



East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Station
Road, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT

Full Council

Members: All Councillors

Members are invited to a **Meeting** of the **Full Council**
to be held on **Wednesday, 25 November 2020** at **6.30pm**

This meeting will be conducted remotely, pursuant to the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

The meeting will be facilitated using the Zoom video conferencing system and broadcast via the East Suffolk Council YouTube channel
at <https://youtu.be/qgIFtbV95VM>

An Agenda is set out below.

Part One – Open to the Public

Pages

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| 1 | Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence, if any. |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest
Members and Officers are invited to make any declarations of Disclosable |

Pecuniary or Local Non-Pecuniary Interests that they may have in relation to items on the Agenda and are also reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the Meeting if it becomes apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue is considered.

3 Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Chairman, the Leader of the Council, members of the Cabinet, or the Chief Executive, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.1(e).

4a Minutes of meeting 22 July 2020 **1 - 17**

4b Minutes of meeting 3 September 2020 **18 - 47**

5 Questions from the Public

No questions have been submitted by the electorate as provided by Council Procedure Rule 8.

6 Questions from Members

The following question from a Member has been submitted in pursuance of Council Procedure Rule 9:

Question from Councillor Keith Patience to the Cabinet Member for Transport:

How many Residents in Lowestoft Zones 1, 2 and 3 have sent in e-mails, letters or telephoned East Suffolk Council supporting the new Residents Parking Arrangements.

7 Petitions

No petitions have been received as provided by Council Procedure Rule 10.

8 Notices of Motion

The following Motions have been submitted in pursuance of Council Procedure Rule 11:

a) Motion submitted by Councillor Janet Craig

This Council notes:

- That the Law Commission is currently reviewing all current hate crime legislation to consider whether any additional characteristics, including misogyny, should be granted legal protection, and is due to report back to Parliament in 2020. Misogyny is not currently recorded as a hate crime by the vast majority of police forces in the UK, outside of a handful of trial areas.

- That this review was thanks to the work of Stella Creasy M.P. and her

campaign to have misogyny classified as a hate Crime - which her amendment to the Voyeurism (Offences) (No.2) Bill, or Up-skirting Bill would have secured – alongside groups such as Citizens UK, Hope Not Hate, Southall Black Sisters, Tell MAMA UK, and the Fawcett Society.

- That like women and girls across the country, many of our residents suffer harassment and abuse every single day. A YouGov national survey in 2016 showed that 85% of women aged 18-24 were subjected to sexual harassment in public.

- The adoption of misogyny as a hate crime was successfully implemented in Nottingham, where analysis showed an increase in reporting, as well as an increase in the use of wider services. It also showed the vast majority of local people wanted the scheme to continue.

- Studies have shown that the intersectional nature of discrimination means that women with additional protected characteristics, such as those who are BAME, disabled or LGBT+, are even more likely to experience harassment, discrimination and abuse.

The Council resolves:

- To make a submission to the Law Commission's Consultation at the earliest opportunity in favour of strengthening hate crime legislation and making misogyny a hate crime.

- To call on the Government to listen to the lived experience of women and girls across our country and to urgently act on any recommendations the commission makes to strengthen the law on hate crime, and to reform legislation around harassment to recognise as an offence a 'course of conduct' which targets women and girls in their community.

- To call on the Government to provide the resource and funding for police forces across the UK to effectively tackle harassment, misogyny and domestic abuse.

- To call on Suffolk Constabulary to record harassment of women as a hate crime, following successful trials in Nottingham and elsewhere.

b) Motion submitted by Councillor Mike Deacon

We call upon this council to make their Armed Forces Champions and Lead Officers aware of the difficulties experienced by Commonwealth Veterans and ensure that those who are currently experiencing problems, whether financial or immigration difficulties, are not disadvantaged whilst their applications are ongoing.

We also call upon the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister,

Kevin Forster (Minister of State for Immigration), and Johnny Mercer (Minister of State for Veterans Affairs) outlining this Council's support for all Commonwealth Veterans, who have served a minimum of 4 years in Her Majesty's Armed Forces being granted automatic and free of charge right to remain in the UK, and that any Veteran who completes 12 years of service to be automatically given British Citizenship.

Further, we call upon the Leader of the Council to write to Peter Aldous, Therese Coffey and Dan Poulter as MPs with Constituencies in East Suffolk, on behalf of this council, to ask that they press the Government for a change in the legislation that affects those that have served diligently and honourably for this Country.

9	Endorsement of the Environmental Guidance Note ES/0554 Report of the Cabinet Member for the Environment and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management	48 - 69
10	Review of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2021/22 ES/0555 Report from the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Resources.	70 - 73
11	Appointment of S151 Officer ES/0569 Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources	74 - 76
12	Cabinet Members' Report and Outside Bodies Representatives' Report to Council ES/0553 Report of the Leader of the Council	77 - 88

Part Two – Exempt/Confidential

13	Exempt/Confidential Items (LGA) It is recommended that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.
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14 Acceptance of DEFRA Grant Funding and Implementing End of Transition Port Health Arrangements

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Close



Stephen Baker, Chief Executive

Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Council Meetings

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democraticservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk



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East Suffolk Council is committed to achieving excellence in elected member development

www.local.gov.uk/Community-Leadership

<p>Unconfirmed</p>



Minutes of a Meeting of the **Full Council** held via Zoom, on **Wednesday, 22 July 2020 at 6:30 pm**

Members of the Committee present:

Councillor Paul Ashdown, Councillor Edward Back, Councillor David Beavan, Councillor Stuart Bird, Councillor Jocelyn Bond, Councillor Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw, Councillor Norman Brooks, Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Councillor Peter Byatt, Councillor Alison Cackett, Councillor Jenny Ceresa, Councillor Judy Cloke, Councillor Maurice Cook, Councillor Tony Cooper, Councillor Linda Coulam, Councillor Janet Craig, Councillor Mike Deacon, Councillor Graham Elliott, Councillor John Fisher, Councillor Tony Fryatt, Councillor Steve Gallant, Councillor Tess Gandy, Councillor Andree Gee, Councillor Tony Goldson, Councillor Louise Gooch, Councillor Tracey Green, Councillor TJ Haworth-Culf, Councillor Colin Hedgley, Councillor Ray Herring, Councillor Mark Jepson, Councillor Richard Kerry, Councillor Stuart Lawson, Councillor Geoff Lynch, Councillor James Mallinder, Councillor Chris Mapey, Councillor Debbie McCallum, Councillor Frank Mortimer, Councillor Trish Mortimer, Councillor Mark Newton, Councillor Keith Patience, Councillor Malcolm Pitchers, Councillor Carol Poulter, Councillor David Ritchie, Councillor Craig Rivett, Councillor Keith Robinson, Councillor Mary Rudd, Councillor Letitia Smith, Councillor Rachel Smith-Lyte, Councillor Ed Thompson, Councillor Caroline Topping, Councillor Steve Wiles, Councillor Kay Yule

Officers present:

Katherine Abbott (Democratic Services Officer), Stephen Baker (Chief Executive), Liz Beighton (Planning Development Manager), Ruth Bishop (Senior Planner (Policy & Delivery)), John Brown (Building Maintenance Manager), Emma Chapman (Economic Regeneration Project Officer), Sarah Davis (Democratic Services Manager) Cairistine Foster-Cannan (Head of Housing), David Howson (Housing Strategy Manager), Andrew Jarvis (Strategic Director), Helen Johnson (HAZ Programme Manager), Nick Khan (Strategic Director), Bridget Law (Programme Manager), Matt Makin (Democratic Services Officer), Andrea McMillan (Principal Planner (Policy & Delivery)), Sue Meeken (Political Group Support Officer (Labour)), Agnes Ogundiran (Conservative Political Group Support Officer), Philip Ridley (Head of Planning & Coastal Management), Hilary Slater (Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer), Paul Wood (Head of Economic Development & Regeneration)

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Allen and Councillor Blundell.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

3a Minutes - 22 January 2020

It was proposed by Councillor Burroughes, seconded by Councillor Back and by a majority vote

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 January 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3b Minutes - 26 February 2020

It was proposed by Councillor Back, seconded by Councillor Gallant and by a majority vote

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 February 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Announcements

The Chairman of the Council announced that, during the Covid19 pandemic, he had attended two minor events which had adhered to social distancing requirements. A further eight formal engagements had been cancelled. The Vice Chairman added that all of his formal engagements had been cancelled.

The Chairman invited the Leader of the Council to make any announcements he wished.

Councillor Gallant, the Leader of the Council, announced the formal appointment of Councillor Steve Wiles as an Assistant Cabinet Member in support of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development, Councillor Craig Rivett. Councillor Wiles would predominantly focus on the economic recovery of the District post Covid19 and the Leader referred to the wealth of professional experience Councillor Wiles would bring to the role and that his support would be vital in understanding the issues and challenges ahead.

The Leader of the Council announced the resignation of Councillor William Taylor as one of the Ward Members for Framlingham due to time constraints and other demands. Mr Taylor has asked the Leader to convey his sincere thanks to Councillor Herring, Councillor Poulter, Councillor Cook and former Councillor Geoff Holdcroft for their support and guidance during his term of office. The Leader said that Councillor Cook continued as one of the Ward Members for Framlingham and a by-election for the vacant seat would be held in May 2020.

The Leader also announced that, with immediate effect, Councillor Keith Patience had been appointed as a member of the Licensing Committee and that Councillor Tess Gandy had resigned from the Committee.

In conclusion, the Leader referred to the current situation with regard to Covid19; he said that whilst some elements of life and work were slowly returning to normal it was clear that the pandemic was not over with continuing issues around the transmission of the disease, the threat of a second wave of infections and an awaited vaccine solution. The Leader said he had reflected on the Council's achievements in response to the pandemic and he wished to pay tribute to all Members and Officers of East Suffolk Council for their tireless work in exceptional circumstances. He added that it was not, however, the time for the Council to rest on its laurels but rather to press on with its aims in order to continue to do the best for the District. The Leader said that although East Suffolk had low infection levels, lives had been lost or affected by the pandemic and, on behalf of the Council, he offered sincere condolences to all those who had lost a loved one. The Leader referred to the funding the Council had provided to various schemes and initiatives in support of the community, such as the hardship fund, the Grand-pad scheme and the Home but not Alone scheme, as well as the licensing of markets and events to encourage people back in town centres. The Leader added that the Council, as an organisation, had worked as one and had stepped up to the challenges the pandemic had created. He also wished to pay tribute to the many volunteers for their exceptional work in their communities and said that East Suffolk was all the better for their efforts. The Leader acknowledged that the current pandemic should not divert the Council from its determination and clarity of purpose; he added that the Council remained in a strong position to deliver its aims and ambitions. The Council was not immune to financial hardship but because of its careful management of its finances it was able to withstand the impact of exceptional circumstances. The Leader said it was important to continue with the Council's ambitions and desired outcomes for its communities, to also continue to support those affected by the current national situation and to also successfully deliver the proposed huge projects and the huge benefits and opportunities they would realise. The Leader highlighted some of the schemes and initiatives, within the Strategic Plan, which would not cease because of the pandemic; he stated that the virus would not cow the Council and its plans and ambitions would not be restricted or prevented by the pandemic. The Leader closed his announcement by stating that although the pandemic was not over, the Council would press on to deliver to East Suffolk what it needed, deserved and expected.

The Chairman invited the Cabinet Members to make any announcements they wished.

Councillor Ritchie, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management, announced the award of £43m towards the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project which, he said, would protect and underpin many of the other positive projects underway or proposed in Lowestoft. In September 2020, phase one of the project would commence with the walls around the tidal harbour, phase 2 would start in September 2021 either side of the Bascule Bridge, and phase 3 to the tidal barrier at the entrance to Lake Lothing in order to mitigate against the impact of tidal surges would be carried out over four winters and conclude in December 2025.

The Cabinet Member also referred to the project at Kessingland and Benacre for the realignment and setting-back of coastal defences which had been awarded £3.3m and would be managed by the Water Management Alliance; this was, he said, an essential project for the East Suffolk coast. In conclusion, the Cabinet Member wished to record

his thanks to Coastal Partnership East for their hard work, over a long period, in order to ensure projects were underway promptly.

5 Questions from the Public

The Chairman advised that no Questions had been submitted by the electorate as provided for under Council Procedure Rule 8.

6 Questions from Members

The following questions from Members had been submitted in pursuance of Council Procedure Rule 9:

(a) Question from Councillor Rachel Smith-Lyte to the Leader of the Council:

"As a council, we represent 170 Towns and Parishes and nearly 250,000 individuals across the District. We owe it to each and every one of our communities to ensure that the response to the Sizewell C application issued in their name, through East Suffolk Council, is a fair and robust representation of their views. The influence we have today will be a legacy for our future generations.

To this end, the GLI Group of Members ask the question of the Leader of the Council:

"As the Sizewell C application has now been given the green light to proceed to the next stage, and with the significant repercussions it would have on our economy and environment, would the Leader of the Council now accept that it is time to allow Members to have their say? Will he fully commit to an extraordinary meeting of the Council, dedicated wholly and specifically to a rigorous and transparent debate about this local, national and internationally important infrastructure decision?"

In order for this to be productive, meaningful and optimally influential, the timing of the meeting should be held once the draft Cabinet response has been compiled and shared with Members, and with sufficient time to ensure Members can garner comment from their own communities. It should also ensure an adequate period for any revisions or recommendations from that Full Council debate to be adequately included in the response before referral back to Cabinet for agreement. Only after that, should the final response be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

It is crucial that all members are afforded a free vote during the Full Council debate to enable them to reflect the views of their Wards on a decision that will have the most impact on our communities for years to come."

Response from Councillor Steve Gallant, Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council thanked Councillor Smith-Lyte for her questions. He said that before responding he wished to make it clear that the role of East Suffolk Council in the process to determine the Development Consent Order submitted for the Sizewell C new nuclear build was that of a statutory consultee. The final decision would be taken by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy following his

consideration of a report to be prepared by the appointed examining authority and having regard to the national policy statement on nuclear energy and the potential local impact. The Council would inform the examining authority of its views through the examination process which was likely to take place in late 2020/early 2021. He added that, notwithstanding Councillors particular views on the proposals, given the consenting process and the Council's role within it, the Council must ensure that, if the Secretary of State consented to the project, it helped achieve the best possible outcomes for the residents and communities of East Suffolk. The Leader continued that, having regard to the specifics of the question posed, he could confirm that an extraordinary meeting of Full Council would be held on 21 September 2020 to assist the Cabinet to form East Suffolk Council's consultee response. The extraordinary meeting of Full Council would receive a draft of the emerging relevant representations which will need to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by 30 September 2020. The meeting would he said, provide an opportunity for all members of the Council to consider the submission and, more importantly, to provide local views on the issues arising from the proposals. He continued to say that the views from Full Council would be collated, reviewed and presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 25 September 2020. At this meeting, Cabinet would consider and finalise the Council's final representation. In its deliberations, Cabinet would have due regard to the comments of Full Council, of the local community and the technical advice of the Council's officers. The Leader said that he hoped members agreed these arrangements afforded an opportunity for a wide range of views to be considered and would help to inform the final submission. The Leader reminded members that they were also able to make their own, individual submissions to the Planning Inspectorate by the deadline so that they too could be considered within the process.

In response to the question, the Leader confirmed that members would be afforded a free vote at Full Council. In so saying, the Leader stressed that it had always been his view that each and every member of the Council had the right to debate, vote or abstain from voting, as they saw fit. The Leader said that, notwithstanding, some matters might be deliberated within political group meetings but that it remained his view that the formal vote would be a free one. The Leader acknowledged that members had strong views on the benefits and dis-benefits of the programme, on the challenge of funding such a project and the foreign interest in strategic infrastructure ventures. However, he hoped that these issues would not cloud the question that must, for the benefit of residents, remain foremost in members' minds - that being, if the Secretary of State consented to the building of Sizewell C, what could be done to minimise its impact and maximise the benefits for east Suffolk. In conclusion, the Leader wished to remind members that the Council was a consultee and not the decision-maker on this proposal.

Councillor Smith-Lyte asked a supplementary question : "At the extraordinary Full Council, can we have a recorded vote please?"

The Leader of the Council referred to the Council's Constitution and the process for requesting a recorded vote.

(b) Question from Councillor Janet Craig to Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Operational Partnerships

“Now that the responsibility for the Closed Circuit Television System in Lowestoft has been passed back to East Suffolk Council, can you advise whether the digital upgrade to the system, which Lowestoft Town Council had planned to carry out, will still be going ahead.”

Response from Councillor Rudd

- The responsibility for Lowestoft's CCTV scheme passed back to East Suffolk Council in April 2020, with the agreement of Lowestoft Town Council. One of the main drivers for this was this Council's investment in superfast fibre cable in the town which presented opportunities to achieve what Councillor Craig has raised in her question - the delivery of a significant upgrade of the CCTV system. All 57 CCTV sites are in the process of being connected to the new network; the upgrade was made possible because of the high data capacity of the superfast fibre network. The system will, therefore, operate with high definition cameras; these will be more effective for the operators and the police as they captured high resolution images. In addition, the camera network could now be streamlined with a single camera now able to provide the coverage and picture quality of two or three of the existing cameras. As the project progressed, the team will look at how the CCTV infrastructure cabinets and poles might be used to support other technology, such as pollution or footfall sensors, 5G boosters etc. In this way, the modernisation of the town centre and delivery of the proposed new 'masterplan' would also be supported.

- The Chairman invited Councillor Craig to ask a supplemental question: "Are all the current cameras being upgraded?"

Councillor Rudd replied that approximately 90% of the current cameras would be upgraded.

- (c) Question from Councillor Tess Gandy to the Cabinet Member for Community Health

“Government statistics have shown that since Coronavirus lockdown, nationally cases of domestic abuse, against both women and men, have risen greatly.

Here in Suffolk, a ‘Freedom of Information’ request has revealed that Suffolk Police’s domestic abuse control room received 1,268 calls in March 2020 (i.e. start of lockdown), compared to 703 in March 2019. Various organisations have also expressed concerns about the likely rise in the reporting of actual domestic abuse criminal incidents following the ease of lockdown, as those experiencing domestic abuse are in a better position to report it.

The draft Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 is currently on its third reading in the House of Commons, “Part 4 of the 2020 Act introduces a new statutory duty on local authorities, placing clearer accountability on local areas to ensure the needs of victims within refuges and other forms of domestic abuse safe accommodation are met in a consistent way across England”. What action will this Council take to ensure this duty is met, given the limited refuges available in East Suffolk and that the £208,411.00 allocated funding received by the PCC Tim Passmore to support services dealing with domestic abuse across the whole of Suffolk will only stretch so far?”

Response from Councillor Rudd

- The Government's advice to people to stay at home as much as possible created additional challenges to those at risk of domestic abuse and who then felt unable to access safe support. Domestic abuse remained a priority for partners across Suffolk and East Suffolk Council has been working, in partnership, to deliver enhanced support to those suffering domestic abuse.. Suffolk has three women's refuges which are all part of a national network of safe accommodation for female victims fleeing domestic abuse. Due to the high risk of harm, it is often safer for a victim to relocate outside of their county or city and, as such, refuges in Suffolk are available to anyone across the country. Immediately following the announcement of lockdown, the three refuges remained open for their existing residents but new referrals were suspended to minimise the risk of the spread of Covid-19. With support from Public Health Suffolk, all three refuges had resumed referrals with the necessary infection control procedures in place. Councillor Rudd said refuges normally operated at 90% capacity and, although there were currently spaces, these were filled quickly. In partnership with Anglia Care Trust and Orwell Housing, the Council had delivered several additional services including specialist satellite accommodation support; this had ensured the safety of those fleeing domestic abuse and provided a holistic approach to supporting victims who were not able to access refuge accommodation because of their complex needs. There were 11 such units, two in the north of the county and 9 in the south, which were accessible to all of Suffolk's local authorities on a reciprocal basis. Refuges were an important part of the support available to victims but, whenever possible, there should be choice and the option to stay in their own home was also important. As a result of pooled funding from partners in Suffolk, a universally available scheme, delivered with the support of a national charity, undertook security measures to homes of victims so they could be safe in their own property., if appropriate in the individual circumstances. The Council worked closely with the county council and Anglia Care Trust to extend the domestic abuse outreach services. The Domestic Abuse Advisory Service had made its free helpline available 24/7 and anyone with concerns, including professionals supporting a client or friends and family concerned for a loved one could access this local support which included a live webchat between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Councillor Rudd said the advice to victims remained to ring 999 if they were in immediate danger, if they were unable to speak, to remain on the line and to press 555 when prompted. Suffolk Constabulary had distributed awareness packs to 80+ supermarkets and the free helpline had been promoted through social media. The Council also had Officers within the Housing Needs team who could support domestic abuse victims to access safe accommodation. In conclusion, Councillor Rudd said the Council remained committed to support victims of domestic abuse.

Councillor Gandy was invited to ask a supplementary questions, this was "With reference to the funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner, how financially viable if this extensive level of support in the long term?"

Councillor Rudd replied that the PCCs funding went, largely, to the Lowestoft Domestic Violence team. She added that domestic abuse support remained on-going and foremost in minds.

(d) Question from Councillor Louise Gooch to the Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Operational Partnerships

“Unless we are mistaken, Lowestoft is still a Fairtrade Town and in support of this, the coffee bar at Riverside serves Fairtrade Coffee.

Recently it was reported that Nestle has decided that it will no longer be using Fairtrade cocoa beans in its chocolate products. Please can we be assured that as companies make their policies more or less supportive of the principle of Fair Trade, this Council will adjust its products for sale accordingly across all outlets within ESC buildings.

Response from Councillor Burroughes

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Councillor Burroughes said that East Suffolk Council had made a previous commitment to support Fair Trade and ethically sourced products. To this end, Fairtrade products were sold in the café and vending machines at the Riverside offices and Fair Trade tea and coffee was available to all staff and visitors at both Riverside and East Suffolk House. He said that Members could be assured that Fair Trade products were available and could see this for themselves when they next visited the offices. In the event that a supplier ceased to source Fair Trade products, the Council would change its suppliers; however, it was difficult for the Council to know the detail of each product's sourcing. He confirmed that if it was apparent that a provider was no longer providing appropriately sourced products, the Council would, potentially, find an alternative supplier. He stressed that the Council remained committed to providing a Fair Trade choice for its staff and visitors.

The Chairman invited Councillor Gooch to ask a supplemental question. There was no further question but Councillor Gooch stated she welcomed the Cabinet Member's reply and was heartened by his reassurance. Councillor Gooch referred Council to a written history of Fair Trade in Lowestoft.

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7 Petitions

The Chairman announced that no petitions had been submitted as provided for by Council Procedure Rule 10.

8 Notices of Motion

A Motion had been submitted by Councillor Peter Byatt in pursuance of Council Procedure Rule 11. This had been published on the agenda for the meeting.

Councillor Byatt advised that, following discussions with the other Group Leaders, a slight alteration to the amendment had been made, in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules and the consent of the Chairman. The altered Motion was displayed to Full Council: **CHECK THIS AGAINST SLIDE**
"The following Motion has been submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11: Motion submitted by Councillor Peter Byatt:

In addition to modifying or enhancing the three priorities in the current East Suffolk Economic Growth Plan that facilitate and signpost businesses towards their own economic growth or encourage inward investment, East Suffolk Council, as an anchor institution, has the opportunity in its revised Delivery Plan to kick start economic recovery through its own procurement policies and via its purchasing decisions to encourage/support local economic recovery and to build overall community wealth within the community through its significant purchasing power.

Keeping money in the local economy as a way of driving positive economic and social outcomes is not new and has been championed and promoted by Preston Council since 2012 ('The Preston Model'). Its progressive procurement is now being followed by other councils throughout the UK and the Welsh Government.

At its heart is inclusive economic growth. By encouraging anchors, such as Councils, to spend their money locally and socially, the concept of Community Wealth Building has:

- Developed the skills of local people within Preston and the wider Lancashire area;
- Created stable, well paying jobs;
- Reduced levels of in-work poverty;
- Kept money circulating in the local economy and
- Demonstrated the power of anchor institutions to realise good local economies for people and place.

Therefore, this Motion calls on East Suffolk Council to:

1. Convene a cross party Member/Officer Task and Finish Group, chaired by the Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development, and to task it with Investigate Community Wealth Building and embed it into our policies to enhance the quality of life and opportunities for people in East Suffolk

2. Instigate new procurement policies that drive local economic growth within its Economic Growth and Recovery Delivery Plan and which
Identifying where the council spends its budget procuring goods and services, money and how much is leaking out of East Suffolk;
Researching procurement and community wealth building best practice nationally .

Reviewing the Council's procurement policies and practice,
Developing proposals for new procurement policies that will deliver a fully compliant procurement service leveraging maximum economic and social benefit for the Council and for residents and businesses of East Suffolk,
Reporting back to Cabinet

Leverage maximum local and economic benefit from East Suffolk's spend on goods and services, shifting spend on local and socially responsible suppliers;

Encourage and monitor the percentage of suppliers that pay at least or in excess of the national living wage;

Develop the capacity of local business if local suppliers are limited in number;

Map where suppliers are located with ward level deprivation data and

Develop a social value framework to procurement that promotes local training and employment; supports the long-term sustainability of the VCSE sector; includes democratic forms of ownership such as co-operatives and promotes environmental sustainability.

3. Inspire other authorities in Suffolk to take up a similar stance

4. Encourage other anchor institutions within East Suffolk such as Scottish Power Renewables, EDF Energy, Felixstowe Port etc. to adopt similar this first steps to deliver on a community wealth building approach for long term social and economic gain throughout the District region."

The Chairman invited Councillor Byatt to address Full Council. Councillor Byatt referred to the social and economic shock which the Covid-19 pandemic had caused nationally and which, he said, would take years to fully recover from. Councillor Byatt referred to the number who had sadly died, others who had lost their jobs and the many businesses which might, sadly, be unable to continue to trade. Councillor Byatt said certain parts of the north of the District were already classed as amongst the most deprived neighbourhoods in England, with low wages, minimal opportunities and, in places, poor education and skills levels. Councillor Byatt recognised that pockets of deprivation existed throughout Suffolk including difficulties accessing services and low income levels. He stated that efforts to re-start the economy, to date, had focussed on infrastructure and "shovel-ready" projects to address an anticipated rise in unemployment. He referred to the LEPs observation that some 32,000 individuals had applied for Universal Credit for the first time in April 2020 and had forecast local unemployment to potential be between 6% and 25% by the end of the year.

Councillor Byatt said that discussions to look at this issue included how the local economy might be organised for the benefit of East Suffolk's residents. East Suffolk Council was, he said, revising its economic delivery plan to include an additional period of post-pandemic recovery. Councillor Byatt said he believed this was a golden opportunity to create a new East Suffolk normal which, he hoped, would help to tackle deprivation and provide additional resilience to weather future events. Councillor Byatt said that, in January 2020, he had indicated he wished to bring a significant budgetary proposal before Full Council and that this Motion was that proposal. He continued to say that, together, the Council should take this opportunity to focus on the positive benefits it could offer its residents by considering the multiple elements of community wealth building. He said that the Council should give the people of East Suffolk all the confidence that it could to make their lives fairer. He urged Full Council to commence the "levelling-up" now and commended the Motion.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Deacon who stated that it was his belief that there was no desire to return to pre-Covid-19 practices but to do things differently, to rethink and reform. Councillor Deacon hoped the Council's significant purchasing power could be utilised to retain funds within the local economy and to stop it leaving East Suffolk. He stated that the Council needed to ensure this happened so as to re-build the local economy and thereby achieve the most positive social and economic impact. Councillor Deacon said the Council should support the payment of decent

wages and use its contracts to create stable well-paid jobs. He added that the Council's list of suppliers should be opened to local enterprises and operations.

The Leader of the Council said he was happy to support the premise of the Motion with a view to carrying out further investigation of what the Council can and cannot do, what it already did, if that remains fit for purpose etc. He added that this was an ideal opportunity to do this, but with care, to ensure that inadvertently disadvantaging local businesses was avoided. The Leader of the Council said it was important to recognise that many local companies had a national trading footprint and it would be a travesty, he said, if the Council set an example to other local authorities which resulted in local companies missing out on business opportunities outside of the local area. He reiterated that he was in favour of looking at the possible opportunities to build the common-wealth sought by the Motion, but with caution and an aim to find ways to inspire others.

The Chairman invited questions, there being no questions, the Chairman invited Full Council to debate the Motion.

Councillor Elliott said he fully supported the Motion and endorsed the comments of Councillor Byatt and Councillor Deacon. He added that the Motion was a step towards a better world and the building of a green recovery.

Councillor Ritchie referred to the very considerable investment in off-shore wind energy on the east Suffolk coast and to the course introduced at Lowestoft College for people who wished to work in that industry. These were, he said, good job opportunities for young people and an excellent approach for the local economy. Councillor Ritchie also referred to the £67m funding for the construction of the Lowestoft Flood Barrier and tidal walls, he said the main contractor for this work had an excellent record for apprenticeships for local people and, he suggested, the contractor's workforce would put money back into the local economy. He concluded by saying that he also wanted the local economy to thrive but there was also a requirement to achieve best value when spending tax payers' money.

Councillor Kerry stated that, when and where possible through the procurement process, local contractors were used by the Council's housing team.

Councillor Smith-Lyte welcomed the Motion. She said that the Council needed to be sustainable in its approach to the local economy and not try to "build out of trouble". Councillor Smith-Lyte said it was important to preserve and protect east Suffolk's natural environment in order to retain and attract tourism. Councillor Smith-Lyte suggested that an East Suffolk £ be considered, similar to that in Totnes, so that money remained in the local economy.

Councillor Herring referred to the Preston Model and queried what had happened there; he added that although it may have been successful, he had

some scepticism as the Motion proposed did not state or explain how Preston's economy had been approved as a result of the Model. Councillor Herring acknowledged the significant issues within Lowestoft, but said the Council was responsible for a wide area which had a successful local economy which had promoted itself to businesses and entrepreneurs, alongside an exceptional natural environment, but without what he considered to be protectionist policies. Councillor Herring said that, from the Motion, he was unclear what this Model would achieve for east Suffolk, or how it would deliver for Lowestoft.

Councillor Wiles said there were numerous changes which the Council could embrace, including its purchasing marketing emphasising best quality and value for money. With reference to Councillor Herring's comments, Councillor Wiles referred to a total protectionist approach to an economy and stated that he was confident that these were not successful in the long term. He added that, rather, the promotion to residents of "use local" would be beneficial.

Councillor Mallinder said that, where possible, the Council's procurement processes could encourage local businesses but of equal importance was the need to ensure value for money was also offered to tax-paying residents. He said he would welcome the Motion if it enabled an increased focus on local priorities.

Councillor Bird said the Motion was laudable, in principle, but that there were notable areas of caution around a potential protectionist economy route with negative impacts. He stressed that it was incumbent upon the Council to achieve value for money with tax-payers' money and that a local-only approach to procurement and purchasing might not always achieve that.

Councillor Burroughes said a balance needed to be struck between protectionism and an open, free economy. He said it was worth exploring the evidence of where it had been successful elsewhere. In conclusion, he said that the Preston Model needed to be explained further and any move in that direction needed to be evidence-based.

The Leader of the Council welcomed the valid and varied points raised by Members. He added that the Motion did not seek the adoption of a new policy or a change to current policy, but a review of what the Council currently did to make sure it remained fit for purpose and was future-proofed to enable it to continue to promote and enhance the local economy. He continued to say that if, having been reviewed, the current policy was fit for purpose and delivering against the Council's aims and objectives, there would not need to alter it.

Councillor Byatt thanked Members for their comments. He referred Council to the full report on the Preston Model which had, he said, helped to make Preston "the most improved city in 2018". However, in conclusion, he stressed that the purpose of the Motion was to seek the establishment of a cross-party Member/Officer Task and Finish Group to look at the potential for common-wealth building in the local economy. He asked that, if the Motion was carried, the Group be politically-balanced and include the Political Group Support Assistants. Councillor Byatt further asked that the decision on who would sit on the Task and Finish Group be delegated to the Group Leaders. If established,

Councillor Byatt suggested that the Task and Finish Groups recommendations be submitted to Cabinet.

The altered Motion was proposed and seconded, therefore, the Chairman moved to the vote. By a majority vote, the altered Motion was carried.

9 Presentation on the Lowestoft Town Centre Master Plan

Council received a comprehensive presentation, introduced by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, on the Lowestoft Town Centre Master Plan. The presentation was delivered by the Strategic Director, the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration and the Economic Regeneration Officer. In summary, the presentation covered:

- Deprivation key facts for Lowestoft compared to Suffolk overall
- Health and Social Care key facts for Lowestoft compared to its neighbouring Wards
- The Vision: In 2036, Lowestoft Town Centre is the thriving heart of the UK's most easterly coastal community. It prides itself on its maritime past and future; it celebrates its unique heritage and embraces cutting edge innovation
- Stakeholder views
- Challenges to respond to: The impact of Covid19
- Delivering success for the centre of Lowestoft: A sense of arrival, a revised size of retail core, renewable industry, celebration of heritage, and improved connectivity to increase footfall
- Four distinct areas: Each with its own focus, character and offer. Maximise strengths and create economic opportunities through clustering
- Station Quarter/ Heart of Lowestoft/ Innovation Axis/ Historic Quarter
- Long distance cycle and pedestrian connections to the centre
- Green infrastructure framework
- Public realm framework

10 Adoption of North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

Council received report **ES04/33** on the Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document which formed one part of the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone partnership project. The Document sought to ensure that new development conserved and enhanced the character of the area and maximised the contribution to the heritage-led regeneration of the area. The report was introduced by Councillor David Ritchie, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management. Councillor Ritchie invited the Senior Planner to provide a comprehensive supporting presentation.

The Chairman invited questions.

Councillor Elliott asked how long the proposed temporary suspension of the Statement of Community Involvement in relation to the requirements for the availability of hard copies of documents on adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document would be. The Senior Planner said legislation allowed a suspension until the end of the year. Councillor Elliott asked if there was a budget to enable free copies of the documents to ensure fair and equal access. The Senior Planner confirmed there was a budget for this and that copies would also be available online. The Leader of the Council welcomed the availability of electronic copies of documents.

Councillor Gooch praised the excellent work undertaken and, with regard to stakeholders' comments, endorsed the wish for clear and legible signage throughout the Zone.

There being no further questions or matters raised for debate, the Chairman moved to the recommendations, which were proposed by Councillor Ritchie, seconded by Councillor Robinson and by a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

1. That the content of the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document be noted and endorsed.
2. That the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document be adopted.
3. That the Head of Planning and Coastal Management, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management, be authorised to make any factual or typographical amendments to the Supplementary Planning Document.
4. That the 'Temporary Suspension of Parts of the Statement of Community Involvement for Planning Policy Purposes – Adoption of the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document' be approved.

11 Acknowledgement of the Declaration of Climate Change and Impact on Housing

Council received report **ES/0436** by Councillor Kerry, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing. The Cabinet Member referred Members to the Notice of Motion raised at Full Council on the 22 January 2020 by Councillor Gooch concerning the Council's declared Climate Emergency and the recently adopted Housing Development Strategy. It had been agreed by Council that the Notice of Motion would not be discussed at Full Council to allow the Housing Team to prepare a comprehensive response on the challenges of carbon neutral housing and how these could be addressed where practicable.

The Cabinet Member said he was pleased to now present the formal report to Council. The report described what had been successfully achieved within the Council's own housing stock over the years to address energy efficiency and carbon reduction – such as the installation of new air-source heat pump technology and the achievement of impressive SAP energy ratings. The report also considered the Council's ambitions for providing sustainable housing in East Suffolk, its encouragement of developers in the district to deliver improved energy efficient homes, and new options being considered

to reduce the carbon impact of housing.

The Cabinet Member added that, since Cabinet had considered the report in May, the Council had started discussions with a specialist Passive House Design Consultancy on how new and existing stock might be most effectively designed and upgraded to reduce its carbon impact. Additionally, the Council was arranging a remote 'soft market testing' event in late September for a range of consultants and developers working with the latest innovative technologies and in particular modern methods of construction, including modular housing. The event would provide valuable insight for the Council on the current construction market as well as making the sector aware of its development intentions and sustainable standpoint.

The Cabinet Member said the report made reference to the financial implications, compounded by COVID19, and stressed that expenditure must be affordable and manageable to the Council. In conclusion, the Cabinet Member said the report provided a detailed response to the earlier Motion and, he submitted, satisfactorily demonstrated that the Council was making great strides to reduce its carbon impact and remained committed to being a sustainable housing provider.

Councillor Gooch, who had submitted the earlier Motion, wished to record her thanks to Councillor Kerry and Councillor Mallinder for their work in this regard.

There being no questions or matters raised for debate, the Chairman moved to the recommendations which were proposed by Councillor Kerry, seconded by Councillor Robinson and by unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That, the investigatory report on East Suffolk Council's actions to reduce the carbon impact of its housing stock and its further future intention to build on its successes to date, be noted and accepted

12 Approval of the Member Development Strategy

Council received report **ES/0435** by the Leader of the Council. He advised that, following a review of the Member Development Strategy and of the Member Development Programme by the Member Development Steering Group, a revised Member Development Strategy and a new Training and Development Schedule for 2020/21 had been prepared. The Leader stated that the Steering Group's review had recognised the benefits of a responsive Training and Development Schedule which reacted to both organisational needs but also to the requests and requirements of Members. He added that the Member Development Strategy would continue to be reviewed by the Steering Group on an annual basis to ensure it remained relevant and aligned to the Council's commitment to member development.

There being no questions or matters raised for debate, the Chairman moved to the recommendations which were proposed by Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Ashdown and by unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the refreshed Member Development Strategy 2019/23 be adopted, and, that the Training and Development Schedule 2020/21 be noted.

13 Cabinet Members' Report and Outside Bodies Representatives' Report to Council

Council received report **ES/0434** by the Leader of the Council. The report provided brief written reports from Cabinet Members and also from the Council's representatives to various Outside Bodies.

Councillor Burroughes apologised to Council for his report not being submitted in time for inclusion and said he would circulate this to all Members after the Meeting.

The Chairman invited questions.

Councillor Robinson, with reference to Councillor Mallinder's report as Cabinet Member for The Environment, asked about possible reductions to the normal cutting regimes in cemeteries and asked if it was possible to involve Ward Members in such discussions. Councillor Robinson referred specifically to Lowestoft Cemetery which he described as very overgrown. Councillor Mallinder said that such discussions with Ward Members would take place and undertook to speak to Councillor Robinson outside of the meeting.

There being no further questions or matters raised for debate, the Chairman moved to the recommendation which, by unanimous vote, was so

RESOLVED

That the written report by the Cabinet Members and Outside Bodies Representatives be received and noted. the report be received.

14 Exempt/Confidential Items

It was proposed by Councillor Byatt, seconded by Councillor Cook and by unanimous vote

RESOLVED

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the Meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

The Chairman announced that the public part of the Meeting would not be closed and asked the Democratic Services Officer to end the broadcast on to YouTube.

15 Exempt Minutes - 26 February 2020

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
- Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

The meeting concluded at 9:33 pm

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Chairman

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the **Full Council** held via Zoom, on **Thursday, 3 September 2020 at 6:30pm**

Members of the Committee present:

Councillor Melissa Allen, Councillor Paul Ashdown, Councillor Edward Back, Councillor David Beavan, Councillor Stuart Bird, Councillor Chris Blundell, Councillor Jocelyn Bond, Councillor Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw, Councillor Norman Brooks, Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Councillor Peter Byatt, Councillor Jenny Ceresa, Councillor Judy Cloke, Councillor Maurice Cook, Councillor Tony Cooper, Councillor Linda Coulam, Councillor Janet Craig, Councillor Mike Deacon, Councillor Graham Elliott, Councillor John Fisher, Councillor Tony Fryatt, Councillor Steve Gallant, Councillor Andree Gee, Councillor Louise Gooch, Councillor Tracey Green, Councillor TJ Haworth-Culf, Councillor Colin Hedgley, Councillor Mark Jepson, Councillor Richard Kerry, Councillor Stuart Lawson, Councillor Geoff Lynch, Councillor James Mallinder, Councillor Frank Mortimer, Councillor Trish Mortimer, Councillor Mark Newton, Councillor Keith Patience, Councillor Malcolm Pitchers, Councillor Carol Poulter, Councillor David Ritchie, Councillor Craig Rivett, Councillor Keith Robinson, Councillor Letitia Smith, Councillor Rachel Smith-Lyte, Councillor Ed Thompson, Councillor Caroline Topping, Councillor Steve Wiles, Councillor Kay Yule

Officers present:

Stephen Baker (Chief Executive), Lisa Chandler (Energy Projects Manager), Karen Cook (Democratic Services Manager), Nick Khan (Strategic Director), Matt Makin (Democratic Services Officer), Sue Meeken (Political Group Support Officer (Labour)), Brian Mew (Interim Finance Manager), Agnes Ogundiran (Conservative Political Group Support Officer), Philip Ridley (Head of Planning and Coastal Management), Deborah Sage (Political Group Support Officer (GLI)), Hilary Slater (Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer), Steve Thacker (Project Manager/Business Analyst)

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Cackett, T Gandy, T Goldson, R Herring, C Mapey, D McCallum and M Rudd.

2 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gooch declared a local non pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 3, as a member of the Together Against Sizewell C Pressure Group, and as a doner towards the Friends of the Earth Campaign Against Sizewell C.

Councillor Bond declared a local non pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 3, as one of the ward members for the affected area (Aldeburgh and Leiston).

Councillor Byatt stated that he possibly needed to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, as his son had recently taken up a course at Lowestoft College related to the energy coast and various allied developments.

Councillor Mallinder declared a local non pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 3, as Vice Chairman of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Joint Advisory Committee.

3 Development Consent Order for EDF Energy / SZC CO. Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station - Response of East Suffolk Council - Draft Relevant Representation

Full Council received report ES/0475 by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development. Prior to the presentation of his report, the Leader of the Council took the opportunity to remind Full Council that the Sizewell C twin reactor nuclear power station proposal was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by EDF Energy (EDF) on 27 May 2020 and was accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate on 24 June 2020. The nuclear power station, if permitted and once operational, would provide 3.2 kilowatts of reliable low carbon power for a minimum of 60 years; this was equivalent to powering six million homes or 7% of the UK's electricity need. The station would help to provide the base load capacity needed to replace coal and gas stations and would support the future growth in renewables. If consented, along with the offshore wind proposals and the existing nuclear power station at Sizewell B, this would mean approximately 25% of the UK's electricity supply coming through East Suffolk.

The Leader acknowledged that this application brought significant challenges for the district, but also significant opportunities. He gave a commitment that if the proposal was consented, he would seek to ensure that the programme of works to construct the station had the least possible impact and the best possible mitigation in place.

It was important, the Leader added, to keep in mind East Suffolk Council's (ESC's) part in this process; it was not the deciding authority. There were no doubt debates to be had about the necessity of nuclear energy, the question of Far East funding, the inclusion of international involvement in UK infrastructure projects, the cost of the build process, and the cost per megawatt for end users; these were all real and relevant issues, the Leader stated, but these were not issues for members to consider at this meeting. The Leader stated that ESC was charged with looking after the interests of East Suffolk, protecting its communities, its built and natural environments and promoting and enhancing the economic sustainability of the district.

Members were present to examine the draft relevant representations; the report before members set out the concerns and acknowledged the ambitions of ESC. It would bring to the attention of the Planning Inspectorate and subsequently the Secretary of State the potential impacts on East Suffolk. It would challenge EDF to offer further mitigation and compensation, or risk refusal of the application.

The Leader stated that he was pleased to support the setting up of this extraordinary Full Council meeting as he believed it was right that the Cabinet, prior to agreeing the

final document, took into consideration the views of all members and, indeed, the wider community.

The Leader stated that, like other members, he had received numerous emails, both for and against the project, and many of the concerns highlighted were reflected in the draft document. Cabinet would, the Leader added, ensure that the comments and representations that were made at this meeting, together with those already received, were given careful consideration before the final document was agreed.

The Leader reminded members that ESC was working to a tight timescale; the final relevant representations document needed to be submitted by 30 September 2020. The Leader stressed that this would not be the end of the Council's involvement; it was, rather, the start of negotiations with the Planning Inspector. As the examination progressed, ESC would be submitting more detail, more evidence and more challenges.

The Leader advised Full Council that he wished to give fair warning that he would be seeking the Chairman's agreement to waive the call-in process of the final document agreed by Cabinet at its extraordinary meeting on 21 September 2020. This could be accommodated under paragraph 12 of ESC's Constitution. In conclusion, the Leader reminded members that they could attend the extraordinary meeting on 21 September, they could ask questions and join in the debate.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development presented his report, firstly stating that the approach adopted was to seek to maximise the benefits whilst minimising the negatives. He commented that there were omissions in detail that precluded giving a message of full support for the project; equally, the potential benefits for the district were too large to dismiss and he was of the view that ESC should commit to working with EDF to achieve these outcomes.

The Deputy Leader commented that the scale and scope of the application was significant and had the potential to affect many aspects of people's lives, both positively and negatively. The construction site would be approximately 300 hectares within the AONB for a period of 9-12 years, after which EDF would have to reinstate or improve the land. During construction there would be at peak 7,900 jobs with 600 jobs at the associated development sites. Within the report the extent of the permanent and temporary components of the application could be seen. This development could generate £100 million per annum investment boost to the regional economy and £40 million during its operation. Where harm had been identified mitigation and compensation would be sought, and in addition to this, recognition would be sought from EDF of the multiple intangible and residual impacts that such a development would impact on residents' quality of life, including a Community Fund.

The Deputy Leader stated that the relevant representations went into great detail with regard to environmental impacts. They contained concerns with regard to noise, vibration, air quality, lighting and ecology. Furthermore, they highlighted the phased impacts of these, for example the need for the two-village bypass, at the earliest possible opportunity, to address the air quality at Stratford St Andrew.

The Deputy Leader reported that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment would add further perspective to the environmental considerations. However, at this point, he wished to comment in respect of Aldhurst Farm; this project was something that he became aware of that was linked to Sizewell, consented to in 2014 and completed in 2015, 67 hectares was re-modelled to include reed beds which had flourished over the last few years, the majority of the site had been laid to heathland with grasses and was maturing well. A small element of the site had been opened for recreational access by EDF to a scheme agreed that promoted public access to the site but that ensured large areas of the site were protected from dogs. EDF were proposing this site as partial replacement for loss of SSSI because of the platform site, Natural England would determine if that was appropriate, it could not replace Fen Meadow but it was possible as a replacement for the reedbeds to be lost. This contrasted with other environmental mitigation that was planned to be implemented rather than Aldhurst Farm.

Flooding and water concerns were also explored, the vast coastline presented challenges to safely defend all that was held dear. The Deputy Leader stated that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management would comment further. From the socio-economic impacts that had been identified, and concerns to community safety, Leiston would be at the heart of this construction, public health and social services, the emergency services must be able to respond to call outs, the Assistant Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health would add to this.

The vast concentration of people into an area had the potential to impact the local housing sector and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing would speak on this.

The Deputy Leader commented that he had seen at Hinkley Point C the tremendous opportunity, proper investment into skills, education and employment, and he had the same expectations that East Suffolk residents should be able to receive the skills to work and progress their careers; he wanted to ensure that whilst EDF rightly sought to learn and evolve from their construction at Hinkley, this was not to the detriment of a potential East Suffolk employee or business.

Turning to the supply chain, the Deputy Leader commented he knew that East Suffolk businesses had the talent to succeed and the will to compete. Nonetheless, he was pushing for maximum local spend on supply chain to take place locally and regionally. East Suffolk could see £100 million uplift during construction and £40 million during operation.

Turning to tourism, the Deputy Leader commented that the Destination Management Organisation's study showed the potential and perceptions that such a project could have on East Suffolk's much valued tourism sector and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism would convey the aspirations as to best protecting and mitigating the negative impacts.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport would speak regarding the transport impacts of the project, 40% of goods would arrive at site by rail or sea and he had pushed repeatedly to ascertain why this could not be higher, and he would

continue to seek every opportunity to maximise rail usage. Following this there were site specific relevant representations, of the main development site, land east of Eastland Industrial Estate, the Link Road, two-village bypass, Northern and Southern Park and Ride sites, Freight Management Facility and the Green Rail Route.

At this point, and with the permission of the Chairman, the Deputy Leader invited Cabinet Members and the Assistant Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health, who spoke in the absence of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health, to speak in respect of their individual portfolios.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment spoke first, he stated that he had major concerns in respect of the project, he did not see the environment at the core of the decision making process and that frightened him. It was not a binary relationship, for example choosing a tree over a building, they should and could work together and he felt that there needed to be a move away from profit, looking at the concerns of communities and the environment, all should be equal, and in looking at carbon neutral solutions to energy, the impact on other environmental concerns could not be ignored. Councillor Mallinder stated that this generation was the first to understand the issues; however, it would be the last to have time to act. Councillor Mallinder commented he was sure that after the construction workers had left, a new nature reserve would be established and taking one step back it was possible to take two steps forward. Councillor Mallinder further commented that there had to be a move away from fossil fuels to a diverse energy portfolio. It was, he said, the secondary pollution that he had issues with. Turning to transport policy, there would be more air pollution, light, vibration, and congestion; Councillor Mallinder commented that if EDF cared for the environment they would pledge clean energy source for their transport needs. If the project was handled correctly it could create a new dawn of responsible engineering. Councillor Mallinder commented that he could not allow what was important to all in East Suffolk to be destroyed by this project which, in his view, needed a complete re-focus on ensuring environmental mitigation was not the minimum but went above and beyond what was needed. In conclusion, Councillor Mallinder stated that if the Planning Inspector ruled in favour of EDF the Leader of the Council would be courageous in his determination to challenge EDF to do more.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing stated that there would be an impact on all types of housing if the project was given the go ahead because the workers coming in would be seeking to live in the area and the campus would not accommodate all workers. The money asked for to help bring back empty homes into use would help to mitigate some of that. Councillor Kerry stated he did not believe that there would be a legacy left behind when the workers left because the campus would be taken down and so ESC must do the best that it could for the residents in the local area to help to mitigate what would be challenging times for all housing services.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance stated that EDF had been subsidising the resourcing of officer expertise on this project for some time through a Planning Performance Agreement; this had enabled teams across the Authority involved in the project to backfill officers' time spent on the project and bring in specialist consultants where needed. This funding was agreed until the end of this

year; the team would then discuss with EDF a contribution to forecasted costs during the six-month examination process. There were a number of funds proposed to mitigate adverse impacts of the project with existing in-house expertise in managing large sums of monies such as through the Community Infrastructure Levy, the team was well placed to put itself forward as the lead governance for the majority of these funds. Beyond mitigation and direct compensation, the team would seek from EDF recognition of the many intangible impacts a project of this scale would cause on the quality of life of local residents. This was expected to be in the form of a Community Impacts Fund similar to that which EDF provided in relation to the Hinkley Point C development. In addition, given the location of Sizewell C, the councils expected a compensation fund in response to the residual environmental impacts of the proposals. The team would seek to continue to work with local communities and EDF in order to ensure that a Community Fund would meet the recognised and residual impacts of the development on the local community. The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance added that Sizewell B was the largest business in the district and the county in respect of business rates. However, the position regarding Sizewell C and business rates was unclear, it was uncertain whether the business rates system would operate in its current form in the timeframe of the development. The current position was that nuclear power stations remained in the local rating lists of billing authorities and were not in the Government's central rating list, but they were not categorised as renewable energy projects whereby local authorities retained 100% of business rates. ESC and SCC would not necessarily see any significant direct benefit in business rates terms from Sizewell C under the current arrangements, because the system was reset at periodic intervals to take new developments into account, but would expect any Community Impact Fund arrangements to reflect a share in additional business rates income.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customer Services and Operational Partnerships stated that there would be opportunities for existing and potential new partnerships arising from the development and he would consider every element of that. He referred to the duty of the Council to fight the corner of its residents and he referred to the existing partnership with Places Leisure and how they could benefit from additional facilities to be funded by EDF. Councillor Burroughes stated that there may well be opportunities for Norse, another one of the Council's partners, in respect of the construction and future operational phases of the development. Councillor Burroughes acknowledged that this was a difficult decision, but he welcomed the opportunities and legacies that the construction of Sizewell C could bring to East Suffolk.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport stated that transport and traffic associated with this project had probably been the area of most concern to most of the communities in East Suffolk. It was acknowledged that the site was remote, and it was inevitable given the scale of construction that there would be disruption on the transport network. It was disappointing that the submitted scheme would provide only 40% of goods by rail or sea. Additionally, there was the large workforce to get to the construction site. Further, the submitted details proposed their "integrated strategy" which did not provide any upgrades on the East Suffolk rail line. Nevertheless, Councillor Brooks stated, the scheme submitted had to be considered and it was appreciated that EDF had taken on board some of ESC's concerns and proposed a two-village by pass and a link road to the site from the A12 just south of Yoxford to remove

traffic from the B1122. There were also numerous other junction and other improvements being proposed. Councillor Brooks stated that these measures were welcomed and it was also acknowledged that the delivery of the rail strategy was not deliverable in the timescales necessary to support construction of the power station and that if this was proposed, and not delivered on time, the impact on communities would be unacceptable. Therefore, Councillor Brooks stated, he supported the proposals in the submission relating to transport but asked that EDF and SCC work closely with all parties to ensure that the mitigation was delivered on time. In conclusion, Councillor Brooks stated that through himself and officers, ESC was raising significant concerns on the cumulative impacts of works all along the A12 from Seven Hills to Lowestoft, and continued to press National Rail for improvements to the rail network.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management advised members that he was also the Chairman of the Suffolk Coast Forum; he stated that should this project go ahead he had serious concerns; in Suffolk there was a dynamic and changing coastline and areas of severe erosion. At the moment, the Sizewell frontage was one of the more stable parts of the coast but, for the full life of the project, it was important to look many generations ahead. The Coastal Partnership East Team had worked on this project for many years and had engaged with all of the specialists in the marine technical forum. It was disappointing, Councillor Ritchie stated, that the full engineering details of the hard coastal defence feature were not available and this meant that it was not possible to be fully assured of both its effectiveness to protect the station and its impact on the coast. Therefore, Councillor Ritchie stated, if the station was to be built, it would be important to have mechanisms in place to ensure continual monitoring of the defences and the coast, Councillor Ritchie suggested to the north as far as Walberswick and to the south as far as Aldeburgh. It would be essential, he added, for EDF to consider the Minsmere levels and the Thorpeness frontage; a legal framework should be put in place, with funds available, to enable further mitigation to be provided. Councillor Ritchie added that he was also concerned that the details of the coastal defences were proposed to be signed off by the Marine Management Organisation with ESC as a consultee; this matter, he said, would be taken up directly with EDF and, if necessary, in the Examination. Councillor Ritchie stated that more information was needed; a wider area needed to be taken into consideration; and a robust monitoring and mitigation plan, which was legally tied down as part of the DCO process, was required.

Turning to Planning issues, Councillor Ritchie stated that it was important to ensure that funding for the Council was maintained, both during the determination stage and also into the future, as Planning would be the main body to discharge most of the requirements and monitoring of the project. The Council would also need to consider how the proposal would impact on the planned growth within the Local Plans and also how the housing requirements for the permanent staff when operational would be addressed.

The Assistant Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health stated that the increase in workers during the construction phase of Sizewell C had the potential to impact on healthcare provision in local areas. Leiston, had one doctors' surgery that

could easily be over-whelmed by an influx of 2400 workers in a campus and additional in the private rented / tourist sector. In order to ensure that this did not happen, EDF were working with the emergency services and local clinical commissioning groups to ensure that an appropriate level of on-site provision in the form of a medical centre was provided as part of the construction site, a facility that may be offered to the wider community. This would service all workers on the Sizewell project including home-based workers and would therefore reduce potential impact. One potential area of discussion was whether there was any value in seeking EDF support for a community hub. Councillor Jepson stated that in relation to the potential impact on crime and disorder, this would be considered through the Community Safety Partnership; he would seek EDF support in formulating a plan for the duration of the construction, particularly concentrating on areas of prevention and the safety of all. In conclusion, Councillor Jepson stated that, if approved, he was confident ESC could deliver a plan that would keep the workers and community healthy and safe.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism stated that a project of this scale would naturally bring challenges. Significant work had been undertaken and significant learning had been taken from the impact of Hinkley and from Sizewell B. EDF would provide the necessary funds to support initiatives tailored for communities to manage and improve wellbeing. One aspect that was particularly welcome was the delivery of an on-site health provision. Having seen and heard the positive impact that this had brought at Hinkley this needed to be built on and a better scheme delivered at Sizewell. Councillor Smith stated she was pleased to see that there was a commitment to provide funds for non-identified impacts on communities that could be bid into. Councillor Smith wanted to try and ensure that the work was centred around ESC's community partnerships and ensure that it would be locally driven. Councillor Smith also welcomed the delivery of improved sports facilities in Leiston; this would improve the integration of the workforce into the communities and leave a legacy for the town. Turning to tourism, Councillor Smith acknowledged that this area was of significant concern, especially businesses, and more so because of the challenges that had been brought about by the Covid emergency. In conclusion, Councillor Smith stated she was aware that the DMO study and its conclusions were seeking to positively resolve matters to ensure a robust tourism sector, both during the construction periods, and beyond. EDF were proposing a Tourism Fund to be spent on supporting this sector; this should also be looked at alongside other aspects of the programme, including supporting the housing sector.

The Chairman invited questions.

Councillor Elliott, firstly, made a comment in respect of the Leader's opening remarks; he said that the Leader had said that Sizewell C would generate 3.2 kilowatts of reliable low carbon power for a minimum of 60 years; this Councillor Elliott suggested was an error in that the Leader should have referred to 3,000 megawatts.

Councillor Elliott expressed concern regarding any subsidising of ESC officers to put together the response to EDF; he asked how this could be seen as impartial. The

Deputy Leader commented that this was the summary of ESC's relevant representations; it would be an unfair expectation for a local authority to produce this without support. EDF had recognised that and had provided support with officer time. As such, there was more capacity to critically assess the application.

Councillor Elliott referred to business rates and there potentially being no financial benefit to ESC from Sizewell C; he sought clarification and it was explained by officers that Sizewell B was the largest ratepayer in the district, but it was taken into account as part of the overall business rates system of which 50% went to Government and 10% to SCC. It was also built into the baseline assumption of income that the Council received. Because of this there was no inherent benefit of it being within the rating base for the area. Variations in the rating could have impacts one way or the other but, essentially, there was no basic benefit from it being within the area. Councillor Haworth-Culf, prior to asking her first question, took the opportunity to thank everybody that had contacted her; she had received approximately 500 communications, all of which had been against Sizewell C.

Councillor Haworth-Culf reported that a chairman from a local council had pointed out that unlike other ESC Full Council agendas, this agenda did not allow for questions from the public. Given the importance of the issue, he wished to query this; he also wanted to record the concerns of many towns and parishes and question whether it was right to have the delegation in place as per the recommendation within the report thereby, effectively, excluding many members of the Council.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services, prior to responding to the points raised by Councillor Haworth-Culf, apologised that she had not been able to speak at agenda items 1 and 2; this was due to technical issues. In respect of agenda item 1, Mrs Slater confirmed that there were 47 members present. In respect of agenda item 2, Mrs Slater confirmed that all declarations given by members were local non-pecuniary and, as such, all members were able to speak and vote. Mrs Slater then referred to Councillor Haworth-Culf's question and stated that ESC's Constitution gave provision for questions from members of the public, but this was for ordinary meetings, and not extraordinary meetings, of the Council.

Councillor Haworth-Culf commented that many people looked to their ward councillors to be their voice, to represent them and to answer their questions. Therefore, Councillor Haworth-Culf asked the Deputy Leader to answer, in detail, the points raised in an email dated 27 August 2020 to all members of the Council.

The Deputy Leader, in respect of feedback from members of the public, referenced the many opportunities that had been available for feedback to be provided, this included a meeting for towns / parishes, the Joint Local Authorities' Group (JLAG), and the recent Coast Forum. The Deputy Leader also referred to the email address that was available for anyone to use and, of course, all points raised would be considered.

Turning to the email of 27 August 2020, referred to by Councillor Haworth-Culf, the Deputy Leader provided detailed answers to many of the points raised.

Councillor Fryatt expressed concern regarding a lack of attention being paid to the park and ride scheme at Wickham Market/Hacheston; he commented that if Sizewell C was to go ahead he did not know what would happen to the local roads, in particular the B1078 and Wickham Market. Also, Councillor Fryatt referred to the possibility of a four-villages by-pass and commented that he would support that. In response, the Deputy Leader referred to the four-villages by-pass and commented it had been disappointing that the Government could not support that.

In response to a question from Councillor Bond, who asked if EDF's proposed transport strategy was sustainable, the Deputy Leader referred to pages 60 to 67 of the report and said that a consideration of his, in respect of the sustainability of what was suggested, was that, equally, it needed to be deliverable.

Councillor Bond asked if ESC believed that there would be significant areas where the effects of the project would be beyond mitigation, and she quoted the meaning of "mitigation". The Deputy Leader commented that if there was a specific question with regard to an aspect within the relevant representations, he would be happy to provide further detail. He commented that he was unable to provide a broad answer.

Councillor Poulter commented that she was disappointed to hear the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport say that the rail option was not deliverable within the timescale, and Councillor Poulter commented that she knew and was very encouraged by the fact, that the Deputy Leader had already met with EDF to discuss this. However, Councillor Poulter commented that her concern was that EDF had not dealt with this in a timely manner. Councillor Poulter requested that the Deputy Leader ask EDF, when they first engaged with Network Rail, for the date of the meeting and for the minutes of the meeting. The Deputy Leader, in reply, stated that he had been involved in a combined meeting with EDF and Network Rail to seek reassurances and to ask questions. The Deputy Leader commented that he would explore the date of the meeting that Councillor Poulter referred to.

Councillor Byatt commented that EDF claimed there were in excess of 1400 companies registered on their supply portal. Councillor Byatt asked if it was possible to find out how many were local companies and the Deputy Leader, in response, said that he understood the list was held by the Suffolk Chamber and he would ask for further detail. Further, he understood that 19 Suffolk companies had already obtained contracts with Hinkley and they were worth £10.7 million.

Councillor Byatt referred to the risk of flooding; he assumed that some modelling work had been undertaken, and he asked for information to be shared in respect of the

maximum risk that could be there due to extreme flooding. The Deputy Leader referred to the excellent Coast Forum that had taken place and was confident that he could provide further information.

Councillor Byatt referred to accommodation and suggested that more specific detail was required in respect of accommodation units. The Deputy Leader commented that there would certainly be flexibility and, referring to the Housing Fund, he was sure that there would be suitable flexibility so that should there be unexpected demand in certain areas, the Housing Fund could react and respond as quickly as possible.

In response to a further question from Councillor Byatt in respect of biodiversity and what the net gain would be, the Deputy Leader referred to the relevant representations on page 37 of the report.

Councillor Byatt asked where EDF proposed to move its freight facility to. In response, officers stated that the freight management facilities that EDF were proposing were at a site just off the A12/14 junction at Seven Hills on the south eastern quadrant.

Councillor Byatt asked if anyone had referenced the concerns that were raised in the 1950s about Sizewell A and in the 1980s about Sizewell B, and he asked if there were any common issues that needed to be learnt in order to better consult the public. The Deputy Leader commented that this was heavily set out by legislation, and he had commented on that, as could be seen on page 12, of his report.

Councillor Gee commented that she had read a report that stated that EDF had failed to make provision for necessary sea defences. Councillor Gee asked if this statement was true, and if it was, she asked if it was wise for approval to be granted without having ensured that adequate sea defence remedies were provided. The Deputy Leader referred to page 68 of the report, where the concerns related to sea defences had been set out. The full designs were not yet available and so a final view could not be taken at this time. ESC would work with EDF, in the future, in respect of protecting the coast. The Deputy Leader provided clarification that ESC would not take the final decision, that was for the Secretary of State.

Councillor Haworth-Culf referred to the impact on tourism and highlighted her concerns in this regard; she also commented that within the local area there were very few empty homes. However, there were a lot of people in privately rented accommodation. Councillor Haworth-Culf was concerned that they may be forced out of their homes due to the pressure from workers; she asked that this be referenced robustly within the representations. The Deputy Leader, in response, stated that the tourism sector, within East Suffolk, was something to be proud of, and the DMO study had highlighted the potential impacts of this. The Deputy Leader referenced the representations at page 60, where concerns were set out with regard to tourism and the need to ensure that this asset was protected in every way possible; he stated

that a Tourism Fund for the East Suffolk area should be appropriate and there should be clear triggers so that should things deteriorate, there would be suitable compensation. Regarding the housing aspects, the Deputy Leader agreed, stating that there were concerns, and the Housing Fund would be designed to react accordingly.

Councillor Yule stated that her concerns and questions were related to Woodbridge Town Council, and residents, and the inconsistencies and missing information associated with this application and the amount of work still required at this late stage, still needed by EDF and others, to address it. Councillor Yule expressed concern in respect of rail route noise, and possible alternatives to the use of night time trains; road traffic impact, specifically the impact of additional traffic south of Woods Lane to the Seckford roundabout and also the impact south to the A14 and the residential urban areas of the Woodbridge Town Council and Melton Parish Council. Councillor Yule commented that the draft relevant representations document was not strong enough; it was put forward as work in progress, but there were still more concerns and questions than answers at this very late stage.

The Deputy Leader suggested to Councillor Yule that, as she had referred to a broad range of points, and in some detail, perhaps she could contact him and they could discuss what specifics she wished to be added to the relevant representations.

Councillor Byatt referred again to biodiversity, commenting that at present EDF contributed significantly towards the maintenance of the AONB, and possibly Minsmere too; he referred to the pylons that ran across the ground and asked if they could go back to putting them underground. Councillor Byatt also commented that if eventually EDF withdrew from the site, if consent was not given, and when Sizewell B was decommissioned, would those AONBs lose their support so that there would be a biodiversity loss, rather than a gain. Officers stated that EDF, as a whole, operated Sizewell B, and they owned a lot of land around their stations which was within the AONB; officers were not aware of EDF financially contributing to the AONB by any other means other than looking after the land that they owned. Again, officers were not aware of any financial contribution that they made towards Minsmere. In respect of decommissioning, officers stated that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority was involved, and discussions were ongoing in respect of who would take responsibility of existing nuclear power stations. Sizewell B would be operating for approximately a further 20 years.

In response, and with regard to the pylons, the Deputy Leader referred to page 75 of the report and said that his ambition was to see that further work was undertaken to mitigate the effect.

Councillor F Mortimer stated some people were claiming that the vast number of jobs available to local residents would be lower skill jobs; he asked what ESC was doing to ensure that all local residents would have access to all jobs. Councillor Mortimer also requested that young persons within East Suffolk be given the opportunity of an

apprenticeship. In response, the Deputy Leader stated that it was an important aspect that local residents could obtain access to all skills levels and, equally, he referred to an email that he had received from a union representative at Sizewell, who commented that the highly skilled and semi-skilled jobs provided at the stations had been across many skill sets, and these jobs had offered well paid, long term, secure employment, to vast numbers of people who had worked on the sites over the years. From that, the Deputy Leader took great reassurance. The Deputy Leader also referred to page 56 of the report and the apprenticeship scheme, potentially, he commented, there could be 1000 apprenticeships.

Councillor Gooch asked if there was provision within the submission regarding the DCO for a recorded element of which councillors were in favour, in general, of the project, and which were not. The Deputy Leader, in response, commented that the relevant representations were to pick up issues that ESC wanted the Examiner to consider; he therefore did not necessarily see the relevance of advising the Examiner how members had voted. Councillor Rivett also highlighted that individuals could provide their own relevant representations.

The meeting was adjourned at this point to allow for a short comfort break.

Upon return, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development proposed the recommendations contained within the report; these were seconded by the Leader of the Council, who reserved his right to speak further during debate.

Councillor Elliott requested that there be a recorded vote in respect of the recommendations. In accordance with the Constitution, over seven councillors requested a recorded vote.

Councillor Byatt called for a suspension of Standing Orders for the purposes of debate stating that, otherwise, members would be limited to three minutes and one speech only. The Chairman advised that all members would be able to speak for five minutes; Standing Orders would not be suspended.

The Chairman opened debate and indicated that he would firstly invite the leaders of the opposition groups to speak on behalf of their respective groups.

Councillor Byatt advised that he was not speaking on behalf of the Labour Group because the Group had decided that it would have a free vote on this matter. Councillor Byatt stated that as local businesses recovered from Covid-19 this was an opportunity to ensure that ESC kept local businesses involved as much as possible; Councillor Byatt stated that now was not the time to discuss the rights and wrongs of nuclear power; however, he did comment that Labour national policy was to

have a mix of renewables, sustainables etc. Councillor Byatt commented on future employment opportunities for young people, the impacts on communities etc and stated the importance of balance; this, he acknowledged, was difficult.

Councillor Elliott stated that a member of his Group would be proposing an Amendment to the recommendations and he suggested that it would be useful for the Amendment to be proposed at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor Beavan proposed an Amendment to the recommendations, to add a third paragraph as follows:

“Notwithstanding any of the above, the Council urges the Government to recognise that, on balance, this development will benefit neither East Suffolk nor the country.”

The Amendment was seconded by Councillor Smith-Lyte.

Councillor Smith-Lyte requested that there be a recorded vote in relation to the amendment. The Chairman referred Full Council back to the earlier request for a recorded vote and confirmed that all votes in respect of this decision would be recorded.

Councillor Beavan stated that he was not ideologically opposed to nuclear power, 10 years ago he thought nuclear power was needed to control carbon emissions, but today offshore wind was available at half the price and nuclear fission was a failing technology. Advanced economies like Germany were replacing nuclear with renewables and the game changer of nuclear fusion was just around the corner.

This was the most important decision, Councillor Beavan stated, to affect the district for a generation, and he had spent the summer canvassing opinions from parish councils, businesses, experts and ordinary people.

The benefits seemed uncertain, Councillor Beavan stated, it would take until 2040 before Sizewell would start to contribute to carbon reduction because of the emissions from the construction. Gas powered stations should be stripping carbon from their emissions by then, so Sizewell would not have a chance to make a positive impact on global warming.

The £20 billion investment and associated jobs would be very welcome, but this needed to be balanced against the loss from the tourism industry. Councillor Beavan quoted Andy Woods of Adnams, saying that there would be a loss of much more than the £40 million annual estimate. Tourism in Norfolk and Suffolk was worth £5 billion and employed 100,000 people. Councillor Beavan questioned how much of the investment would stay in place and he referred to natural habitats possibly being lost

forever.

Turning to costs, Councillor Beavan stated that only three things were certain, it would cost more, take longer and have unexpected side effects.

The birdsong of Minsmere would be silenced by constant noise and light pollution from the construction. The A12, country lanes and villages would be clogged with lorries and commuters. Putting two reactors on the eroding coast was full of uncertainties and Councillor Beavan said that any local fisherman would refer to the Dunwich and Sizewell banks moving, confirmed by the Mott MacDonald 2014 report.

Councillor Beavan questioned what would happen to the coast if Sizewell C intercepted the southerly flow of sand. Sizewell C would be built on soft alluvial soil in an old riverbed, not the hard coralline crag that underpinned the existing stations. Hinkley had found that expensive.

Councillor Beavan stated that 90 years ago, Sizewell was shaken by the UK's worst earthquake. 8000 years ago, a land slip in Norway caused a 25-metre-high tsunami, bigger than the one that disastrously closed Japan's Fukushima plant in 2011. EDF said that Sizewell would withstand a one in 10,000-year event; it would not however have survived those two events that occurred within the last 10,000 years.

Councillor Beavan stated that EDF admitted, and he quoted, "Shoreline change is driven by several factors whose importance and interaction several decades into the future cannot be accurately predicted." EDF asked seven anonymous experts to extrapolate from present trends to arrive at a "plausible" worst case scenario. At best, an educated guess; at worst, a finger in the wind. Nick Scar, one of the few experts not gagged by the EDF payroll, Councillor Beavan stated, criticised them for assuming a sea level rise of only 0.5m, not the 2m recommended by the Department for the Environment. They were banking on a sea level threat which was only 0.7m above the 1953 flood levels. Councillor Beavan felt that their sea defence plans were sketchy, and he described them as a couple of sketches with no dimensions, elevations, materials or foundations.

In conclusion, Councillor Beavan questioned why ESC should harbour this uncertain investment on its treasured coast and countryside, just for the privilege of paying double for electricity.

The Chairman invited questions to Councillor Beavan; there were none.

The Chairman invited Full Council to debate the proposed Amendment.

In response to a point of order raised by Councillor Pitchers, who commented that an

amendment could not negate the original proposal, the Monitoring Officer stated that she had considered that point and she was of the view that the Amendment provided additional wording to the recommendations, it did not negate paragraphs 1 and 2 of the recommendation because it was not suggesting that the Council did not endorse, for example, the draft relevant representations. As such, it was a valid Amendment.

Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw stated that even the most ardent supporter of Sizewell C would have to acknowledge the impact it would cause to the natural environment. There had been good representations, she stated, on why an area of outstanding beauty and biodiversity should not be decimated and she hoped they would be taken seriously.

Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw stated that she wished to elaborate on one significant point and that was that despite the assertions of EDF, supporting this project did nothing to bring East Suffolk closer to meeting its net zero target and would not help to mitigate the climate emergency. The estimated build time of Sizewell C would bring East Suffolk into the early 2030s providing everything went to plan, and it was known that large infrastructure projects were frequently delayed, by East Suffolk's own calculations and commitments the energy supply would already need to be carbon neutral by the point Sizewell C came on-line.

Some might argue, Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw stated, that this power station might be worth having in the future even if it did not help mitigate the emergency, however even this event tonight was an illustration that Sizewell C was an archaic distraction from what East Suffolk should be doing to prepare for the future, as other forward thinking countries were abandoning nuclear and looking to a prosperous future, harnessing cheap and effective renewables, East Suffolk was arguing about a technology that fitted the needs of a population and planet in the 1950s and 60s.

Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw added that every pound the public and private sector spent on the development of this project was a pound not spent on the alternatives that would mitigate the climate emergency. Every moment obsessing over the details were hours that should be spent developing and supporting the technology which benefited the population, existed in harmony with the environment and did not threaten the very core of what made Suffolk so special and beautiful.

Councillor Bird stated that Councillor Beavan's proposed Amendment said there were no benefits for East Suffolk. There was a definite benefit for the world, Councillor Bird stated, to save it. Barely a month passed without a new record set for warmest month or driest month and East Anglia had only one third of its usual rainfall since April. The UN had an objective of being carbon neutral by 2050; this meant eliminating all fossil fuel energy generation by that date. There were currently 440 nuclear power plants in the world, to replace all carbon generated power by 2050, and a nuclear plant somewhere every day between now and then was needed.

In the 1970s, Councillor Bird stated, irresponsible short-term thinking was indulged in, with the bonanza of North Sea oil and gas. The French, without the North Sea boom, more sensibly built nuclear stations, for far less cost than was the case now. They now

had 80% of their electricity generated by nuclear. Alternatives such as wind turbines and tidal barrages would only ever play a marginal part. A nuclear plant could deliver 7% of the country's electricity generation. Looking at the maths, Councillor Bird stated, build only 14 Sizewells and it would be job done, all electricity supplied reliably, pollution free, carbon free.

For 30 years after 1945 the country readily invested in infrastructure; now the country had endless years of negotiations and consultations before a single brick was laid. To support modern lifestyle, Councillor Bird stated, generating stations were needed. Councillor Bird thought that post-Covid young people would be looking for any employment Sizewell could provide, low skilled or otherwise.

By all means negotiate, Councillor Bird concluded, for the maximum mitigations from Sizewell, the obvious example being a four-villages bypass. What the Secretary of State must do was to give Sizewell the go ahead and also authorise a dozen more in the UK.

Councillor Elliott stated that he agreed with Councillor Beavan in that this was not an ideological debate, adding that he was not arguing against nuclear power, even though members should always be aware of the background issues that, while not material planning considerations, did have a serious impact on the longer term benefits and disbenefits of the Sizewell project. Councillor Elliott stated that members needed to be aware of the cost of the project, and the future cost of the electricity would be outrageously high at the precise time that costs of renewable energy and energy storage was falling rapidly.

Members also needed to be aware that there was no solution in place, or even on the horizon, for the safe treatment and disposal of nuclear waste and that it would take too long to build to be any use in the fight against climate change. EDF had admitted that it would be 2040 before Sizewell C would make a net contribution to the country's net zero targets.

Members also needed to be aware of the risk to national security of Chinese involvement in an asset of this scale and strategic importance.

However, Councillor Elliott stated, those issues needed to be put in the background for now. This was a planning application, and it required a planning decision.

Of course, Councillor Elliott added, if the project went ahead, the benefits needed to be maximised and the damages needed to be minimised. The draft Council response went some way to addressing the impacts of the proposed development, but it did not go far enough. Councillor Elliott felt that the impacts of the proposed development were too great and the benefits were overestimated and too uncertain. In his view, the planning balance was tipping clearly against the proposed development.

The proposed Amendment was simple Councillor Elliott stated, and he thought that it was supported by the vast majority of the residents of East Suffolk. It continued to allow ESC to seek to maximise mitigation measures but it also gave a firm steer to the Secretary of State that refusal was far better than any amount of mitigation.

Councillor Elliott went on to provide quotes as follows, the Executive Chairman of Hopkins Homes said “The Suffolk Coast will lose its sparkle if this monstrous project goes ahead. That is not good for local people, for the visitors we welcome, and certainly not good for business.” The Chief Executive of Adnams said “Tourism is the lifeblood of our wonderful part of the country. It supports thousands of jobs and families across Suffolk making a huge contribution to the health and wellbeing of our economy. All of this is threatened by an uncertain project at enormous scale and cost with highly questionable economic and environmental benefits. Once added to a legacy of more than 100 years to deal with its toxic waste the project becomes unsustainable, uneconomic and unwelcome.”

In conclusion, Councillor Elliott stated, ESC needed to do more than mitigate some of the impacts of the development; it needed to try and stop it from happening. Councillor Elliott urged members to support the Amendment proposed by Councillor Beavan.

Councillor Smith-Lyte stated that what she was about to say represented the views of those who had, at her invitation, chosen to respond to her from the ward which she represented.

Councillor Smith-Lyte stated that around 3,400 kilogrammes of fish were forecast to be killed in cooling systems, which would result in spreading dead and dying fish over a wide area of the sea at Sizewell; this was bad news, of course for the fish, but also for tourism and fishermen too. Turning to the AONB, Councillor Smith-Lyte stated that DEFRA saw fit to extend it by 9.5% and this was after 25 years of campaigning, indicting how highly the Government valued these national landscapes. Sizewell C would swallow up so much of that said AONB.

Jobs at any cost could not be justified for this and Councillor Smith-Lyte commented that some locals had been misled that there would be jobs in the construction phase itself, which was not the case. It was true to say, Councillor Smith-Lyte stated, that many of the jobs would come from the existing workforce already in place at Hinkley Point.

Turning to the temporary workers’ accommodation, Councillor Smith-Lyte commented that this demanded too high a carbon footprint.

Councillor Smith-Lyte commented on the future, saying that it was sad to say that by the time that the sea was possibly as high as 26 degrees and the air temperature perhaps 40 degrees, with more storms, with that scenario in mind, how would the fuel rods in the reactors be cooled.

Turning to road traffic, this would have an impact on the ward of Melton, as well as other wards, which were already struggling to cope with existing traffic levels.

Councillor Smith-Lyte quoted from Energising the East, Dr Karen Barrass, Dr Andrew Boswell, Jonathan Essex 2020, "It is 10 times as carbon intensive as wind power because of the built itself."

Councillor Smith-Lyte commented on issues with regard to irreplaceable heathland and other habitats which were already vulnerable, birds, bats and other protected species could not just go somewhere else, they were territorial; the effect on tourism, air quality, and the quality of life for residents in general. These were not nice to have things, they were essential to wildlife and their eco systems. They were also important to humans too.

Councillor Smith-Lyte stated that alternative sources of truly renewable power generation, such as wind, solar and tidal, must be prioritised.

Finally, the impact of any additional build at Sizewell must be properly weighted, particularly due to the site and setting within the national landscape of a protected area, Suffolk Coast and Heaths, AONB, and also SSSI.

Councillor Gooch, speaking in support of the Amendment, firstly stated that it may complicate matters in terms of there being three points, in that members would vote for all three at the same time, because the tone was quite distinct. Notwithstanding that, Councillor Gooch stated, this should be taken in the wider context, bearing in mind that members were accountable to residents in terms of being the custodians of this beautiful strip of countryside. It was important for members to understand why they had received emails from residents; they viewed this meeting probably as the most important Council meeting of this whole Administration. Councillor Gooch stated that the idea that ESC could pass to one side the issue of whether or not members approved of nuclear was preposterous.

Councillor Gooch commented on the importance of speaking out on behalf of residents and said that not wishing to detract from the fastidious work of officers and cabinet members in scrutinising the density of the information provided by EDF, she felt ESC was trying to make the best of a bad situation.

Councillor Gooch stated that she had carried out her own research and commented that in looking at carbon neutrality of nuclear, ESC should be looking at the work of Keith Burnham, who was Emeritus Professor of Physics at Imperial College London, who had questions in respect of any kind of carbon neutrality in terms of nuclear power development.

Those that had looked at the French nuclear trap would have serious concerns in terms of the viability of this project, especially if examples were looked at of Flamanville in and Olkiluoto.

Turning to the green credentials of the project itself and the ethics of custodianship, Councillor Gooch stated that anybody with any familiarity of the work of the local environmentalist, Simon Barnes, Ben McFarland of Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Rachel Fuller of Friends of the Earth, would have grave concerns.

Turning to earlier comments by Councillor Smith-Lyte regarding the perpetual churn damage to marine life, Councillor Gooch commented that this was tragically calculable. There were also concerns about the consumption of the portable water too.

Councillor Gooch commented on the threat of coastal erosion and referred to a headline in the press in September 2019 that stated “erosion of Suffolk’s coastline is amongst the fastest in Europe”. She expressed concern regarding the reassurances that had been given that this would not be a problem.

Councillor Gooch commented in respect of wind opportunities that existed to generate genuine clean and green energy and she added that in the Daily Telegraph in August 2020 the editor wrote extensively about the likely redundancy of nuclear technology.

In conclusion, Councillor Gooch referred to the work of Mark Z Jacobson, Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Stanford, and his forthcoming book ‘100% Clean Renewable Energy Storage for Everything’, chapter 3 took apart why he had not included nuclear in this. Councillor Gooch stated that she endorsed the proposed Amendment.

Councillor Byatt referred to the proposed Amendment and suggested that it seemed to negate the first two paragraphs of the recommendations; he added that it seemed to suggest that ESC would be saying to the Secretary of State, ignore what ESC has said to the Inspectorate which does not matter, ESC wants you to override it.

The Leader, in referring to the words of Councillor Byatt, commented that, in his view, the Amendment was suggesting that there would be no benefit to either East Suffolk, or the country as whole; this, he said, was incorrect. The Leader referred to the many examples from previous representations about the benefits that would be there. The reality was, he stated, that members represented some 250,000 people in East Suffolk, not just the 100 or so that had sent emails to ESC against Sizewell C. The Leader also commented that not all emails received were against the project, some were in favour. The Leader also acknowledged that there were dis-benefits of Sizewell C and

he stated that it was incumbent on ESC to do what it could to mitigate those dis-benefits. In conclusion, it was ESC's job to get the best deal possible, should it happen, for East Suffolk residents.

Councillor Craig, in support of the Amendment, stated that she realised there were some benefits, but she felt that these were greatly outweighed by the dis-benefits. Councillor Craig also commented that she was disappointed with Councillor Rivett's earlier reply to Councillor Gooch's question regarding the proposed Amendment in respect of the number of councillors in favour or opposed to the project.

Councillor Pitchers stated that during the summer months he had taken the opportunity to talk to a number of university students, and ex-students, from a wide variety of professions, everyone, he commented, was in favour of Sizewell C.

Councillor Fisher, commenting on the proposed Amendment, felt that the key words were "on balance". He added that, of course, there were benefits, but there were also costs, in his view the costs would exceed the benefits. Councillor Fisher commented that one of the issues that he saw with Sizewell C was that the site size was only 32 hectares, compared to 66 hectares at Hinkley Point and currently they were using 160 hectares as the working area. This meant that the impact would be felt much more at Sizewell, on the AONB around it.

Councillor Fisher also referred to any long-term benefits; he commented and referred to when Sizewell A and B were built, people were told that the benefits would live on beyond the construction phase. Councillor Fisher did not know why new benefits were required if there had already been benefits from A and B.

Councillor Topping acknowledged that there would be benefits and dis-benefits from Sizewell C; she referred to the fact that ESC had declared a Climate Emergency.

The Deputy Leader, in his right of reply, stated that in his view any claim that there would not be any benefits was not credible; he provided an example of a benefit in that there could be 1000 apprenticeships. The Deputy Leader urged members to vote against the Amendment.

The Chairman invited Councillor Beavan to sum up.

Councillor Beavan thanked Councillor Fisher for drawing members' attention to the words "on balance". It was, he said, a question of assessing the benefits against the costs. Councillor Beavan acknowledged that there would be benefits but he added that the costs would outweigh the benefits. In respect of jobs and apprenticeships,

Councillor Beavan referred to a green recovery, stating that there would be plenty of jobs putting insulation into houses which would reduce energy bills for people and save global warming etc. Councillor Beavan referred to earlier comments made by Councillor Bird and stated that global warming would not be helped by Sizewell C. To say that renewables were marginal, Councillor Beavan stated, was untrue. Germany was getting rid of nuclear and moving towards renewables and Councillor Beavan referred to the maths and stated that the present cost of nuclear power from Hinkley Power Station, which was £92.00 per megawatt compared to the present cost of power from the wind farms, which was £39.00 per megawatt. That, Councillor Beavan stated, would impact on poorer families. It would also affect businesses trying to sell goods around the world.

Councillor Beavan concluded by saying that he agreed with the recommendations within the report, but he added that members were elected representatives; if members felt that the project would be bad for East Suffolk, they had a duty to say so. Councillor Beavan urged the Council to go one step further, to tell the Secretary of State, that ESC thought that this uncertain investment was wrong, economically and environmentally.

At this point, with the Amendment having been proposed and seconded earlier in the meeting, it was put to the vote. Members had requested a recorded vote earlier in the meeting, the results of which are shown below:

Councillors who voted for the Amendment

D Beavan, E Brambley-Crawshaw, J Craig, G Elliott, J Fisher, L Gooch, R Smith-Lyte, E Thompson, C Topping, K Yule (10)

Councillors who voted against the Amendment

M Allen, P Ashdown, E Back, S Bird, C Blundell, J Bond, N Brooks, S Burroughes, P Byatt, J Ceresa, J Cloke, M Cook, T Cooper, L Coulam, M Deacon, T Fryatt, S Gallant, T Green, TJ Haworth-Culf, C Hedgley, M Jepson, R Kerry, S Lawson, G Lynch, J Mallinder, F Mortimer, T Mortimer, M Newton, K Patience, M Pitchers, C Poulter, D Ritchie, C Rivett, K Robinson, L Smith, S Wiles (36)

Councillors who abstained

(0)

Councillors who had left the meeting

Councillor Gee (1)

The Amendment was therefore declared lost.

At this point and in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution, and following a proposal by the Leader of the Council, which was seconded by the

Deputy Leader, it was

RESOLVED

That the meeting be continued over three hours duration.

Upon return, the Chairman opened debate in respect of the recommendations, which had been proposed and seconded, within the report.

Councillor Robinson, speaking about transport issues, commented that trucks were an absolute necessity. With the freight management plan, working from Seven Hills, it was possible with responsible planning, to smooth out any potential traffic chaos by sensible logistics. Turning to possible pollution, Councillor Robinson commented that if EDF insisted that all the trucks were of modern specification that would assist. It was also important, he stated, that all of the various road improvements were completed prior to the commencement of the construction of Sizewell C.

Councillor Haworth-Culf stated that she appreciated there may be some positives from Sizewell C, which were yet to be proved. She added that she was still struggling with the fact that this project was within one of the most beautiful and most important AONBs in the country, and areas did not receive that designation without very good reason. It was, Councillor Haworth-Culf added, one of the main tourist areas of East Suffolk, and indeed the country. Councillor Haworth-Culf stated that she had no choice, but to be the voice of the local people. It was important to listen to the views of local people and to be robust in response to the Government because, good or bad, there was so much still unknown and so much detail still required. In conclusion, the negatives outweighed any positives.

Councillor Wiles referred to the possible impact of the project on the economy; whatever the outcome of the Inspector's deliberations, he said, ESC must look to the future and Councillor Wiles referred to Covid-19 having changed the economic landscape. People were now adapting to change; naturally people were concerned when change was proposed but adapting to change brought success. Councillor Wiles stated that he was sure whatever the decision, everyone present wished economic strength and stability for the region. If Sizewell C did go ahead ESC would be looking to develop partnerships with all business sectors and maximise economic benefits for the district.

Councillor Deacon stated that he found himself with a dilemma in that he appreciated to meet the nation's future power needs additional sources of supply would be required, the nuclear option being one of several alternatives. Councillor Deacon added that he understood the enormous financial benefits to the District should Sizewell C be given the go ahead, and the potential local employment opportunities, but he questioned at what cost.

It concerned Councillor Deacon that the development would have an adverse effect on the AONB, would be damaging to the Minsmere Reserve and would equally damage the tourist industry. Councillor Deacon had concerns regarding the transport arrangements during the construction phase, its impact on the environment and residents' well-being. He was disturbed to read, and he genuinely did not remember where, that the plan was based on the use of labour from EDF's Hinkley Point site with local labour, and he quoted "being used for low skill work". Councillor Deacon invited EDF to respond to the comment and if indeed this was the case, he certainly had greater aspirations for the local workforce.

Councillor Deacon expressed concern about the viability of the scheme, questioning whether EDF would be able to complete it on time, within budget and whether they would be able to meet their mitigation obligations.

Councillor Deacon stated that he believed nuclear power had a role to play in the future of electricity provision, but he wanted to see future generations being able to throw a switch and the lights come on.

Councillor Deacon, in conclusion, stated that he had expressed his reservations and he could only support the recommendations given that it was still work in progress; he would reserve his final decision until he had further facts.

Councillor Bond stated that, to date, she had received approximately 450 communications from organisations and individuals, none in support of Sizewell C. Councillor Bond echoed some of Councillor Haworth-Culf's sentiments relating to work in progress and said that she would do her best to reflect the views put forward by those who had elected her. By far the most important point was that all but a very few people who had been in touch cited their disappointment at EDF's apparent inability to provide sufficient information, and that much of the information EDF had supplied appeared to require significant further in-depth interrogation.

Middleton-cum-Fordley, Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Councils believed that ESC should withdraw its support for Sizewell C, and they were not alone. It was suggested this was the only way forward based on EDF's failure to provide adequate information on the impacts of the project. Yes, Councillor Bond stated, there was the potential for some gains that could provide pockets of benefit for the ward, on offer by EDF, but also insufficient evidence to underpin these and many other undertakings.

Should the much advertised and promised skills and apprenticeships materialise however, it had been requested they be conditioned to provide primacy to Alde Valley Academy and the College on the Coast as the area so negatively impacted otherwise.

Should this DCO be approved, Councillor Bond stated, damage would include partial decimation of Minsmere, a SSSI, the AONB, shoreline, all would be national losses. Councillor Bond reminded members that as a RAMSAR site, Minsmere's status implied international loss and damage.

Councillor Bond referenced impacts on livelihoods, for example tourism, currently generating tens of millions in revenues and an East Suffolk success story. Negative publicity for the East Suffolk area would inevitably reduce its overall desirability.

Commenting on transport, Councillor Bond stated that utilising road over rail was an appallingly lazy 60–40 split that was agonising or unimaginable to those who remembered Sizewell B road usage. All aggregate, Councillor Bond understood, arrived then by sea, the dramatic increase in pollution rather than the decrease aspired to; that the vast majority of the region's transport would have to compete for the poorly designed A12 would unavoidably damage the industries and the workers already so heavily dependent on it now.

The B1122, the alternative route suggested by residents would have had legacy value, however this chosen one was just a parallel road with its own additional cost and pollution issues.

Should this be approved, it was essential and conditioned that all improvement infrastructure, particularly but not exclusively relating to Leiston, was in place before commencement of construction.

In conclusion, Councillor Bond stated, National Policy Statement EN-6 referred repeatedly to 'local', and how that should be defined. Councillor Bond defined this as the area where the residents she represented lived, worked, and contributed to society, paid taxes, in other words, it was home.

Councillor Blundell left the meeting at this point.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing stated that his feelings on nuclear power were irrelevant; as the Cabinet Member for Housing, he wanted to ensure that a robust housing policy would be in place was Sizewell C to be given the go ahead. It was important not to let local people down, and he understood the concerns of members from the local areas. Councillor Kerry saw the housing issues being fluid because ESC must have a policy that would be adaptable to change.

Councillor Green referred to apprenticeships and skills and noted that the Hinkley Point training programme operated with one college, she felt it was important that, should Sizewell C go ahead, the EDF investment in skills and training be at colleges accessible to the children and young people of East Suffolk. If EDF awarded their training programme to West Suffolk this would have no benefit to the people who members represented.

Councillor Cooper stated that he would be doing a dis-service to his community if he just said no to Sizewell C. It was important to keep voicing concerns and continue discussions with EDF and the Inspector, subject to Government's approval. As to issues that it was felt needed to be addressed, and compensation for the community, Councillor Cooper stated that he had seen many changes to the town of Leiston, some good and some bad, Sizewell A and B had brought many benefits. It was important to ensure that what was put in place would not adversely affect the community.

Councillor Cooper referred to the many emails and telephone calls that he had received and he quoted from an email "Over the past 60 years Sizewell A and B have not just generated carbon free electricity to the nation, they have also generated jobs and prosperity for people living in the surrounding communities and beyond. The stations have played a key part in securing the nation's electricity supply and provided thousands of jobs in design, construction, operation, decommissioning of the UK's nuclear fleet of power stations." Councillor Cooper concluded that he therefore supported the recommendations; to object he said would not allow ESC to continue to press concerns and issues.

Councillor Poulter stated that she was not against nuclear power; however, she was against damaging the environment, not managing transport systems and also affecting adversely the quality of life of East Suffolk residents. Councillor Poulter stated that two of her parish councils had made good strong submissions, they were Wickham Market and Marlesford. Councillor Poulter urged all members to read them because they gave in great detail why they had raised concerns about the proposals.

Councillor Poulter commented that she had been lobbied in recent weeks, both for and against the proposals. Councillor Poulter emphasised that it was indeed late in the day for ESC to be looking at this; she was very cheered by the fact that the Leader and the Deputy Leader had obviously read the submissions and that they had mentioned some of the points in them. However, the environmental issues, that most people were concerned about, were that EDF had not given sufficient consideration to the environmental impact of the construction of both the northern and the southern park and ride sites in Wickham Market. With reference to the southern site, EDF must endeavour to achieve the best environmental protection and landscape outcomes. Councillor Poulter referred to the consultation exercises that had taken place and commented that the screening bund that was proposed for the north-west side of the boundary had been reduced by some 50% in length, with no consultation whatsoever. Apart from that, the vegetation was not indicated on the current plans and it was unclear what existing features would remain. Also, Councillor Poulter assumed that the park and ride would have continuous activity over 24 hours and that had not been taken into account. There were many other issues, Councillor Poulter commented, and they were all included within the assessments already mentioned. Councillor Poulter commented that she found it disappointing that EDF were saying now that it was too late to consider the rail option, because that would solve many of the questions. In conclusion, Councillor Poulter commented that she had been very encouraged by what the Leader and the Deputy Leader had said, and she did not doubt their sincerity; however, she was not convinced that EDF would meet the requirements of East Suffolk residents.

Councillor Fisher stated that he wished to propose a further amendment to the first recommendation, in that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment be added to the proposed delegated authority.

Speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, the Deputy Leader stated that he was content with the recommendations as they stood; he had a close working relationship with the Cabinet and if Sizewell C was progressed he would continue to ensure that Cabinet was kept apprised of all matters, together with updates being provided to Full Council and JLAG. Councillor Fisher agreed to withdraw his proposed amendment.

Councillor Lynch stated that he too had received many communications, both for and against the proposals. Councillor Lynch commented, as Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee, that if Sizewell C did go ahead the Audit and Governance Committee would need to see a clear governance structure; this would be vital to enable East Suffolk to be able to hold EDF accountable for all of their promises. It was important, Councillor Lynch stated, that ESC had a route for communications with EDF and any other party involved.

Councillor Ashdown stated that ESC was ready to pursue the best options for the residents of East Suffolk, whatever the decision may be. Councillor Ashdown referred to employment opportunities and improvements to infrastructure that were required with minimal damage to the beautiful countryside. This project had the capability for East Suffolk to grow its communities for many years to come. ESC agreed to become a greener district and to look to the future not using fossil fuels and wanting to be carbon neutral as soon as possible. To achieve this, clean electricity was needed; however, perhaps under the present climate conditions solar power and wind power could not provide that and therefore a new power station would be a valuable use for this resource. Councillor Ashdown stated he was confident that should the Government decide that Sizewell should be built ESC would work to ensure that the outcome for East Suffolk would be the best that it could be.

Councillor Coulam stated that while Sizewell B was being built, she owned a hotel and public house in Lowestoft and during that time she and many others in hospitality benefited quite considerably from it. She added that should Sizewell C and the Third Crossing progress they would benefit East Suffolk.

Councillor Byatt stated all members had more time to submit further representations, if they wished to, to the Deputy Leader. It was also important to encourage members of the public to do the same. It was vital to ensure that the people of East Suffolk, in respect of the Sizewell project, did not feel that it was being done to them. This was work in progress, not the final document.

Councillor Elliott stated that there were some fundamental problems with this application. He firstly referred to the site being too small, he compared it with the Hinkley Point power station, which used a much larger site, and said that Sizewell C would not fit without spreading the impact over a much wider area.

Councillor Elliott emphasised that he was arguing against Sizewell, not nuclear power. The impact on the AONB and the SSSIs was too great and could not be fully mitigated. Councillor Elliott referenced Planning Committee meetings where minor development in the AONB was frequently resisted but, here, the Council was taking a neutral view on the biggest building site in Europe in the middle of the AONB.

Councillor Elliott referred to the “tourism offer”, as referenced within the report. Tourism was vital to the East Suffolk economy and Councillor Elliott stated that his view was that the impact on the tourism offer would be devastating.

Councillor Gooch reiterated that members of the public needed to see this issue fully scrutinised; she stated that members were not dealing with a planning application; they were dealing with the long-term legacy of this particular project. Councillor Gooch stated that she appreciated that members were currently dealing with the Council's submission to a higher authority that would take the final adjudication, but she commented that members must take a focussed view of this. Councillor Gooch referred to the research project by a nuclear physicist who had said that the Council needed to be mindful of the fact that the Government was still looking for a long term nuclear repository. Councillor Gooch quoted "We are still casting about for a community that is willing to host a £12 billion geological disposal facility for nuclear waste for the next 100,000 years it will take for the radioactivity to decay to safe levels."

Councillor Gooch commented that if ESC was not prepared to host that repository then ESC should not be aiming for the benefits. If this was going to be a worst case scenario, where this was approved, Councillor Gooch commended the work of the officers and cabinet members to try to mitigate the appalling damage that would be caused, both on surface level, at deep focussed level, and at geological level in the community too.

Councillor Bird, in referring to the recommendations, stated that it was not in respect of being for or against nuclear power and the Sizewell application, or EDF, or the benefits or dis-benefits; it was about giving delegated authority to the Head of Planning and Coastal Management, in consultation with the Deputy Leader, to submit the relevant representations and thereafter to negotiate for mitigations and monitoring.

Councillor Beavan stated that, at some point, the Council needed to have the courage to state its opinion on what would be the most important development in the district for a generation. Councillor Beavan suggested that ESC could come back to this, early in the new year, and have a constructive debate after it had looked at the information and reflected on its views, and give a lead to the people of East Suffolk because that was what the Council was there for.

Councillor Ceresa stated that as a business owner within the tourism and hospitality industry she wanted to mention the benefits that she had found. Although Sizewell was a 45-minute drive to Lowestoft, the workers liked to stay in Lowestoft because they could go out for meals, visit pubs, go to the cinema and visit many attractions in the local area. Also, people working at Sizewell who had relocated there was another benefit to the community as it raised the aspirations of young people. Councillor Ceresa stated that she was thankful for the energy sector as during the Covid pandemic they had kept many businesses viable.

The Deputy Leader thanked all councillors for their participation. He, with officers, would reflect on the comments made, and Cabinet would consider his report at its meeting on 21 September 2020.

The Leader, firstly, thanked Councillor Elliott for pointing out his error at the beginning

of the meeting. The Leader, again, stated that the draft document before members was by no means the end of the council's involvement, it was in fact the start of negotiations with the Planning Inspector. As the examination progressed more detail would be submitted, there would be more evidence and, importantly, more challenges. In order to do this ESC would need to be agile and responsive, hence the need for the delegation contained within the recommendations. Each and every point could not be brought back to the Council for a full debate. The Leader noted Councillor Beavan's representations in respect of having a further debate in the new year, this was something that had already been raised by the local ward councillors and it was something that due consideration would be given to. However, the reality was that once the process started the Council would need to act at pace.

The Leader gave a reassurance that he, together with all Cabinet Members, would work together to seek to ensure that the programme of works, if consent was given, had the least possible impacts and the best possible mitigation in place.

The Leader referred to the many passionate, useful and relevant comments made by members and he gave his further assurance that there would always be due consideration to include members in the next and hopefully the final draft of the document that would be presented to Cabinet.

The Leader particularly acknowledged the valuable input from the local ward members and he stated that he knew they would continue to represent the views of their local communities and to ensure that the focus of ESC kept them firmly in mind.

The Leader further promoted all ward members to ensure that their local town and parish councils made their own relevant representations.

The Leader urged all members to endorse the continued ambition to achieve the best deal possible and, as such, to vote in favour of the recommendations moved.

Finally, the Leader reminded all members that they were not voting for or against the building of Sizewell; they were voting for or against the recommendations contained within the report.

RESOLVED

1. That Council endorses and supports the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development in conjunction with the Head of Planning and Coastal Management, in seeking delegated authority from Cabinet at its meeting on the 21 September 2020 in order to:

I. Be able to respond promptly to requests for information and documents during

the Development Consent Order process for the Sizewell C proposal including representing the Council/authorising technical officers to represent the Council at Hearings; and

II. Be authorised to deal with post consent discharging of requirements and monitoring and mitigation (Section 106).

2. That Council recommends that the draft Relevant Representation be;
- i) endorsed as a work in progress
 - ii) considered by the Deputy Leader Cabinet Member for Economic Development and the Head of Planning and Coastal Management, along with any updates/revisions to the said document, as detailed in the discussions at the meeting,
 - iii) reported for consideration by Cabinet on the 21 September 2020, along with the updates/revisions and discussions at the meeting, when it agrees the formal Relevant Representation submission.

Members had requested a recorded vote earlier in the meeting, the results of which are shown below:

Councillors who voted for the Recommendations

M Allen, P Ashdown, E Back, S Bird, N Brooks, S Burroughes, P Byatt, J Ceresa, J Cloke, M Cook, T Cooper, L Coulam, M Deacon, T Fryatt, S Gallant, T Green, C Hedgley, M Jepson, R Kerry, G Lynch, J Mallinder, F Mortimer, T Mortimer, M Newton, K Patience, M Pitchers, D Ritchie, C Rivett, K Robinson, L Smith, S Wiles (30)

Councillors who voted against the Recommendations

D Beavan, E Brambley-Crawshaw, G Elliott, J Fisher, L Gooch, R Smith-Lyte, E Thompson, C Topping, K Yule (9)

Councillors who abstained

J Bond, TJ Haworth-Culf, J Craig, C Poulter (4)

Councillor who had left the meeting

C Blundell, A Gee, S Lawson, C Poulter (4)

The Chairman thanked all members for their attendance and then closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 10:20 pm

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Chairman



COUNCIL

Wednesday, 25 November 2020

ENDORSEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDANCE NOTE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Environmental Guidance Note is a project which began in 2019 with the aim of providing simple, concise information on a range of key environmental topics for developers. The information includes guidance on best practices, suggested aims for developments and key sources of further information.
2. The Environmental Guidance Note is not a Supplementary Planning Document and does not contain policy, but it offers guidance to those undertaking new development and the renovation of existing buildings on how construction can mitigate the impact of climate change. As a guidance note use of the document is voluntary.
3. The Environmental Guidance Note was developed by Planning Policy Team in consultation with Building Control, Development Management, Design and Conservation, Environmental Protection, Ecology, Housing, Asset Management and Building Maintenance.
4. The recommendation is that the Council endorse the Environmental Guidance Note.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
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Wards Affected:	All Wards in the District
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Cabinet Member:	<p>Councillor James Mallinder Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment</p> <p>Councillor David Ritchie Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management</p>
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Supporting Officer:	Ruth Bishop Senior Planner 01502 523028 ruth.bishop@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Environmental Guidance Note was commissioned by the Environmental Task Group and has been produced in response to the climate emergency that was declared by the Council in July 2019. The Guidance Note supports the vision of the Council and the existing measures already put in place by the Council, including the commitment by the Council to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- 1.2 The Environmental Guidance Note is a clear, concise document that provides a snapshot of key environmental issues relating to the building industry. The guidance will assist those seeking to mitigate the impact of construction on climate change by offering support and advice on implementing the best practice principles and providing sources for further information. The guidance can be used by anyone looking to undertake new development or renovate existing buildings at any scale.
- 1.3 The Environmental Guidance Note is not a statutory document, and as such carries little planning “weight” in the determination of planning applications. However, the document can be used to assist with the production of information submitted to support planning applications and inform comments made on planning applications, in particular in relation to Waveney Local Plan Policy WLP8.28 (Sustainable Construction) and Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Policy 9.2 (Sustainable Construction) and the supporting text of the policies.

2. PRODUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDANCE NOTE

- 2.1 The Planning Policy and Delivery Team developed the guidance note in consultation with Building Control, Development Management, Design and Conservation, Environmental Protection, Ecology, Housing, Asset Management and Building Maintenance. The Cabinet Member for the Environment was consulted and provided input at various key stages in the development of the guidance note. An initial draft Environmental Guidance Note was presented to the Local Plan Working Group in March 2020 and the Environmental Task Group in April 2020.

3. CONTENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDANCE NOTE

- 3.1 The Environmental Guidance Note addresses key environmental issues to assist in bringing forward development that mitigates the impact of climate change. The introduction explains how the interactive document can be used and includes a brief list of the actions taken by the Government to address climate change and the actions taken by the East Suffolk Council to address climate change. The topics addressed in the Guidance Note are:
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Renewable Energy
 - Nature and Wildlife
 - Siting and Orientation
 - Sustainable Travel
 - Surface water run-off
 - Water Conservation
 - Materials and Waste
- 3.2 Each of the key environmental topics includes a summary of the issues, what East Suffolk Council is doing in relation to the issue, what to aim for in new development, and key sources

for further information. All Planning Policies, Building Regulations and websites listed under sources for further information are interactive hyperlinks to assist the document user.

- 3.3 The Environmental Guidance Note includes case studies, details of the Green Print Forum (a voluntary network facilitated by the Council to aid the delivery of the East Suffolk Business Plan) and relevant Council contact details for further information. The case studies show work carried out to improve the thermal efficiency of existing buildings and generate renewable energy.
- 3.4 The Environmental Guidance Note does not set building standards. The energy efficiency of all new and renovated buildings for residential and non-residential use is covered by Building Regulations. All developers must build and renovate to Building Regulation standards. The setting of Building Regulations is not within the control of the Council. Local Planning Authorities can, through planning policy in Local Plans, set energy performance standards for new housing that are higher than building regulations, but only up to the equivalent of Level 4 of the, now withdrawn, Code for Sustainable Homes (this is approximately 20% above current Building Regulations). Local requirements must also be based on robust evidence and consider the impact on the viability of development. The Government's Future Homes Standard plans to require new homes to have low carbon heating and increased energy efficiency. These proposed changes could impact Building regulations, Planning Policy and guidance.
- 3.5 The information in the Environmental Guidance Note supports the planning policies in the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (adopted September 2020) and the Waveney Local Plan (adopted March 2019) that seek to mitigate the impact of development on climate change. The Local Plans both contain planning policies that address sustainable transport, renewable energy, sustainable construction, flood risk, coastal erosion, and water management. The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan includes Policy SCLP9.2 on Sustainable Construction ([see page 150](#)) that requires all new developments of more than 10 dwellings to achieve a 20% reduction in CO2 emissions below Building Regulation requirements and for new non-residential development to meet the British Research Establishment Environment Assessment Method 'Very Good' standard. The Waveney Local Plan includes Policy WLP8.28 on Sustainable Construction ([see page 252](#)) that requires residential developments of 10 or more houses to submit a sustainability statement that demonstrates, where practical, they have incorporated a range of environmental measures. Both Local Plans contain sections on sustainable transport with policies that support the increased use of low-emission vehicles and their infrastructure, such as electric charging points.

4. HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK STRATEGIC PLAN?

- 4.1 The endorsement of the Environmental Guidance Note supports the achievement of the following Strategic Plan theme – Growing our Economy ('Build the right environment for East Suffolk') and Caring for our Environment ('Lead by example,' 'minimise waste, reuse material, increase recycling' and 'renewable energy').

5. FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The production and endorsement of the Environmental Guidance Note is covered by the existing budgets of the Planning Policy and Delivery Team.

The Environmental Guidance Note is not a statutory planning document and has not been subject to public consultation. The guidance note provides advice, support and encouragement to those undertaking new development and renovation of existing buildings. As a guidance note use of the document by developers is voluntary.

The Environmental Guidance note will be made available on the Council's website and circulated to Town and Parish Councils and Ward members. The document will be

publicised through a press release, announced on the Council's social media, and featured in the Planning and Building Control Newsletter.

The Environmental Guidance Note will be reviewed and updated as appropriate to ensure advice is up-to-date with the latest government legislation, advancement in technology, and best practice principles to mitigate the impact of development on climate change.

6. OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Screening Assessment was undertaken on the Environmental Guidance Note. The Screening Assessment concluded that no negative impact upon any group with protected characteristics was identified and therefore a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

7. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 An alternative option would be to not endorse the Environmental Guidance Note. However, this would represent a missed opportunity to fully support the implementation of environmentally responsible measures that would reduce the impact of the building industry on climate change and to support the Council's Strategic Plan priority to 'Build the right environment for East Suffolk'.

8. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The Environmental Guidance Note supports the strategic aims of the Council to 'Build the right environment for East Suffolk' and for 'Caring for our Environment', by providing advice that will assist in bringing forward new development that mitigates the impact of climate change. It provides an important instrument to show Council leadership and guidance, and it illustrates how individuals and corporations can come together and join East Suffolk's environmental vision and aspirations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council note and endorse the content of the Environmental Guidance Note.
2. That the Head of Planning and Coastal Management, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment, is authorised to make any factual or typographical amendments to the Environmental Guidance Note.

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Environmental Guidance Note
Appendix B	Equality Impact Assessment

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Please note that copies of background papers have not been published on the Council's website www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk but copies of the background papers listed below are available for public inspection free of charge by contacting the relevant Council Department.

Date	Type	Available From
2019	Waveney Local Plan	https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/waveney-local-plan/ .
2020	Suffolk Coastal Local Plan	https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Planning-Policy-and-Local-Plans/Suffolk-Coastal-Local-Plan/Adopted-Suffolk-Coastal-Local-Plan/East-Suffolk-Council-Suffolk-Coastal-Local-Plan.pdf

Environmental Guidance Note

Introduction

What is the purpose of this guidance note?

This Guidance Note has been prepared by East Suffolk Council in response to the climate change emergency that was declared by the Council in July 2019. Whilst this is not a statutory document that will be used to determine planning applications, the Guidance Note supports the vision of the Council and the existing measures already put in place by the Council and on a national scale, including commitment by the Council to be carbon neutral by 2030. The Guidance Note provides simple, concise information on best practices for developers seeking to mitigate the impact of the building industry on climate change. The Guidance Note includes information on the measures implemented by East Suffolk Council.



Actions taken by Government to address Climate Change

Click on each bullet point to find out more:

- Climate Change Act 2008
- Signee of UN Paris Climate Change Agreement 2016
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report 2018
- 25 Year Environment Plan 2018/NPPF 2019
- Parliamentary Declaration of Climate Emergency 2019
- Future Homes Standard

Actions taken by East Suffolk Council to address Climate Change

Click on each bullet point to find out more:

- Implementation of Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
- Establishment of East Suffolk Greenprint Forum
- Historic Suffolk Coastal & Waveney Local Plan Policies
- Declaration of Climate Emergency 2019
- East Suffolk Local Plans Policies
- ESC Environmental Guidance Note

How to use this document?

The Environmental Guidance Note is an interactive document that provides advice on how to help address the issue of climate change in relation to new development. The guidance can be used by anyone looking to undertake new development or renovate existing buildings at any scale.

Each page provides a snapshot of information about each topic and it is encouraged that users refer to the section titled 'Key sources for further information' which provides a list of links that can be clicked on to access more information on that topic.

Whilst not a planning requirement, the Guidance Note can be used to inform design and access statements, Neighbourhood Plans, comments made on planning applications, general household maintenance and much more.



Energy Efficiency

A well-insulated building with an efficient boiler can reduce energy consumption and bills. Renovations to existing buildings should consider what improvements can be made to the levels of insulation, the method of heating and electrical appliances. Extensions and new buildings should be constructed to standards that exceed the minimum Building Regulation requirements achieving sustainable BREEAM or Passivhaus standards.



What the Council is doing:

East Suffolk Council is regularly improving housing by installing new boilers, central heating, additional insulation and solar panels on its properties. East Suffolk Council is committed to increasing the energy efficiency of key buildings within its ownership and an energy efficiency review has been commissioned that will determine the schedule of works and the energy efficiency targets for those buildings.

Building Control offer pre-application advice to those renovating, extending and constructing new buildings. The Planning Team offer pre-application advice for planning applications. Historic England and the East Suffolk Design and Conservation Team offer advice on renovating and adapting listed and historic properties.



What to aim for?

House renovations and extensions should consider:

- Install a smart meter.
- Replace the boiler and update to smart controls.
- Installing low energy appliances.
- Installing double or triple glaze doors and windows.
- Upgrading the insulation (eg. loft & hatch insulation, cavity insulation, batten and insulate internal walls or apply external wall insulation).
- Renovate to the BREEAM Domestic Refurbishment standard.

New build developments should consider:

- Construct new dwellings in the Suffolk Coastal area to a standard 20% higher than minimum required by Part L Building Regulations.
- Construct new buildings to Passivhaus standards.
- Construct new dwellings to BREEAM Code for Sustainable Homes standard.
- Achieve the BREEAM Home Quality Mark certification.

Key Sources for further information

[Energy Performance Certificates](#)

[Historic England](#)

[Building Control and Regulation information](#)

[BREEAM](#)

[Passivhaus standards](#)

[Community Building Advice Service](#)

[Sustainable Construction WLP8.28 & SCLP9.2](#) [Planning Policies](#)

[Building Regulations Part L](#)

Please note the information provided is for guidance only and is not a planning application requirement.

Renewable Energy



Renewable energy is generated from natural sources such as the sun, wind and water. Reducing our use and dependence on fossil fuels and switching to renewable energy is key to lowering our carbon emissions. This can be achieved by integrating renewable energy technology into new builds and installing them into existing builds. There is a range of technology available to generate renewable energy for individual buildings which reduce dependency on the grid, reduce energy bills, and in some cases make money by selling surplus energy to the energy provider.

There are grants and schemes available to help with purchase of renewable energy technology. These include Suffolk's Greener Homes Loan Scheme which provides loans for energy saving measures, and the Renewable Heat Incentive which is a government scheme that offers financial incentives.

What the Council is doing:

The Council has installed over 250 air source heat pumps in homes without access to gas. Ten retired living schemes have been fitted with solar PV panels which generate an income through feedback tariffs. There is an ongoing programme of improvements at existing leisure facilities with Bungay Pool and Gym installing a combined heat and power system. Preliminary investigations are underway to see if solar panels can be installed on East Suffolk House. The Council is exploring whether there are any opportunities to collaborate on a clean energy generation project and are reviewing the current programme of clean energy generation on Council housing.



What to aim for?

Developers should consider integrating into new builds and installing into renovated and extended buildings renewable energy sources:

- Solar panels.
- Solar water heating.
- Domestic roof-mounted wind turbines.
- Air source heat pumps.
- Ground source heat pumps.
- Thermal stores.

Key Sources for further information

[Green Suffolk](#)

[Energy Saving Trust](#)

[Community Building Advice Service](#)

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy [WLP2.27 & SCLP9.1](#) Planning Policies

Please note the information provided is for guidance only and is not a planning application requirement.

Nature and Wildlife

Where possible, existing trees and established vegetation should be protected and enhanced when designing the layout of new developments. Trees and vegetation provide the setting for a development and contribute significantly to the sense of place and wellbeing and consideration of this is fundamental to new developments. In cases where trees are required to be removed, the Council encourages action to increase tree and vegetation planting which is appropriate for the geology and landscape and be a native wildlife-rich species. It may not be possible to plant trees in a meaningful way as part of developments on individual residencies, in such instances the Council would encourage donations to community planting schemes. Opportunities to diversify the species across the District will be supported but only where these are appropriate for the warmer climate conditions being experienced.

Opportunities to encourage and support wildlife should also be taken on all developments. Exterior lighting should be angled correctly so that only intended areas are illuminated as excess lighting can have a detrimental impact on wildlife. The introduction of provisions such as bird nesting boxes, bat roosting boxes, ponds, insect hotels and hedgehog holes in fences or walls will be supported. Different species have different nesting and roosting requirements and the more boxes provided, the higher the chance of birds occupying them. Nesting boxes should be located in a quiet part of the site, away from human disturbance and out of reach of predators such as cats. Ideally boxes should be integrated into new buildings and should face between North and East to maximise light and reduce impact from the elements.



New developments should use gardens to support wildlife, through features such as ponds or plants which are good for bees and butterflies. Developers have the opportunity to create wildlife “corridors” by thinking about gardens as part of a wider jigsaw with other surrounding gardens and green spaces. Creating holes in the bottom of boundary fences and walls or replacing these with hedges will enable wildlife like hedgehogs to move between these areas and increase the habitat available for them.

What the Council is doing:

ESC supports ecological enhancements on its own land including through the introduction of Swift Boxes and “green” roofs at East Suffolk House in Melton and changes to how areas of grass and other vegetation is managed to benefit wildlife.

What to aim for?

Layout developments so that gardens form wildlife corridors.

Plant appropriate native species that don’t require extra watering and support wildlife.

Plant trees or donate to planting schemes managed by organisations such as the Woodland Trust, Tree Council or AONB Unit.

Use hedges or fences with hedgehog holes to enable movement of animals.

Please note the information provided is for guidance only and is not a planning application requirement.

Key Sources for further information

[The Tree Council](#)

[Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#)

[Bat Conservation Trust](#)

[Swift Conservation](#)

[Greensuffolk.org](#)

[Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service](#)

[Royal Horticultural Society](#)

Biodiversity and Geodiversity [WLP8.34](#) & [SCLP10.1](#) & [SCLP10.3](#) Planning Policies

Siting & Orientation

The siting and orientation of the site should make good use of the natural features to ensure that the existing character of the site remains. Siting buildings in locations which minimises the need to change existing site levels and features is supported as this treats existing features as assets rather than constraints. New development of any scale should therefore aim to take advantage of existing topography, landscape features, trees, buildings and site orientation.



Maximising opportunities for lighting and heating of buildings by passive and active solar gain should be taken. To maximise access to the sun, buildings should be designed with their main elevation facing south or within 30 degrees to make best use of solar gain. Main living spaces should be located on elevations facing south, with rooms such as bathrooms, cloakrooms and utility rooms on northern elevations as these normally require less heating. Too much solar gain can however cause issues as energy is then needed to cool the internal parts of the building.

The orientation of buildings creates opportunities to make best use of natural day lighting that reduces energy demand for new buildings alongside appropriate insulation and natural ventilation. Orientating buildings in this way also allows for developments to respond to its surroundings and local character whilst enhancing the existing landscaping, natural and semi-natural features on site as supported by the Local Plan policies.

The Council is supportive of developments which include space for occupants to grow their own vegetables and increase the number of allotments as community facilities across the District. Opportunities to install solar PV in Conservation Areas are also possible subject to specific guidance.



What to aim for?

Buildings should be designed with their main elevation facing south.

Layouts which provide main living spaces with good access to natural light.

Orientation of buildings which take account of existing landscape and topographical features and protect the amenity of the surrounding areas.

Please note the information provided is for guidance only and is not a planning application requirement.

Key Sources for further information

[Suffolk Design Charter](#)

[National Planning Policy Framework](#)

[Building regulations](#)

[Building for Life 12](#)

[WLP8.23](#) | [WLP8.29](#) | [WLP8.30](#) Waveney Planning Policies and [SCLP8.3](#) | [SCLP11.1](#) | [SCLP11.2](#) Suffolk Coastal Planning Policies

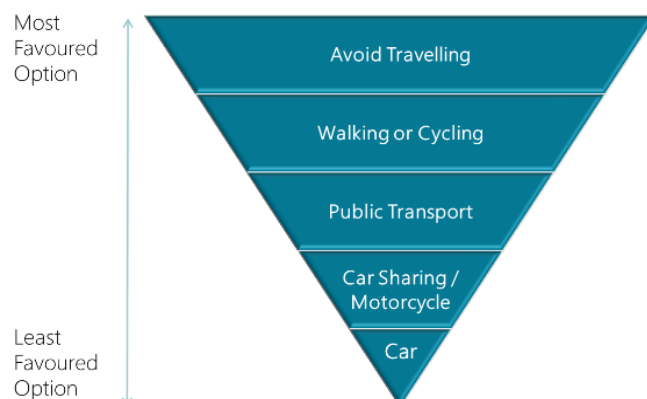
[Solar PV in Conservation Area Guide](#)

Sustainable Travel

The transport sector is considered as one of the worst polluting sectors, and recent national statistics¹ suggest this to be true. Indeed, the statistics show that a large majority of the transport emissions come from road transport. In order to address this, the government is incentivising the take up of electric and/or hybrid cars through provision of grants to help reduce the cost of buying such vehicles. The Council is also encouraging the use of electric vehicles through provision of charging points at Council offices. Furthermore, the Council is in the process of increasing the travel efficiency of its vehicle fleet demonstrating leadership in travelling sustainably.

The Council, as part of its planning functions, is planning for growth across the District over the coming years and is actively engaging with neighbouring authorities and infrastructure providers to encourage modal shift to sustainable forms of transport. Where travel by car in East Suffolk cannot be avoided, the Council is intending to make it as easy as possible to find parking spaces throughout its town centres and the payment service more digitally friendly. This will help to reduce the known nuisance of 'patrolling' where cars cruise around the town centre searching for an appropriate parking space impacting on air quality and creating noise pollution. The improved payment service through use of the RingGo app will require less cash collection trips to be made to pay-and-display machines, thereby reducing emissions of the Council's vehicle fleet.

The Travel Hierarchy



Event Travel Planning

Employment premises often include within them vehicle parking spaces. However, often these parking spaces are not used efficiently due to the premises being closed over the weekend, for example, where the hours of work are Monday to Friday. This can result in anti-social parking instances where parking spaces could be made available by a nearby employment premises for a weekend event. Employers should consider more efficient use of their parking spaces on this basis. The Council is currently working on an event travel policy.

What to aim for?

Support the increasing use of electric and low emission vehicles –

- Incorporate electric vehicle charging facilities in garages and for on-plot parking spaces.
- Provide ducting and electricity supply to communal and public parking spaces to enable future installation of charging points.

Employers can –

- Set up a car share scheme within your organisation and provide priority car parking for car sharers.
- Consider car park charges for those of your employees who live within walking distance if they chose to drive to work.

Key Sources for further information

[Suffolk County Council sustainable transport information](#)

[Pluginsuffolk – the UK's first fully open fast charging network](#)

[2018 UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Provisional Figures](#)

[Suffolk County Council Travel Plan](#)

[Zap Map \(locations of EV charging points\)](#)

Please note the information provided is for guidance only and is not a planning application requirement.

Sustainable Travel

What the Council is doing:

The Council recognises that guiding development towards areas that are located near sustainable transport hubs such as rail stations and bus corridors, increases the plausibility of sustainable travel for residents, employees and visitors alike.



Sustainable travel is strongly encouraged throughout the Council through initiatives such as the cycle to work scheme, electric pool car hire, bike and car sharing provision and electric charging point provision. The location of Council buildings in both Melton and Lowestoft close to sustainable transport hubs encourages staff and visitors to travel sustainably. Video conferencing facilities are also provided across various Council buildings in order to negate the need to travel for meetings etc. This is a facility the Council is considering expanding upon in the future, and should be strongly considered by employers when designing their workplace. Showering facilities should also be provided in the workplace to facilitate non-motorised forms of travel to work, and the Council currently provides such facilities to its employees.

The Council is currently developing a Cycle Strategy for East Suffolk which will highlight the connectivity of key cycling routes and identify cycle infrastructure improvements. Given the relatively flat terrain of East Suffolk, the Council is keen to encourage and facilitate increased levels of cycling across the District and has managed to host national cycling events such as the Women's Tour of Britain in recent times. Greater Anglia provide for bicycles on their local train services across the district, and a number of rail stations throughout the district provide cycle parking and park and ride facilities.



What to aim for?

Layout new roads to serve and enhance Public Rights of Way. Provide safe and convenient places to cross roads. Prioritise pedestrian and cyclist desired lines of travel.

Connect pedestrian and cycle routes within developments to existing nearby routes.

Provide secure cycle parking facilities in public spaces and near building entrances to encourage take up of cycling.

Ensure every new dwelling has space for the dry and secure storage of bicycles.

Key Sources for further information

Sustainable Transport [WLP8.21](#) & [SCLP7.1](#) & [SCLP7.2](#) Planning Policies

[Cycle to work scheme implementation guidance for employers](#)

[Waveney Cycle Strategy](#)

[Government grants for electric and/or hybrid vehicles](#)

[Greater Anglia bike provision](#)

Please note the information provided is for guidance only and is not a planning application requirement.

Surface Water Run-off

What the Council is doing:

Surface water run-off rates can often be exacerbated by intense periods of rainfall onto impermeable surfaces such as tarmac and concrete which then creates hazards for people and vehicles alike. Given the onset of climate change and the increased likelihood of intense periods of rainfall as a result of this², there is a need to address surface water run-off in all forms of development.



Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are a globally recognised means of naturally draining surface water run-off and are seen as a sustainable method of addressing surface water run-off in development. Systems can include swales, infiltration basins and reed beds. Suffolk County Council are the Lead Local Flood Authority and should be consulted when designing SuDS into development, particularly where the public highway is likely to be affected. SuDS design should provide a water quality, biodiversity and amenity benefit along with the natural water quantity benefits they provide.

The Council's offices at East Suffolk House in Melton include a green roof which is a form of SuDS commonly installed in urban areas where there is less space to utilize ground level SuDS. As such, this demonstrates the Council's willingness to address surface water run-off in the most sustainable and efficient way. [A living wall installed on M&S in Norwich](#) is another good example of this. The Council is currently investigating other ways of incorporating SuDS into its assets.



What to aim for?

Implement a range of Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) measures wherever possible.

Prioritise above ground SuDS measures for ease of maintenance.

Consider building-centered SuDS measures such as green roofs or living walls to ensure the most efficient and sustainable use of land.

Avoid installing impermeable surfaces.

Avoid installing surface water drainage inlets near smoking areas or waste storage areas.

Key Sources for further information

SuDS and Flood Risk [WLP8.24](#) & [SCLP9.6](#) Planning Policies

[CIRIA SuDS Manual](#)

[Susdrain website](#)

[Suffolk County Council guidance to assist in creating SuDS](#)

[IPCC Summary for Policymakers](#)

[Only Rain Down the Drain campaign](#)

Please note the information provided is for guidance only and is not a planning application requirement.

Water Conservation

Climate change will impact the weather including levels and patterns of rainfall in East Anglia. The Environment Agency has identified East Anglia as an area of serious water stress, and both Essex and Suffolk Water and Anglia Water have identified managing demand as a strategy to ensure sufficient water resources in the future.

The average person in the UK uses 150 litres of water a day. A shower can use 49 litres, brushing your teeth can use 6 litres a minute, and a leaky toilet can waste 215 litres of water a day costing £200 a year.¹ Developers undertaking new development have an opportunity to take numerous steps to reduce the amount of water used during construction and increase the water efficiency of the completed build.

The government allows for greater water efficiency measures to be set through local plan policies. Policy WLP2.28 of the Waveney Local Plan and SCLP9.2 of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan require new residential developments to achieve water efficiency of 110 litres/person/day.



What the Council is doing:

East Suffolk Council is working with neighbouring authorities and relevant stakeholders to devise a holistic water management approach. This includes new developments demonstrating that water can be made available, adequate foul water treatment and disposal exists, and incorporating water efficiency and re-use.

What to aim for?

New homes and extensions should be fitted with;

- Water meters
- Showers with low flow shower heads.
- Spray taps.
- Low flush or dual flush toilets.
- Water efficient appliances (eg washing machines and dishwashers).
- Rainwater harvesting.
- Achieve water efficiency standards of 110 litres/person/day.

Gardens in new developments should provide;

- Water butts.
- Have landscaping schemes that use plants that are not dependent on additional watering / do not require a large amount of water.

Key Sources for further information

[Essex & Suffolk Water usage calculator](#)

[Anglian Water – help and advice](#)

[Sustainable Construction WLP8.28 & SCLP9.2 Planning Policies](#)

[Holistic Water Management SCLP9.7 Planning Policy](#)

[Building Regulations Part H](#)

¹ <https://www.eswater.co.uk/savewater>

Please note the information provided is for guidance only and is not a planning application requirement.

Materials and Waste

Where practicable, the use of locally sourced, reused and recycled materials should be prioritised during the construction of new builds or conversions. Furthermore, circularity should be considered where possible in order to deconstruct and reuse materials after they have been used. [The Enterprise Centre, Norwich](#) is a great example of using locally sourced materials to achieve sustainability and low-embodied carbon construction.

When using new materials in construction, it is important to understand how much embodied energy each type of material has. Using materials with low embodied energy will considerably reduce the carbon impact of a project. To help understand the environmental impact of specific materials, the BRE Green Guide to Specification provides environmental ratings for a variety of widely used construction materials.



What the Council is doing:

The Council is working closely with suppliers to allow use of appropriate materials wherever possible.

Policy SCLP9.2: Sustainable Construction in the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan and Policy WLP8.28: Sustainable Construction in the Waveney Local Plan outlines what is required from new developments in terms of construction material use.

What to aim for?

Source materials locally and responsibly.

Prioritise the use of reused and recycled materials.

Use materials with low embodied energy.

Please note the information provided is for guidance only and is not a planning application requirement.

Key Sources for further information

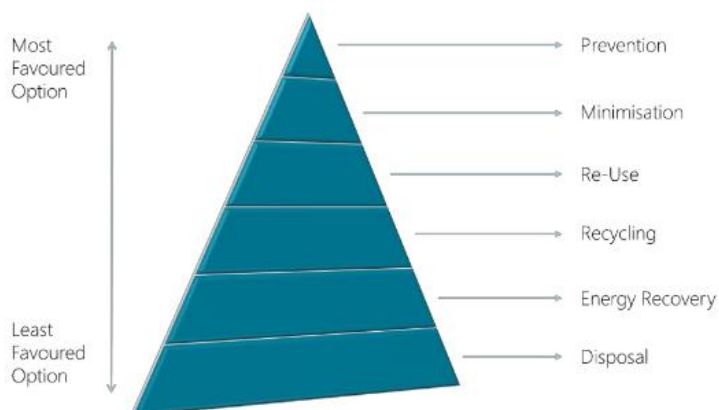
[BRE Green Guide to Specification \(Subscription required\)](#)

[Circularity in the Built Environment: Case Studies](#)

Waste minimisation sits near the top of the waste hierarchy and is therefore a key objective throughout the construction and lifetime of buildings. Waste minimisation is achieved by reducing consumption, reusing and recycling products as often as possible. One way to facilitate this is by using WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) which identifies principles that can be incorporated into the design process to reduce waste.



The Waste Hierarchy



Developers should seek the opportunity to incorporate composting areas on new developments as it is recognised that treatment of waste at its source is the most sustainable method of treatment. It is also recommended that compost bins are located in shaded areas, away from the house and are placed on soil to allow access for worms and microbes. The [Suffolk Waste Partnership](#) has launched a scheme that offers residents the chance to purchase subsidised composting bins.

Materials and Waste



Suffolk households produce 52,000 tonnes of food waste every year. The Council is therefore making it a priority to reduce the amount of food waste that is produced in East Suffolk. The first step is to consider how food waste can be reduced within your own home by buying only what you need, storing and portioning correctly and reusing leftovers. More information on how to reduce food waste can be found at [love food hate waste](#) and [foodsavvy](#). The Garden Waste Scheme is a bin collection service provided by the Council to collect food waste for residents in the former Suffolk Coastal area.

New development should have enough space to store sufficient wheelie bins for each individual dwelling. Any designated space for waste receptacles should be situated well away from any surface water drain inlet.

Furthermore, there is a district-wide focus to cut down on using plastic by re-using and recycling items such as plastic bottles, carrier bags, etc. A good example of reusing can be seen in many local stores in East Suffolk that offer customers the opportunity to purchase goods by bringing their own reusable containers to refill. [Suffolk Recycling](#) is a useful resource that provides guidance on how to reduce your plastic waste in a variety of ways.



If you have a designated smoking area at your organisation, situate it away from any surface water drains or vegetated areas and provide a disposal receptacle for smokers to use.

What the Council is doing:

A lot of waste is produced when constructing new buildings and, in some instances, demolishing existing structures and replacing them with new buildings is unsustainable. The Council is retrofitting energy saving features to the existing housing stock to maximise carbon reduction. Additionally, the Council work to recycle waste products wherever practical including concrete, plastics, metal and paper.

What to aim for?

Adapt existing buildings instead of demolishing or building new, where possible.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle building materials where possible and only buy the quantity of building materials you need.

Design the layout of new developments to include -

- Composting facilities in gardens.
- 'Bring sites' on developments.
- Wheelie bin storage.

Provide drinking water fountains in public spaces to reduce consumption of single use bottles.

Key Sources for further information

[East Suffolk Recycling Bin Guide](#)

[WRAP – Designing out Waste: A design team guide for buildings](#)

[Suffolk Waste Partnership Scheme](#)

[East Suffolk Council Food Waste](#)

[Love Food Hate Waste](#)

[Foodsavvy](#)

[Suffolk Recycling](#)

[Refill Suffolk](#)

Please note the information provided is for guidance only and is not a planning application requirement.

Case Studies



Example of a property in East Suffolk that has been renovated with external insulation applied and rendered. The property was also installed with double glazing to improve energy efficiency and a 6 bike cycle rack to increase the opportunity for sustainable travel.



Example of a retired living scheme in East Suffolk that was fitted with a commercial air source heating system to improve the energy efficiency of the building.



Example of a property in East Suffolk that has installed a solar thermal heating system to reduce the amount energy the property consumes.



Example of a retired living scheme in East Suffolk where a south facing roof face provided an opportunity to install Solar PV panels to improve the energy efficiency of the building.

Green Print Forum

The Greenprint Forum is a voluntary network facilitated by the Council to aid the delivery of the East Suffolk Business Plan. It is a long established and valuable source of further information and the Council is supportive of the vision set out by the Greenprint Forum. For more information about the Greenprint Forum, their vision or opportunities to get involved, visit the Green Print Forum webpage on the Council’s website.



Contact Details for Further Information

The best way to find further information on any of the topics is to use the links in the key sources for further information or visit the Council's website. However, if further information is required, please see the contact details below for each team.



For general enquiries including for pre-application planning advice, planning applications and new development please contact the **Development Management team**



Website: [Pre-application planning advice](#)

Email: dutyofficer@east Suffolk.gov.uk

Phone: **01502 523100**

For enquiries regarding strategic development and planning policies please contact the **Planning Policy and Delivery team**



Website: [Planning Policy and Delivery](#)

Email: PlanningPolicy@east Suffolk.gov.uk

Phone: **01394 444557**

For enquiries regarding building regulations please contact the **Building Control team**



Website: [Building Control](#)

Email: Buildingcontrol@east Suffolk.gov.uk

Phone: **01394 444219**

For enquiries regarding Quality of Place awards please contact the **Design and Conservation team**



Website: [Design and Conservation](#)

Email: Conservation@east Suffolk.gov.uk

Phone: **01394 444610**

For enquiries regarding ecology please contact the **Ecology team**



Email: Ecology@east Suffolk.gov.uk

Phone: **01394 444595**

Your reference number is EQIA265601749.

Agenda Item 9

Thank you for submitting Equality Impact Analysis (EqIA)

ES/0554

Service area/Team conducting EqIA: Planning Services

Officer conducting the EqIA:: Ruth Bishop

Officer email address:: Ruth.Bishop@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Responsible Cabinet Member:: Cllr James Mallinder

Title of project / policy / Initiative or Action relating to this EqIA:: Environmental Guidance Note

Brief description of what the project / policy / initiative or action aims to achieve:: The Environmental Guidance Note is a clear, concise document that provides a snapshot of key environmental issues relating to the building industry. The guidance will assist those seeking to mitigate the impact of construction on climate change by offering support and advice on implementing the best practice principles and providing sources for further information. The guidance can be used by anyone looking to undertake new development or renovate existing buildings at any scale.

The Environmental Guidance Note is not a Supplementary Planning Document and does not contain policy. As a guidance note use of the document is voluntary.

Date of EqIA:: 27/10/2020

Age: No impact

Reason for your decision: The document contains guidance to assist developers in mitigating the impact of construction on climate change and therefore will not discriminate against this group.

Disability: No impact

Reason for your decision: The document contains guidance to assist developers in mitigating the impact of construction on climate change and therefore will not discriminate against this group.

Gender reassignment: No impact

Reason for your decision: The document contains guidance to assist developers in mitigating the impact of construction on climate change and therefore will not discriminate against this group.

Marriage and civil partnership: No impact

Reason for your decision: The document contains guidance to assist developers in mitigating the impact of construction on climate change and therefore will not discriminate against this group.

Pregnancy and maternity: No impact

Reason for your decision: The document contains guidance to assist developers in mitigating the impact of construction on climate change and therefore will not discriminate against this group.

Race: No impact

Reason for your decision: The document contains guidance to assist developers in mitigating the impact of construction on climate change and therefore will not discriminate against this group.

Religion or belief: No impact

Reason for your decision: The document contains guidance to assist developers in mitigating the impact of construction on climate change and therefore will not discriminate against this group.

Sex: No impact

Reason for your decision: The document contains guidance to assist developers in mitigating the impact of construction on climate change and therefore will not discriminate against this group.

Sexual orientation: No impact

Reason for your decision: The document contains guidance to assist developers in mitigating the impact of construction on climate change and therefore will not discriminate against this group.

What evidence or data has been collated or used to support the completion of this Equality Impact Analysis?: Engagement with other internal teams/ departments

Please give details for Engagement: The Planning Policy and Delivery Team developed the guidance note in consultation with Building Control, Development Management, Design and Conservation, Environmental Protection, Ecology, Housing, Asset Management and Building Maintenance. An initial draft Environmental Guidance Note was presented to the Local Plan Working Group in March 2020 and the Environmental Task Group in April 2020.

Do you require any information or outcome relating to the policy, project, initiative or action to be presented to the public in a different language or form and how do you propose to do this?: The document will be published on the Council's website. The document may be requested in a different language. When such requests are received the Customer Services Team will be involved with ensuring this request is actioned.

As a result of completing this EqlA, has the Author, Service Team, Project Manager etc. made any changes or adjustments to the Policy / Project / Initiative or Action?: No

Is the policy, project, initiative or action subject to equality monitoring?: No



FULL COUNCIL

Wednesday, 25 November 2020

REVIEW OF THE LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME FOR 2021/22

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Each year the Council is required to consider whether to review its Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS). This report advises Full Council of the 2020 annual review and proposes to maintain the current scheme for 2021/22.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
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Wards Affected:	All Wards in East Suffolk
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Cabinet Member:	Councillor Maurice Cook Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources
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Supporting Officers:	<p>Brian Mew Finance Consultant 01394 444571 brian.mew@eastssuffolk.gov.uk</p> <p>Adrian Mills Benefits and Billing Strategic Manager ARP 01842 756491 adrian.mills@angliarevenues.gov.uk</p>
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Councils are required to consider whether to review their LCTRS schemes annually. Where it is determined to retain the existing scheme, this must be decided by 11th March of the preceding year.
- 1.2 Where Councils seek to amend their scheme, it is necessary to consult preceptors and stakeholders prior to a wider consultation to inform a final scheme design by 28th February of the preceding year.

2 CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 This is now the eighth year of LCTRS; a locally set scheme that replaced the nationally set Council Tax Benefits (CTB) scheme from April 2013. In 2013/14 a one-off Government grant compensated in part for the reduction in Government funding for the Working Age scheme that year. This meant that the maximum LCTRS awarded was 91.5%. This scheme, adopted by both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, has basically been maintained since, and the current East Suffolk LCTRS scheme provides a maximum benefit of 91.5% for working age claimants and the scheme also protects War Pensioners. The aim in designing the scheme was to achieve a balance in charging an amount of Council Tax to encourage customers back into work whilst setting the amount charged at an affordable and recoverable level.
- 2.2 By setting the amount payable at 8.5% of the charge, in most cases, where a customer is not paying, we can affect recovery through attachment to benefit within a year and so the charge with costs is recoverable. If the amount payable was set higher, then it is possible the debt would not be recoverable and possibly create a culture of non-payment of Council Tax.
- 2.3 For 2014/2015 to 2017/18 the original scheme was retained, except that allowances and premiums (the amounts of income from state-administered benefits such as Jobseekers' Allowance) were increased in line with other benefits such as Housing Benefit.
- 2.4 For the 2018/19 scheme there was a consultation on a proposal to harmonise the scheme to DWP welfare reforms introduced for Housing Benefit and LCTRS for Pensioners, and introduce closer links to Universal Credit data share for claims, thereby removing the stipulation to make a separate claim. This was subsequently approved and introduced.
- 2.5 For 2019/20, East Suffolk Council kept the same scheme as its predecessor councils had operated for 2018/19.
- 2.6 For 2020/21 the only change, after consultation, was to introduce a fluctuating earnings rule to the treatment of Universal Credit. A weekly tolerance level of £15 (£65 monthly) was introduced to reduce the number of monthly reassessments impacting customers every time a revised Universal Credit notification is received.

3 SCHEME REVIEW

- 3.1 Early results demonstrate that the fluctuating earnings rule introduced in April 2020 is meeting modelling forecasts by reducing customer reassessments by a third.
- 3.2 UC is designed to be paid monthly, calculated on the customer's circumstances, including Real Time Information (RTI) earnings data from HMRC. Given that customer's circumstances, especially earnings, fluctuate, this leads to monthly revised UC awards sent to the Council by the DWP.
- 3.3 Council Tax Support scheme rules had required the Council to revise awards when a customer's Universal Credit changes, leading to reassessment of Council Tax Support. In turn this meant customers received a revised Council Tax bill for the balance due for the year and

had to amend their payment arrangements, typically direct debit instructions. Increasingly, this became a monthly occurrence for customers.

- 3.4 The introduction of a fluctuating earnings rules and the links established to UC data share and removing the requirement for customers to make a separate claim application, have been particularly beneficial for customers during the pandemic this year, given the significant increase in workload.

4 COUNCIL TAX HARDSHIP FUND

- 4.1 The Government has allocated £500m to authorities to administer a Council Tax Hardship Fund. ESC's allocation of this is £1.917m, and this was received on 3rd April 2020. This funding is used to reduce the council tax liability of working age Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) claimants by a maximum of £150. Where a taxpayer's liability for 2020/21 is, following the application of council tax support, less than £150, then their liability is reduced to nil. Although linked to LCTRS, these reductions to council tax do not form part of the LCTRS and the cost of this scheme will be transferred from the Collection Fund to General Fund at the end of the financial year
- 4.2 As at 30th September 2020, 11,916 working-age LCTRS recipients have been re-billed with a hardship fund discount applied to their council tax liability, and the Council has applied around 69% of its funding allocation. Any funding remaining after existing and new LCTRS claimants are funded could be used to provide further reliefs at the authority's discretion. However, there is concern that the funding allocation may be insufficient if LCTRS claims spike upwards for the second half of the year as furlough and job support schemes unwind, and caseload will need to be carefully monitored before any proposals for this could be brought forward.
- 4.3 By covering the amount of the council tax that LCTRS claimants are required to pay, the Hardship Fund has improved the collection position for existing claimants. However, for new claimants the award of LCTRS relief for the council tax not covered by this will impact on the council tax collection fund position and potentially the council tax base if the increase in caseload is forecast to continue into 2021/22.
- 4.4 It is not known at this stage as to whether the Hardship Fund arrangements will be extended into next year, although the Council and other local authorities are lobbying strongly. There are concerns that if this measure is not extended, then collection rates will be affected as the Council will be seeking to collect council tax from claimants who, in some cases will not have paid council tax for over a year.
- 4.5 Against this uncertain background, it is not proposed that there be any changes to the LCTRS for 2021/22. It is proposed that a full review, taking into account COVID-19 learning, is undertaken early next year to develop a range of options for consideration and possible consultation.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 As no changes are proposed to the scheme, no formal consultation has been required.

6 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK STRATEGIC PLAN?

- 6.1 The LCTRS provides important support to people in East Suffolk, directly contributing to the key theme of Enabling Communities. The changes introduced in April 2020 are reducing customer notifications and contact; eliminating continuous changes to the benefits they

receive through stable council tax repayment arrangements; and making their financial position much more stable.

7 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None arising directly from this report.

8 OTHER KEY ISSUES

8.1 The existing LCTRS scheme continues the DWP's previous Council Tax Benefit scheme conventions established over many years, regarding protections for vulnerable groups, including children, the disabled and the Armed Forces. An Equality impact Assessment (EIA) is not required where no changes are proposed to the scheme.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 A more significant policy option would be to consider increasing the contribution rate to more than 8.5%. However, the possible increase in Council Tax collected for the Council resulting from this is considered to be less than the additional costs of recovery (additional staff, postage and enquires to customer services), including the inability to recover the debt in year by deduction from DWP benefits. In addition, not only is this not considered to be appropriate in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is also currently uncertainty as to whether these contributions might in any event be covered by extension of the Council Tax Hardship Fund.

10 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

10.1 The required annual review of the LCTRS has been completed and no changes are proposed.

10.2 The Cabinet considered this matter on 3 November 2020 and Cabinet recommended that Full Council retains the current Scheme for 2020/21.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council retains the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2020/21 as the 8.5% benefit scheme, i.e. the maximum benefit to working age claimants is 91.5%.

APPENDICES – none

BACKGROUND PAPERS – none



COUNCIL

Wednesday, 25 November 2020

APPOINTMENT OF S151 OFFICER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Local Authorities are required to have in place certain statutory officers. One of these is the Chief Finance Officer, [Section 151 Officer], who undertakes a range of key financial responsibilities.
2. The Council's s151 Officer was Mr Simon Taylor-Buglione. Unfortunately, due to serious ill-health, Mr Taylor-Buglione had been absent from work. Sadly, due to his continuing ill-health, Mr Taylor-Buglione decided to leave the Council's employment on 31 October 2020. As the Council is required to have a s151 Officer, this report recommends that with immediate effect, Mr Brian Mew is appointed as the Interim Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer on a fixed term, temporary basis, until such time as the role can be filled on a permanent basis.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All Wards in the District
Cabinet Member:	<p>CLlr Maurice Cook</p> <p>Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources</p>
Supporting Officer:	<p>Stephen Baker</p> <p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Telephone Number – 01394 444378</p> <p>stephen.baker@eastssuffolk.gov.uk</p>

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their Officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.
- 1.2 The s151 Officer fills one of three statutory roles which the Council must have, the others being the Head of Paid Service, and the Monitoring Officer. These roles have specific statutory duties assigned to them. The s151 Officer is responsible for the proper administration of the financial affairs of the Council. This includes ensuring the lawfulness and financial prudence of the Council's decision-making, the administration of financial affairs, contributing to the corporate management of the Council, and the provision of financial information and advice. This Council must secure that one of their Officers is designated as the 151 Officer.
- 1.3 Unfortunately, the previous s151 Officer, Mr Simon Taylor-Buglione, experienced ill-health and, after attending work intermittently, had to be absent for the latter few months of his service to the Council, as his condition deteriorated. During his absence Mr Brian Mew, and Mrs Lorraine Rogers, provided support as Deputy Section 151 Officers, and provided cover and deputised for Mr Taylor-Buglione.
- 1.4 Sadly, Mr Taylor-Buglione had to leave the Council's employment due to his continuing ill-health, on 31 October 2020. Mr Taylor-Buglione had worked for the Council in Financial services and had been the deputy s151 Officer, himself, and was appointed as the s151 Officer on 1st October 2018. He provided excellent, clear financial advice to the Council, and worked diligently and conscientiously, for many months, whilst experiencing health issues, and undergoing treatment. The Council is very appreciative of his skills, hard-work and dedication, and thanks him most sincerely for this. The Council extends its best wishes to him, and his family, on his departure from the Council.
- 1.5 In the light of Mr Taylor-Buglione's resignation on ill-health grounds, it is necessary for the Council to appoint an Interim Chief Finance Officer and Sec 151 officer, pending the appointment of a person to fill the role.

2 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 2.1 This report recommends the appointment of Mr Brian Mew as the Chief Finance Officer and 151 Officer. This will be for a fixed term, until 28 April 2021, during which time, the Council will advertise and recruit to the role on a permanent basis. Recruitment will proceed as soon as is practically possible, and will take account of any Covid constraints that apply at the time.
- 2.2 Mr Mew is extremely well qualified and has been an Accountant Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) since 1989. Mr Mew has an impressive track record of work experience and achievements including support to East Suffolk Council and the predecessor councils on a consultancy basis. Mr Mew has consistently provided high-level support to the Council's Financial Services Team on a range of strategic areas.
- 2.3 Lorraine Rogers, the Deputy Chief Finance Officer, will remain in this role, to support Mr Mew, and deputise for the s151 Officer, as required.

3 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?

- 3.1 The East Suffolk Strategic Plan expects the Council to maintain the highest financial standards and governance arrangements and to deliver against the financial sustainability theme. Appointing an interim officer to this role is essential to meet both

these and legislative requirements, and to maintain the support the Council needs from Financial Services.

4 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is a legal requirement that the Council has a Section 151 officer in place.

5 OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 There are no other issues.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Consultation is not necessary.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 Retaining an external consultant was considered but rejected as the Section 151 Officer needs to be an East Suffolk employee. Also, Mr Mew has the necessary experience and expertise, and has deputised for the previous s151 officer, during recent months.

8 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 To ensure that the necessary financial governance arrangements are in place for East Suffolk Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Council thanks Mr Simon-Buglione for his service to the Council and extends its very best wishes to him and his family.
2. That Mr Brian Mew be designated as the Interim Chief Finance Officer and s151 Officer, with immediate effect, on a fixed term, temporary basis until 28 April 2021.
3. That Mrs Lorraine Rogers continues as the Deputy s151 Officer to Mr Mew.

APPENDICES - NONE

BACKGROUND PAPERS – NONE



COUNCIL

Wednesday 25 November 2020

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
Wards Affected:	All Wards in the District
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Steve Gallant Leader of the Council

CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customer Services, ICT and Operational Partnerships
Contact Details:	stephen.burroughes@eastsoffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07767 872546

COVID, CONTRACTS & CUSTOMERS.

- **Operational Partnerships**

East Suffolk has been working closely with our contractors and partners extremely effectively during the summer with the relaxation of the Covid restrictions and also putting in place contingencies in the event of a second 'lockdown' which we were all hoping wouldn't happen as this would place significant pressures on our various teams. We have examined and better understand where the additional costs operators have incurred during the first lockdown and the changes undertaken to their working arrangements to ensure that they were, and are, 'Covid secure'. We have also been analysing and working with specialist advisors to fully understand the cost pressures put on our partners especially our leisure operators and we fully recognise the importance of making sure we continue with a smooth payment process to them and that our leisure operators can work at maximum efficiency during this very unusual year.

We are nearing the end of the procurement process to appoint a new operator for the refurbished Waveney Valley Leisure Centre (formerly Bungay Pool & Gym) and Water Lane in Lowestoft and hope to present the successful provider to you in the new year. It has not been an easy process and procurement had to be paused during the first lockdown but we are excited at the prospect of bouncing back very strongly in 2021. As just mentioned, the £3.4m budgeted work carried out at Bungay Pool has been completed and we reopened under the expert management of our interim operators, Paces Leisure, on 28th October only be closed again on 5th November – not a great start. However, the transformation is amazing and well worth a visit when circumstances allow. It has certainly been a challenging year especially during the procurement requirements due to the lockdown, with staff being furloughed or redeployed as circumstances changed, but we are hoping and expecting a very positive 2021.

Regarding our joint venture with Norse (East Suffolk Norse) we are well into the contract review examining the full programme and service offer which Norse is contracted to provide and also the 'off' contract works which Norse also undertakes on our behalf such as any emergency works, tree clearance etc. They remain a very capable and professional service, but we owe it to our customers and residents that we constantly strive to provide a quality and cost effective service delivering value for money to East Suffolk Council. Norse are responding very positively to this process and fully understand and recognise the need for their delivery model to change to meet new challenges and future growth.

- **ICT & Digital Transformation**

A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes to ensure that East Suffolk can provide smooth, effective and efficient services with much more online activity and a greater customer sign up to 'My East Suffolk'. We have been very successful in our use of MS Skype for video/telephone conferencing, Zoom and now Teams (which will replace MS Skype). Although a nervous start, we as members have embraced new ways of working and are now familiar and confident with what our

various technologies can do. This evolution in our digital offer has also enabled good public participation in our meetings.

The smart towns initiative has been very well received, with our first 'smart town' being established in Framlingham and with others queuing up to get involved. The smart towns project will involve providing town technology solutions (e.g. free to use public wifi, footfall trackers, digital platforms) to all 12 of our market towns as well as a comprehensive digital business support programme. This will attempt to help 'accelerate' our market town centres recovery from the lockdown and support local groups, businesses and their town communities.

The 'Grandpad' scheme of providing a simple & easy to use tablet device for very vulnerable and isolated residents within East Suffolk has gone extremely well with a good take up. These are sym based devices which don't need an internet connection and allow users to connect with family and loved ones during the pandemic which otherwise they wouldn't be able to do. This is a great initiative and something we should all be proud of. To date we have provided 48 grandpads, with a further 50 on order, and the demand continues to grow.

- **Customer Services**

Our customer services teams continue to provide a first-class service to all our residents throughout East Suffolk particularly during these difficult times. Providing responses to questions, support to our housing team via call triage and signposting those who need further assistance involving other service streams. What has been even more impressive is that this service has been provided with many staff working from home. The customer service teams have also been supporting residents by taking calls via the 'Home but not Alone' service put in place during the first lockdown and now being used again during lockdown 2. The teams are also providing outbound calls to CEV (clinically extremely vulnerable) to support communities throughout East Suffolk.

The customer service centre at The Marina in Lowestoft reopened on 14th September and enabled visits from customers by appointment to help them with various situations from queries with their council tax, to accessing other services etc. The number of visitors was low but provided a very necessary offer for those who were not comfortable with going online or who had a specific matter to be resolved. Currently we are not providing any customer access within the county council's libraries, but this is being reviewed.

The customer service team were highlighted in a social media response by the Institute of Customer Services for their approach to 'National Customer Services Week' during October and the profile of the great service they offer.

The service is constantly reviewing their operation and we always look for better and imaginative ways of working, never standing still.

Cabinet Member:	Councillor James Mallinder, Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment
Contact Details:	james.mallinder@eastsuffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07810 815879

The Environment Department continues to forge a head in developing and delivering our clear environment vision at East Suffolk.

Although physical campaigns and meetings with residents have been suspended, we are as busy as ever. Interface with the public is now limited to zoom meetings, which I still attend, where I listen to concerns and offer advice. Campaigns now focus on social media and press releases. Most recently highlighting food waste as residents prepared for Halloween and bonfire night. With regards to the latter, it is important to emphasise the concern about the impact to domestic and wild animals and the environmental impact of fires and fireworks.

I continue to monitor waste services and I am happy to confirm we have a robust policy in place to keep our waste crews safe and all waste collections continue without break.

We have seen an influx of visitors to the district over the 2nd lockdown, although not as many as previously, so curb side bins are being monitored closely.

I attended the Suffolk Waste Partnership meeting this month and as Chair we specifically started to investigate a more relevant campaign across Suffolk, to engage with the climate emergency. Going forward we will be focusing on contamination of blue bins - fabrics , glass and food waste with various social media campaigns.

Mid-January 21 sees a new recycling leaflet - more details of this will be provided closer to the time. Through all the districts fly-tipping continues to be a concern and we are looking at great engagement with Suffolk Recycles, to reduce it as its unnecessary, unpleasant and unsightly. I was also proud to mention our review of bins across our coastal towns, in particular our recycling bins in Aldeburgh, which have been successful and the recycling bins are scheduled to be rolled out across other locations in 2021.

I attended the Suffolk Local Access Forum Steering Group, which although covers the entire county, its interesting to understand general concerns in maintaining footpaths. From Landowners not upholding their responsibilities for keeping full access, to footpaths being removed from road building and large infrastructural projects , in particular our energy projects in our district. Greater engagement by Suffolk County Council for encouraging walking was acknowledged, alongside our consultation on our walking and cycling routes.

I attended the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Joint Advisory Steering Meeting. Engagement with proposed Sizewell and SPR projects continues, along with developing principles from the Glover report. Overall consensus was that the AONB will become more important and more relevant to peoples lives as we move out of lock down restrictions. A new communication officer has been appointed and I will work hard highlighting the AONB in East Suffolk and connecting our landscape to environment and climate emergency concerns.

I attended events at the East Suffolk Community Partnership Annual Forum and sat on a panel on how to engage communities to be carbon neutral at a fringe event.

I attended Coastal Partnership East Board meeting.

As discussed at Full Council and after discussion at the Environment Task Group, a letter has been set to Peter Aldous MP supporting him on his endeavours to alleviate fuel poverty. (A link to the letter can be found on our Environment Task Group webpage).

Finally, I am pleased to confirm we have now planted a meadow boarder to our main path at our Melton office and part of this meadow had been embedded with spring flowering bulbs. Animal,

bird and insect houses will also be fixed in place shortly, showcasing what we can all do to engage with biodiversity issues and how small changes in behaviour can make a big difference over time.

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Letitia Smith, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism
Contact Details:	letitia.smith@eastsuffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07596 812358

Communities

In advance of the second national lockdown on 2nd November, the Home But Not Alone hub was relaunched to help people to access food and prescriptions and to pick up on other issues such as financial problems, mental ill health and loneliness. The Communities Team is working with the Customer Services team to make pro-active calls to those on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) list who might be most vulnerable, including those who were receiving Government food parcels when shielding ended on 31st July. Housing colleagues are also contacting all tenants who are CEV to check on their welfare. Our community groups are continuing their incredible work from lockdown one – helping local people across the District in all sorts of ways. We have topped up the Covid Community Fund so that there is funding available for any groups support the CEV groups that need it up to December 2nd.

The new Bounce Back Fund of £100,000 funded through the Community Partnership Board has been a big success – three weeks after launching more than half of the funding has been allocated and the funding has benefitted a wide range of projects from helping a small village hall to open back up to enabling larger VCSE groups to recommence their activities in East Suffolk.

The eight Community Partnerships are going from strength to strength, spending their budget allocations on exciting new projects to address the priorities identified through the workshops held at the end of last year.

The first virtual Community Partnership Forum was held between 2nd and 6th November with a 10 sessions plus a fringe event held across the week. You can see most of the presentations – and a couple of videos about local projects to tackle isolation and loneliness as well as an overview of Community Partnerships - at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpNXLpOEzHOoJo9FLGESX-GHIMmVUH8A>

As Cllr Burroughes has reported, the Grandpads project, which straddles the digital and communities portfolios has made a big difference to those who are experiencing loneliness and isolation in East Suffolk. Grandpads are simplified tablets with bigger buttons and speakers, built in 4G cards and easy to use charging cables that enable those without the IT equipment and/or Wi-Fi to connect to family, friends and services. We will shortly have a total of 100 Grandpads out on loan across the District.

The Communities Team is developing an exciting new project called EAST (Everyone Active, Supported, Together) Boxes for distribution in mid-January to some of our most lonely and isolated residents. These boxes will include items, information and links relating to three themes – Keeping Active, Active Minds and Eating Well.

Leisure

It has been an extremely busy year for leisure with some major successes despite a challenging time for the industry during the pandemic. Whilst the leisure centres were all closed during lockdown, they all re-opened in August at the earliest opportunity apart from Bungay which was being redeveloped. Bungay, now known as Waveney Valley Leisure Centre reopened on 28 October, which completes 3 redeveloped leisure facilities completed in 3 years with Leiston last year and Deben the year before that. The Procurement for a new leisure operator for Waterlane and Waveney Valley Leisure Centres, although delayed, has now restarted and the new operator is expected to be in place for the beginning of February 2021.

Progress has also been made on resolving the Felixstowe Sports Hubs with the Council's purchase of the former Deben High School. This has allowed cricket to leave Coronation Park, enabling the rugby hub to have their own site and commence with their plans to move pitches and add floodlights when funds have been secured. The cricket wicket at Deben has already been laid which means the Felixstowe and Corinthians Cricket Club can play their third team matches there from April 2021 and move their first team there when a joint Indoor Bowls and Cricket facility opens at the Deben site when the new Felixstowe Leisure Centre is also completed, expected in 2024.

The pandemic has resulted in most sporting and participation events being cancelled and therefore cycling's Women's Tour did not take place and finish in Felixstowe this year, however, this is now planned to take place in 2021.

Furthermore with the announcement that there will be a second national lockdown from Thursday 5 November, the leisure centres will be closed again and Places Leisure will throughout the lockdown period retain a very limited number of managers (2 or 3 across the contract) who will be kept on to oversee the checking of, and management of all buildings, legionella flushing etc. and also to unlock and lock Waterlane Leisure Centre as necessary to allow work to continue for the refurbishment.

Whilst there will be some utility savings the temperature of the pools weren't be reduced by much as the planned closure is potentially just a month and after two weeks it would all have to be turned up again to reach the required temperatures for the planned reopening. Places plan to furlough staff. There will be costs to the council, these were established at the last lockdown. However, with the leisure centres operating under restrictions of approximately 30% of capacity, the monthly cost during the lockdown for the leisure centres is likely to be similar to that of opening although with staff from Waterlane Leisure Centre being furloughed during the refurbishment it could reduce costs for this facility.

Development

Waveney Valley Leisure Centre - This year has seen the £3.4m redevelopment of Bungay Leisure Centre completed and re-opening on Wednesday 28 October. The centre was meant to be re-opened in August but even with work continuing throughout the COVID-19 lockdown, some suppliers furloughed staff and delays were unavoidable.

The Council took the opportunity to add a couple of items to the redevelopment that wasn't included in the original plan and cost, but that will make a huge difference in the future and the ability to increase memberships. This included the retiling of the pool tank and adding a spin room to the gym area.

The centre also had a name change for the reopening to the Waveney Valley Leisure Centre.

The Waterlane Leisure Centre closed for a three month period from when the Sentinel Leisure Trust contract finished on 14 October for a refurbishment. The refurbishment includes, new sports hall floor, repair/replace of teaching pool moving floor, new reception, new LED lighting, access barriers, redecoration, signage and all of the planned preventative maintenance work that was required for the mechanical and electrical. This will be completed for the new operators to commence from February 2021 and will ensure that Deben, Leiston, Bungay and now Waterlane are all distinctively in East Suffolk Council's colours and signage and just leave the Felixstowe redevelopment that will mean East Suffolk has across the district, some of the finest facilities in the Country.

Felixstowe Leisure Centre and Sports Hubs – Work has continued on the proposed new Felixstowe Leisure Centre and also the solution for the Indoor Bowls facility. Plans for the leisure centre have been produced up to RIBA stage 2 and are currently being reviewed by Sport England for comments. Officers have met with Sport England and are working with the Sports Consultancy to try and secure funding of between £1.5 to £2.5m towards the project. Officers have also met with The Football Foundation who have indicated a possible grant towards the third generation football pitch of £500,000.

The Council have purchased the former Deben High School and this has brought about the possible solution for the Felixstowe Sports Hubs that have previously stalled, and indoor bowls. The Felixstowe and Corinthians Cricket Club are moving from Coronation Park to play their third team cricket there from 2021 and the wicket has been laid. This allows the rugby to have the whole of Coronation Park to have two pitches and work towards floodlights and improved facilities. The cricket will move fully to Deben High School when the Indoor Bowls facility is completed, utilising the old sports all. The two clubs will work together to bring funding to the scheme and then they will share ancillary facilities. A second pitch location is still required for the cricket to allow them to leave Dellwood and complete the hub plan. Officers are working with the Felixstowe Town Council to secure this.

Contracts

The partnership agreement with Sentinel Leisure Trust ended on 14 October after 12 months-notice of early termination. However, due to the pandemic, the procurement for a new operator had to be paused until September. This meant that an options report was taken to Cabinet in order to have a temporary solution for Waterlane and Waveney Valley Leisure Centres from 15 October until the end of January 2021, when it is expected the new operator will commence. The decision taken was to vary the existing contract with Places Leisure so that they could reopen Waveney Valley Leisure Centre and oversee Waterlane whilst it under goes a refurbishment and repair to the pool.

With the procurement of a new operator, a report was taken to Cabinet to vary the Pulse Leisure development partnership agreement for an aspect of their services that would not be required by a new operator, as operators provide this service directly. The agreement was until 2034 and there will be a compensation payment required. The Sales and Marketing aspect of the development partnership costs the Council £120,000 per annum and provided a service for previous operators SLT. Going forward, this service would be part of the service provided by a new operator.

COVID -19

The COVID-19 Pandemic has significantly affected the leisure industry. After an initial closure period during the lockdown of three months the leisure industry reopened in August, albeit with restrictions

that allowed booking of slots only and only 30 percent of previous attendance. Certain areas have not yet been able to viably reopen, such as soft play facilities in the centres and certain sports are not allowed including squash. A £100m help package is now being finalised by the Government to keep facilities open going forward. It is expected that it will be unlikely that previous levels of participation and financial performance will be achievable until the 2022/23 financial year.

Events

Sadly due to the effects of the pandemic cancelled most events planned for East Suffolk including the Women's Tour this year. The Women's Tour is now rescheduled for 2021 and Officers are working to support the restarting of events when possible and with the necessary safety risk assessment methods in place to enable them to take place.

Strategies

In June KKP consultants were appointed to undertake the first East Suffolk built facility, playing pitch, open space and Leisure Strategy. Leisure has worked in co-ordination with planning to both fund this work and also to ensure that the leisure needs identified works with planning to ensure the Council is in the best position to achieve and provide the aims and projects identified. It is expected that these will be presented to Cabinet for adoption in May /June 2021.

Tourism update

Covid impact

The initial lockdown following the Covid 19 pandemic has hit the tourism sector particularly hard. This sector forms a major part of the wider East Suffolk economy as it accounts for over 15% of district's employment and generates almost £700m for the local economy as a result such a dramatic downturn has been a major concern. ESC, as part of a wider regional approach, commissioned research to attempt to forecast the likely impact on the sector. Back in May this suggested a that the visitor economy sector in ES would see an overall reduction in income of £250m or 37% compared the previous year.

Thankfully although initial lockdown was very challenging the tourism sector experienced a boom during July – Oct due to good weather, pent up demand and less opportunity for overseas holidays. This has led to optimism that in general the sector can largely survive the winter if the lockdown does not extend into the Spring. Although there is general guarded optimism businesses report that planning ahead is extremely difficult and even if lockdown ends on 2nd Dec it will be too late for a lot of Christmas events to go ahead – some are planning limited events but expect mainly local participation rather than visitors.

In response to the particular effects on the tourism sector ESC was heavily involved in the production of the regional (Norfolk and Suffolk) Visitor Economy Recovery Plan which was launched in July. This plan recognises the economic importance of the two counties £5bn tourism economy and further recognised that overseas tourism is unlikely to recover quickly. Therefore, there is a massive opportunity to capture the 'staycation' market. The plan also lays the foundations for Norfolk and Suffolk to become one of government's Tourism Zones, an initiative designed to boost holiday destinations across the country, increasing employment and improving transport connections. A key part of the recovery plan is the production of the 'Unexplored England' campaign which for the first time brought together all the districts, county Councils, LEP and Destination Management Organisations together around a unified promotional campaign selling the area as an undiscovered,

less populated holiday destination. Unfortunately due to the second lockdown this campaign has been postponed from its original Autumn launch to now focus on the 2021 season.

It is worth noting that visitor economy businesses made up a significant elements of the first round of the Council administered Covid busines grants recipients and these have been vital in ensuring the continuation of such businesses during the initial lockdown. With the launch of a new round of such grants it is anticipated that the sector will once again be a major beneficiary.

Energy projects

With the Sizewell C and the new East Anglian Hub windfarm developments progressing through the national planning process, ESC has continued to monitor potential impacts on the tourism economy. This has involved ongoing discussions with both developers, EDF Energy and Scottish Power Renewables (SPR). The Sizewell C development will involve a c10 year construction period within a sensitive AONB area which is known for its tranquillity – this has been cited as a major draw for visitors to East Suffolk. EDF have agreed the need for a tourism mitigation fund to address the impact of their development and ESC are currently working with the DMO and EDF Energy to determine the scale and scope of this fund and its governance. Discussion with SPR are positive and ongoing.

Investment in the tourism product/ offer

Whilst ESC and partners have been focusing on the initial response to the pandemic in terms of the visitor economy we have also continued to invest in the longer-term future of the sector. This has involved the progression of a number of key developments this year including:

- **Felixstowe South Seafront Café:** part of a longer term wider public realm enhancement of the south seafront area the construction of this new ironically designed £1m café building began in August and will be completed in June to capitalise on next year's summer season
- **Lowestoft East Point Pavillion (EPP)**– ESC are investing in the redevelopment of this former 'tired' looking resort attraction based on an innovative design produced by Hemingway Design. The redesigned interior of the EPP will provide flexible space for community and cultural activity, space for small entrepreneurial 'pop up' businesses and a year round café venue. The first phase is expected to be completed in March 2021.
- **First Light Festival (FLF)** – on the back of an extremely successful inaugural FLF in 2019 the Council is continuing to invest in this headline cultural event for the district. Despite the huge disappointment of having to cancel the 2020 festival a commitment has been made to host an even larger festival than the original in 2021. This proved to be a major tourism draw with 30,000 visitors with many visiting the area for the first time.

There are also a number of other key investments ES has made/ is making in the visitor economy such as the recently opened Ness park which celebrates the country's most easterly point at Ness point, Lowestoft. This clearly demonstrates the Council's ongoing commitment to continually enhancing the tourism offer in recognition of it huge importance to the east Suffolk economy.

Visitor Information Points

Following the closure of the remaining Tourist Information Centres in the former Waveney area the Council piloted a new approach to providing visitor information – Visitor Information Points. This involved working closely with visitor economy related businesses e.g. restaurants, pubs, accommodation providers, cinemas to provide digital and printed visitor information. In the former Waveney area this resulted in replacing 3 former TICs in Lowestoft, Southwold and Beccles with

15 Visitor Information Points covering all the resort and market towns within the former Council area. The wider offer has proved successful for both visitors who now have many more points of access and the businesses hosting the VIPs who have experienced greater footfall.

As a result of this success it was planned to roll out VIPs within the former Suffolk Coastal area again working with tourism related business in all resort and market towns. As a result of the pandemic this has now been delayed until the early new year, however it is still anticipated that the former Suffolk Coastal area will have operational Visitor Information Points ahead of the new tourist season, which will begin in easter 2021 and therefore at this point there will be full coverage across the whole of East Suffolk.

The VIPs will complement the highly successful district wide tourism promotional activity that is undertaken by Visit Suffolk Coast DMO and part funded by East Suffolk Council.

Outside Bodies Representatives Reports

Felixstowe Landguard Partnership Committee	
Representative:	Councillor Stuart Bird
Contact Details:	stuart.bird@eastsuffolk.gov.uk Tel: 01394 275128

LANDGUARD PARTNERSHIP MEETING - 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Consultancy has been retained to support the formation of a Shadow Board, prior to creation of the Charitable Trust to replace the Partnership. The Shadow Board will have 11 members, one each from the constituent bodies and 6 independent members.

CAR PARK CHARGES

Car park charging is due to be implemented at Landguard in late October, as part of the rolling programme in all East Suffolk Council car parks. This is dependent on the signage being installed.

CAFÉ / VISITOR CENTRE

Consideration is to be given to fitting CCTV around the Café to deter crime and anti social behaviour. The Port will not allow security fencing to the rear of the Café.

MUSEUM

The incumbent voluntary curator is standing down. It was decided to recruit a curator manager on an 18 month contract, with financial support from the Partnership.

FERRY

Due to the changing beach profile it is becoming difficult to land the ferry at Landguard. A floating pontoon would be an expensive option. On 25 September the ferry broke from its mooring, sustaining damage. It will not be operational for the remainder of 2020.

NATURE RESERVE RANGER

It was decided to extend the contract of the new ranger for a further two years after 31 March 2021.

BUDGET

The Café rental income (based on this year's turnover) will reduce next year. The income from car park charges should cover this shortfall.

Norfolk HOSC (Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and Suffolk HOSC (Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee)	
Representative:	Councillor Judy Cloke
Contact Details:	judy.cloke@eastsuffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07825 386561

Norfolk Health Overview Security Committee.

I attended this meeting on 8 October 2020.

Cancer services report:

Health watch Norfolk had undertaken a short survey from September to January and the results shared with MacMillan and Big C . People reported on differences in experiences with regard to screening, but particularly a lack of privacy in breast screening and discomfort in surgical screening, staff attitudes were identified as a key element.

Surgery levels have not quite recovered but is getting there. 93% of patients are seen within 2 weeks of a GP referral.

Childhood Immunisation:

There was slight disruption in April, Community clinics were set up when schools closed. There is now little back log. Recent increase in COVID cases (bear in mind this was last month) has not had an impact, but there is a plan in place if it does. There are plans to use Carrow Rd if necessary, if there is a large school lockdown and liaison is established with St John Ambulance.

Ambulance service:

There was some discussion around the recent poor report on the EEAS, so an update is required for a future meeting. Leaders have addressed some of the issues in the report already. Only 62% of

Ambulance attendance go to hospital. There is a dedicated internal team for testing ambulance staff, who can have same day appointments.

Suffolk Health Overview Scrutiny Committee.

I attended this meeting on 14 October 2020.

Flu vaccinations:

There are some difficulties in getting the vaccines, the Government announced the catchment had been extended, which threw the planning somewhat. The take up is about 2-3 weeks ahead of last year.

GP services generally: there have been inroads into the backlog of standard appointments, such as podiatry. The main challenge at the moment is staff sickness.

Core dispensing has continued & there have been no closures of pharmacies in Suffolk and they are managing the confusing messages regarding medical supplies re Brexit. Vulnerable patients have been sustained with deliveries of meds. Some pharmacies have taken on extra staff to deal with deliveries

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

APPENDICES – None

BACKGROUND PAPERS – None