/18) & Priorities for 2018/19

Message from Councillor John Ward Leader of Babergh District Council



Increasing the number of affordable homes available for local people in our districts is one of our top priorities. We have therefore built the first council homes in Babergh for three decades in partnership with local communities. Local people have already moved into their new homes in Lavenham, and others will be moving in Glemsford from this spring.

All new tenants have to demonstrate their strong local connections to the community as part of our commitment to providing homes for local families in most need. There are plans for 210 more new homes to be delivered by Babergh District Council by 2021, of which 27 have already been acquired and there are firm plans for up to 34 more.

Supporting and growing our local economy is another of our top priorities. Sudbury has always been one of the key focal points for our local economy, so last summer we started to develop a vision, with local residents and stakeholders for revitalising the town centre. With this in mind the council also plans to make major investments in Sudbury over the next few years. The council has also recently agreed to invest £3.4M in the council's leisure centres in Sudbury and Hadleigh.

We have made it quicker, easier and more convenient for you to contact us at a time of your choosing via our new website, a new single telephone number and a new customer access point at the Town Hall in Old Market Place, Sudbury.



We have also moved our back office staff into the same building as Suffolk County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (Health) in order to better join up everything we do together for the benefit of our residents. This will also save £5.8M in running costs over the next 10 years. All these savings, of your money, will be reinvested into other services for our residents.

As well as making savings the council is also working hard to generate new sources of income through other financial investments. These are anticipated to produce £1.5M in 2018/19 alone, which again will be reinvested into council services for you.

However, as core funding from the Government decreases again this financial year and reduces to zero by 2019/20, we have made the difficult decision to increase our slice of the council tax by 3.25%, equivalent to £3.89 per year for a Band B property. This means that the largest properties in the district will pay £10 more per year and the smallest homes will pay an extra £3.33 per annum to help fund Babergh District Council.

But to help protect our most vulnerable households further, the council has decided that residents most in need will only have to pay 5% per cent of their council tax bill. This is a decrease of the 8.5% that was previously charged.

Finally, it is important to remember that Babergh District Council only receives approximately 10% of your total council tax bill – most of it goes to fund other public services including the county council, police, town and parish councils, which we just collect on their behalf.

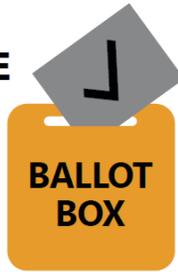


Community Capacity Building Engagement

DELIVERY OF 2 MAJOR ELECTIONS IN THE SPACE OF TWO MONTHS

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION IN MAY 2017

SNAP PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION IN JUNE 2017



SUPPORTED THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING PROCESS BY HOLDING NP REFERENDUMS (LAWSHALL)

LULLABY PROJECT WINS BEST FAMILY ARTS EVENT

SUPPORTING PRE SCHOOL CHILDREN WITHIN THE DISTRICTS - ENCOURAGING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN A UNIQUE INTERACTIVE CLASSICAL MUSIC EXPERIENCE



ON-LINE SURVEY

548

RESIDENTS PROVIDED FEEDBACK TO SERVICE AREAS

#OURDAY

1,380 NEW FOLLOWERS GAINED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

WE SUPPORTED THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION'S TWITTER CAMPAIGN #OURDAY AND CREATED A SOCIAL MEDIA ADVENT CALENDAR TO RAISE AWARENESS OF COUNCIL SERVICES

£2.56m

Investment into the Regal Theatre in Stowmarket



Gainsborough's Chambers

in Sudbury gifted to Museum



LONG MELFORD RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES AND VISITORS BENEFIT AS BDC TRANSFERS OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE TO PARISH COUNCIL FOR NEW VISITOR CENTRE



AWARD WINNING STOWMARKET LEISURE CENTRE

200 CHILDREN

EDUCATED ABOUT THE MERITS OF FOOD HYGIENE AFTER MISSION POSSIBLE PACKS DELIVERED TO THEIR SCHOOLS



NEEDHAM LAKE GREAT RUN

LARGEST EVENT OF THIS TYPE IN THE COUNTRY ATTRACTING UP TO **10,000** PARTICIPANTS



FIT VILLAGES PROJECT

INCREASED TO 40 WITHIN THE DISTRICT - 85% OF THE PROJECT IS SUSTAINABLE

GRANT FUNDING

CAPITAL GRANT ALLOCATION FOR

BDC = £37,000 MSDC = £81,725

THIS HAS ENABLED EXTERNAL FUNDING OF

£1,708,435

INVESTMENT IN THE TWO DISTRICTS

HADLEIGH TIDY TOWN TEAM

2ND YEAR SUCCESS OF THE COMMUNITY LED LITTER PICK TEAM



LET'S WALK STOWMARKET

WALKING FESTIVAL

149

PEOPLE ATTENDED 15 WALKS



80TH ANNIVERSARY ARTHUR RANSOME

"WE DIDN'T MEANT TO GO TO SEA"



SUPPORTED COMMUNITY LED PROJECT BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER INCLUDING SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY GROUPS

COLLABORATIVE WORK SUPPORTED BY THE OPEN FOR BUSINESS TEAM

SUPPORTED THE PURCHASE OF SHOTLEY PIER

GROW YOUR OWN



SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP AT BELLE VUE PARK & THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT



Business Growth & Increased Productivity

EAT OUT EAT WELL
AWARDS



TO DATE **29** BUSINESSES
IN BABERGH &
MID SUFFOLK HAVE
WON THE AWARD



WE SUPPORTED THE SUCCESSFUL BID FOR FUNDING TO IMPROVE
THE A140 AT BROME. AS A RESULT

£3.75 MILLION

WAS GAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
UNLOCKS BUSINESSES AND CREATES A SAFER AREA FOR HOUSING

CREATION OF A NEW
ECONOMIC &
TOURISM STRATEGY



**AUTHORISED &
MAINTAINED**

900 LICENSED LEISURE,
CLUB, RETAIL AND EVENT
PREMISES,
1000 TEMPORARY EVENTS,
350 LICENSED VEHICLES
(TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE)
AND 400 DRIVERS



**ENTERPRISE ZONES
PROGRESSED IN**

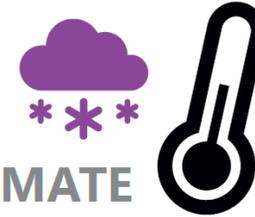
SPROUGHTON & STOWMARKET

THESE ARE VITAL TO SUPPORT AND ATTRACT BUSINESSES AND
INWARD INVESTMENT

**'SPACE TO
INNOVATE'**

BRANDING OF THE EZ'S

SUFFOLK CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP



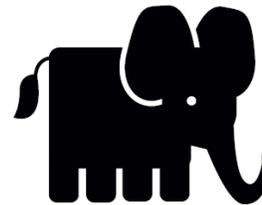
57 BUSINESSES IN
BMSDC HAVE RECEIVED
FREE AUDITS
WHICH WILL REDUCE
ENERGY BILLS BY

£108,000

SAVING

520

TONNES OF
CARBON DIOXIDE
EMISSIONS



FACILITATED THE
LICENSING OF
AROUND 90 ANIMAL
ESTABLISHMENTS
INCLUDING TWO

ZOOs

THE SUFFOLK OWL SANCTUARY
AT STONHAM BARN
AND JIMMY'S FARM AT WHERSTEAD



80

FOOD SERVICE REQUESTS
DEALT WITH BETWEEN
OCT - DEC 2017

INVESTED
£2.56M

INTO THE REGAL
THEATRE, STOWMARKET,
TO CREATE 2 EXTRA FILM
SCREENS & MODERNISE
THE VENUE





Housing Delivery

BUILDING CONTROL
SECURED THE CONTRACT FOR
175
DWELLINGS IN STOWUPLAND



 SUCCESSFUL PLANNING PERMISSION GAINED FOR
18 NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES
AT THE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST DEVELOPMENT
IN LAVENHAM



JOINT LOCAL PLAN

PUBLIC CONSULTATION COMPLETED
TO REGULATION 18




SUBMISSION
OF TWO
MULTI -MILLION
POUND BIDS
TOTTALING
£14.6
MILLION
TO THE
HOUSING
INFRASTRUCTURE
FUND


FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS
FULL REVIEW OF ALL
ACCOMMODATION THAT
HAS COMMUNAL AREAS
OR BLOCKS OF FLATS
FOLLOWING
THE TRAGIC EVENTS AT
GRENFELL TOWERS.

88
UNITY-TYPE
SYSTEMS



UNITY REDEVELOPMENT &
REGENERATION SCHEMES
IN MID SUFFOLK
WITH ORBIT HOUSING
SCHEME

BUILT ON 3 HOUSING ESTATES
AND THE COMPLETION OF
12 NEW HOMES IN
WOOLPIT



HOUSING & ECONOMIC SCHEMES

EXAMPLES
INCLUDE
800 NEW HOMES
IN THURSTON

OVER
1100 NEW
HOMES AT
CHILTON WOODS



VOIDS

ESTABLISHED A
PROGRAMME TO
DELIVER A
10 DAY REDUCTION
IN VOID TIMES TO
SUPPORT
HOMELESSNESS



DEVELOPED THE
**COMMUNITY
INFUSTRUCTURE
LEVY**

STRATEGIC HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT
LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT
PUBLISHED IN
AUGUST 2017

Achievements 2017/18 Enabled & Efficient



Enabled & Efficient



1.2 MILLION

DOCUMENTS SCANNED
TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT
OF PAPER WE USE



ON-LINE SERVICES

INCREASED APPLICATIONS
AND SELF SERVICE
FOR ALL COUNCIL SERVICES



ESTABLISHED AN INTERGRATED
RECORD OF CONTRACT
DOCUMENTS &
CONTRACT REGISTER

CONTRACT PACKETS IN STORES WERE
IDENTIFIED, SORTED. ALL RETAINED FILES
SCANNED AND PUBLISHED ON **CONNECT**

1600

NEW GARDEN WASTE
CUSTOMERS AND 67 NEW
COMMERCIAL WASTE CUSTOMERS



INTRODUCED CHARGED PRE-PLANNING
APPLICATION
ADVICE ACHIEVING INCOME OF

£88,000



ANSWERED CALLS UP FROM

74% > 93%

AVERAGE TIME TO ANSWER CALLS
3 MINUTES
REDUCED TO
1 MINUTE 12 SECONDS



SUDBURY & STOWMARKET



CUSTOMER
ACCESS
POINTS
OPENED

MOVED HQ TO ENDEAVOUR HOUSE



DELIVERED AN AGILE
WORKING ENVIRONMENT

PARTNERSHIP

CREATED WITH THE
DEPARTMENT FOR WORK
AND PENSIONS
AND JOB CENTRES



250

STREET AND CAR
PARK LIGHTS BEING
REPLACED
WITH LED
REDUCING RUNNING
COSTS BY 75%

JOINT LOCAL
PLAN AND
VISIONING
RESULTED IN
OVER
1,000
RESPONSES

844

INFORMATION REQUESTS
PROCESSED INCLUDING
670 FOI'S - 142 EIR'S
32 DPI'S

670

MEMBERS
OF STAFF
ENABLED TO
WORK AGILE

200

LAPTOPS
DEPLOYED

BUILDING CONTROL



FULLY ON-LINE SERVICE
IMPLEMENTED

CELEBRATED 1ST YEAR

ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SHARED LEGAL SERVICE

ACHIEVING UNDERSPENDS
IN THE SERVICE AREA



5 WASTE TIPPING OFFENCES PROSECUTED



Assets & Investments

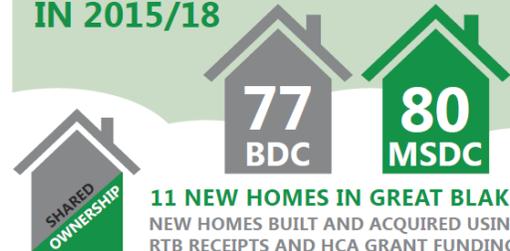


PURCHASE OF PADDOCK HOUSE AND THE FORMER MIDDLE SCHOOL IN STOWMARKET - TO SUPPORT THE MID SUFFOLK AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME



INVESTMENT IN THE COUNCILS NEW HOUSING MANAGEMENT SERVICE TRANSFORMING ALL STAFF AND SETTING UP NEW SERVICES IN APRIL 2017

DELIVERED AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN 2015/18



11 NEW HOMES IN GREAT BLAKENHAM
NEW HOMES BUILT AND ACQUIRED USING HRA CAPITAL, RTB RECEIPTS AND HCA GRANT FUNDING.

ASSIGNMENT OF LEASE FOR INDUSTRIAL UNIT IN HADLEIGH TO SUPPORT UP TO

20 NEW JOBS

AND PROVIDE INCOME TO THE COUNCIL



COMMENCED REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF THE TWO HQ SITES TO SUPPORT HOUSING GROWTH IN THE DISTRICTS



COUNCIL ASSET STRATEGY APPRAISED ALL COUNCIL ASSETS TO ENSURE COUNCIL GIVES BEST VALUE FOR MONEY

SECURED INCOME AND SUPPORTED PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WITHIN MSDC THROUGH AGREEMENT WITH NEIGHBOURING LAND OWNER



£50 MILLION

INVESTMENT ESTABLISHED WITH CIFCO AS A VEHICLE TO SUPPORT THE COUNCILS REVENUE FUND

BOTH COUNCILS INVESTED CASH in Schroder with a 7.88% return, and CCLA with a 4.08%, to date this has generated

£179,000

for MSDC

£400,000

for BDC



COMMUNITY HOUSING FUND

BMDC AWARDED OVER

£400,000

TO INVEST IN COMMUNITY LED HOUSING SCHEMES

Joint Strategic Plan - Priorities 2018-2019



KEY

- Joint priorities
- BDC priorities
- MSDC priorities

Our Priorities 2018|19

Housing Delivery

- Local Plan (5yr Land Supply) Submitted for inspection by Spring 2019
 - Narrow land supply gap
- Housing Strategy
 - Complete (Winter 2018-19)
- Council Housing Building Programme
 - 210 Houses Babergh; 90 Mid Suffolk (2018-21)
- Increase Affordable Housing
- Delivery of stalled sites - Increase rate of completions e.g. Ganges (Shotley); Ashes Farm (Stowmarket)
- More empty homes brought back into occupation faster (Council housing & private)
- Increase Temporary Accommodation
 - Provision in Stowmarket (Autumn 2018)
 - Review demand/feasibility for another facility (Winter 2018-19)

Assets & Investments

- CIFCO
 - Financial revenue target & fully invest £50M (Winter 2018-19)
 - Review options to further extend investment (Autumn 2018)
- Former HQ Sites
 - Planning application (Autumn/Winter 2018-19)
 - On site (Spring/Summer 2019)
- Development sites
 - Planning application (Autumn/Winter 2018-19)
 - On site (Spring/Summer 2019)
 - Angel Court - Hadleigh (Linked to Hadleigh HQ)
 - Stowmarket & Needham Middle Schools
 - Paddock House, Eye
- Assets Strategy - Asset utilisation and approach (Summer 2018)
 - Bakers Mill - Great Cornard Bridge solution
 - Hamilton Rd, Sudbury
 - Complete feasibility on regeneration work and develop business plan (Summer 2018)
 - Belle Vue, Sudbury
 - Business case to Cabinet (Summer 2018)
 - Planning application (Summer 2018)
 - Leisure Investment (Hadleigh, Stowmarket & Sudbury)
 - Gainsborough Chambers Asset Transfer

Enabled & Efficient Organisation

- Financially Sustainable Council
 - Transformation Programme (Celebrate success of last 5yrs)
 - Finance Strategy 2019-22 and balanced budget 2019-20
- Customer Strategy (Refresh) (Summer 2018)
 - Measure and work towards increasing overall customer satisfaction
- Communications Strategy (Spring 2018)
 - Programme of key activities
- Council Recognition
 - National award application/shortlisting
- Prepare for Civil Parking Enforcement (Spring 2019)
- Joint Parking Policy (Winter 2018-19)

Business Growth & Increased Productivity

- Deliver Economic Development Strategy
 - Support for Enterprise Zones
 - Sproughton & Gateway 14
- Business Awards (Winter 2018-19)
- Tourism Strategy (Spring 2018)
- Vision For Prosperity (Town development in partnership with Town Councils)
 - Vision for Sudbury (Winter 2018-19)
 - Vision for Stowmarket (Winter 2018-19)
- TECH Hub Stowmarket
 - Deliver pilot scheme (Winter 2018-19)
- Development plan for Stowmarket Nat West Building
 - Feasibility (Spring 2018)
- Support Sudbury bypass
- Support A14 improvements and A14 Express Way

Community Capacity Building & Engagement

- Communities Strategy (Winter 2018-19)
- Community Grants (visibility, approach for 2018-19 and outcomes)
- Community Awards (Winter 2018-19)
 - Sudbury Skate Park (Belle Vue)
 - Commence work (Winter 2018-19)
- Develop café/visitor centre Needham Lakes
 - Feasibility (Summer 2018)

Environment

- Environment Strategy (Winter 2018-19)
- Deliver sustainable energy schemes
 - PV Panels,
 - Facility battery power
 - Vehicle charging points
- Recycling Rate:
 - BDC 43.63%
 - MSDC 45.98%
- Garden Waste (Customer increase)
- Public Realm Review
 - Deliver action plan benefits (Summer 2018 - Winter 2019)
- Trees for Life-Deliver Scheme
 - New-born Children 18-19 (Summer 2018 - Winter 2019)

One Council

- Business Case complete (Spring 2018)
- Local Poll (Summer 2018)
- MHCLG 'Minded to' decision (Autumn 2018)