

# Leader & Cabinet Briefing



## **Raymond Catchpole** **Ward Member for Wenhaston & Westleton**

### **November 2016**

Welcome to the November edition of the Leader & Cabinet Briefing – the monthly publication aimed at keeping all informed about the current key issues and achievements of the Council.

#### **November Cabinet:**

**Fees and Charges** We are adopting a more business-like approach to charging for services, in line with our objectives in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The reality is, faced with dwindling financial support from central Government, we need to become increasingly self-sufficient and ensuring we get the market rate for our discretionary services is one way of reducing the pressure on us to increase Council Tax.

**Location Filming In Suffolk** – Suffolk Coastal has taken a leading role in attracting film makers into this area in recent years. This led, in March 2016, to a county-wide project being developed, called Screen Suffolk, to build on this good work and attract a greater share of national and international film and TV production into the area.

**East Suffolk Performance Report** – This report covers our (Suffolk Coastal and Waveney) performance over the last quarter (1 July – 30 Sept) against objectives the East Suffolk Business Plan. Overall, we continue to make significant, positive progress in delivering our objectives. The report also includes details of what action is being taken to improve performance, in the few cases where we have fallen below our targets.

#### **New Dates – Full Council and Devolution**

We had hoped to hold an Extraordinary Council Meeting on Monday (31 October) to consider the draft Devolution Order, which was to be followed by a Special Cabinet Meeting. Unfortunately, the Devolution timetable has slipped slightly, and because of that, we have rescheduled these meetings.

The Full Council Meeting will now be held on **Monday 21 November** at 7pm in the Council Chamber (this meeting is moved from Thursday 24 November 2016) to consider the draft Devolution Order. Full Council will be immediately followed by a Special Cabinet Meeting, starting at 8pm or at the conclusion of the prior Full Council meeting, whichever is later.

#### **Other News**

**Accommodation Project – Surplus Furniture Open Day:** When we move to East Suffolk House, the furniture from our existing offices in Melton Hill will be surplus to requirements. So the decision has been made by the Accommodation Programme Board to offer community groups and charities, as well as town and parish councils, first refusal on the furniture.

An open day is being held on Saturday, 5 November, to allow these groups to come look at the surplus furniture to see what they can make use of. The furniture on offer includes desks, chairs, filing cabinets, drawers, meeting tables, shelving units and other office items (please note electrical items are not included).

People will be able to view the furniture between 9.30am – 4.00pm in 30 minute, pre-arranged appointment slots. The appointments will be on a first come first serve basis and we will provide notification of the allocated appointment ahead of the open day. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Julie Carver at: [Julie.carver@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.carver@eastsoffolk.gov.uk). Please pass this message onto anyone you think may benefit from the furniture.

**Merger consultation** – A recent independent survey of 1,000 residents in the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney districts in October shows that a clear majority of people are in favour of a new council for east Suffolk.

The survey conducted by ComRes asked people a number of questions about the proposals. Four out of five respondents (78%) expressed a favourable or neutral view about the proposals and of those who “don’t know” (20%), the majority then expressed a favourable view when provided with more information about the plans.

Now we’re asking everyone in the two districts to tell us what they think, as part of an engagement campaign running until **Monday 12 December**.

**Please have your say by emailing:** [merger@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:merger@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

**Better Broadband** – The Better Broadband scheme has now extended its offer to people who currently get less than 2Mbps in their property and there are no other means of getting higher speeds. As an alternative to an interim basic broadband service provided by satellite, residents and businesses may be eligible for a voucher to help with the connection cost of an interim wireless broadband service from an Approved Supplier.

For more information and to complete an application form, there is a page dedicated to people with current broadband speeds of less than 2Mbps. visit: [www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com](http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com) If you have any queries on the Scheme, email: [broadband@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:broadband@suffolk.gov.uk)

**Canvassers Calling** - Please be aware that official canvassers are now calling at homes in Suffolk Coastal where people have not yet responded to their [annual voter registration form](#). The forms were sent to all Suffolk Coastal households earlier this year. Residents are legally required to confirm or update the details of anyone at the address who is eligible to vote in the UK to ensure they are registered to vote for future elections.

Over 82% of households have now responded to the annual voter registration forms. Any household which has not yet responded will be visited by an approved Suffolk Coastal canvasser, between 17 October and 25 November. All canvassers will carry identification and will be trialling iPads to record the information for the first time. Suffolk Police and Suffolk Coastal’s Customer Services will have a list of approved canvassers. Anyone concerned about the identity of a canvasser can contact Suffolk Coastal Customer Services on: 01394 383789.

Canvassers will never ask residents for money, and anyone claiming to be a canvasser who is asking for money should be reported to Suffolk Police by calling 101.

Residents are still able to respond to their form themselves, which will remove the need for a visit from a canvasser. The simplest way to respond is online, by text or by calling the free-phone number.

- Go to [www.elecreg.co.uk/suffolkcoastal](http://www.elecreg.co.uk/suffolkcoastal)
- Call free-phone 0808 284 1563
- Text 07537 410063

**Community Call to Action** - A brand new grant fund, targeting community health and wellbeing initiatives has been set up by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. The ‘Community Call to Action’ programme is the first joint funding pot managed by the two councils in partnership and provides an opportunity for local community groups and voluntary sector organisations to apply for a share of £125,000, with £62,500 available within each District Council area. The funding has been made available by the Public Health and Protection team at Suffolk County Council and focuses on five key areas: mental health, dementia, carers support, social isolation and loneliness, and encouraging people to be fit and active. Applications are now open and the deadline is midday on 30 November. Anyone interested in learning more should contact the Funding & Community Development Officer on 01394 444 720 or via email to [grants@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:grants@eastsuffolk.gov.uk).

**Communities Urged to Apply for Funding** – On the theme of funding, Suffolk Coastal has just launched a new grant programme and is inviting organisations to apply. The Enabling Communities Exemplar Programme aims to help deliver new ‘flagship’ projects that will have a significant impact on communities and tackle need in a sustainable way. Voluntary and community organisations can apply for grant assistance between £1,000 and £10,000 to help a specific project or activity which needs more funding than is available through the Enabling Communities Budgets. To be eligible for funding, the project must be supported by the relevant Ward Councillor or the relevant Cabinet Member(s). The Exemplar Programme has no set deadlines, so you can apply at any time.

Further information and application forms are available online at:

[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants-and-funding/enabling-communities-exemplar-programme](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants-and-funding/enabling-communities-exemplar-programme) Or email [grants@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:grants@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) or call 01394 444721.

**Local Plan Modification:** Local people are also being asked to comment on a series of Main Modifications to the Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies Development Plan Document and the Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan, which were identified following public hearing sessions held in August and September. The Main Modifications are intended to address issues of legal compliance and/or soundness within the documents and are being published for a six week period of public consultation until Monday 28 November 2016.

The Main Modifications Consultation is the next stage in the production of the Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies Development Plan Document and the Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan. Further information can be found on our website: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/site-allocations-and-area-specific-policies/main-modifications-consultation](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/site-allocations-and-area-specific-policies/main-modifications-consultation) Or you can contact the Planning Policy Team on: [suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) or 01394 444558 / 444761.

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