

Cabinet Member Report to County Council

24 October 2013

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Mark Bee Leader and Chairman of Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Resource Management
Contact details:	Tel: 01473 264512 Email: mark.bee@suffolk.gov.uk

1. Future of Back Office Services

The Contract with CSD is coming to an end in May 2014. This is a really important milestone as CSD currently provides public access services to the public, provides finance, HR and ICT support to all SCC staff, and employs over 700 staff.

At the September meeting Cabinet agreed to bring the services in house at the end of the CSD contract. Mid Suffolk District Council, our partner in the joint venture, have taken a similar decision. This approach will maximize savings in the short term, and it will allow us to retain flexibility so we can shape the back office services to meet the changing size and shape of SCC in the future.

Plans are well developed in preparation for the transfer, with attention focused on ensuring service continuity for the Public and Council based users. The return of these services to the Council will lead to some structural changes within the Resource Management Directorate. A formal staff consultation process is scheduled to start in November.

2. The Budget Consultation

The budget consultation is now under way. The consultation will run in 3 stages - stage 1 is a formal consultation with a representative section of the Suffolk population. Stage 2 will be a wide ranging consultation in which we will try and engage as many of our residents as possible. Stage 3 will be around specific budget proposals in which we will work with stakeholders and partners to co-create solutions. We expect to have the final report from stage 1 back in December however we will have interim results throughout the process and expect to take those results to scrutiny.

3. Raising the Bar

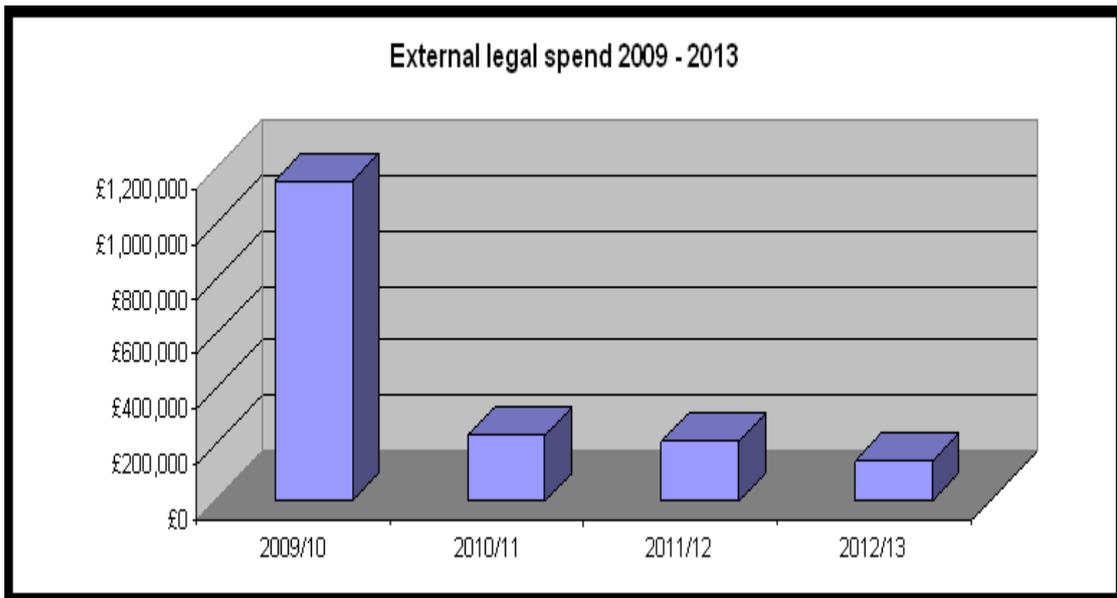
On 25 September we held the latest of our Raising the Bar Conferences at Trinity Park in Ipswich - the conference was entitled 'get involved'. Over 250 people attended including head teachers, teachers, governors, business, young people and Council employees. The conference was our formal

response to the Raising the Bar report. It was an excellent day from which we received many excellent ideas and built further on the movement for change in education in our county.

4. Resource Management Service Updates

Suffolk Legal

As well as operating under a reduced budget Suffolk Legal has made savings for client services. Expenditure on external solicitors has reduced by 88% (see diagram below).



Divestment has been delivered in-house. Over the past three years on average the in-house specialist commercial team has cost the council £264k. If this had been handled through our partnership arrangements, the cost would have been £369k (40% more) and via external lawyers at least £580k (120% more).

In its first year, the new Advocacy Unit has delivered just under £150,000 worth of savings for Children & Young People's services by bringing childcare advocacy back in-house rather than using external barristers.

Suffolk Legal has also increased income by over 50% without compromising support to the council. They have expanded their external client database which now includes Leeds City Council, Watford Borough Council, the Home Office and Norwich City Council.

Strategic ICT

The refresh programme has delivered 1329 refresh desktops and an additional 458 upgrades for existing desktops will be moved across to Win7 Enterprise/Office 2010. We are also about to start the laptop deployment for the programme.

We are developing our strategy for wireless network connectivity which will be a key enabler for mobile and flexible working.

Work is underway on the development of a new portal for the schools trader.

Strategic ICT continues to work with Property by delivering flexible working solutions which reduce the need for fixed desk working, this includes developing innovative solutions for the Riverside Offices in Lowestoft.

The divestment of Suffolk County Council Highways services has involved work at Phoenix House to make the premises ready to support the delivery of services by Kier MG. A significant amount of work has taken place to manage the HR, Financial, Public Access and ICT implications of this major change to services and to make sure that deadlines are met.

A success story which Strategic ICT has been involved with is the Brandon Centre, (new shared premises incorporating a Library and a Children's Centre and partner organisations including Forest Heath services) this has opened and is working well.

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Cabinet Member Report to County Council

24 October 2013

Cabinet Member:	Lisa Chambers Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People
Contact details:	Tel: 01638 552716 Email: lisa.chambers@suffolk.gov.uk

1. Recent Schools Ofsted Inspections

SCHOOL	Overall effectiveness	Achievement of pupils	Quality of teaching	Behaviour and safety of pupils	Leadership & management
Primary / First Schools					
Ringsfield	3	3	3	2	2
Monks Eleigh	4	4	4	2	4
Stanton	2	2	2	1	2
Otley	2	2	2	2	2
St Margaret's	3	3	3	2	3
Halifax	3	3	3	2	3
Capel St Mary	3	3	3	2	3
Waldringfield	2	2	2	2	2
Britannia	2	2	2	2	2
Bucklesham	3	3	3	2	3
High Schools					
Stour Valley	2	2	2	1	1
Thomas Gainsborough	3	3	3	2	2
Benjamin Britten	3	3	3	2	3
Kesgrave	2	2	2	1	2
Stradbrook	2	2	2	2	2
Stowmarket	3	3	3	3	3
Middle Schools					
St James	2	2	2	2	2
Special					
Westbridge PRU	2	2	2	2	2
Old Warren House	2	2	2	2	2

Key: 1-Outstanding, 2-Good, 3, Requires Improvement (previously Satisfactory), 4- Inadequate

Further information can be found about any or all of these inspections at:
www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report.

In addition to the full inspection reports the link above allows access to the Ofsted data dashboard for all of the schools inspected. The data dashboard provides some helpful summary information about the school and how its performance compares with other schools.

The greater number of inspections that took place in the first part of the autumn term is a result of the Ofsted Focused Inspection in Suffolk. Ofsted undertook this process to bring forward a number of scheduled inspections and to collect views about the effectiveness of the support and challenge from the LA. The Regional Director for Ofsted will write to the Director for Children and Young People with a letter setting out the findings from the Focused Inspection before the end of term. This will be in addition to the reports that go to each school that has been inspected. At the time of writing not all of the reports to schools have been published.

2. Launch of consultation in Bury St Edmunds

Consultation on the reorganisation of schools in Bury Began on 7 October and continues until December. The schools in the Bury partnership have worked hard with officers to develop a proposed new pattern of schools for the town. I encourage everyone to consider the proposals carefully and to send us their views. All consultation responses will be reported to cabinet in the New Year when we will decide on the next steps. This is the last part of Suffolk to be reviewed; schools in the first phases are already showing significant and sustained improvements in attainment at age 11.

For further information contact Phil Whiffing, 01473 264629
Phil.Whiffing@suffolk.gov.uk

3. Signs of Safety

Signs of Safety © is an approach to working with families. It builds a positive relationship whilst remaining clear about what needs to change if a child or young person is to be kept safe.

It involves:

- gathering information about a family;
- analysing it;
- identifying what needs to change and why;
- setting clear goals; and
- specific actions that will lead to those goals.

Currently at least 50 jurisdictions in 12 countries are undertaking some sort of substantive implementation including Finland, Japan, Canada and Australia. Approximately 32 Local Authorities in the UK are at various stages of implementation.

What is happening in Suffolk?

CYP DMT has agreed that we will adopt Signs of Safety as a system-wide approach to our work with children, young people and families.

Signs of Safety will be known as Suffolk Signs of Safety and Well-being to reflect its application across all teams. The intention is to begin training and roll out on a locality basis from February 2014.

All staff/partners/councillors will receive briefings/be invited to awareness raising sessions on Suffolk Signs of Safety & Well-being. Caseworkers and Managers from integrated and specialist teams will receive training as SSS&W workers and Lead Practitioners.

*For further information contact Carol Carruthers, 01473 264732
Carol.Carruthers@suffolk.gov.uk*

4. New Operating Model for Children and Young People's Services (NOM2)

Work has begun on NOM2, this is a programme of work that will focus on re-shaping Children and Young People's Services so they remain effective into the future and provide the best possible outcomes for children and families within available resources.

The scope of this programme includes:

- Specialist Services - Social Care Services, Corporate Parenting
- Integrated Services - Early Help and Early Intervention Services
- Inclusive Services - Services for children and young people with disabilities
- Early Years & Childcare - Support for childcare providers, Children's Centres and parents

The NOM2 began in September 2013 and will be implementing changes from January 2014. A staged approach will mean that organisational changes will be introduced over time to maintain service stability while meeting budget requirements. Clearly this work will impact significantly on how we deliver services and consultations will be critical. Arrangements are being put in place to work closely with partner agencies, community services, schools and children and families. Importantly staff and unions will be engaged in the process.

Sue Cook, Director for Children and Young People is the sponsor for the NOM2 programme. John Gregg, Service Director for Specialist Services is the programme lead. Given the scale and impact of the changes the programme will be subject to scrutiny through the Children and Young People's Performance and Quality Assurance Board. Proposals will be considered by the Director and Lead Member to ensure decision making processes are appropriate.

Further update on progress will be provided in early 2014.

*For further information contact John Gregg, 01473 264736
John.Gregg@suffolk.gov.uk*

5. Corporate Parenting

The Corporate Parenting Board acts as champions for children in care and promotes their interests 'as if they were our children'. The Board has strengthened its membership since the last election and now has 7 Councillors, with the Lead Member for Education, Skills and Young People, Lisa Chambers chairing the Board. The Director for Children's Services has also joined the Board and the expertise of partner agencies is being utilised through their attendance at a series of themed meetings addressing the Board's priorities for 2103/14.

The Board's priorities for the coming year are:

- The promotion of educational achievement
- Improving children's health and emotional well-being
- The sufficiency, quality and security of placements for children and the suitability of semi-independent accommodation for care leavers
- Improving training and employment opportunities for care leavers.

A successful start has been made to the Board's programme of work with a productive meeting with Head teachers of mainstream schools and academies, pupil referral units, the head of the virtual school and the county manager for alternative education provision. The Board will concentrate next on the health of looked after children and the commissioning and provision of physical and mental health services in partnership with public and specialist health providers.

A new programme of training has been offered to elected members to raise awareness of their corporate parenting responsibilities and so far, 45 Members have taken part. Members fulfil their responsibilities in a number of ways, as school governors, visitors to children's' homes, through membership of permanence and fostering panels and in one case, through the provision of supported lodgings to care leavers. The training has demonstrated that Members understand the importance of scrutinising services to looked after children

A conference is also being planned on 28 November to promote the Board's vision for children in care and care leavers; to have the skills they need and a positive future to look forward to as they grow into adulthood. The Board will oversee the achievement of key outcomes for children and young people that reflect.

For further information contact John Gregg, 01473 264736

John.Gregg@suffolk.gov.uk

6. Raising the Bar - Connecting Young People and Employers

The Raising the Bar Programme is moving rapidly into the implementation stage. In September the Education Scrutiny Committee considered the RSAQ Report and recommendations and this was followed by a full and productive debate in full council.

Building on the feedback from a range of well attended stakeholder events during the summer the council has now agreed its priorities from the 'No School and Island' report.

Work on the Partnership with Hackney, the development of the Learning Partnership for Suffolk and increased collaboration through the Families of Schools initiative are all progressing and contributing to the providing momentum to the movement for educational change.

The Raising the Bar Education and Employers Solution Group continues to mobilise businesses across the county in support of young people. Four groups of primary and secondary schools in Ipswich, Mildenhall, Sudbury and Haverhill have begun trialling the employability skills framework and this work is coupled with the design of a brokerage service to connect schools with employers in order to create inspiring role models for young people and develop their understanding of the world of work. A consultation event in early September was well attended with many employers offering practical support to advance these projects.

7. Preventing young people from becoming NEET

School “Work Clubs” support 15 year olds at risk of becoming NEET get back on track. Now in its second full year this pilot programme will be running in 13 high schools across Suffolk and extended to support young people in Lowestoft being educated outside the mainstream system. The Clubs are delivered through weekly or fortnightly sessions that help young people make decisions about their future and support them to apply for apprenticeships, employment or further education opportunities. In the past this intervention has achieved a success rate of 90%; over 350 young people will benefit from this support in 2013/14.

Year 11 school “Work Club” locations:

In West Suffolk Keystone Development Trust will deliver six clubs. Existing clubs will continue at Mildenhall College, Castle Manor Academy (Haverhill) and Thurston Community College. New clubs will start at Ormiston Sudbury Academy, Thomas Gainsborough High Gt. Cornard and Stowmarket High School.

In the East Tomorrow’s People deliver six clubs. Existing clubs will continue at Westbourne Sports College (Ipswich), Suffolk New Academy (Chantry) and Ormiston Endeavour Academy (Ipswich). New clubs will start at Felixstowe Academy, Copleston High School and Ipswich Academy.

In Lowestoft Tomorrow’s People are continuing to deliver clubs at the Old Warren House and Attic Pupil Referral Units and Benjamin Britten High School.

8. Greater Ipswich City Deal

Our skills team is continuing to work with colleagues from across Ipswich, Babergh, Mid Suffolk, Suffolk Coastal, the LEP and the private sector to develop the final details of our City Deal with central government departments. We hope to be able to announce full details of the Deal by the end of October. The main focus will be on ensuring local residents have the right skills to secure future local jobs and that businesses have the support they need to grow.

*For further information contact Judith Mobbs, 01473 264317
Judith.Mobbs@suffolk.gov.uk*

9. Health and Wellbeing Board

I am pleased to report that at the Health & Wellbeing Board meeting on 5 September 2013 the Action Plan for Outcome One: Giving each child in Suffolk the best start in life was agreed by the Board.

Work is now underway to agree a framework for reporting progress against the measures identified.

The Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2012/13 was also discussed, and its recommendations agreed:

- a) To continue to support the development of a multi agency family focussed approach so that interventions across all services recognised and took account of the needs of the child.
- b) To encourage multi agency engagement in the development of the Early Help offer and revised Assessment Framework (as outlined in Working Together 2013).
- c) Full engagement and participation by partners in development and resourcing of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.
- d) To address the concern at the rising level of vacancies of front line and supervising practitioners the LSCB urged that all agencies and management teams give consideration to the impact changes will have on safeguarding children and monitor and assess risk/
- e) To support the children's workforce to be confident and competent in all aspects of multi-agency practice

For further information contact Tina Hines, 01473 265183

Tina.Hines@suffolk.gov.uk

10. Children's Commissioner Takeover Day 2013

I am pleased to report that following the very successful e-CYPres Summer Youth Edition, which was guest edited by the Suffolk UK Youth Parliament, it has been agreed that young people will edit one of the four editions of e-CYPres next year.

In the same spirit, I am pleased to say that Suffolk will be very much involved in the Children's Commissioner Takeover Day 2013 on 22 November 2013.

Now in its seventh year, the Children's Commissioner Takeover Day is one of the largest participatory events in England. It gives children and young people the opportunity to be involved in local and national decision making by working alongside adults at all levels and across all sectors.

I have arranged for young people to shadow several elected members, and we are currently organising a programme of activity for November where young people will be working with our services and partners to "takeover activities", including staffing our reception desk at Endeavour House.

For further information contact takeover.day@suffolk.gov.uk or visit

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/takeover_day

Cabinet Member Report to County Council
24 October 2013

Cabinet Member:	Beccy Hopfensperger Cabinet Member for Localities
Contact details:	Tel: 07876 683516 Email: rebecca.hopfensperger@suffolk.gov.uk

1. Libraries

Suffolk Libraries IPS held its first Annual General Meeting on 12 September. The interim Board stood down, as it was legally required to, and I should like to acknowledge and thank them for their enthusiasm and hard work in helping to create such a successful independent organisation to deliver such a valuable public service.

The new Board was elected, chaired by Tony Brown, a member of the Beccles Library Community Trust. The new Board has members with a diverse mix of backgrounds and experience, including marketing, business management, the law, retail, and a chartered librarian.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge was the most successful ever. Over 4,500 children completed their six books, and were presented with their medals at celebration events across the county. I had the pleasure of being involved at the Bury event, and I know many councillors were similarly pleased to be invited to presentations at their local library. By the end of the game over 30,000 books had been read, and about 2,400 children joined who had not previously been library members.

I'm also happy to report that the new Brandon Library opened on 28 September, after the completion of an innovative project to transform an historic and underused former school building in the heart of the town into a one stop shop for access to key public services.

Suffolk County Council has worked with Forest Heath District Council, Suffolk Police and Suffolk Libraries to create a modern, multi-use centre including the library, children's centre, a district council contact point and a base for the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Public services in Brandon now can be delivered more efficiently and flexibly.

For further information on the above, please contact: Stephen Taylor, Libraries Development Manager, 01473 265309 or e-mail on Stephen.taylor@suffolk.gov.uk

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Cabinet Member Report to County Council

24 October 2013

Cabinet Member:	Alan Murray Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care
Contact details:	Tel: 07545 423786 Email: alan.murray@suffolk.gov.uk

1. Looking beyond Winterbourne View

The shocking scenes of Winterbourne View serve as a reminder across the board of the importance of the safeguards, integrity, vigilance and behaviours when it comes to the care and support for people with a learning disability.

In September the Suffolk Learning Disability Partnership hosted a conference called 'Beyond Winterbourne View' in response to the serious case review and the recommendations published by Department of Health. The Suffolk Learning Disability Partnership, self advocates, family carers, providers of services, Health and Social Care practitioners and commissioners, housing providers, domiciliary care providers, voluntary and community sector partners attended the event.

At the event, various speakers shared their experiences about the behaviours and cultures that exist within a wide range of services, organisations, management and staff. 'Pledges' were offered by all those who attended in order to 'shift' the emphasis towards a truly person-centred approach.

This conference is the start of a forum intending to build upon and define relationships, roles with and between people with learning disabilities and their family carers, practitioners, commissioners, providers, contracts, Suffolk Learning Disability Partnership Board and CQC.

2. My Home Life Suffolk

SCC has funded £45k for a leadership development programme for 30 residential care home managers. The programme is aimed at promoting quality of life for those who are living, dying, visiting or working in care homes for older people through relationship-centred, evidenced based practice. It focuses on 8 key themes which offer a vision for quality of life in care homes:

- Managing transitions
- Maintaining Identity
- Creating Community
- Sharing Decision-making
- Improving Health and Healthcare
- Supporting Good End of life

- Keeping Workforce Fit for Purpose
- Promoting a Positive Culture

The launch event for My Home Life Suffolk held in July this year was well attended and included presentations from the wife of care home resident and two care home managers who won GEM (Going the Extra Mile) awards. Several positive examples of care practice in Suffolk were shared.

The first Cohort began in September and SCC has received positive feedback from managers attending the programme.

Further information can be found here: <http://myhomelife.org.uk/>

3. Towards Healthy Ageing in Suffolk's work in European project

Suffolk County Council is the lead partner in the Progress Towards Healthy Ageing in Europe project which brings together expertise from across Europe. The five European nations taking part in the work are identifying innovative ways to promote active and healthy lifestyles to people aged 45- 68. Each partner has a particular focus on targeting healthy ageing through workplace interventions rather than traditional health-related settings.

The 'Progress Towards Healthy Ageing in Europe' project was invited to present at a demographic change conference organised by the Thuringian Network on Demography in Weimar, Germany.

The conference took place on 26-27 September 2013 and was an excellent opportunity to present the project's work on demographic change and support in the workplace. It is also an opportunity to report on key findings and establish new networks for mainstreaming these.

For further information, please contact: Rosa.Juarez@suffolk.gov.uk

4. Suffolk Breastfeeding Conference 1 October 2013

On 1 October a multi-agency conference was held at Trinity Park about breastfeeding with almost 90 people attending the day. The UK has some of the lowest breastfeeding rates in the world and rates are particularly low in the lower socio economic groups. We know that breastfeeding has a positive effect and decreases breast cancer in women together with a variety of illnesses in babies. A recent report has suggested that a moderate increase in breastfeeding rates could save the NHS about £40 million per year across all its services. The conference aimed to look at what the evidence says, share good practice, discuss how the environment affects breast feeding and to co-create a vision for breastfeeding in Suffolk.

5. Suffolk Reducing the Strength campaign.

An event marking the first year of the Reducing the Strength Campaign is taking place on 2 October. The programme has been in place for one year and during that time we have seen the number of street drinkers in the town reduce by almost 50%, crime associated with this group has decreased by over 40% and approximately two thirds of all off licences in Ipswich are no longer selling super strength beers and ciders.

We have had interest from all parts of the country and are developing strong links with the wine and spirits trade to explore how we can take this campaign further.

For further information please contact simon.aalders@suffolk.gov.uk

6. Local Vision: System Leadership Programme

Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board have responded to a national Leadership Centre initiative (Kings Fund and LGA) to run a 6 month programme in the county on how our services respond to individuals in an "in crises" moment. This is part of the Board's commitment to address the mental health and wellbeing of people in Suffolk and to provide effective and helpful responses to people at points of crises due to mental health issues.

The programme is being co-ordinated by the Lead Engagement Manager for PublicHealth, ElspethGibson who can be contacted at Elspeth.gibson@suffolk.gov.uk

The external enablers for the programme visited Suffolk on 23 and 24 September and met with representatives of the Service Users Forum, Healthwatch, ACS, CCG, Police, General Practice and County and District Councillors (Councillor Michael Bamford and Councillor Alan Murray).

The programme is underway and will feedback via the Systems Leadership Partnership and to the Health and Wellbeing Board

We will keep Cabinet updated with this programme which we are confident will provide improvement in our multi-agency responses to individuals and potential for wider system change in the county.

7. ELGA Masterclass 20 September 2013

Suffolk County Council's success in leading European Funding programmes was shared at a recent ELGA Masterclass which Councillor Murray attended on 20 September 2013.

This Masterclass was attended by colleagues from the East of England Brussels office and involved a presentation about our "Progress towards healthy ageing in Europe", a two year programme led by Public Health in Suffolk. The Masterclass provided some useful insights for ELGA members about the EU funding process and the future opportunities which we can access.

Initial work is underway to build on the success of the PROGRESS work by investigating the Health for Growth Fund for 2014 (436m euros) for early intervention in addiction and substance misuse. Suffolk has innovative practice to share in Europe with the Reducing the Strength work and Recovery Programmes and we are currently exploring ideas for future EU projects linked to these areas.

For further information please contact Elspeth.gibson@suffolk.gov.uk or simon.aalders@suffolk.gov.uk

8. Suffolk Health Profile 2013

Public Health England has recently published health profiles for English local authorities which present information on 32 indicators. The profile for Suffolk County shows that for the majority of these indicators Suffolk is significantly better than the England average.

Suffolk is a relatively affluent county but with pockets of deprivation. Life expectancy for both men and women in Suffolk as a whole is higher than the England average, but life expectancy is 5.7 years lower for men and 4.4 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of the county compared to the least deprived areas. Over the last 10 years, all cause mortality rates have fallen. Early death rates from cancer and from heart disease and stroke have fallen and are better than the England average.

There are five public health indicators where Suffolk is identified as significantly worse than the England average. The three indicators below were also identified in the 2012 profile as significantly worse than the England average. Initiatives are underway in both public health and partner organisations to improve these:

- GCSE achieved (% A*-C, including Maths and English)
- smoking in pregnancy
- road injuries and deaths

The 2013 profile identified two indicators where Suffolk is now significantly worse than the England average:

- violent crime
- incidence of malignant melanoma

The number of violent crimes in Suffolk has actually decreased slightly since the 2012 profile but the rate of decrease for this indicator has been greater for England as a whole than for Suffolk and the county's relative position has worsened.

The increase in incidence of malignant melanoma among persons aged under 75 years in Suffolk is thought to be due to improved detection of this disease as mortality has not increased in the same way.

Breast feeding initiation in Suffolk, which was identified as worse than the England average in the 2012 health profile, has improved and is now identified as significantly better than the England average in the 2013 health profile.

For further information please contact wendy.marsh@suffolk.gov.uk

9. Most Active County

Suffolk's Most Active Communities Crowned - The winners of the Suffolk's most active community competition, which aims to recognise and celebrate communities that have gone the extra mile to encourage people to be more active, have been announced.

The winners and runners-up were:

- **Suffolk's Most Active Town 2013** - Winner – Sudbury, Runner up – Eye
- **Suffolk's Most Active Large Village 2013** - Winner – Elmswell, Runner up – Glemsford

- **Suffolk's Most Active Small Village 2013** - Winner – Worlingworth, Runner up - Freckenham

Winning communities demonstrated a commitment to being active and to encouraging and supporting local people to get active and to stay active, contributing to Suffolk's long term ambition of becoming the Most Active County in England. Winners were chosen for their creativity, dedication and innovation in promoting healthy, active lifestyles and ensuring opportunities are available for local people.

10. Suffolk Children Challenged to Go Run For Fun

World champion hurdler and record holder Colin Jackson CBE and European champion Harry Aikines-Aryeetey challenged Suffolk children to GO Run For Fun and become part of the UK's biggest fun running campaign during a week long programme of running events in September. Around 1,000 Suffolk children took part in a total of six GO Run For Fun events culminating in a run at the Larking Gowen Ipswich Half Marathon on Sunday 22 September.

11. Get Healthy Get into Sport Project Launched

An innovative new sports scheme has been launched aimed at supporting those who are looking to take steps towards a healthier lifestyle. 'Get Healthy, Get into Sport' will provide practical support to individuals on healthy lifestyles programmes to assist their participation in sustainable sporting activities. Funded by Sport England earlier this year, and co-ordinated by Suffolk County Council, the project is primarily aimed towards those who have been identified with 'higher risk' longer term health issues.

Run in conjunction with the county's healthy lifestyle service, Live Well Suffolk, as well as local sports and fitness providers, Get Healthy, Get into Sport will provide a follow-on transition for those who have recently accessed one of Live Well Suffolk's services such as weight management, stop smoking and health coaching.

Participants in these programmes will then be supported into joining a local sports provider or club most suitable to their needs. Support could include funding initial sessions at the club, having a Live Well Suffolk health coach attending preliminary sessions with the individual or simply providing information on which clubs are most suitable to the client.

12. Doorstep Sports Clubs

Two Doorstep Sport Clubs offering young people (14-25 year olds) in Ipswich and Lowestoft the chance to take part in activities in their local neighbourhoods have been launched. The motto of the Doorstep Sports Club programme is to build on the London 2012 Olympic legacy by bringing sport to young people at the 'right time, right place, right price and in the right style' and to develop a sporting habit for life. Each club, which is funded by Sport England, will offer both a multi-sport session and a girls-only session free of charge for local young people. The Ipswich Doorstep Sport Club will operate in Westgate Ward in Ipswich whilst the Lowestoft Club will operate in Harbour Ward.

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Cabinet Member Report to County Council

24 October 2013

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Graham Newman Cabinet Member for Roads and Transport
Contact details:	Tel: 01473 264993 Email: graham.newman@suffolk.gov.uk

1. A14 Junction 57 Nacton Road and Orwell Bridge

On the 18 September I attended a meeting organised by the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce and involving representatives and officers from the Chamber, local businesses, the Highways Agency, Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk Police to discuss the A14 Nacton Road Junction (J57) and the issues and impacts on Ransomes Europark businesses.

The following key issues/impacts were identified:

- Speed limit – On the Europark site, along the A14 and over the Orwell Bridge;
- Bottleneck at the roundabout exiting the Europark for the A14;
- Queues on roads around the perimeter of the Europark - Junction 57 to Nacton Road, Nacton Road to Sainsbury's;
- Westbound carriageway near the Shell garage (HGV's pulling out);
- Summit of the Orwell Bridge; and
- Volume of traffic and driver frustration causing accidents rather than speed.

The Police indicated that the A14 is a main priority for enforcement and reducing the risk of incidents and accidents across Orwell Bridge and the Highways Agency outlined their plans to introduce a speed limit to manage the flow of traffic.

I agreed to discuss opportunities to increase local road capacity and reduce queuing using section 106 and other funding sources with Ipswich borough council and feedback the results of this work to the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce and local businesses.

For further information contact Peter Grimm Tel: 01473 264811 e-mail: peter.grimm@suffolk.gov.uk

2. Route Based Strategies

I can confirm that the County Council was represented at the Route Based Strategy workshop organised by the Highways Agency on the 10 September in Norwich. The intention is that these strategies will be the basis for establishing

priorities for future investment in the operation, maintenance and enhancement of the network.

The workshop was one of many that have taken place across the country and formed the first stage of a process aimed at developing a uniform set of route based strategies for all routes on the trunk road network. The purpose of the workshops was to identify performance issues on routes and future challenges with the emphasis on establishing the evidence base. The Highways Agency intends to complete the first stage by spring 2014.

The County Council was able to describe issues of concern on the strategic trunk road network that affect Suffolk, in particular relating to the A14, A11, A12 north of and including the Bascule Bridge in Lowestoft and the A47 and also the A12 to the south and the A120 east of Colchester and provided relevant reports and other evidence to reinforce these concerns.

The Highways Agency has advised that this evidence will be used to prioritise and take forward a programme of work to identify indicative solutions covering operational, maintenance and if appropriate, road improvement schemes to inform investment plans for the next full spend-ing review in 2015 and beyond and will engage further with local stakeholders as the indicative solutions are developed. The second stage is expected to commence in spring 2014 and be completed by March 2015.

For further information contact Peter Grimm Tel: 01473 264811 e-mail: peter.grimm@suffolk.gov.uk

3. A11 Fiveways junction reconstruction

I previously reported that reconstruction of Fiveways roundabout was planned to take place over three weekends in October 2013 and that this essential work necessitated partial closure of the junction. The closures were given good media publicity through local radio and television and the initial work was completed well in advance of the programme.

Feedback during this work suggested that few problems arose and where appropriate action was taken by the Highways Agency.

For further information contact Peter Grimm Tel: 01473 264811 e-mail: peter.grimm@suffolk.gov.uk

4. Streetworks and Temporary Traffic Management, Letter to the Secretary of State

In my last report I referred to my letter to dated 6 August to the Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport, expressing my concerns about the use of temporary traffic management when no works are being carried out on the highway.

I received a response from the Chief Executive Officer of UK Power Networks apologising for the inconvenience caused as a result of the unnecessary lane closure on London Road South, Lowestoft between 11 June and 17 June and accepting that this was a mistake by UK Power Networks and their contractors.

I also received a response from Norman Baker MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, with responsibility for this issue. He clearly shared my concerns and explained that he regularly met with representatives through the National Joint utilities Group (NJUG) and Highways Authorities and

Utilities committee (HAUC) to ensure that good practice is disseminated and real improvements are put in place to minimise incidents.

The Minister also suggested that the County Council may wish to consider the introduction of a permit scheme, which would allow a more proactive management of streetworks. I am aware that some Highway Authorities in the East of England have already introduced or are developing their own permit schemes and I will be working with officers to examine how this could work in Suffolk.

For further information contact Peter Grimm Tel: 01473 264811 e-mail: peter.grimm@suffolk.gov.uk

5. Anglian Water Works London Road South, Lowestoft

Further to my previous report, I can confirm that Anglian Water commenced work in September to carry out necessary repairs to a sewer in London Road South, Lowestoft and that this involves a complete closure of London Road south for at least 12 weeks.

The potential impact of the closure of London Road South, particularly at the Tom Crisp Way/Carlton Road junction, was discussed fully at both stakeholder meetings organised by Anglian Water, although the County Council expressed concerns about altering signal timings at this junction in terms of the potential impact on town centre businesses, a point noted by the Lowestoft & Waveney Chamber of Commerce representative.

Following the closure of London Road South it became clear that the diversion of traffic onto Carlton Road was causing significant delays at the Tom Crisp Way Traffic signals. Although it will not be possible to eradicate delays completely, alterations were made to traffic signal timings to minimise the overall impact of the AWA works on the Lowestoft community, while maintaining access to businesses in central Lowestoft.

Anglian Water have advised that they will continue to work with local residents and the local business community.

For further information contact Peter Grimm Tel: 01473 264811 e-mail: peter.grimm@suffolk.gov.uk

6. Highway Services Contract

I am pleased to report a successful start to the new highways services contract on 1 October.

The new control hub at Phoenix House, which maximises the use of latest industry technology, was operational from the start and is central to delivering efficiencies, savings and better information to councillors about what is happening when in their divisions.

An opportunity will be arranged for councillors to visit the hub, see it in action and learn more about how the service will be delivered under the new contract.

Some 212 staff transferred from Suffolk County Council to Kier MG at the start of the new contract, with the protection of TUPE legislation, following a successful consultation.

The highest priority has been given to ensuring the most safety critical services continue uninterrupted and I am pleased to report that we are well prepared for the coming winter.

I look forward to a successful long term relationship with Kier MG, delivering a high quality highways service, better communication and much needed savings.

7. A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon

I continue to support strongly the growing campaign against proposed tolling of this section of road, once much needed improvements are carried out.

This would be a tax on Suffolk businesses and mean they would not be competing on a level playing field. The singling out of Suffolk business in this way is entirely unacceptable, especially as current congestion appears to be mostly as a result of peak time local commuting.

We were invited to respond to a consultation on the scheme proposals with a closing date of 13th October. This did not allow the response to be considered by Cabinet or full Council. I therefore worked with officers to develop our response, which will be shared with councillors.

8. Endeavour Card

I am pleased to announce that the Endeavour Card has officially been launched. We have had:

- 2328 young people who have registered an interest between May-September
- 175 applications approved and cards produced
- The first 97 cards were posted first class on Tuesday 1st October, with all applications thereafter being produced and sent daily

9. Travel Ipswich

I am pleased to report that delivery of the Travel Ipswich scheme is proceeding well. On 8th October I opened the rebuilt Old Cattle Market bus station and work to rebuild Tower Ramparts bus station will be completed by 15th November. Work on Museum Street will also be completed by that date. Works have been accelerated so that the Travel Ipswich scheme can stop until the New Year. This means that the Christmas shopping period will not be affected by any Travel Ipswich works.

A weekly Travel Ipswich bulletin has been launched which goes out to all Travel Ipswich stakeholders, Suffolk County Council and Ipswich Borough Councillors as well as Endeavour House staff. It covers any up and coming issues relating to the scheme and gives an update on improvement works.

In view of the public outcry about the non-provision of a general public toilet block, I have asked officers to re-examine their reasons for striking this provision for the original scheme, and to examine whether there are any financially viable options for providing and running such a facility.

On 14 October I chaired a meeting of councillors from Suffolk County Council and Ipswich Borough Council at which progress on the Travel Ipswich scheme was reported along with a forward look at plans for 2014.

10. Consultation Events

I have had the opportunity to attend consultation events with key stakeholders in both Haverhill and Sudbury. I have heard first hand the issues and concerns for these towns in addition to the ideas and ambitions that they have for their town's future. The outcomes of these events will help to direct the investment of more than three quarters of a million pounds over the next two years.

11. Network Rail

On 7 October I had a useful meeting with Richard Schofield, Network Rail's Route Managing Director for Greater Anglia in which we discussed the prospects for infrastructure investment on the routes affecting Suffolk.

Progress is being made on the Ipswich Northern Chord with the successful installation of the new over-bridge at Sproughton Road and installation of the two main girder beams for an additional bridge crossing over the River Gipping. The chord is expected to be completed and operational by Spring 2014. The 1-mile chord will connect the East Suffolk Line with the Ipswich to Cambridge line, bypassing Ipswich Station.

The £41m scheme, being developed by Network Rail, will remove 750,000 lorries from the A14.



Suffolk is hosting a major rail conference at Endeavour House 13 December. The conference will include the re-launch of the East Anglian Rail prospectus, jointly developed by all the county councils in the region together with the New Anglia

Local Enterprise Partnership. Speakers at the conference will include Ben Gummer MP, the writer Christian Wolmar, Richard Schofield from Network Rail and representatives from the Local Enterprise Partnership, Department for Transport and Greater Anglia. I am pleased that Suffolk continues to play a leading role in developing and promoting policies for rail improvements.

Ticket machines have now been installed at Beccles, Saxmundham and Woodbridge train stations. I have asked if additional machines could be installed at Halesworth and Felixstowe. Greater Anglia have said that a business case will need to be submitted for them to gain funding for this, but they appreciate that there would be demand from Felixstowe.

12. **Proposed Summit with Local Bus Operators**

Initial contact has been made with First regarding a meeting to discuss deliver standards however due to organisational change there is currently only an interim Managing Director in place (an appointment is expected week commencing 14th October).

In anticipation of this I anticipate this appointment by writing directly to the Group CEO (Giles Fearnley) requesting a meeting with both him and the new Managing Director at the earliest possible date.

The operator conference has been rescheduled to February 2014 when we will address the subject of customer service with a wider group of bus companies

Cabinet Member Report to County Council

24 October 2013

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Colin Noble Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Procurement
Contact details:	Tel: 07545423795 Email: colin.noble@suffolk.gov.uk

1. Finance

Statement of Accounts

The audit of the 2012/13 Statement of Accounts for Suffolk County Council (including Suffolk Pension Fund) was signed off by the Audit Committee and Section 151 Officer by the statutory deadline with the external auditor issuing an unqualified audit opinion. The auditors complimented and thanked Suffolk County Council and Customer Service Direct staff for their flexibility and support especially as this was the first year with Ernst & Young.

Consultations

The Council has submitted responses to the following consultations:

- New Homes Bonus and the Local Growth Fund;
- Proposals for the Use of Capital Receipts from asset sales to invest in transforming services; and
- A Joint response signed by all Suffolk Local Authority Leaders to the Local Government Finance 2014-15 and 2015-16 Technical Consultation.

Pensions

The Pension Fund Committee is responsible for the Pension Fund and receives regular reports on the performance of the Fund and its investment managers. While there can be short term fluctuations in the Fund's performance which typically reflects market movements, the long-term performance of the Fund remains good. The Fund's investment return over the year to June 2013 was 13.6% and the return over the three years to June 2013 was 9.5% per year. The investment performance of the Fund for the quarter to September 2013 will be reported to the next meeting of the Committee on 5 December.

The estimated funding level of the Pension Fund at June 2013 was 78%, which indicates the Fund's assets as a proportion of its liabilities at that date. The Fund actuary is currently carrying out the actuarial valuation of the Fund at March 2013. Based on the results of the valuation, the Pension Fund Committee will consider the funding strategy for the Fund at its meeting in December 2013 and it will consult with all employers in the Fund on its proposals for future employer contributions. The Pension Fund Committee has

a long-term plan for the recovery of the deficit, which should mean that we can limit any increase in employer contributions that are required.

The Government issued a call for evidence in June 2013, inviting views on the structural changes to the local government pension scheme which include fund mergers. The Pension Fund committee has responded to the consultation using the government to ensure that any future proposals are based on a thorough examination of the evidence about the costs as well as the potential benefits of any changes to the scheme that might be considered.

2. Property

Planning permission was granted for the new Riverside Road Development, Lowestoft on 18 September, this is a significant mile stone for the development of this exciting joint venture between SCC and Waveney DC.

I attended the official opening of the old Forest Primary School site at Brandon on 28 September which has undergone extensive refurbishment to accommodate a pre-school, Police, Library and Children's Centre.

We will be welcoming Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust staff into Endeavour House on 18 November. This Single Public Sector Estate initiative will facilitate closer working with public sector partners and ensure our assets are efficiently used.

Works are underway to accommodate CYP public access in Constantine House, Ipswich, which will provide a valuable drop in service to young people.

3. Procurement

Over half of the Councils expenditure is with external suppliers and the Authority is currently managing over 1500 contracts. The Corporate Procurement Team has been working to help close the budget gap by taking a hard line with suppliers and using innovative approaches to procurement. We have also taken a firm line with existing contractors over inflationary increases and in identifying opportunities to save costs on current contracts. So far this year this approach has generated savings of £329k.

The procurement team is also seeking to help support the local economy working closely with the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses to help make Suffolk County Council tenders more accessible to small and medium sized Suffolk businesses. We recognise the benefits that small businesses can bring to service delivery and want to make the County Council an easy place to do business.

Cabinet Member Report to County Council

24 October 2013

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Richard Smith, MVO Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Environment and Planning
Contact details:	Tel: 01728 602714 Email: richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Countywide tourism service

I and fellow Councillors from Suffolk districts and boroughs with responsibility for economic development recently received a presentation from the Visit Suffolk Manager on progress with the county wide activities that we jointly fund. These include:

- Marketing – an evaluation of the Curious County campaign has shown that it generated £750,000 of spend from visitors, a return of 29:1. The new campaign for spring 2014 has been agreed and is now being marketed to businesses to gain sponsorship. There has been positive feedback so far from businesses in the sector and the campaign will be launched formally in January 2014.
- Public relations – Visit Suffolk has engaged with 200 quality journalists in the last quarter, and targeted 40 with Suffolk food and drink hampers to encourage them to visit Suffolk. 8 organised press trips have taken place so far as a result of this work
- Website – there has been a 52% increase in website users this year compared to figures for the same period last year. A new web-site is being developed and will be launched in January 2014 to coincide with the launch of the spring campaign.

2. Aldeburgh Food and Drink Festival

Another successful Aldeburgh Food and Drink Festival promoting and celebrating Suffolk's local food and drink producers was held over the weekend of 27-29th September at Snape Maltings. As in previous years this event was supported by Suffolk County Council as a main sponsor. Initial indications are that attendance was up by around 10% on previous years. This will be confirmed in an impact report to be produced shortly. The total economic impact of the festival in 2012 was estimated to be £1.55 million and it is expected that the impact of the 2013 festival will exceed this figure

This year the Festival joined with Creating the Greenest County to promote the benefits of local and sustainable food. As Pathfinder Partners of the Suffolk Carbon Charter (joining the East of England Co-op) they are helping to promote the message that

business benefits from being environmentally responsible, cutting energy costs and contributing to the local community.

The partnership gave Creating the Greenest County a strong presence at the festival site entrance and beyond. 7 Charter-holding exhibitors were highlighted as practical examples of the Green Economy at work, exhibiting display boards that led visitors round a prize trail. Several thousand festival goers undertook the challenge, and hundreds of complete responses were received. An additional highlight was Charter holders The Wentworth Hotel's head chef cookery demonstration, using ingredients provided exclusively by Charter holders. We continue to work with the Festival to promote the Charter to their exhibitors, and aim to build on the initial success in future years.

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY & GREENEST COUNTY

3. Supporting business to develop a strong Green Economy

The Suffolk Carbon Charter recently held a business networking event hosted by The White Lion hotel in Aldeburgh on 2nd October. The White Lion Hotel was accredited to the Carbon Charter in September 2012, and is actively engaged with promoting sustainable messages to customers. The event focussed on how Charter members can effectively use the Charter brand to build their business and how the Charter network can continue to support that growth. Representatives of 20 accredited businesses were there, and heard talks about green marketing from Charter holders Zero Above and Naked Marketing. Over 140 Charters have now been awarded to businesses in recognition of their environmental management and we look forward to expanding the network to many more businesses in partnership with the Environment Agency, Groundwork Suffolk, with the continuing support of the New Anglia LEP.

4. Suffolk receives national recognition for energy saving Householder Guidance

I am pleased to report that recently published Householder Guidance for Solid Wall Insulation, with funding from the East of England Local Government Association and Sustainability East, has been commended by the Department of Energy and Climate Change for its ground breaking approach. The guide provides home owners with a simple review of the technology and what it will mean for their property, along with options for accessing funding to support the work along with the likely planning implications.

Solid wall insulation can often be the single biggest home improvement to reduce heat loss and energy bills in older properties built without internal cavities and home owners in Suffolk are beginning to switch on to the financial assistance available to support its installation. However, it is not a simple measure and there are some technical considerations to weigh up first. In addition, if externally applied it will alter the appearance of the property, so there are some planning implications which must also be thought through.

This guide provides a simple overview of the subject and has been written in conjunction with Suffolk's Planning and Conservation Officers as well as English Heritage and a local solid wall insulation installer. It contains links to further guidance and relevant planning websites and represents a balanced view across Suffolk's Local Planning Authorities.

You can download the guide here: www.greensuffolk.org/assets/Greenest-County/SGBN/Householder-Guide.pdf , along with more detailed Technical Guidance to accompany it.

5. Suffolk's Green Heritage Open Days 2013

On 13 September I had the pleasure of visiting Therberton Hall Farm near Leiston, the home of a company that specialises in installing biomass heating systems. They were one of 28 green Suffolk properties that were open to the public that weekend, as part of the nationwide Heritage Open Days. My visit gave me an insight into the growing opportunities there are for Suffolk businesses to supply and install renewable and low carbon energy systems to domestic, community and commercial buildings, especially those off the mains gas network.

Rising energy prices and the growing interest in energy and water saving technologies, inspired many other people across the county to also visit similar properties. Giving them the opportunity to meet the building owners and find out what action can be taken to make their own homes or businesses more sustainable and cheaper to heat and light.

The Suffolk Green Building Network is happy to share best practice and many practical tips can be gleaned from the numerous case studies on the website: www.greensuffolk.org/sqbn/suffolk-case-studies/.

6. Award recognises work to tackle fuel affordability

I was very pleased to hear in September that the Home Energy Conservation Association had recognised our efforts to tackle fuel affordability and carbon emissions with an award for the Warm Homes Healthy People project. A partnership between Suffolk County District and Borough authorities were successful, for a second year running, in securing funding from the Department for Health's Warm Homes Healthy People project. This year, in addition to £315,000 of DoH funding, the project received £165,000 of DECC Fuel Affordability Fund funding to support capital measures including insulation and the replacement of heating systems. Over a thousand residents contacted the helpline, with over 600 directly receiving support to ensure their homes remain warmer and cheaper to heat year after year.

7. Natural Environment

Brandon Country Park – I would like to announce my decision to retain Brandon Country Park under the management of Suffolk County Council. Members will recall we had hoped to pass on the management of this site to another body in this case Forest Heath District Council. The country parks divestment has been successful but in the case to Brandon after lengthy negotiations between the county and Forest Heath, it

became apparent that it would be more expensive for Forest Heath to manage the site for us, under a Service Level Agreement, than if we continued to manage the park ourselves. Clearly in a time of such financial constraint I cannot agree to a structure that would be more expensive to the County Council. The management of the Park will become part of our Natural Environment service.

Brecks Partnership – I am sad to report that the Brecks Partnership’s Principal Management Group has recently voted, unanimously, to dissolve the Brecks Partnership. The County Council hosts the Partnership and employs its staff, however the financial future of the Partnership had become untenable. The Norfolk Councils had withdrawn their funding leaving a 50% shortfall in this year’s budget and our Suffolk partners could not give firm assurances of their funding beyond March 2014. Whilst we tried as hard as we could to find a solution, including combining it with Brandon Country Park, the Partnership were left with no other option. I would like to publicly thank the staff for their hard work over many years and for the legacy the Partnership leaves, which is the promise of a £2m Lottery-funded project called Breaking New Ground. This project has already received Lottery support for its development phase, and we will hear early next year if we will receive the full grant.

The value of our two Suffolk-hosted AONBs, including their importance to landscape, business and the community was discussed when I, together with Leaders and Chief Executive officers from Suffolk and Essex County Councils, met with representatives from the business, farming and environmental communities in the Dedham Vale AONB in August. We had the opportunity to hear from a business and farming perspective as well as from AONB Joint Advisory Committee Members. We also heard about a range of AONB projects.

Wild Anglia, the Defra-approved Suffolk-Norfolk Local Nature Partnership, launched its manifesto in September. At its heart the exciting document describes Wild Anglia’s ambition to get sustainable development right in Suffolk & Norfolk. It’s about planning for the future – the future of our businesses, a better quality of life for a healthier population and a better place for our wildlife to thrive. For more information about Wild Anglia please contact our Natural Environment team.

Touching the Tide The £1m HLF-funded scheme on the Suffolk Coast, started in earnest this autumn, with a spectacular Seafaring Day at Orford, where over 300 people enjoyed hornpipe dancing in the streets, sea shanty bands, and a parade. The next day over 160 people came to an Open Day at an archaeological dig on a very early Saxon Christian cemetery at Barber’s Point on the Alde Estuary, a joint project with the Aldeburgh and District Local History Society. During the three week dig children from seven local schools were also able to take part in the excavations which uncovered several skeletons. The RSPB’s large scale habitat improvement works at Hollesley marshes is also underway.

ARCHAEOLOGY

8. Archaeology Conference

The Archaeology Team co-hosted a one-day conference attended by 88 people in Bury St Edmunds on 14 September, on *Recent Anglo-Saxon Research in the East of*

England, organised by the Council for British Archaeology. The afternoon session included a presentation about excavations at Hartismere High School, Eye.

The Archaeology Team also hosted a Heritage Open Day on 15 September. Hands-on activities included excavation of a test pit in the garden, finds identification and clay modelling (making prehistoric pots and medieval tiles). 9-10 The Churchyard, Bury St Edmunds, was opened to visitors, with displays on Archaeology and access to the Historic Environment Record and our archaeological stores, which proved a particular interest.

WASTE

9. Energy-from-waste facility

Visitor Centre

I'm delighted to announce that the company who helped turn the Cutty Sark in London into the best UK tourism project in 2012, will be designing the visitor centre at Suffolk's energy-from-waste facility. The centre will provide tours of the facility and an exciting, interactive and educational experience for visitors.

Designmap was one of three companies short-listed for the job and was selected based on their initial designs for the centre, which include a series of themed zones each with a mixture of interesting displays and inter-active games. Two of the company's previous projects have won awards from the British Guild of Travel Writers – the Cutty Sark last year and a project for English Heritage in 2009. They are currently working on a new gallery at the Natural History Museum in London.

A project team, including staff from both SITA UK and Suffolk County Council, is now working closely with Designmap to refine the original proposals. Local teachers and students have been consulted throughout the process and have given valuable input.

Glasshouse project

Plans are developing to build glasshouses to grow tomatoes using heat generated from the EfW plant. Two drop-in consultation sessions took place last month to give residents and businesses the opportunity to comment on the plans. The sessions were well attended by over 150 people.

Sterling Suffolk plans to build two commercial greenhouses on land next to the B1113 between Great Blakenham and Bramford.

A planning application should be submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council in November.

If successful the greenhouses will produce 7,500 tonnes of tomatoes a year – helping to meet the huge demand for locally-grown produce, create 230 jobs and turn Suffolk into one of the country's major tomato producers.

For more information on the energy-from-waste facility visit www.greensuffolk.org/recycling/where-it-goes/energy/

To see the latest progress in the facility's construction visit <http://www.intervalfilms.com/sitapublic>

10. Procurement of new recycling contract

From November 2014, Suffolk's Councils need new arrangements for the sorting and onward processing of the dry recyclables collected at the kerbside by all 7 district and borough councils. We are working together as the Suffolk Waste Partnership to let a new contract for these dry recyclables to be delivered to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF).

Working together will provide economies of scale and ensure residents receive the same service throughout the county.

The procurement began in September 2013 and bids are currently being invited from those organisations able to meet our criteria. Once all tenders have been received the procurement project group will evaluate submissions with a view to establishing a preferred bidder in early 2014.

11. Tip-off - Keep Suffolk Clean and Green

The campaign to combat fly-tipping has gone from strength to strength. There was a successful series of 7 stop and search days targeting potential rogue waste traders in last month. The partnership involving the Environment Agency, the police, HMRC, and VOSA enabled 54 vehicles to be stopped and their documentation checked and received positive publicity. Five have undergone further waste-carrier-related investigation. The Suffolk Fly-tipping Action Group partnership is organising a further series of crack-down days early in 2014 to reinforce the message that anyone who is carrying waste must have a waste carrier's licence and must be operating in a roadworthy vehicle.

12. Household Waste Recycling Centres

Health and safety Awareness Week

We take safety at our sites very seriously, but every year there are a small number of incidents, mainly involving the public injuring themselves whilst bringing their waste to our sites. Health and safety week (28th October) will encourage customers to stay safe by offering some simple tips and advice.

Customer satisfaction survey

The team took to every site during September to speak directly with customers to find out what they think of their local sites. Over 650 responses were collated and results are currently being analysed. I will report further in my next report.

Cabinet Member Report to County Council

24 October 2013

Cabinet Member:	Colin Spence Cabinet Member for Public Protection Cabinet link to the Voluntary and Community Sector
Contact details:	Tel: 07968 580636 Email: colin.spence@suffolk.gov.uk

1. Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS)

Fire Brigades Union – Industrial Action

The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) staged their first national strike over reform of the Firefighter's Pension Scheme on Wednesday 25 September between midday and 4pm. SFRS has long standing strike contingency plans to provide a reduced level of fire cover across the county in the event of strike action. These plans were reviewed and exercised in the build up to the strike action and were implemented to cover the strike period. Up to 20 of the 35 fire stations were available during the strike action, supported by officers in response vehicles dispersed across the county. Media messages, encouraging the public to take extra care and only ring 999 in the event of an emergency, were heeded and firefighters were only required to respond to one incident in the strike period. At the time of writing, the FBU has not announced any further strike action and is required to provide at least 7 days notice, if it does so.

For further information on the above, please contact: Assistant Chief Fire Officer Phil Embury 01473 260505 or e-mail on phil.embury@suffolk.gov.uk

Reydon and Southwold Fire Station

Firefighters previously based at Southwold fire station moved into a new fire station in Reydon on 30 September, after building work was completed in August. The new station provides improved facilities for the firefighters and the local community. The station is fitted with a fire sprinkler system, has improved access for people with disabilities and better welfare facilities for female and male fire-fighters. Arrangements are now being made to demolish the existing fire station and manage the sale of the site and associated capital receipt. A ceremonial opening of the new station is being arranged for later this year.

For further information on the above, please contact: Deputy Chief Fire Officer Mark Sanderson 01473 260505 or e-mail on mark.sanderson@suffolk.gov.uk

2. Trading Standards Service

Visit from Officials

The Trading Standards Imports Surveillance team played host to a group of 10 officials from Bosnia and Herzegovinan Market Surveillance Agency as part of a week long study visit to the UK to help them prepare for their entry into the EU. The visit focused on the structure and organisation of UK border controls and market surveillance in the area of product safety and included a tour of the Port of Felixstowe.

For further information on the above, please contact Matthew West, Assistant County Trading Standards Officer, 01473 265242 matthew.west@suffolk.gov.uk

Successful Trading Standards prosecutions during September 2013

- A company from Wales pleaded guilty at Magistrates Court to transporting animal by-products. In this instance it was sheep skins, transported from a Welsh industrial estate to the Port of Felixstowe in a shipping container which was not leak-proof and, as such, posed risks to public and animal health. The company was ordered to pay a fine and costs totalling £2982. This is the second time Suffolk TS has taken action against this company for the same offence.
- After swindling over £23,000 from his victims, a local builder was given an 8-month prison sentence suspended for 18-months. He pleaded guilty to 10 offences under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations, which included not giving consumers the required cancellation notice and making false promises. In passing sentence Mr Recorder Pounder said that he felt that the offences passed the custodial threshold especially with the evidence of dishonesty, but due to the early guilty plea and personal circumstances he was going to issue a suspended sentence and a community order. The builder was previously prosecuted by Suffolk Trading Standards in 2007, when he pleaded not guilty to failing to give cancellation rights but was found guilty by Magistrates.
- A local public house had its licence to sell alcohol revoked by Suffolk Coastal District Council's licensing sub-committee following a request from Trading Standards, after twice being caught selling drink to under-age persons. The landlords of the public house had been previously notified that a test purchasing operation would take place. In February 2013, two volunteers aged 16 and 17 were sold alcohol without being asked for ID and, on this occasion, an £80 fixed penalty was issued, a written warning and advice were given as to procedures. In May 2013, another test purchase resulted in two 17 year old volunteers purchasing bottles of cider without being asked for ID. A licensing committee spokesman said Trading Standards had not been over-hasty or harsh in their enforcement of the law and had given warnings and advice. He said: "The Home Secretary's guidance makes clear that under-age sales of alcohol are always totally unacceptable. We have concluded that it is essential that we take a step in response to this review which brings home to the licence holders and the wider community the fact that this illegality will not be tolerated."

- A Suffolk farmer was ordered to pay £83,000 as the proceeds of crime act for unlawful behaviour between July 2007 and May 2009. He was fined £15,000 after pleading guilty for not registering or recording his cattle movements, births or deaths at an earlier hearing at Magistrates Court in November 2011 and was also ordered to pay a total of £18,000 costs. Following an inspection in May 2009 by the Rural Payments Agency, Trading Standards officers found 93 cattle on the farm that were not registered with the British Cattle Movement Service. Officers also found that 94 registered cattle could not be traced and were no longer on the farm during a time when the farmer was selling his own beef to farmers markets, restaurants and Hotels. Following a seven day hearing, Mr Recorder Khalil heard evidence regarding the sales of meat at various farmers markets, hotels and restaurants and the farmer's inability to account for over 100 cattle. He also went on to state that although he could not be sure where the animals had been slaughtered he was sure that meat had been packaged and labelled at the farm for sale to the public. The Government introduced strict requirements to register cattle following the outbreak of BSE in the 1990s, when it was found that the public were at risk of contracting the degenerative brain disease CJD if they consumed infected meat. This includes a legal duty to record the movement, births, deaths and lineage of cattle. Despite numerous requests, the farmer could not provide records to indicate where these animals had gone or to show the movement, births and deaths of all of his stock over a 10 year period.

For further information on the above, please contact Graham Crisp, Assistant County Trading Standards Officer, 01473 264888, graham.crisp@suffolk.gov.uk

3. Community Safety

Hate Crime Awareness Week

From 12 and 18 October, Suffolk's Hate Crime Service embarked on a tour of the county as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week 2013. The Service, which is a partnership between Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Constabulary, held a series of snapshot sessions aimed at increasing awareness and reporting of hate crime. Each session had a different focus including cyber bullying, transphobia and sensory loss. Sessions were delivered in conjunction with partners such as The Befriending Scheme, Leading Lives, Sensing Change and A.C.E Anglia Ltd. Although nationally the figures for hate crime are high, they are still significantly under reported. Between June 2012 and June 2013 there were over 600 reports of hate crime across Suffolk. Of these, 67% were race related, 16% were disability related, 11% were as a result of sexual orientation, 5% were religion related and 3% were transgender related. By working closely with partners in tackling all forms of hate crime head on, we aim to support individuals, groups and communities by helping people understand how their actions have an impact upon others.

For further information on the above, please contact: John Sanderson, Community Safety Manager Tel: 07919 165199 john.sanderson@suffolk.gov.uk

4. Corporate Health & Safety

SCC Health and Safety Strategy

The SCC SHAW Board has signed off the refreshed SCC H&S Strategy which will run from 2013 – 2016 with an associated annual H&S action plan. The core principles have been agreed as; Communication and Engagement; Competency and Compliance. The six risk priority areas are (1) asbestos (2) fire (3) stress (4) musculoskeletal disorders (5) contract management and (6) work related road risk. The SHAW Board has published the strategy on the internal website (COLIN).

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) interaction

There has been no formal investigation of SCC by the HSE since February 2012 and the last improvement notice was received in January 2011. The Head of Corporate Health & Safety continues to represent SCC at the working group “Estates Excellence”; an initiative championed by the HSE to help small businesses control their health and safety risks and protect their employees.

For further information on the above, please contact: Sonia Whiteley, Head of Corporate Health and Safety, 01473 260513, sonia.whiteley@suffolk.gov.uk

5. Joint Emergency Planning Unit

Mobile Phone Alerting Trial

The Joint Emergency Planning Unit has been liaising with the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) and colleagues from the Suffolk Resilience Forum (SRF) in order to conduct a trial of a mobile based public alert system. The national press announcement of the test took place on Monday 16 September. This was reflected in local TV and radio reports.

The trial itself will take place on 20 November, and will involve sending out messages to mobile devices in a 15km radius from the east Suffolk coast which will incorporate the populations of Leiston and Saxmundham. The Suffolk trial will use a technical approach known as location based SMS. Trials elsewhere in the UK will evaluate different technologies in locations with different characteristics. The aim is to ascertain which approach provides the optimal results. Local responders have a statutory duty under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) to warn and inform the public. The aim of this work is to evaluate a potential new alerting capability which could significantly improve existing arrangements. CCS have been working to understand current gaps in the UK's alerting capability and how they can be addressed; speed and the ability to contact people ‘on the go’ are seen by responders as the two biggest shortcomings in current approaches. Those sent the texts will be asked to provide feedback, and will also be encouraged to attend local focus groups. A report is expected in early 2014, after which ministers will decide whether to deploy the scheme.

Exercise Niagara Falls

On 23 September, an exercise was conducted to test SCC's emergency notification and out of hours call out arrangements. The exercise tested the Emergency and Business Continuity response procedures and the Directorate's processes to initiate a call cascade to pass urgent information to their staff members. Exercise activity and the scenario was developed and run by the resilience leads for each Directorate and the staff from Ipswich Borough Council who provide the 24 hour contact centre for SCC through their Emergency Services Centre. The overall result of the exercise was a successful test of the current hours of hours arrangements. However, as anticipated, a number of small problems were identified which will be addressed to ensure that SCC will be able to provide an immediate and effective response to an emergency.

Incidents

No significant civil contingencies incidents have arisen during the period of this report.

For further information on the above, please contact: Neal Evans, Deputy Head of Emergency Planning, Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit, 01473 265317, neal.evans@suffolk.gov.uk

6. Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS)

Working Together Awards

The Working Together Fund is an awards programme open to Suffolk's voluntary and community organisations. Funded by Suffolk County Council, the programme is managed by Suffolk Community Foundation with the objective of recognising outstanding service delivery or community activity as a result of increased partnership or collaborative working. The programme made awards of £3,000, £5,000 and £10,000 to 18 organisations from across the county. I am currently in the process of visiting these amazing groups and organisations to present cheques and certificates. I would encourage you to join me as I visit the areas that you represent, as these visits are very inspiring.

Community Action Suffolk

The first part of the launch of Community Action Suffolk recently took place in the Atrium at Endeavour House. Alex Skales, and Board of Directors, and the Chief Executive, Nicky Thompson, along with her team have worked incredibly hard to make the merger a success. This is a real example of merging organisations to achieve better outcomes and improve services. The County Council has been fully supportive by helping to make it happen. There will be a series of launches in towns and villages across the county and I hope you will be able to attend these to celebrate their success with them. I am sure we would all like to wish them well for the future.

For further information on the above, please contact: Stephen Watt, Business Development Specialist, 01473 260782, stephen.watt2@suffolk.gov.uk

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