

MATTERS ARISING UPDATE SHEET

FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING ON

27 October 2022

Updates		
Minute Item Number	Member Query Raised	Cabinet Member/Officer Response (no more than a paragraph required)
4	Why do the Eastern Edge beach huts have no felt on the roof?	The structural build up of the roof is treated shiplap boarding on 19x38mm battens with breathable water impermeable membrane laid on counter battens (19x38mm), on 12mm class 3 plywood fixed to 38x98mm framework. All fixings are stainless steel. In essence, the waterproof membrane is protected from solar degradation by being enclosed within the structure.
4	How many beach huts have been sold?	10 have completed, with another 1 in the process with Legal
4	In terms of tourism, how do we mitigate the impact of Sizewell?	<p>ESC and partners have negotiated a £12m Tourism Mitigation Fund with EDF, which was confirmed within the Sizewell C Deed of Obligation. The fund is designed to minimise and mitigate impacts on the tourism sector throughout the build programme through annual implementation plans agreed by the Tourism Working Group (ESC, partners and EDF). The first implementation plan will be produced ahead of construction commencement during 2023 and will seek to address potential impacts by providing additional investment in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visitor Experience Development - Infrastructure Assets - Destination Marketing and Promotion - Tourism Business Support Grants - Tourism Support Resources - Research Visitor/Business Surveys (impact monitoring)
4	Will data be collected on and do we look at the cost and impact of Sizewell, the interconnectors and generators etc on tourism	Monitoring data will be collected on the tourism impact of Sizewell C through the work of the Tourism Working Group (see above). This will examine the impact on visitor numbers and associated spend to inform the delivery of the mitigation fund implementation plan. ESC

	as part of the Strategic Plan Delivery Board's deliberations?	also commissions an annual volume and value tourism assessment which will pick up any wider impacts of the energy developments on the ES visitor economy. Additionally, we will continue to receive industry intelligence through our relationship with The Suffolk Coast destination management organisation.
4	Can/do we impress on housing colleagues the importance of affordable housing to support local jobs, especially in prime tourist areas?	Ensuring there is appropriate housing to support the resilience and growth of the local economy is a key reason for the development of affordable housing in the district. This is particularly true in lower paid sectors, such as tourism and the housing team through its own development and working with developers is fully aware of this need.
4	What is the impact on the local tourism industry due to increased living costs?	The Suffolk Coast DMO, which delivers tourism marketing on behalf of ESC, has seen website traffic reduce by 5% over the year and by 26% between September and November 2022 – cost of living increases are being blamed for this reduction. Industry intelligence also indicates that local hospitality businesses, who have not fully recovered since the removal of pandemic restrictions, are struggling with a number closing and others reducing hours to 3 days pw due to excessive energy costs and ongoing recruitment difficulties. Anecdotally, customer behaviour is also changing with more people just going out for drinks rather than food. A thorough assessment of the impact of the cost of living increases will be available when the annual economic impact of tourism report is produced in 2023.
4	How are we promoting grants through ESC?	<p>We promote community grants through a range of mechanisms – in person at events like the recent money roadshows or specific funding roadshow events, through press releases (including those highlighting the impact of funded projects to inspire other community groups), social media and via the Community Grants pages on our webpages.</p> <p>Business and tourism grants are promoted through a range of networks including local business groups and associations, BIDs, local business support organisations such as Suffolk Chamber of Commerce and New Anglia Growth Hub, the Suffolk Coast DMO, press releases, social media and by direct promotion with town and parish councils. ESC and East Suffolk Means Business have dedicated webpages for open and relevant grants schemes that are used to promote the grants.</p>

4	How are small grants monitored?	<p>Each project funded through schemes such as Enabling Communities Budgets and the recent Boost grants is asked to commit to complete a Grant Monitoring Form as part of their acceptance of the grant conditions. These should be returned upon completion of the project or after 6 months, whichever is soonest. For larger projects, including some of those funded through the Community Partnership Board, projects are asked to complete a quarterly monitoring form.</p>
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