

# **Leader & Cabinet Briefing**



**May 2018**

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

**CABINET - 6:30pm on Tuesday, 1 May 2018, in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House.**

**ENABLING BROADBAND PROGRAMME UPDATE** – The aim of the Suffolk Better Broadband Programme is 100% coverage of the County with superfast fibre broadband. But it is recognised that there is likely to be 2-3% of properties that will be without access to reasonable broadband services when the existing programme ends in mid 2020. In rural areas, the percentage without access is expected to be much greater.

Suffolk Coastal believes access to high speed (>10mbps) broadband services is vital for economic growth and the development of strong local economies, particularly in rural areas. So, in support of our Enabling Communities priority, a Suffolk Coastal Enabling Broadband Programme Board was established in June 2017 with the aim of supporting those communities which are likely to be in that 2-3% to not have access to an affordable high speed broadband service.

There are several options available to residents and businesses not able to access a fixed connection to fibre broadband but they vary in cost and performance and are not all equally accessible or available from all locations. These alternatives include wireless broadband, satellite broadband as well as mobile broadband. This report looks at the options and also the funding of the project.

**EAST SUFFOLK PERFORMANCE REPORT Q4** – This report provides a comprehensive review of our performance across Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council. It is a joint report for both Councils and provides an overview of the Councils' performance and progress against the deliverables within the East Suffolk Business Plan.

The report summarises performance against the Critical Success Factors (CSF) and the strategic deliverables within the East Suffolk Business Plan. Overall the Council continues to make significant and positive progress in delivering the Business Plan objectives. If there are any instances where performance is not adequately meeting targets, these are highlighted in the report detailing the actions being taken.

## **Other News**

**Deben Leisure Centre – Reopens Soon:** We are just weeks away from re-opening Deben Leisure Centre – and local people can sign up for their membership now!

The centre closed in September 2017 to undergo a £3.5 million refurbishment as part of Suffolk Coastal's five year programme to improve leisure facilities and encourage people to become more active.

Deben Pool was first opened in 1973, so to celebrate the reopening, our operators, Places for People Leisure, are kicking off with one month's membership for just £19.73.

For more information and to sign up, go to [Deben Leisure Centre](#) or pop down to see them on site. A sales cabin is located near the entrance to the community hall and is open weekdays 10am to 7pm and weekends 9am to 4pm. It will also be open from 8am to 8pm on Monday 30 April 2018 and 9am to 3pm on the weekend of 5 and 6 May 2018.

**Sign Up for Garden Waste Collection** – The new Garden Waste Collection Scheme in Suffolk Coastal going live at the start of May. But local people are being reassured it is not too late to sign up for the Garden Waste Scheme.

We have had a good response to date, with over 20,000 households (or about 37% of homes in Suffolk Coastal) having already signed up – and this figure is growing by about 500 homes a day.

The first paid-for collections are scheduled to start from the beginning of May, after Suffolk Coastal District Council introduced a £43 a year charge for collecting garden waste. The new Scheme is optional. However, if you don't sign up, your garden waste will no longer be collected by the Council.

It's quick and easy to sign up, either:

- ✓ Go online at: [my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/MyServices](http://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/MyServices). You will need to register, or login to, your My Eastsuffolk account and then complete the form for garden waste
- ✓ Call Customer Services on **01394 383789**, and choose option '0'
- ✓ Or, pop in to see our Customer Service staff in the Customer Service Centres in Felixstowe and Woodbridge Libraries

You will need a debit or credit card to pay. The fee for each bin is £43 for a year (the equivalent of paying about £1.65 per fortnightly collection). You can place your order now and don't forget to say 'YES' to the upgrade.

One of the key benefits from joining the Suffolk Coastal Garden Waste Scheme is that subscribers will also be given the option of an upgrade - receiving a free, larger (240 litre) green bin for their garden waste (240 litres is the most common wheeled bin size, but the current brown organic waste bins in Suffolk Coastal are 140 litres).

The new, larger green bins are expected to be delivered during the autumn (2018) to those residents who request one and have subscribed to the Garden Waste Scheme.

At this stage, subscribers to the Garden Waste Scheme will be able to continue to put organic domestic waste (such as food waste) in with their garden waste.

If you want further information, I attach a very useful Briefing, which was prepared by Kerry Blair this week (see attachment to this document). There are also extensive FAQs online. For more information about the new service see: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/scdcgardenwaste](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/scdcgardenwaste)

**Adastral Park Sign Off:** Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk County Council and Carlyle Land, the owner of the land east of the A12 at Martlesham and east and south of Adastral Park, have

now signed the S106 legal agreement, meaning the Outline Planning Permission has been approved paving the way for the £300 million development to go ahead.

The development, to be known as Brightwell Lakes, will bring £96million of infrastructure investment into the local area, along with approximately £40 million of S106 contributions and £15 million of highways investment, as well as creating almost 1,000 new jobs.

The proposals include:

- Up to 2,000 new homes, including affordable, starter, family and elderly accommodation
- New infrastructure provision on the site including schools, local shops and services
- A comprehensive multi-million pound package of transport improvements including junction and highways improvements to enhance vehicle flows, bus facilities, cycle and walking routes and a new A12 crossing
- New jobs within the school, shops and extended business park
- 34 hectares (85 acres) of formal and informal open spaces including woodland, meadows, heathland, a variety of play areas, a trim trail, a variety of circular walks, sports facilities and ecological areas. This is in addition to sports and recreation facilities for community use as part of the all-through school
- Allotments/community orchards
- 7km of circular walking routes and cycle paths
- Protection for existing mature landscaping, including Spratts Plantation and woodland along the boundary
- An improved lake environment catering for a variety of experiences with picnic areas, a café, play space, a beach and low disturbance wildlife areas
- Funding to establish community ownership of green spaces, the lakeside and community assets; these would be professionally managed with potential for education, public art and community activities

The S106 legal agreement sets out the planning obligations and the trigger points by which financial contributions and new infrastructure should be delivered. It includes elements such as:

- £17 million towards pre-school, primary, secondary and sixth form education, including the provision of new schools on site
- A £15million package of transport improvements, including the redesign of specific key A12 junctions and improvements to the local road network
- The provision of a new half hourly bus service between the site and Ipswich Railway station
- A new health centre on the site or £725,000 towards improvements to existing doctor's surgeries
- £300,000 towards the Deben Estuary recreation mitigation
- New SANG provision on the site, children's play areas, sports pitches, changing facilities, a trim trail, allotments and community orchard

**Merger – Response to House of Lords:** As you are aware, the draft Order to create the new East Suffolk Council is currently going through Parliament.

A query was raised at the House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee about a perceived lack of consultation during the period at the end of last year, when the Secretary of State had said he was minded to support the proposals and said he would accept comments.

On your behalf, Mark Bee and myself issued a strong response on this – which is here in full for your information:

*‘Suffolk Coastal and Waveney do not recognise the suggestion that there has been significant opposition to the proposals and we have undertaken a range of consultative exercises which reinforce this position. Both councils believe that public opinion is extremely important and went to great lengths to ensure that views are welcomed and acknowledged.*

*This engagement work has contributed greatly to the agreements which have been reached, as recognised by the Government in their statements which have seen the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government give his approval for this historic decision.*

*It must be recognised that this House of Lords debate was part of the Parliamentary process that is required to establish the new council. Like any legislative decision it must be subject to scrutiny; that is what has happened here, and we welcome that.*

*When the Order was considered by the Joint Committee for Statutory Instruments, for the House of Commons, they had no comments to make. The Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee for the House of Lords has made this comment on consultation; it is nothing more than that - a comment for the Lords to consider.*

*We remain absolutely confident in the need for a single council, in the process that will make that happen, and that Parliament will give final agreement to the creation of a new East Suffolk Council in the next few weeks.*

*Our consultation work included an independent survey of 1,000 residents across the two districts which was undertaken by leading national polling company ComRes. Statistically, a representative sample of this size reliably reflects overall views and the results of the survey showed that residents are largely positive about the idea of the new council.*

*When provided with brief information about the proposal, a majority of local adults say they were favourable towards it – more than twice the proportion who say they are unfavourable (57% v 22%). Indeed, when provided with some more information on the proposal, residents are more likely to be favourable than before (72%).*

*Subsequent to that, residents were actively welcomed to provide us with their views on the proposals via an engagement campaign which was widely publicised in the local press, on our website, on social media and in our residents’ magazines which are distributed to every household in both districts and again, the numbers of people expressing opposition or concerns was very low.*

*We put our communities first and it is of course worth bearing in mind that the two Councils face financial challenges in a difficult period for public services. Therefore we are seeking innovative ways to maintain and enhance the services our communities expect and deserve, while also keeping council tax low.*

*The primary consideration and objective in creating a new council is the future prosperity of our communities and we want to ensure that east Suffolk is in the best possible position to respond to, and take advantage of, the emerging opportunities and challenges facing local government such as jobs creation, housing needs, and the economic growth agenda.*

*Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have been jointly streamlining operations and reducing costs, while providing high quality frontline services since 2008 and we have made over £22million efficiency savings in that time.*

*At a time of financial challenge we believe this is what our residents want us to focus on and this is borne out by the evidence we have received from our engagement and consultation activities.'*

**Leaders Call on County to work together on Council Reform in Suffolk:** All the District and Borough Council Leaders in Suffolk have sent a joint letter to Suffolk County Council calling for a stop to the £70,000 review of local government structures initiated by the County.

Instead they requested that all councils and public sector organisations such as health and emergency services jointly work together on proposals which would deliver improved benefits and savings much quicker.

Myself and Mark Bee joined the Leaders from Babergh, Forest Heath, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk and St Edmundsbury councils in expressing our concern that, despite a history of working together, none of us had been contacted about the proposals nor involved in drawing up the brief for the consultants.

The letter points out that Suffolk Councils and public sector partners have already achieved millions of pounds of investment and better outcomes for residents by working together and ignoring structures and parties.

But the leaders warn that the work by 'think-tank' ResPublica could undo all of that and waste time and money which could be better spent on accelerating this work.

All councils are facing financial pressures from reduced national funding and increased demand on services. The letter sets out that, while understanding the County's position, their unilateral action in commissioning a review is not the way forward.

Leaders are concerned that due to previous work for the County Council Network the findings of any review by ResPublica would be weighted to a predetermined outcome. The District and Borough Council Leaders make it clear in the letter that they will not take part in the ResPublica work if it goes forward.

**Air Quality Action Plan approved for Stratford St Andrew:** The plan to reduce air pollution on the A12 at Stratford St Andrew has been given government backing.

Suffolk Coastal received approval from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, following public consultation, for the final Stratford St. Andrew Air Quality Action Plan. The Action Plan has been put in place to help reduce nitrogen dioxide levels within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) declared on the A12 at Long Row in Main Road, Stratford St Andrew.

Studies undertaken by Suffolk Coastal suggested that southbound traffic accelerating just prior to the end of the 30 mph speed limit in Stratford St. Andrew was a large part of the problem. The main measure in our Action Plan was to move the 30 mph speed limit sign

further south of the village in an aim to reduce the overall speed in the area and any accelerating at Long Row itself. This was completed in December 2017.

We are now monitoring the impact of the measure and are working closely with the County Council to determine if we need to take forward any other measures in the plan. The final Action Plan is available on our [website](#) and for more information on Air Quality, including how you can help reduce emissions, see our [Air Quality section](#).

**And finally....**

**Your old vehicle is YOUR responsibility:** Suffolk Coastal is reminding local people that their old vehicles are their own responsibility!

The reminder comes after a woman has gained a criminal record and been made to pay a total of £1,084 after Suffolk Coastal took her to court for abandoning her car in a private car park.

Zoe Potter of Spencer Road, Rendlesham failed to attend Ipswich Magistrates' Court on 17 April and the matter was heard in her absence. She was fined £440 for abandoning her car off Sycamore Road, Rendlesham and made to pay £600 costs and a £44 victim surcharge.

Council officers were notified of the abandoned car in September 2017. Zoe Potter, the registered keeper of the vehicle, received two formal notices which she ignored and Suffolk Coastal had to remove and impound the car at the taxpayers' expense in January 2018. Furthermore, she failed to pay a £200 fixed penalty notice.

The warning is: If you receive a notice from the council suspecting your vehicle has been dumped - don't ignore it! Your vehicle could be seized and you will have to pay for it to be released, starting from £170 and increasing every day!

It is easy to arrange the disposal of your vehicle with the End of Life Directive. There are a number of sites you can take your vehicle to or arrange to have it picked up (depending on the make). To find your nearest one, visit [Cartakeback](#) or [Rewarding Recycling](#).

Best wishes,

Cllr Ray Herring

Leader

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# Suffolk Coastal Garden Waste Scheme

Project update 26 April 2016

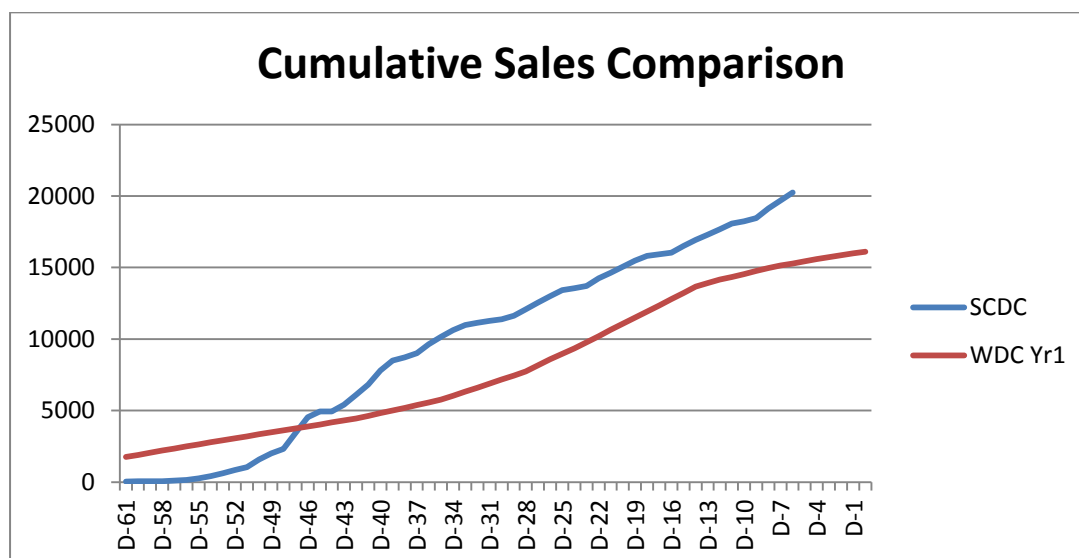


## Sign-ups

Up to midnight on 25 April, the Garden Waste Scheme had received 20,240 sign-ups from households. This equates to 20,558 garden waste bins – or about 37% of households.

The rate of sales has increased again this week in the run up to the first paid for collections on 1 May. Sign-ups are continuing to climb at the rate of more than 500 a day.

A comparison of cumulative SCDC sales with those from the Waveney launch of the Easy Green Bin scheme, in 2016, is shown below.



Note: the chart synchronises on Day 0 (ie 1 May 2018 for SCDC and 1 March 2016 for WDC) and shows sales in the 61 days prior to the start date of both schemes.

## Bin Stickers and Bin Upgrades

Stickers are being sent out to households that have signed up to the scheme, to put on their existing brown bins. The stickers serve more than one purpose: to help refuse crews distinguish between brown bins that have a valid subscription and those that don't; to help householders identify their bin from their neighbour's; and to provide a reminder of when their subscription will end.

The stickers are personalised with the order reference, first line of the property address and the subscription end date for each customer. To do this efficiently, we are

outsourcing the printing and mailing operation to a company based in Great Yarmouth, which is enabling us to cut postage costs by 50%.

13,800 stickers were dispatched in the week ending 20 April, and a further 5,500 will have been sent out by the 27 April. Stickers will continue to be printed and sent out to new subscribers once a week, until the new, larger green bins are deployed.

For subscribers who opt in to having the free bin upgrade to the larger (240 litre) green, we will deliver the majority of these to single-bin households in the autumn. Customers who already had two or more of the brown 140 litre bins were offered an earlier upgrade to encourage them to subscribe early, and to enable the Norse scheme, for additional bins, to finish at the end of June. Around 2,500 green bins will be delivered to these subscribers in May.

The new bins will not require a sticker when they are deployed because they will be easily differentiated from unsubscribed brown bins. They will also contain a small device, similar to the security tags used in shops, which will enable Norse to introduce new efficient technology for checking subscriptions against individual bins. Householders will be encouraged to put their own house name or number on their new green bin if they wish to distinguish it from their neighbours'.



### **Go Live 1 May**

We are preparing for as many possible issues as we can during the first few weeks of the new scheme.

We know that some people may not have received their sticker by 1 May. Customers are being advised to present their bin for collection anyway, preferably with a note stuck on the bin. Refuse crews have been instructed to trust the customer is right during the first two weeks (1 – 14 May).

After this time, crews will be expected to check bins presented without stickers against a list of subscribed properties. If the customer is not on the list the bin will not be emptied, and a tag will be attached to the bin explaining why it has not been emptied. The tag also invites the customer to sign-up or raise a query with Customer Services.

### **Unwanted Bins**

Householders that are not signed-up to the scheme are being advised to keep their brown bins and, if they can, to put them to alternative use. We hope that this will also give householders time to reconsider and sign-up later in the year. There is no disadvantage to



them in doing this because the rolling subscription means they will get 12 month's of collections whenever they join the scheme.

Unwanted bins will be collected in during the autumn when the new green bins are deployed. However, we anticipate a few people will want rid of their unwanted bin as soon as possible and we have made allowances for this with a process that the Customer Services team can trigger for Norse to make ad hoc removals of unwanted bins.