SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 13TH APRIL 2021 AT 7.00PM

Present: Mr J Owen Mayor of Sudbury, in the CHAIR.

Mrs S Ayres Ms E Murphy
Mr N Bennett Mr A Osborne
Mr T Cresswell Mrs J Osborne
Mr O Forder Miss A Owen
Ms L Fowler Mr R Spivey

Mr S Hall

Mr C Griffin Town Clerk

Mrs J Budd Deputy Town Clerk

Following the death of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, members observed a one minute silence at the start of the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs J Antill, J Sayers and County Councillor C Spence.

Councillor D Williams was absent, but no apologies had been received.

2 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>

Mrs S Ayres, Mr T Cresswell, Mr A Osborne, Mrs J Osborne, and Miss A Owen declared that they were Babergh District Councillors. Mr Owen declared that he was a Suffolk County Councillor.

3 DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

No declarations were received.

4 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

No requests for dispensation had been received.

5 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 9th March 2021 be confirmed and would be signed as a correct record.

Councillor Oliver Forder announced that he would be leaving the Council as he was moving away from the Sudbury area. Members thanked Councillor Forder for his commitment and work for the Town and wished him and his family all the best for the future.

6 REPORTS

a) County Councillors' reports – Councillor J Owen gave a summary of his report.

A copy of Councillor Owen's report is shown at minute page 244.

Councillor Owen advised that the £8m placed in last year's County Council budget for the upgrade of street lighting in Suffolk is a programme of works that is still ongoing.

Councillor Owen agreed to enquire into the following areas and report back:

- The 6 or 12 month highway programme for road re-surfacing.
- Chase the resurfacing plan for Gregory Street.
- Emerging plans to place a coach stop within Girling Street Car Park.
- Repainting faded road markings at road junctions that have become dangerous.
 (Councillor Cresswell will email Councillor Owen details of a recent accident)

County Councillor Colin Spence will be stepping down from this role, and therefore this was his last meeting with the Town Council. Unfortunately, due to technical issues, Councillor Spence was unable to attend the meeting. He wished Councillors farewell. On behalf of the Town Council, Councillor J Owen thanked Councillor Spence for all the work he had been involved in over many years.

A copy of Councillor Spence's report is shown at minute page 247.

RESOLVED

That Councillors J Owen and C Spence be thanked for their reports.

b) District Councillor's report - Councillor Mr Osborne gave the District Councillor's report. A copy of the report is shown at minute page 261.

The state of the £100,000 of Section 106 money that had come from the new Sainsbury's on Cornard Road was raised. This had been specifically allocated for improvements to Sudbury Bus Station and members were concern that it may have been spent without any visible improvements.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mr Osborne be thanked for his report.

That the Deputy Town Clerk should enquire with the Town Centre Manager, who had looked into this issue, and report back.

- c) Policing Report: There was not a police briefing tonight, but members looked forward to the new locality inspector, Insp Matt Paisley, briefing the council in May.
- d) Public Forum Via live link members of the public were able to type questions pertaining to Sudbury.

Questions received included the availability of Business Recovery grants and the installation of more litter bins.

RESOLVED

Details on Business Recovery grants can be found on Babergh's website. If members of the public wish to nominate a specific area that requires additional or replacement bins, they should contact the Town Council directly.

7 TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

The Chairman of Planning advised members that the committee had refused an application to convert part of the Glasswells Store in North Street into residential flats. Members felt that this application was overdevelopment and lacked any disabled access. They also refused an application for housing and a residential home on land adjacent to the Health Centre. Members felt this land should remain as employment land. An issue regarding the lack of taxi ranks in town was also discussed. Members suggested that this issue should be included with the District Council's Parking Strategy review and the discussions are held with the licensing team as to why taxi licenses are continuing to be issued when there are not enough places for them to park.

NB Members were advised that the Glasswells application has been approved by Babergh District Council.

Planning, Development & Highways It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT 1st March 2021

Planning, Development & Highways It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT 15th March 2021

The Chairman of the Leisure and Environment Committee advised that they had recommended that Party in the Park should not take place at all in 2021. After detailed discussions it was agreed that the Events Co-ordinator should write a report on the feasibility of running Party in the Park on 5th September 2021. This report would cover details of costs and the commitment of time required from members to run this event. A final decision on whether to run this event in 2021 would be made by the Leisure and Environment committee at their meeting on 27th April.

Leisure, Environment & Highways As amended above, it was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT

The Chairman advised members that there had been two Grant Aid applications discussed. Tudor Primary, which had requested the maximum possible grant, had had their decision deferred until the May finance committee meeting to allow a representative to attend to justify the benefits of their application.

Finance It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT 2nd March 2021

8 RETURN TO PHYSICAL MEETINGS IN MAY

Members were advised that the current legislation allowing remote council meetings ceases to have effect from 7th May and the Government have firmly stated that it will not be extended beyond that date. The new Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps) (England) Regulations 2021 came into force on 29th March and will permit the return to face-to-face meetings when Step 3 of the Government's Roadmap out of Lockdown is implemented, which will not be before 17th May 2021.

Therefore, no council meetings can be held between 7th and 16th May 2021. This precludes the normal second Tuesday for the next full council meeting, which should include the annual mayor making. The Town Clerk recommended that this meeting be re-scheduled for the third Tuesday, 18th May, as a face-to-face meeting in the Town Hall.

The Town Clerk proposed a COVID-safe layout for meetings to resume in the Assembly Room, with tables spaced apart for social distancing. A limit may need to be set for the number of members of the public who could attend, but the Town Clerk proposed to continue to live-stream all meetings and make the recordings available on the website.

RESOLVED

That the next full Council meeting takes place on the 18th May with the layout proposed by the Town Clerk, including space for the public if permitted by COVID regulations.

The Town Clerk will keep members informed of any changes in legislation.

9 SUDBURY VISION STEERING GROUP

Councillor Ms Murphy is the Town Council's representative on this group. She reported that she felt very disillusioned with how the group was run. The current meeting format did not allow Ms Murphy time to discuss proposals with the Town Council before they are considered by the group, and was therefore not able to give the opinion of the Town Council.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk and Councillor R Spivey continue to talk to the Chair of the Steering Group, Councillor M Holt, and others at Babergh District Council, to convince them of the merits of a more inclusive format.

9pm - The meeting was extended by 15 minutes.

10 BELLE VUE STEERING GROUP

Councillors R Spivey and Miss L Fowler gave members an update. In March 2020 Belle Vue House and the adjacent old Swimming Pool site had been removed from the Asset Community Value (ACV) register as their 5-year listing had expired. No organisation had yet reapplied for listing and so it was recommended that the Town Council reapply for an ACV.

RESOLVED

That an application to register Belle Vue House and the adjacent old Swimming Pool site as an asset of community value (ACV) be made by the Town Council.

11 MILLACRE

The Leisure and Environment Committee recommended to the full Council that the Boating Pond on Millacre be removed and replaced with an ecological play area.

The Deputy Town Clerk read out an email from Mr Richardson who had been involved in creating the Boating Pond as a memorial to the Green family 50 years ago. Mr Richardson understood the difficulties with the high maintenance costs of the current pond and would not object to its conversion for an alternative public recreational use.

RESOLVED

That members agree in principle to the recommendation that the Boating Pond be converted into a play area along the lines proposed, subject to the results of a public consultation and detailed costings being agreed by the full Council.

12 MARKET AND PAVEMENT LICENSES

The Town Clerk advised members that during the difficult financial year 2020/2021, due the pandemic, the Market had coped very well. A full market will be back for the first time in 2021 later this week.

With the latest part of the Government's Roadmap coming out of lockdown, eating, and drinking could now place outside. Four businesses in town had applied for Pavement Licences. These were Prado Lounge, Lady Elizabeth and Costa on Market Hill and the White Horse in North Street wish to extend their outside seating to outside the vacant shop next door.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk's report be noted.

9.15pm – The meeting was extended by a further 5 minutes.

13 TREASURY MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Finance committee recommended to full Council the adoption of the Treasury Management Investment Strategy report. A copy of the report is shown at minute page 263.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee advised members that Councillor Mrs Antill's husband has volunteered to give members training on understanding financial risks.

RESOLVED

That the Treasury Management Investment Strategy report be adopted.

14 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised that he and the Town Clerk had had an informal virtual meeting with Mr Geoffrey Probert, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant covering the Sudbury area.

The late Mr Weir, a gentleman who in the past kindly gifted the Town Council a considerable amount of money, had left the Town Council a significant bequest in his Will.

A memorial service would be held for the Duke of Edinburgh by St Gregory's Church on Friday at 6pm. All Councillors were invited to attend. However as seating would be limited, councillors should contact Rev Cheryl Collins in advance.

At 3pm on Saturday, a one minute silence would be held at the front of the Town Hall ahead of the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.20pm							

Chairman.....

County Council report to the April 2021 Town Council Meeting

Tuesday, 13 April 2021

Dear Colleagues

Coronavirus in Suffolk

Overview

In the week up to April 7 there have been **175** new cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. This is a decrease on the numbers in the previous week.

The underlying rate of new weekly cases in Suffolk has decreased slightly and is now at **25.6** cases per 100,000 people. This rate remains below the rates for the East of England region (**28.3 / 100,000**) and for England as a whole (**38.6 / 100,000**).

Publication of the latest mortality data is delayed this week due to the Bank Holidays. In total, up to March 19, which remains the latest data from ONS, there have been **1,534** deaths in Suffolk where COVID-19 was recorded on the death certificate. There were **eight** COVID-19 related deaths in the seven days up to March 19.

The estimated 'R' value for the East of England is between **0.7 and 1.0**. This value has stayed the same compared to the previous week. The estimated 'R' value for England as a whole, has also remained the same this week (**0.8–1.0**). Any R value greater than 1 means the epidemic is no longer decreasing.

Suffolk Cases

As of April 7 there have been **29,835** total lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. In total there have been **3,918.7** cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people. This is the lowest overall COVID-19 case rate in the East of England.

District case rate as of 7 April 2021

Area name	Daily Cases reported	Weekly Cases reported	Weekly case rate*	Wk on wk trend*	Cumulative cases	Cumulative case rate	National Rate Rai (of 315
Babergh	4	17	12.0	4	3,838	4170.10	272
East Suffolk	2	42	17.2	4	8,753	3508.80	292
lpswich	3	61	58.4	4	7,549	5513.70	196
Mid Suffolk	1	21	19.3	1	3,260	3137.80	300
West Suffolk	11	35	22.9	4	6,435	3594.10	288
Suffolk	21	175	25.6	4	29,835	3,918.7	=
East of England	198	1,506	28.3	4	385,270	6,178.1	
England	2,304	17,943	38.6	4	3,818,665	6,784.3	

<u>The County Council's Highway Budget</u> has dried up and with very little new expenditure being considered, additional sign posting for the Station road/Friars street junction is on the agenda for the Highways & Environment Committee to consider.

West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership(WSCSP (Chaired by Joanne Spicer.

A meeting of this group was held with several County, District, Police and other Partners in attendance, with the new Superintendent for Suffolk Janine Wratten being introduced to the group, Janine spoke at length about her previous role in the Metropolitan Police force, and in responding to questions stated that there have been a number of changes in the command team within Suffolk Constabulary and JWR is keen to remain in the new post for some time. JWR is a thematic lead for stop and search, ASB, which has been reviewed internally and although much work has been done, there is more to do, particularly with partners, and the lead for rural crime.

JWR will be working closely with Superintendent Jane Topping (JT), who covers the South of the county and is responsible for vulnerable persons, criminal exploitation and domestic violence. There is more work to do around domestic violence, modern slavery as well as criminal exploitation. Jane was a career detective and has an extensive background and will be beneficial to the team. JWR and JT plan to collaborate on the thematic work with Superintendent Paul Sharp, based in the East. JWR spoke of Information Sharing Agreements and the need to be able to trust and work together although police are bound by the rules. JWR gave an example of a previous Met Police covid project with an open sharing agreement with Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham and Havering. JWR plans to be more open to sharing information and wants to look at an open sharing agreement for Suffolk.

RE spoke about Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) which have been effective with police support. PSPO in place in Moreton Hall due to youth driving ASB. RE is seeking support in regards PSPOs in Haverhill and Bury.

Jack Owen spoke of regular briefings with Inspector Kevin Horton and the ability to have conversations and provide updates in and around Sudbury to help police. JO asked whether these briefings could continue.

JWR spoke of spending $\frac{1}{2}$ day on Monday in Haverhill and $\frac{1}{2}$ day in Sudbury. Last week JWR visited Stowmarket. Purpose is to visit the areas so that officers know what is expected of them and encourage partnership working. Inspector Matt Paisley will be replacing Inspector Kevin Horton.

JO extended an invitation to JWR to visit Sudbury Town Hall.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Mel Yolland provided written updates on the following Domestic Homicide Reviews(DHRs

Tabitha Griffin was involved in DHR review and advised each GP surgery is an independent business, so when there is an action which is across all, it is difficult to get a consistent approach.

Tabitha Griffin spoke about Domestic Abuse training to Primary Care which is sent to Leads. Training is ongoing. East and West shut down to enable DA training sessions on Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and Terri Cudby (SCC Domestic Abuse Champion) delivered DA Champions training. Each GP surgery will have a Domestic Abuse Champion.

TG advised the Safeguarding Primary Care Leads hold a monthly meeting and have monthly bulletins where Domestic Abuse is already talked about including 'Are you asking?' and How are you asking?'

MY mentioned the changes to the action plan were following feedback from the Home Office QA Panel who had asked for outcomes to be developed and included in the Action Plan.

JS referenced the lengthy action plan as it is being continuously updated. Request was made for VM and TG to provide a short 2 page and clear progress report at the next meeting on the CCG recommendations 1-3 as an easier to follow narrative. The action plan will still need to be updated for all the recommendations as an audit trail also.

TG stated that GPs have been advised that if they have any domestic abuse concerns then to ask the patient to come into the surgery to see them, particularly where there is a concern of coercive control. Direction given by GMC and NMC about virtual contact and how to run them. The new normal will be a mixture of face to face, virtual and phone contacts.

TG referred to the DA Champions in libraries.

A copy of the full Report/Minutes are available should anyone require them.

Cats Lane off road parking

The planned off road parking being reviewed in Cats Lane to preserve the grass areas has hit a snag, similar projects in the Trimley area damaged underground BT equipment, so more extensive investigation is required before proceeding with the plan which is disappointing.

Locality Fund

The Sudbury Gateway Club – to provide Training and to kick start the 'Gateway Olympian event. Funds no longer required due to West Suffolk College providing for free.

Kernos Centre to provide a Safe for Security purposes.

Jack Owen County Cllr



March 2021 Monthly Parish Newsletter



Visit <u>suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus</u> for health advice, service changes, business support and schools' guidance.

Keep up to date on the latest guidance on Covid-19 from central government here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders review county's positive collective action towards addressing the climate emergency and Covid-19 Recovery planning

Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders met on February 26 to discuss local plans to reduce the impact on the environment as part of Suffolk's climate emergency declaration, and to focus on the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and how Suffolk plans to enter a local recovery phase when the time is right.

In 2019, all councils in Suffolk declared a Climate Emergency, committing themselves towards working to achieving Carbon Net Zero by 2030 through day-to-day business operations. To support this work and to chart progress, Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL) agreed to map out the projects already underway, and explore what would be needed to meet the challenge of reducing carbon across Suffolk.

There are already a number of notably successful projects up and running with the installation of plug-in vehicle charging points, the planting of new trees and hedgerows, and the planned use of new zero and ultra-low emission fleet vehicles for councils and Suffolk Police. Taking a collaborative approach to this work gives partners across Suffolk a greater voice in encouraging others to follow this example and to lobby and work with Government on new environmental initiatives.

Leaders previously commissioned an independent evidence base to inform development of a collaborative climate emergency plan across Suffolk.

The collective work towards achieving Carbon Net Zero is based around the following six key themes:

- Domestic Buildings
- Transport (public and private)
- Industry and Commercial Energy Use
- Power (consumption and generation)
- Finance
- Cross cutting issues (that affect all partners)

It is hoped that the full plan can be considered by SPSL in their June meeting.

During the same Suffolk Public Sector Leaders meeting there was also a presentation to update the group on Suffolk's recovery plan for Covid-19 following the Prime Minister's announcement this week, charting the four significant markers to reopen schools and in time businesses and hospitality.

The presentation at SPSL updated how the Leaders' and NALEP joint investments created a Suffolk Inclusive Growth Investment Fund the first round of which has seen some £338,000, to support the roll out of the Virtual High Streets initiative in Babergh and Mid Suffolk; enabled businesses to take on apprentices in 2021, improved coordination of work across Suffolk's network of business innovation hubs and invested in Suffolk's creative digital sector, providing space for business growth and support for business start-ups. The second round of investment will be announced in March 2021.

As part of the revised timetable given the continued period of Covid-19 response, Suffolk's recovery plan is due to go to Suffolk Public Sector Leaders' meeting in June to ensure there is continued momentum and support measures in place.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Chair of Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group, said:

"Suffolk continues to have a strong ambition and determination towards creating the greenest county. Making a commitment to recognise the Climate Emergency is a crucial element of this work as no one authority or partner organisation can achieve this alone. Together we are working with communities and businesses as well as the public sector to drive initiatives that significantly reduce our impact on the environment and drive down carbon production towards net zero."

"The shared sense of urgency driving our aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030 means taking on what may be the biggest challenge we have faced, using our collective influence and powers to cut greenhouse gas emissions, protect our environment and adapt our relationship with the Suffolk environment. We are building on a great deal of fantastic work that is already happening through individual authorities, so I am confident we can create

many more opportunities and increase the pace of response with the support of our communities and businesses. I look forward to seeing the plan at a future meeting."

Over 98% of pupils receive a place at one of their preferred Secondary Schools on National Offer Day

On March 1 it was announced that 98.16% of pupils received a place at one of their Preferred Secondary Schools in Suffolk on National Offer Day.

This year, Suffolk County Council (SCC) received 7,652 applications from parents indicating at which secondary school they would prefer their child to be educated from September 2021.

7,114 pupils received offers for their first preference school and 7,511 pupils received an offer for one of their three preferred schools.

Councillor Mary Evans, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, said:

"I am pleased that this year more families have once again received their first choice of school and that the vast majority of families have been offered a preferred school place.

"We use published criteria to decide who has priority for places so that the process is fair and clear. I appreciate that not all families will have received a place at their preferred school and where a parents' preference for a Suffolk school is refused, we will automatically add their child's name to the waiting list for that school. We will also advise them how to lodge an appeal should they wish to do so.

"Starting secondary school is an important moment for any child, and the more we can do to make the transition to a new school smoother for them, the better."

Feedback sought to improve Recycling Centre booking system

People of Suffolk are being asked to rate their experience of the 'book a slot' system that's in place to visit a Recycling Centre.

A booking system was introduced at Suffolk's recycling centres in May 2020 to manage maximum visitor numbers and enable the safe reopening of the service after closure at the start of the first Covid-19 lockdown. The sites welcome around 14,000 visitors per week on average.

Suffolk County Council is working on upgrades to the booking system software to improve the customer experience by making it quicker and easier to make and amend bookings. Before any improvements can take place, the council is seeking feedback on how well the booking system has worked so far.

<u>People can give their views by completing the 2-minute questionnaire online</u> at suffolkrecycling.org.uk.

Suffolk has long held ambitions to Create the Greenest County and the Suffolk 2020 fund, which is a programme of work all about investing in projects that benefit Suffolk

communities, aims to support the council's climate emergency declaration and improve Suffolk for all residents in years to come.

Councillor Paul West, Cabinet Member for Waste Services, said:

"We have already seen how well the 'book a slot' system has been working in Suffolk, but we know we can improve it to make the experience for people visiting the sites even quicker and easier. By gathering the views from those who have used the current system, as well as those who haven't used it yet, we can understand better what works and where we can make improvements.

"We plan to link the new booking system to the Automatic Number Plate Recognition system already in place at our sites so we can maximise the benefits for visitors by speeding up the process for getting in and out of the recycling centre.

"I'd urge people to give us their feedback because the easier we make it for everyone to recycle, the better the outcome for our environment and the people of Suffolk."

Breaking down the barriers to accessing digital care services in Suffolk communities

On March 5 Suffolk County Council announced the launch of a new project which commits to providing a range of accessible local care support services to help residents continue to live independently in their own homes.

As a largely rural county, Suffolk County Council is committed to providing a wide range of accessible local care support services to help residents continue to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. This approach is even more important at the current time with Covid prevalent in the community, and the authority has successfully adapted its services through the use of technology to reduce risks to the health of residents as well as staff at this time.

Making the most of the advances in digital technology and keeping residents and communities connected has really proved successful in recent months as more and more people see the benefits of using the range of opportunities to personalise the care services they receive through digital options.

As a result of Suffolk 2020 project funding, the Council is launching a new initiative to adapt and kit out a number of community vehicles with digital connectivity and provide a showcase for a range of supportive technology and digital solutions to take out and about into local communities, introducing residents to the potential benefits of using the equipment and services.

Last year, Suffolk County Council successfully introduced the use of video carephones to people who may be vulnerable or shielding, to help them stay connected with friends and loved ones during periods of isolation. As part of this Covid response, it became increasingly clear that there was a significant number of other elderly, vulnerable and isolated people in

Suffolk who do not have the ability to access technology or connectivity but may find such services useful and beneficial. Such an approach has already proved to be successful in other parts of the UK and is supported by national and regional data.

The plan is for Suffolk County Council to enhance existing community vehicles as 'Mobile Digital Care Hubs' to enable residents to experience some of the digital care technologies first-hand to better understand opportunities available to them and if they would support them to meet their individual needs. The vehicles will be travelling around the county with a focus on reaching those who live in more isolated areas of Suffolk.

The project will provide a chance for skilled members of staff to talk about, show and demonstrate some of these technologies first-hand and provide a better understanding of how digital care can help individuals to live more safely and independently for longer.

Digital care solutions offer a wide range of other benefits including improved wellbeing and the ability to stay better connected with family, friends and other people who may offer invaluable support.

Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Adult Care, said:

"Projects like this help break down the barriers that might otherwise restrict or stop Suffolk's vulnerable residents from accessing and benefiting from the services available through digital care.

"Digital care solutions help to supplement existing care and bolster support provided by our experienced, committed and excellent team of carers during these difficult times. By helping to keep people connected we have seen many positive benefits supporting the mental and emotional wellbeing of people, evidenced by speaking to family members, care providers and local support networks.

"Digital enablement is vital for the future of care delivery in Suffolk and is something that has become ever more pronounced during the course of the last year."

Suffolk criminal exploitation initiative extended after success

Of March 8 an additional £1.4million was awarded to extend a successful initiative that supports young people in or at risk of criminal exploitation.

The Suffolk Against Gang Exploitation (SAGE) Team was established in 2018 as part of Suffolk's three-year work programme to tackle gangs and county lines and is funded by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders.

During that time is has been delivering diversion, prevention, and early intervention work with young people in or at risk of gang violence and has also developed a practice framework, training courses and provided expertise and advice for practitioners across the county.

A recent evaluation of SAGE showed positive results for the young people they are working with including equipping them to make better choices in future, improved attendance & completion of interventions, deeper level of awareness and understanding amongst practitioners and reported improved mental wellbeing.

Building on this success, Suffolk Public Sector Leaders have pledged an additional £1.4million to tackle criminal exploitation in Suffolk. The new work programme will run from April 2021 until March 2024.

Councillor Paul West, Chair of the Safer Stronger Communities Board and Suffolk County Council Cabinet member for Communities, said:

"The work being done by the SAGE team is of great importance in the battle against the exploitation of young people in Suffolk. I am pleased with the additional funding and the support from all partners. We must stop at nothing to drive out exploitation of young people on our own doorsteps. We are building on some of the success and good practice already achieved but the funding allows us to move our work to the next level."

Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore said:

"I was very pleased, as a member of the Suffolk Public Sectors Leaders group, to support this bid to continue funding the excellent work being carried out by the SAGE team. Preventing our young people being groomed by the gangs and criminals involved in the illegal drugs business is crucial to Suffolk's future well-being. Helping young people make the right choices as they enter adulthood has a positive impact on us all."

Suffolk County Council secures £3.1M for building decarbonisation initiative

It was announced on March 9 that Suffolk County Council, working in conjunction with property specialists Concertus, was successful in gaining over £3M of funding.

This funding has been received from The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to promote capital energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation projects within buildings used to provide frontline public services.

Working with Concertus, the council has been preparing a range of packages to support the decarbonising of various buildings in the Council's estate including applications for the council's headquarters at Endeavour House in Ipswich, four rural fire stations, Beacon House, Waterloo Centre and Leiston Children's Centre.

The council's Children and Young People service also reviewed their portfolio of school buildings along with Concertus. This review resulted in the submission of grant applications for nine schools across the county, all of which were successful.

This grant scheme aligns with BEIS' new mission and priorities: fighting coronavirus, backing

business, unleashing innovation, and tackling climate change. Through this scheme, it is supporting the council's own commitment to be net zero by 2030 along with the Government's own net zero goals and encouraging further green investment within the UK.

Packages of work vary from building to building, but many include the fitting of solar panels and battery storage, as well as improvements to wall or roof insulation and installation of Air Source Heat Pumps to move away from the use of fossil fuels for source of heating.

Speaking about the funding, Councillor Nick Gowrley, Cabinet Member with responsibility for council assets said:

"This is a really important step in the council delivering upon its commitment to be net zero by 2030. The estimated cumulative effect of these packages will see the council's carbon footprint reduce by over 360 tonnes of CO2 per year, the equivalent of taking 120 cars off the road. This is a fantastic result and underlines our commitment to the county and the planet. I would like to thank all those involved in securing this funding, especially Concertus, Vertas and the Greater South East Energy Hub. I look forward to seeing the work rolled out over the coming months."

The council hopes to have the work completed at all the sites before the 30 September 2021.

Suffolk partners with environmental charity in new campaign to stop people trying to recycle disposable nappies

It was announced on March 11 that Suffolk Waste Partnership has joined forces with environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy and other local authorities across the country to launch a new campaign aimed at stopping the millions of disposable nappies that are contaminating recycling.

The campaign comes after a new survey revealed that seven per cent of nappy users – parents, grandparents and carers – wrongly put their disposable nappies in with their recycling, which equates to more than *one million people.

Locally, around 150 tonnes of nappies end up in Suffolk recycling bins each year. This equates to approximately 3000 nappies needing to be removed from the recycling every day. This truly unpleasant job needs to be done by hand by staff at Suffolk's Material Recycling Facility (MRF) in Gt Blakenham. So, by keeping nappies out of our recycling bins, you are not only helping to get our recycling right but protecting staff at the MRF.

The national survey, carried out by YouGov, also revealed that younger people, aged 18-24 were more likely to put them in their recycling bin (15%) and more than one in ten Londoners who used disposable nappies (11%) tried to recycle them.

Now, the Suffolk Waste Partnership is trying to reach nappy users with a new campaign that has been tested with them and offers a clear message that disposable nappies should never go in their recycling.

The campaign is fronted by 'Ted' and will be appearing on billboards around the country and on social media to drive the message home. In Suffolk, additional information will be shared on the Suffolk Waste Partnership's website, social media channels and newsletters.

Suffolk launches Quiet Lanes for residents to enjoy as lockdown eases

On March 16, the Quiet Lanes initiative was launched. Suffolk County Council is encouraging residents to explore more of the beautiful countryside on their doorstep.

As we move into spring, we are all keen to get outside and make the most of the weather. Quiet Lanes is a nationally recognised designation for narrow, rural roads which can be shared with walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other road users. It encourages drivers to take their time when they see the Quiet Lanes sign, so we can all enjoy rural lanes with greater safety.

Quiet Lanes at Snape and Glemsford have just achieved planning consent and the initiative has another 50 proposed lanes going through planning for April 2021. A new website allowing residents to find the Quiet Lanes near them will be available in May.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member responsible for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, says:

"This is a fantastic sustainable initiative aimed at opening up more of our countryside for leisure and recreation activities and active travel. Quiet Lanes are a precious resource on many of our doorsteps. Now with this recognition, we will encourage residents to make more use of the countryside around them rather than always getting in the car, and reap the associated health and environmental benefits."

Suffolk to be included in Government's UK Gigabit Broadband programme

On March 19 it was announced that Suffolk is to be included in the £5 billion strategy to deliver next generation, gigabit-capable broadband to the entire country.

The programme aims to connect the first one million homes and businesses with gigabit speed broadband in the hardest to reach 20% of the UK by 2025. Gigabit-capable broadband connections offer the fastest and most reliable speeds currently available. Connections will enable and create a range of social benefits alongside boosting jobs and economic growth over the coming decades, and help improve connection and opportunities, especially for rural communities. It is hoped the rollout will give people the freedom to live and work more flexibly.

The scheme will use a broad range of interventions to deliver gigabit broadband, including contracts for new publicly funded infrastructure, use of broadband vouchers and other innovative solutions to deliver the roll out.

Leader of Suffolk County Council, Cllr. Matthew Hicks said:

"I welcome the announcement from Government that Suffolk is going to be included in the first phase of the Government's UK Gigabit Programme, with the aim of deployments starting by the end of 2022. Suffolk has always been at the forefront of implementing Better Broadband with coverage of Superfast Broadband speeds approaching 98% of premises; a new LoRaWAN Innovation Network and the recent announcement of the Port of Felixstowe as a national 5G pilot. This announcement will maintain the momentum we have established under the Better Broadband for Suffolk Programme, improving Broadband across the county, with the third phase of our programme due to complete before the end of 2022.

"We're ready for this exciting new stage of our connectivity journey, bringing full fibre to everyone's front door and look forward to working with Central Government on the delivery of this vital national infrastructure in Suffolk."

Lowestoft's Gull Wing officially marks the start of construction

The start of construction work on Lowestoft's Gull Wing was formally marked on March 22.

The start of construction work on Lowestoft's Gull Wing was formally marked on March 22, despite officials not being able to host a traditional groundbreaking ceremony at the site, due to Covid lockdown restrictions.

Instead, a video featuring a range of people involved with the scheme has been released, including Jack and Hayden, former Somerleyton Primary School pupils who won the schools competition to give the Gull Wing its name.

In the video, a number of facts about the Gull Wing are revealed, such as how long it will take to open when ships need to pass underneath, and how many tonnes of concrete will be used during construction.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, leader of Suffolk County Council, said:

"We have achieved many milestones in recent months, and I'm delighted that we can now formally recognise the beginning of the construction works for the Gull Wing. The last couple of months have seen lots of preparation work going on behind the scenes, but contractors are now beginning to work on site and hoardings are going up.

"Of course, building such a large and complex structure will require us to temporarily close some roads and alter how people are used to moving around the town, at various points in the next couple of years. But I ask local residents and businesses to be patient and work

with us, and to look towards the end result which will bring so many benefits and much improved access around the town."

Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney, said:

"This nationally significant project is now a reality and it will be great to visit the site as soon as it is safe to do so under lockdown restrictions. Special thanks are due to all those who have worked so hard to get us to this stage. The Gull Wing provides many exciting economic opportunities for Lowestoft and the surrounding area and we must now do all that we can to make them happen."

Success following £500k boost for highways improvements near schools

It was announced on March 23 that locations around schools across Suffolk have benefitted from new road markings and signs, following £500,000 Highways Investment Fund (HIF) cash boost.

The extra funding, which was announced by Councillor Andrew Reid, cabinet member with responsibility for highways during his speech at February 2020's full council meeting has been focussed on improving the safety of pupils and parents travelling to and from school, refreshing lines and cleaning and repairing signs in and around school zones.

Following inspection of the condition of road lining and signs in the vicinity of every school in Suffolk, 146 locations were identified as requiring new signs to replace those that were damaged or missing. Additionally, 218 areas with faded road markings are receiving a refresh.

Sign cleaning and light vegetation works have also been carried out where it was required.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:

"I am delighted with the progress that's been made to date to refresh and renew signs and lines around our schools in Suffolk, as well as carrying out low-level maintenance and improvement works such as vegetation clearance.

"As county councillors, we receive a lot of feedback from local parish and town councils related to faded road markings and dirty or broken signs – so the cash boost in this regard has been very welcome.

"To ensure we use every last penny of the funding, we are looking to spend the remaining budget on cycle lane road markings outside of, and on routes to local schools. Those areas that are in need of attention are currently being identified and a programme of work to address these is being developed."

As of March 2021, almost all sign-related works have been completed. Road markings are being refreshed continuously and it is hoped that the project will be finished in its entirety by the end of April 2021.

100,000 trees planted as part of ambitious council scheme

On March 23 it was announced that 100,000 trees had been planted in just five months, since Suffolk County Council committed £228,000 from its Suffolk 2020 Fund to protect biodiversity.

Located in the Little and Great Waldingfield area, the 100,000th tree, a field maple, is part of 6.4 miles of new hedgerow which the council has planted across a number of its farm holdings.

The council has been working closely with the farm tenants, The Woodland Trust, Giles Landscapes, The Suffolk Tree Warden Initiative and local communities to ensure that a total of 102,586 saplings have been distributed and planted in the best possible places available over this last winter.

Councillor Richard Rout, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection at Suffolk County Council, said:

"Planting trees and restoring hedgerows on this scale, in such a short time period is an incredible achievement, particularly with the COVID-19 restrictions. The planting has taken place at a rate of nearly 4,500 each week.

"As part of this project, we are working with partners to ensure that these new plantings are managed and supported so that they can thrive for years to come. My genuine thanks go out to all who have been involved in making this happen – it's been a real team effort and shows how nature can be given a chance to flourish when we work together.

"I hope that communities of insects, animals and birds will benefit from all this activity, which in turn will benefit our local communities. Although this will contribute to offsetting some of the council's carbon emissions, our aim is still to eliminate emissions completely where we can as part of our commitment to our climate emergency declaration."

Hedgerows are important features of Suffolk's agricultural landscape, providing a habitat for many species and 'corridors' for wildlife to move through them. All the planting stock being used is UK sourced and grown to reduce plant health risks and improve biosecurity.

Local straw mulch is being used to reduce competition from weeds and to help retain moisture as the hedges become established. The tenant farmers will continue to maintain the hedgerows located on their land.

Automatic number plate recognition cameras to be installed in villages across Suffolk

An announcement on March 24 noted that Suffolk County Council and Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner and Suffolk Constabulary, has launched the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras.

The Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras are being used to help detect and deter speeding offences that have been highlighted in Suffolk villages, and educate drivers on the importance of road safety.

An ANPR camera will be installed at a site where it has been identified by a parish council, with support from their county councillor, there is a problem with speeding and / or rat running on roads with a 20 or 30mph speed limit.

An ANPR camera will identify a speeding vehicle by capturing an image of the number plate of the vehicle. Data will then be shared with the Police and the County Council. The County Council will write to the owner of the vehicle on behalf of both parties explaining that their vehicle has been registered as speeding. Repeat offences at a particular location could prompt the deployment of speed enforcement vans and subsequent fines to those who breach the speed limit.

Ten ANPR cameras will be purchased and each one will remain in situ for up to one week per site. There is the option of extending this period if needed.

The project has received funding from the Suffolk 2020 Fund, which is a programme of work all about investing in community projects and improving Suffolk for all residents now and in years to come. The funding secures the ANPR project for a two year pilot where its impact to reduce speeding will be monitored before it receives a further financial commitment.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs and Chair of the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership, said:

"The use of ANPR technology is both innovative and necessary in our quest to educate drivers by detecting and deterring speeding in key hot spots across the county.

"I'm pleased that the Suffolk 2020 Fund was able to support this project. It will bring improvements to many Suffolk communities. I look forward to seeing the project develop."

Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore said:

"I welcome the county council's initiative to improve road safety in the county.

"Keeping speeds down in villages is of continuing concern for all of us and the mobile ANPR systems will make a worthwhile contribution to road safety, complementing the existing Community Speed Watch initiative.

"I'm pleased that the Constabulary is able to support the county council in this project and look forward to monitoring its impact as it's rolled out across the county."

Healing woods and spaces to play an important role in Suffolk's mental health

On March 24 it was announced that 90% of respondents strongly support the idea of establishing 'healing woods' in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The creation of healing woods and spaces will give more people better access to the natural environment, offering dedicated places for peaceful reflection and offering a positive focus.

Two in every three respondents to the survey, said that the pandemic had negatively impacted on their mental health and wellbeing.

The council's healing woods project connects with the motion unanimously passed by the county's councillors (18 March 2021), to commit to developing mental health support in Suffolk.

Since the survey, officers have been contacting organisations who expressed an interest in supporting the scheme, and the council is now appealing for communities to suggest sites where healing woods and spaces could be adopted or created. Suggestions can be made by contacting HealingWoods@suffolk.gov.uk.

Councillor Richard Rout, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection at Suffolk County Council, said:

"We've now had initial discussions with some potential sites, which could see the adopting of existing woodland and green spaces, or the creation of brand new sites. Now that we have a better understanding of what is important to achieve, we would like to hear from more local communities about where healing woods and spaces could be located in their area."

"I'm incredibly grateful to the 500+ people who responded to the survey, and to organisations who want to be involved. They have really helped shape our thinking and developed the idea of improving everyone's access to nature in Suffolk and the benefits that brings.

"Following the survey, it's become apparent that giving people access to nature is what is important, and of course there are already many places where people can do this, and many organisations who help make that happen. So we are now working with these organisations to identify where best to establish healing woods and spaces, but also to understand why people may not feel that they can access nature, and resolve that."

Although the idea of healing woods and spaces has been in response to the pandemic, they will leave a long-lasting, positive legacy for communities and allow people to benefit from nature for many different reasons.

New research recently published by the University of Essex with The Green Light Trust demonstrated that access to woodlands and green space can significantly improve people's wellbeing.

One shining example of how access to the natural environment is helping people, is The Green Light Trust's project at Castan Wood in Martlesham. The woods are on land owned by Suffolk County Council, but leased to the Trust as a safe and secure setting where educational courses and wellbeing support can take place, often working with vulnerable people. Over 200 adults and around 80 children benefit each year through organised programmes at the site.

April 21 DC report

There have been no Cabinet and Full Council meetings owing to the elections in May and therefore there is little information to report back this month.

On the 31st March Babergh and Mid Suffolk submitted their Joint Local Plan for independent examination by the Secretary of State.

Following both councils opting to prepare a Joint Local Plan in 2016, careful consideration has been given to how the districts will balance the delivery of housing growth, important infrastructure, and essential employment, while safeguarding our natural and historic environment until 2037.

Residents, local businesses and other stakeholders were invited to have their say on proposals at a public consultation in 2017, when more than 14,000 representations were received. This helped inform the preferred options consultation in July 2019, during which a further 4,000 comments were made by consultees.

Public feedback has been reflected in the final version of the plan, which outlines how and where future development should take place – enabling Government housing targets to be met, whilst also supporting the councils' ambition to build thriving communities.

Providing the facilities needed to keep pace with growth, such as schools and GP surgeries, forms a key part of the plan and is detailed in the accompanying Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Importance has also been given to sustainable development and transport options, as well as protecting and enhancing the districts' natural environment and heritage – meeting our council's ongoing commitment to addressing climate change and increasing biodiversity.

In addition, the plan focuses on developing the local economy, revitalising town centres and encouraging tourism, at a time when this is needed more than ever.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have created an action plan to improve and strengthen biodiversity (wildlife and plant life) in our area.

We are hoping that the community will be part of this plan.

As a starting point we're offering free trees and hedgerow plants, as well as asking for your help in locating areas for wildflowers.

We're offering free trees and hedgerow plants to all our parishes - regardless of whether you are planting on council, parish, church, or private land. All you need to do is let us know what you want to plant and where:

Applications need to be submitted by Wednesday 30 June 2021. Details need to be included about the area of land available, and any indications of the age and species of trees you would like to plant (for example, this could be new hedgerows, creating orchards, or planting to fill gaps in an existing tree or hedge row line)

Increasing wildflowers in the districts is also an important part of our plan.

We'll be doing this by changing our mowing regimes to let the grass grow longer, and overseeding with yellow rattle or wildflower mixes.

We need to get the seeds sown in the Autumn this year to be sure of getting wildflower patches established for Spring 2022.

But we also want your help to work together!

We'd love to talk to you about where you might want more wildflowers in 2022.

More details of both these projects can be found on the Babergh website.

The Chair of Babergh District Council has sent condolences on behalf of the Babergh Council officers and members to Her Majesty The Queen following the sad announcement of the of death of His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Cllr Kathryn Grandon, Babergh District Council Chairman, said "We send our sincere condolences to The Queen and the entire Royal Family during this sad time with our deepest sympathies. The Duke of Edinburgh visits to the district have always been received warmly with great affection, there will be a real sense of loss. This is a time for the nation to come together. "

Due to COVID restrictions an online book of condolence will be opened for residents to pay their respects and show their love and support for the royal family www.suffolk.gov.uk/condolences.



SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Treasury Management Investment Strategy Statement

Council Minutes	13 th April 2021

1. Introduction

1.1 The Council's Treasury Management Investment Strategy has regard to the Statutory Guidance on Investments issued by the Secretary of State under section 15 (1) (9) of the Local Government Act 2003 (3rd Edition) and the revised CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes ("the CIPFA TM Code"). The Investment Strategy is a public document as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

- 1.2 Where its investments exceed, or are expected to exceed £100,000 at any time during a financial year, it must comply with the Statutory Guidance on Investments issued by the Secretary of State under section 15 (1) (9) of the Local Government Act 2003. The current guidance (3rd edition) became effective from 1st April, 2018.
- 1.3 The Government Regulations and the CIPFA code require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regards to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving very low interest rates on investments.

2. Transparency and democratic accountability

- 2.1 The Council will have in place an Investment Strategy each year. It will be approved at a meeting of the full Council.
- 2.2 The Strategy should be revised annually by the Finance Committee. The revised Strategy to be presented to full Council for approval.
- 2.3 The Strategy should be publicly available on the Council's website.

3. Security, Liquidity and Yield

- 3.1 The primary principle governing the Council's investment criteria is the security of capital and liquidity of its investment.
 - Security protecting the capital sum invested from loss;
 - Liquidity ensuring the funds invested are available for expenditure when needed.

Once proper levels of security and liquidity are determined, it is the reasonable to consider what yield can be obtained.

3.2 The Council will endeavour to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. Security of principal will always be the primary consideration. The risk appetite of this Council is low in order to give priority to security of its investments.

- 3.3 Credit ratings will be used as one means of assessing the quality of rated counterparties. A Credit Rating Agency is one of the following three companies:
 - Standard and Poor's
 - Moody's Investors Services Ltd
 - Fitch Ratings Ltd

Ratings will not be the sole determinant of the quality of an institution. It is important to continually assess and monitor the financial sector on both a micro and macro basis in relation to the economic and political environments in which institutions operate. Other information sources used will include the financial press, share prices and other such information pertaining to the banking sector in order to establish the most robust scrutiny process on the suitability of potential investment counterparties.

- 3.4 Liquidity: Whilst the Town Council may invest funds in either short or long term investment products, the presumption shall be that it will maintain high levels of liquidity and seek investments generally for a period of up to 12 months. When it has healthy levels of reserves, it may seek long term investments if they offer attractive rates of return with financial institutions that hold good credit ratings.
- 3.5 Yield: The Council shall be under no obligation to seek the highest possible return for its investments. It should adopt a measured approach considering its risk profile as a whole in determining when and where to invest its funds.

4. Financial Investments

- 4.1 The Council will only invest in specified investments whereby:
 - The investment is denominated in sterling and any payments or repayments in the respect of the investment are payable only in sterling.
 - The investment is not a long term investment. This means that the local authority has contractual right to repayment within 12 months, either because that is the expiry term of the investment or through a non-conditional option.
 - Each new potential investment counterparty to be reviewed and recommended by the Financial Committee for the approval by the Full Council. This recommendation should include the maximum term and deposit level allowed for this investment.

5. Risk assessment for financial investments

5.1 The services of an accredited financial advisor to be used before entering into any new investment opportunities.

- 5.2 The services of an accredited financial advisor to be used to review the existing financial investment arrangement on an annual basis.
- 5.3 A potential investment counterparty should have a credit rating as per para 3.3 at the investment grade BBB and higher.
- 5.4 The credit rating for the existing investment counterparty should be monitored quarterly and any changes in rating reported to the Finance Committee.

6. Borrowing Strategy

- 6.1 The Council will endeavour to avoid new borrowings to finance capital expenditure.
- 6.2 The forecast for PWLB debts is as following (GBP):

	Mar- 2021	Mar- 2022	Mar- 2027	Mar- 2032	Mar- 2042	Mar- 2052	Mar- 2058
Delphi Club road	2,666	-					
Land at rear of STC	316,573	313,168	293571	268,886	198,626	87,147	-
	319,239	313,168	293,571	268,886	198,626	87,147	-

6.3 The Council will not borrow more than or in advance of its needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed.

7. Capacity, skills and culture

7.1 Elected members and statutory officers involved in the investments decision making process shall receive training and guidance periodically to enable them to take informed decisions as to whether to enter into a specific investment, to assess individual assessments in the context of the strategic objectives and risk profile of the local authority and to enable them to understand how these decisions have changed the overall risk exposure of the local authority.

8. Decision-making

8.1 The Town Clerk shall be authorised to enter into a new investments with financial institutions only on the basis of the approval by the Full Council.

9. Revision and Review

9.1 The Investment Strategy shall be reviewed at least every year by the Finance Committee and any proposed changes shall be approved by the Full Council.