



## COUNCIL

Wednesday, 24 November 2021

### CABINET MEMBERS' REPORT AND OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT TO COUNCIL

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To receive the Cabinet Members' Report and the Outside Bodies Representatives' Report to Council, for information.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards in the District
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Steve Gallant Leader of the Council

## CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS TO COUNCIL

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Mary Rudd, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health
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Licensing Services is continuing to support licensed premises and drivers during this pandemic. Most licensed premises have now reopened and are operating without any legally mandated social distancing. It has been a difficult time for licensed premises and drivers but hopefully the worst of the pandemic is over, and our licensed businesses can begin to recover.

In terms of numbers

- (a) In relation to alcohol and entertainment, in October 2020 there were 1072 licensed premises and clubs in East Suffolk and in October 2021 there has actually been a small increase in this number, against a decrease in the number of licensed premises nationally year on year (since 2012 in the case of drink led premises and since 2017 in the case of food led premises), to 1091 Premises and Club Premises Licences issued in East Suffolk.
- (b) In relation to taxis, there was a significant reduction in the number of licensed hackney carriage and private hire vehicles in East Suffolk over the last 12 months and a small increase in the number of private hire operators. In October 2020, there were 107 licensed hackney carriage vehicles, 299 licensed private hire vehicles and 75 private hire operators in East Suffolk. In October 2021, there were 94 licensed hackney carriage vehicles, 319 licensed private hire vehicles and 79 private hire operators. It appears now that drivers are starting to return to the trade, with 413 vehicles now licensed.
- (c) In relation to gambling establishments in East Suffolk, in October 2020, there were 40 Gambling Premises Licences issued and by October 2021 there was a small reduction to 37 Gambling Premises Licences in East Suffolk.

In terms of festivals, members will be aware Latitude went ahead as a government test event between 22 and 25 July 2021. Officers from Licensing Services who were there to monitor compliance with the Premises Licence and carry out enforcement checks on site. Sadly, the Suffolk Show and Harvest Moon Festival Beccles Quay have both been cancelled. It is hoped that they will return next year.

Licensees in East Suffolk have had to be very resilient over the last year as Covid-19 has severely impacted their businesses with a significant drop in income through loss of custom coupled with an increase in expenditure to make their premises Covid secure during those periods when they have been able to be open and trade. East Suffolk Council has been able to provide some financial support to premises during this difficult time with grant funding of up to £25,000 per eligible business through the Additional Restrictions Grant. It is hoped that as we hopefully come out of the pandemic, businesses will be able to recover their losses and grow their businesses in East Suffolk where the hospitality sector and night time economy are of great importance to everyone who lives, works in and visits East Suffolk.

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customer Services, ICT and Commercial Partnerships
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- **CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE**

The customer experience teams continue to work closely to build momentum around the customer experience agenda. Reviewing some areas around handling planning complaints based on current data research and comparing with previous complaints data and the increased workload planning teams have experienced and the increase for 'all correspondence' around FOI's (Freedom of Information) requests in relation to developers. Assistance is also being provided to service teams across the council to build additional strength around communications with customers and partners. This work is still within the initial creative stage.

Customer engagement is key, and the programme continues with work around a campaign of undertaking customer led mystery shopping and this will be developed with the hope of a rolling programme of engagement in early 2022. The customer feedback survey has grown from initially requesting simple feedback forms to a much-developed approach including a direct mailbox, web chat etc. The next customer access survey is about to go live to better understand customer needs, expectations and contact channels to utilise and ensure we are able to meet customer needs.

The customer experience front desk continues to be very successful, the most recent example being the Gateway to Homechoice. Our customer experience specialists have been revising and analysing processes and application processing times have reduced from 15 to 6.5 weeks. The teams are also looking at taking on housing repair enquiries in the new year. The plan is continuing successful channel shift momentum to free up resource to better support our customers with complex needs and continue to free up other ESC teams as has been the case with housing triage, garden waste, parking, planning enquiries within existing resources which has been challenging but has seen teams step up and deliver excellent service.

- **COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**

In order to give greater steerage in a time of change and drive business improvement and development, a new business improvement manager, Robert Stammers, has been appointed to ESC to anticipate the change in govt waste collection policy, and forward thinking. The business improvement manager role is intended to provide subject matter expertise in the area of waste collection and to work with our partner, East Suffolk Norse, on a number of areas where it is felt service delivery can be improved.

Robert joined ESC on 1<sup>st</sup> October joining us from SERCO, where he had been responsible for delivering waste contracts to a range of London Boroughs. Prior to this he was head of waste at London Energy which managed the waste of 6 North London boroughs. One of the main areas of responsibility is

improvements to service delivery provided by East Suffolk Norse Joint Venture. These are referred to as Business Improvement Projects (or BIP's).

- **ICT & DIGITAL**

The team have built a new GIS platform to launch better working practises around utilising special data and upgraded areas of key infrastructure to ensure we remain secure and resilient. A major upgrade to the council's Uniform system has been undertaken – a key enterprise-wide system supporting the delivery of many statutory services such as Planning and Environmental Health.

ESC has now placed order to confirm delivery of the Lowestoft and Felixstowe elements of the newly renamed 'Digital Towns' project previously known as 'Smart' towns. The ambition and drive to secure these digital towns to help them understand their digital profile is a fundamental part of the council trajectory for delivering transformational change.

We also launched a 'digital' survey in conjunction with SALC to all Town and Parish Councils to better understand their digital profiles and requirements, what connectivity they had and how it worked for them. Early responses have been poor and we are looking to raise the game and encourage greater participation by redoing the survey.

Finally, East Suffolk Council online services continue to attract excellent star ratings with 4.26 out of 5.0 stars from a response of 13,370 ratings. Pretty good I'll hope you will agree.

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Craig Rivett, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development
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### **Freeport East**

The Outline Business Case (OBC) was submitted to government in September and the Freeport East working group is now addressing the critical actions raised. It is anticipated that Freeport East will be designated in January as by this date we will have an approved OBC and at least one live Tax Site.

Work continues on the Full Business Case (FBC) which is due to be submitted in March 2022. Approval of the FBC will result in Freeport East being able to access its share of the Freeports Seed Capital Fund – up to £25m.

The Freeport East Shadow Supervisory Board is also progressing recruitment of the Chair and CEX – JDs have been developed and positions will be advertised in January. In parallel with this, partners are also progressing the establishment of a Freeport East Company. Once established this will employ all Freeport East staff. It is anticipated that the new company will be established by March 2022

### **HE and Arts Council Visit**

On 14th October ESC hosted Historic England (HE) on a tour of Lowestoft, this included 17 commissioners as well as members of the management team who have been involved with the Heritage Action Zones (HAZ).

Aim of the visit:

- understand ESC's regeneration plans for Lowestoft,
- see first-hand the impact of the HAZ areas
- hear about how ESC and GYBC working together (particular focus on the City of Culture BID)

The CEX and Leader presented on the Lowestoft Town Investment Plan and members of the Regen team updated on the HAZ.

A tour of the town to explain some of the planned changes and interventions to date, especially within the HAZ area also took place. Great networking opportunity with key stakeholders over lunch which enabled partners to explain their ambition for heritage and culture in the area.

Feedback provided by HE and our stakeholders was extremely positive with Commissioner's Chairman Sir Laurie Magnus saying "we were really inspired by what we saw in the two Heritage Action Zones in Lowestoft. ESC's support for the roles of heritage and culture in acting as catalysts for regeneration was very evident and we were delighted by the close working relationship that you and your team have so clearly developed with our colleagues in the East of England region".

### **Arts Council Visit**

The following week, the Regen Team hosted a visit by the Arts Council (AC) which included the recently appointed Chief Executive Darren Henley and Regional Director Hazel Edwards. The visit was undertaken to understand some of the challenges and opportunities which East Suffolk faces with the arts. The meeting began at the Marina Theatre with CEX providing an overview of the Lowestoft investment Plan.

Followed by a tour of the town including the Marina Theatre and the challenges they faced through COVID and their aspirations for the future. Also included plans for the Cultural Quarter, the former Post Office and East Point Pavilion, this provided an opportunity to introduce the AC to stakeholders including SCC and the First Light Festival CIC.

The visit also provided a platform to detail our ambition for the town and highlight the need for a successful outcome to our Cultural Development Fund bid, recently submitted to the AC. The following day ESC attended a working lunch with colleagues from GYBC, AC and the National Trust, there was a focus on the CoC bid and again feedback was positive.

### **South Seafront Masterplan**

As part of the southern HAZ and to help inform the business case for the seafront towns deal project a masterplan for the seafront has been undertaken. This has included extensive public consultation which has informed the concept design to enhance the seafront and its connectivity to Kirkley Village and the town centre. It also considers future uses, current investment and how Lowestoft can transform its offer from a traditional bucket and spade resort. The masterplan will shortly be available online and help to shape future funding applications.

### **Scores Masterplan**

Delivered through the High Street Heritage Action plan, the scores masterplan provides a concept development to bring the scores back into full working use as a tourist attraction and improving

connectivity between the High Street, the Ness and the commercial areas of the town. The masterplan will help to guide the development of this towns deal project.

### **Towns Deal**

As reported to Full Council in April 2021, we were successful in our £24.9m application through the town deal, this is subject to completing business cases for five projects detailed within the Investment Plan. The decision at Full Council was for Cabinet to approve the business cases before submission in March 2022.

A further £750k was provided through the towns deal Accelerator fund to undertake development at the East Point Pavilion.

As part of the development of the business cases a wide range of feasibility studies and viabilities studies have been completed, this has flagged up increased development costs and the subsequent value engineering of the projects. The team have discussed this directly with government (Cities & Local Growth Unit) who were pleased with progress to date and the justification for project adjustments.

Whilst we as a council are responsible for the management of the funds and project evaluation, the Cities and Local Growth unit were keen to highlight that it should be the Place Board which approves the projects and any adjustments. As a result, the business case summary document will go to the Place Board in December 2021 in advance of Cabinet in February 2022.

### **The 5 projects include:**

**The Port Gateway Project** – this will improve the appearance of areas around the port with the majority of funding supporting the delivery of ABP’s Lowestoft Eastern Energy Facility (LEEF) that will provide new berthing facilities supporting clean energy growth and delivering 300 local jobs.

**The Seafront Vision** – The project will deliver new public realm around Royal Plain and Royal Green complementing the investment in the East Point Pavilion and will include improvements to the Royal Plain fountains, the design will follow the concepts provided within the South Seafront masterplan.

**Historic Quarter** – provide financial funding to Lowestoft Town Council to bring the vacant Town Hall building back into use as well as improving the scores.

**Station Quarter** – redevelopment of the former Post Office, sorting office and the station building which overlooks Station Square.

**Cultural Quarter** – redevelopment of the former Battery Green Car park and customer service centre into a new leisure & culture facility which will support new day and night time uses. The project also includes a financial grant to the Marina Theatre for upgrades to the backstage area.

### **Energy Projects Update**

The range of major energy projects East Suffolk council is having to consider is continuing to grow alongside the challenge the country is facing in securing energy supply for the long term. If all these projects were to be consented, East Suffolk could host approximately 30% of the country’s electricity energy that is being generated here or coming through our district. This is hugely important for the country but it places huge challenges, as well as opportunities before us which we have been tackling head on. Some of these projects could lead to significant investment in our area and large job

opportunities in our district. Some, though, will not create substantial economic benefits but could result in the industrialisation of parts of our countryside amplified by what appears to be a lack of coordination between projects to ensure cumulative impacts are reduced.

Firstly I will report that the Examination into the Sizewell C New Nuclear development finished on the 14th October with a decision expected from the Secretary of State at BEIS in mid April 2022. The government has also separately put before parliament a potential funding approach for new nuclear development and indicated it is expected to enable one new nuclear station to commence construction before the end of this parliament. This is highly likely to be Sizewell C and in last month's Budget the Chancellor announced a £1.7b fund for bringing forward new nuclear opportunities.

The Council is also expecting the decisions from the Secretary of State at BEIS on the Scottish Power EA1N and EA2 off shore windfarm proposals in early January 2022. If consented it is anticipated, subject to funding, they should be commenced in 2023. The onshore elements for these windfarms will come ashore and connect to a new substation complex to be sited at Friston.

It is this proposal that has led to significant and legitimate concerns from the local community, as well as ESC, regarding the strategy for bringing ashore off shore generated energy as well as connecting UK energy with Europe through interconnectors. Each project is currently looked at individually with the nomination of a grid connection acting as the catalyst for project development.

Notwithstanding the understandable aim of the government to reach our 2030 targets for 40GW of off shore wind there is no current mechanism for having an holistic joined up strategy for coordinating the routes for taking the generated off shore energy to where it is needed. However separately from the current applications a review has been commenced through the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR). We have been heavily engaged in this process and so have our affected communities.

#### **Recent consultations held in respect of this OTNR work on:**

- Outcomes of Early Opportunities workstream, Pathway to 2030 workstream and MPI workstream – ESC provided a response in September.
- Future System Operator – ESC provided a response in September.
- Enduring Regime – ESC reviewing and will provide a response in November.
- Draft National Policy Statements consultation which sets clear expectation of coordination. ESC submitted a response.

#### **Early Opportunities workstream**

- 16 developers have 'opted in' as pathfinders – this is currently voluntary
- NG-ESO are continuing to engage with developers to assess the pathfinder proposals and consider how to facilitate greater coordination. NG-ESO are working with developers to find a way to coordinate and minimise impacts whilst still maintaining their connection dates. NG-ESO considering models such as those outlined below:
  - o Multi-Purpose Interconnectors – connection of offshore wind to an interconnector.
  - o Shared Offshore Transmission system – multi generator using a single offshore transmission system.
  - o Quasi bootstrap – circuit between substations of different projects – reinforcing system but doesn't reduce onshore infrastructure.
  - o TO owned Bootstrap – connection of offshore wind to a subsea between two points in onshore transmission system.

o Connection of electricity storage to an offshore transmission system - This concept may involve the connection of electricity storage or a demand customer, such as an electrolyser, to the onshore or offshore elements of an offshore transmission system. The principle could also allow for the electrification of oil and gas platforms. This would allow for coordination across energy vectors, not only of electricity transmission infrastructure.

- NG-ESO cannot provide the names of the developers or projects but have published an open letter (27.09.2021) setting out BEIS and Ofgem's very clear criteria for in-scope projects. Projects in-scope of this workstream are those which have been through the CION process but not yet been granted planning consent or CfD.
- NG-ESO looking to be able to establish changes needed to facilitate models by March 2022 and in some instances commence changes.

This is complex work and the early opportunities, and next steps, may provide better solutions but the fundamental concern, especially in the communities around Friston is that if the EA1N and EA2 proposals are consented there is no requirement for these schemes to be considered as part of a wider coordinated programme but the site would be seen as the potential location for coordination.

To compound these concerns the council has recently responded to a non-statutory consultation undertaken by National Grid Ventures ( the commercial arm of National Grid) to build an interconnector to Belgium but with a grid connection offer to connect at Friston if EA1N and EA2 are built. We have responded to that consultation raising significant concerns and objections. The response also acknowledged that we are also expecting another interconnector in this area to link to the Netherlands (Eurolink) and another link , to be known as Sealink, to connect to Kent. These interconnector projects cause significant local harm but deliver very limited economic benefit and we remain to be satisfied that there is not a better national strategy or approach to delivering energy infrastructure notwithstanding the urgency of securing supply.

We are also engaged with proposed extensions to the Greater Gabbard and Galloper windfarm extensions but it is understood they have not been offered a grid connection in East Suffolk but this has not been officially confirmed. These projects are known as Five Estuaries and North Falls.

Therefore there are huge challenges for the council with all these projects. I am grateful to the officer team for supporting me but also seeking to ensure there is a joined up conversation between all projects to maximise the opportunity for coordination. We are yet to see true coordination but be assured East Suffolk council will be seeking to achieve the best outcome , and although we are not the decision maker in any of these schemes , our position as the host authority and the approach we are taking is positively challenging project development. All the details of the responses to consultations and letters we have sent to government are available on the website.

## **Asset Updates**

### **EPP**

Within the last two months, Cabinet has approved the operational model for the EPP and also an increased expenditure to ensure the construction of the site is completed by April 2022 for First Light CIC to open the premises as a food and events hub. ESC and FLF CIC are working closely to ensure the internal fit out is undertaken and practical operation of the space is thought out ahead of the launch next year. ESC continue to take professional advice from Quarterbridge who specialise in food halls across the UK and regular meetings are held between ESC and FLF CIC as part of a joint board to oversee the implementation of this project.



## Boardwalk

Asset Management is working together with Economic Regeneration to deliver a proposed boardwalk at Lowestoft beach. A specification has been drawn up and is going through Procurement so that it can be put out to tender. The installation is proposed in early Spring 2022 however we are seeking to award a contract in good time to ensure it is delivered in line with the other projects along the seafront.

## Felixstowe Café

The Martello Park café transaction has completed and subject to the tenants fit out they are aiming to open next May, ideally for Mother's day. The tenant is Dedham Boathouse Ltd and ESC has entered into a 20 year lease.

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor James Mallinder, Cabinet Member with responsibility for The Environment
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I attended the Suffolk Waste Partnership ( SWP ) meeting.

You will be pleased to know preparations have started in exploratory work in relation to the impact of the Environment Bill.

Discussions took place about changes in revenue sources, there will be some impact on residents and changes to equipment - household bins and refuse trucks.

Work continues across Suffolk to recycle more, while recycling along with advertising recycling centres. As I am Chair of SWP, I have requested the new Chair of STAG (Suffolk fly Tipping Action Group) to attend the next SWP meeting to understand the work of this group, along with a request to be more proactive in their approach, especially involving all stakeholders.

I continue to focus the group to link all waste concerns with the climate emergency and articulate the message that dealing with waste in the correct manner is a positive action that residents can take, in tackling our climate concerns.

## Outside Bodies Representatives Reports

<b>District Council's Network</b>
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<b>Representative:</b>	Councillor Steve Gallant – Leader of the Council
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I attended the Annual District Councils' Network (DCN) Conference on 21 and 22 October in Warwickshire along with 170 other Leaders and Chief Executives.

By way of reminder, the DCN is a cross-party Member led network of 183 councils and is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association (LGA). Its purpose is to provide a single voice for district services within the LGA.

Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen, Leader of Breckland District Council, has replaced Cllr John Fuller as the new Chairman. Cllr Fuller held this position for a significant number of years.

The opportunity was taken to reflect on some of the DCN's key successes over the last 12 months which included:

- helping to shape the business grant schemes and schemes to compensate for loss of income from sales, fees and charges including the leisure support grant
- working with Cabinet Office to shape COVID secure elections in May
- working with officials to shape Test and Trace self-isolation payments
- making the case for true devolution to districts, working in partnership with counties, as the best way to achieve Levelling Up

The theme of the conference was 'Power in Place' and saw the launch of the DCN's new strategic priorities which reflect the Government's ambition to see beyond Covid and focus on the big strategic challenges of levelling up, economic recovery, net zero and health & social care. The new strategic priorities are:

- levelled up local places
- better social outcomes
- greener communities
- strong local governance
- fair and resilient finance

The DCN will deliver these priorities by working in partnership with experts from a wide range of districts/unitaries and by using data and evidence in support.

Over the two days we received a number of presentations which are all available to view on the DCN's website. However, I have picked out the salient points of three of these which may be of particular interest.

### **Local Government and Net Zero – presentation by the National Audit Office (NAO)**

The NAO highlighted areas where it feels the Government still has work to do in order to achieve its net zero objectives:

- It has not yet developed (with local authorities) any overall expectations about their role in achieving the national net zero target. NAO recommends that the Government works in partnership with local authorities to develop decarbonisation strategies which set out how key actions, decisions and responsibilities will be split across national, regional and local government bodies.
- There is little consistency in local authority reporting of plans and progress on net zero, which makes it difficult to get an overall picture of what has been achieved. NAO recommends that a

local and central government working group is established to create simple standards for local authority reporting on net zero.

- Government departments have started to coordinate their engagement with local authorities on net zero but there is no single senior point of responsibility for making more fundamental improvements. NAO recommends that a clear Government lead is established to coordinate the way departments work with local authorities on net zero.
- Government has not assessed the totality of the funding it provides to local government that is linked with net zero. NAO recommends that departments should carry out an overall outline analysis of local authority funding for net zero.

### **Levelling Up Health – presentation by the Health Foundation**

The greatest influences on our health are the circumstances in which we live and good health is essential for individuals, and society, to thrive. Before the pandemic there was a 20-year healthy life expectancy gap between the least and most deprived areas. Higher healthy life expectancy is associated with higher income. Working age COVID mortality rates were nearly four times higher in the most deprived areas.

Levelling up health is therefore key to levelling up the economy.

Opportunities to improve health:

- shaping policies for the pandemic recovery
- the levelling up White Paper and the establishment of the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
- the development of Integrated Care Systems
- tackling longer term pressures from an ageing society and the environment

Partnerships with local government that aim to improve health:

- a grant programme which aims to strengthen local relationships and better understand how economic development can improve health and reduce inequalities locally
- support up to four partnerships across the UK across a range of interventions including employment, skills and developing anchor networks
- partnerships will be led by a local authority or a statutory regional body and will bring together a range of organisations including an academic and collaboration partner
- a joint grant programme with the LGA for councils to work with partners from their local area to improve health and address health inequalities
- provision of learning on how to make changes that impact on the wider determinants of health
- the scheme will support food insecurity, mental health, and crime and anti social behaviour

### **Preventing Hardship and Homelessness – presentation by Shelter**

- What is homelessness? Homelessness is caused by being unable to compete in the housing market and a lack of state provision.
- The main reason people can't compete in the market is affordability.
- People become homeless when they lose their settled home and can't find a suitable alternative without help. They may or may not be entitled to statutory homelessness assistance or accommodation. They have no recourse to public funds.
- The two biggest triggers are no longer being able to stay with friends/family or the ending of an assured shorthold tenancy.
- While personal problems, such as physical and mental ill health (including addictions) or social problems can exacerbate homelessness, they're symptoms rather than the main cause.

- Housing Benefit (Local Housing Allowance) was intended to cover the cheapest 30% of local rentals but 36% of private renters are now claiming.
- Making Housing Benefit fit for purpose would prevent and relieve homelessness.
- ‘Everyone In’ – more than three quarters of people brought in have not yet moved into a settled home.
- Shelter’s roadmap out of homelessness:
  - PROTECT everyone at risk
  - PREVENT with financial assistance
  - BUILD permanent new homes
  - SUPPORT people to settle into their new home and live sustainably
  - INVOLVE people with experience in finding workable solutions

<b>Leiston Together</b>	
<b>Representative:</b>	Cllr Tony Cooper
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#### History.

It was proposed for the development of a robust partnership structure which will support Leiston in developing and delivering its locally identified priorities. These priorities were identified as part of the 2015 Our place review and focus on the town centre regeneration, health & wellbeing, and young adults. Subsequent to this review a further priority around enterprise has also been identified.

#### Current Structure.

Leiston Together was established as a place-based initiative in January 2017 by two funding partners, the then SCDC and Leiston cum Sizewell Town Council. The original three-year funding agreement is due December 2019. The initiative has made significant progress against its objectives since its inception and is highly regarded by all partners and local community.

In order to build on these achievements and to address further community and economic priorities, it is proposed the East Suffolk Council and Leiston cum Sizewell Town Council fund and extension to the current funding term. The priorities identified for a new programme will included the development of additional capacity to support economic growth and community development which will be sustainable beyond the life of the partnership which will be key in the context of the proposed Sizewell C new nuclear development.

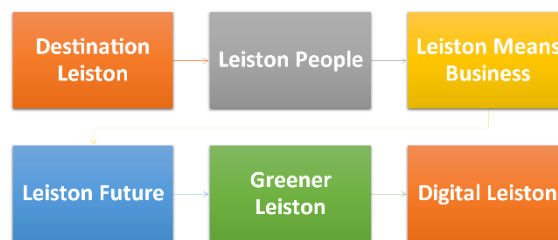
The present committee is represented by:

Mark Straw (Chair), Cllr Tony Cooper, Cllr Russ Rainger (ESC), Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf (SCC) Cllr John Last, Cllr Lesley Hill (LTC) officers from ESC, LTC & outside bodies Caroline Rinder, Paul Wood, Zoe Botten,

Nicole Rickard, Simon Merrett, Sally Connick, Morag McInnes and the new Leiston Together Change Manager Helen Greengrass

The new Leiston Together Change Manager is Helen Greengrass, Helen replaces Joanne Thain who left East Suffolk Council in September for a new role. The Community Land Trust element of the Change Manager role has been separated out and will be part of a new role in the Regeneration Team specifically focussed on Leiston Town Centre regeneration. The Change Manager will now focus on supporting and developing Leiston Together and Sizewell C work. The Sizewell C work will initially focus on further developing the Community Safety programme (which sits under the East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership) and working with partners on the Sizewell C Community Fund (pending the final decision in April 2022). Good progress has been made against the six priorities below:

**Leiston Together –  
The Six Priorities**



Examples of project activity expected to conclude shortly include new signage across the town based on the Town Pocket Maps, work to redesign the Visit Leiston website and revamp the Visitor Information Point. A new Creative Leiston groups is working with businesses on a Christmas market and on projects including yarnbombing and a mural in a key town centre location. There is work on the development of an action plan to address key themes identified in ‘Leiston: A Childhood Report’, and work to secure a new dentist for the town.

The Community Land Trust Church Garden project is underway with works due to commence in early November 2021 and complete in February 2022. It will be a visually striking project at the heart of the town that represents wider ambitions for the future of the town centre. Work is continuing on the Leiston Net Zero project with a wide range of partners and various key groups and activities have resumed, including Park Run at Sizewell Beach.

Should anyone need further details of the Leiston Together Six Priorities please let me know and I will send details on.

<b>Lowestoft Rising</b>	
<b>Representative:</b>	Councillor Mary Rudd, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health
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The Lowestoft Rising Sponsor Group met most recently on October 21. The focus of the meeting was on some of the key challenges facing the town including challenges for Adult Social Care, some gaps in voluntary sector infrastructure and lack of volunteers, increasing in and out of work poverty leading to increased use of food banks and increased numbers of vulnerable people. The Group also received a presentation from Norfolk and Waveney CCG about the implications of the new Integrated Care System for the town.

It was agreed to convene an additional meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> to consider the mental health challenges in Lowestoft and to agree what the priorities should be going forward. ESC Cabinet agreed to fund Lowestoft Rising for a further three years at its meeting in July 2021 and a request has been made to the four funding partners – the CCG, Police/PCC, Suffolk County Council and Lowestoft Town Council – to confirm their funding position at the next meeting if possible.

<b>Everyone Active Partnership Board</b>	
<b>Representatives:</b>	<p>Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customer Experience, ICT &amp; Commercial Partnerships</p> <p>Councillor Letitia Smith, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism</p>
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Following the procurement and successful appointment of SLM Everyone Active as the new leisure operator for the Waterlane and Waveney Valley Leisure Centres (the contract commenced on 1 February this year), I have attended the quarterly board meetings, where EA report on progress and performance against the contract.

The initial commencement of the contract was affected by the refurbishment of the Waterlane Leisure Centre and the Government lockdowns and restrictions due the pandemic. A lot has been achieved since then, with partial re-opening allowed from May and then fully operational from 19 July. The following breaks down some key areas:

### **Mobilisation Successes**

- . Colleague training – online training and site-based inductions
- . Colleague recruitment & promotions – already developed a colleague to Duty Manager. Recruitment is ongoing, but expect this in the current climate, and with the upheaval for all colleagues (closures plus SLT/PFP/EA)
- . Building handover from refurbishment / Pulse – good relationship (recently even stronger)
- . Covid secure operations – social distancing in the early months, cleaning stations, fogging machine, one-way systems.
- . Relationship with ESC very strong

## **Mobilisation Challenges**

- . Data transfer

Quality of data received – issues with memberships that spanned all SLT facilities

- . TUPE

Isolated issues related to historical furlough payments

Following the mobilisation and gradual re-opening EA have already hosted some events:

### **Events-**

- . Local election count at Waterlane (during COVID measures)
- . During and closure (and partially when reopened) Waterlane was used for Lateral flow testing
- . National Baton Twirling at Waterlane

As part of the contract EA will actively be working on interventions in the community to support improving health and wellbeing and not just restricted to within the leisure centres. This is an area of work that will continue to increase and ESC are also partnering EA on projects.

### **Partnerships**

- . North Suffolk Sport & Health - officially sponsor and host a total of 7 school events - (Pentathlon, Wellbeing, This Girl Can and Everyone Active's Fitness Festivals/ table 3.1) signposting to services like swimming lessons.
- . HAFF - £3,021 providing activities to 41 children on school meals. December funding also successfully awarded.
- . One Life – Know your numbers campaign – free health checks, 9 this time. Also went on to offer a service at the last Cabinet meeting and to be expanded to all Cllrs – 2 smaller checks, and 2 full checks.
- . Schools- Everyone Active Fitness Festival – 45 children took part in events in the sports hall Weds 22<sup>nd</sup>
- . NSFT - Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust/Great Yarmouth and Waveney MIND – 11 people to walk outdoors and regular Health Walks occurred in rural locations. This partnership ensured isolated participants had access and support to activities in areas such as Halesworth, Bungay, Lowestoft and Carlton Colville. These walks were designed to specifically support those adults with Mental Health issues. On average these walks attracted 10 individuals and were led by 2 walk leaders (community development coordinators).

The core business is rebuilding following the pandemic lockdowns and EA are on target to achieve the contract position in April 2022. At the last partnership board performance on memberships and attendance were reported as follows:

### **Participation**

- . Enrolled into our swim school – Waveney Valley 455, Waterlane 624
- . Fitness Memberships – Waveney Valley 536, Waterlane 1784
- . Total visits since April – Waveney Valley 55,363. Waterlane – 106,137

Further developments at the two sites by EA include:

### **Site developments / Investment**

- . Installed new hoist at Waterlane
- . Installed balustrade between pool and teaching pool at Waterlane to improve water safety
- . Gate at entrance to pool, again to improve safety (WL)
- . Pool cover to improve efficiency (WL)

- . PoolView drowning detection installed at both sites
- . Changes to pool store to make safer for colleagues (WL)
- . Virtual Group Exercise being installed at both sites

Finally, ESC is replacing a roof area at Waterlane and recovering a further roof. These works will be completed by the end of March 2022 and EA and ESC are working together to minimise disruption through this.

<b>Coastal Partnership East (CPE)</b>	
<b>Representatives:</b>	<p>Councillor David Ritchie, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management</p> <p>Councillor James Mallinder, Cabinet Member with responsibility for The Environment</p>
<b>Contact Details:</b>	<p><a href="mailto:david.ritchie@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">david.ritchie@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Tel: 07920 503527</p> <p><a href="mailto:james.mallinder@eassuffolk.gov.uk">james.mallinder@eassuffolk.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Tel: 07810 815879</p>

The Coastal Partnership East (CPE) Update Report is attached as Appendix A.

<b>APPENDICES</b>	
<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>Coastal Partnership East Update Report</b>

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS – None</b>
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