Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Report
Sue Mower – March 2019

As we head towards the final days of SCDC, the formation of the new East Suffolk Council, and the campaign for our elections on 2nd May, here is small selection of stories and information from Suffolk Coastal.

Cabinet meeting held 5th March

Asset Divestment/Disposal – Two Play Areas, Felixstowe: As part of our on-going Enabling Communities agenda, Cabinet will discuss a proposal to transfer of two play areas to Felixstowe Town Council. The transfer of these parcels of land meets the Council's Business Plan objective to "Empower local town and parish councils by continuing to transfer amenity and community assets to them with their agreement".

East Suffolk MyGo Youth Employment Service: Young people not engaged in employment, education or training (NEET) continue to be a challenge within Suffolk generally and East Suffolk in particular relative to the country as a whole. The cabinet will discuss a proposal for East Suffolk, in partnership with Suffolk County Council, to procure a service that will pro-actively support young people to become positively engaged within the local economy.

Adoption of the Private Sector Housing Strategy and Associated Policies: In 2017, the Council adopted the East Suffolk Housing Strategy which set out joint ambitions for Housing, across Suffolk Coastal and Waveney. This high level strategy provides the overarching framework for all housing services. The Private Sector Housing Strategy is the more detailed review and plan for this service area. It identifies the challenges facing the sector, identifies what we have achieved to date and specific actions detailing how we will deliver solutions to the most pressing issues between now and 2023.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government External Funding to Prevent Homelessness: The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 requires Suffolk Coastal to develop and provide enhanced, tailored housing pathways for groups of people that maybe more vulnerable to homelessness than others. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has invited local authorities to apply for grant funding to address some of the gaps in homelessness service provision.

Exempt / Confidential Items - The item on this month's agenda is the use of the Government's Community Housing Fund in SCDC – Proposed Scheme with Peninsula Villages Community Land Trust at School Lane Bawdsey.

<p style="text-align:center">Continued…………..</p>

A Special Meeting of Cabinet held on Monday 11th March 2019 – to consider Suffolk Coastal's response to two high-profile important consultations which are currently being held. These are:

* East Anglia One North and EastAnglia Two Offshore Windfarms Phase 4 - Consultation from Scottish Power Renewables

* Sizewell C Stage 3 Public Consultation

Other News:

Communities benefit from new developments

Local communities in east Suffolk are seeing the benefit from new developments happening across the district. Since the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) scheme was introduced in east Suffolk, over £4.5 million has been collected from commenced and completed developments. Of this, over £2.1 million has been distributed or earmarked to help deliver infrastructure projects to facilitate growth currently taking place across the District. In most circumstances it replaces or complements the traditional Section 106 process of securing developer contributions towards infrastructure.

Parish and Town Councils receive 15% of CIL funds which are collected from development in their area. A further 10% is available to the councils which have introduced the Neighbourhood Plan. So separately, a total of just over £700,000 has been paid to Parish and Town Councils in east Suffolk. Some of the projects which have been allocated CIL funds include:

* £122,400 towards expansion of Framlingham Medical Practice

* £188,800 towards pre-construction costs for a new Youth, Arts and Community Centre in Woodbridge

* £45,000 towards a new pedestrian crossing outside the primary school in Trimley St Mary

Enabling Broadband Programme progress

SCDC is determined to ensure residents in rural areas don't miss out on better broadband provision. That's why we have allocated £250,000 to be directed specifically to broadband in rural areas.

3

We have issued contracts with two local companies (Fram Broadband and RADE) to build the necessary infrastructure we need in the District and these companies have now begun purchasing, and siting, additional equipment to enhance the service to residents, businesses and visitors alike.

Fram Broadband has extended the coverage in the Framlingham, Saxtead, Bruisyard and Gt Glenham parishes. Similarly, RADE has enhanced the coverage in the North of the District, along the Blyth Valley and Leiston/Theberton areas.

Meanwhile, Suffolk as a whole has been awarded £1.7million from the government to provide broadband access to businesses in the county's most rural areas, who are not in plans to receive Superfast Broadband as part of the current fibre broadband rollout.

The funding will cover connection to over 550 businesses across the county where current internet speeds are limited to lower speed connection methods. On top of the business connections this funding will also reach a further 600 non-business-related premises who will be able to upgrade to superfast speeds.

Suffolk to host opening stage of 2019 OVO Energy Women's Tour

Suffolk will host the opening stage of the 2019 OVO Energy Women's Tour on Monday 10th June, marking the fifth time that the race has visited the county.

The county also becomes the first venue to be confirmed for the 2020 edition of the race.

In its four previous visits to Suffolk, the event is estimated to have attracted over 250,000 spectators and created a net economic impact for the county of over £3.5 million. Further details of the 2019 Suffolk stage, including the

Start and Finish venues for Stage One, will be announced shortly, ahead of the announcement of the full route for the OVO Energy Women's Tour.

SM