



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

# Cabinet

## **Members:**

Councillor Steve Gallant (Leader)  
Councillor Craig Rivett (Deputy Leader and Economic Development)  
Councillor Norman Brooks (Transport)  
Councillor Stephen Burroughes (Customer Services, ICT and Commercial Partnerships)  
Councillor Maurice Cook (Resources)  
Councillor Richard Kerry (Housing)  
Councillor James Mallinder (The Environment)  
Councillor David Ritchie (Planning & Coastal Management)  
Councillor Mary Rudd (Community Health)  
Councillor Letitia Smith (Communities, Leisure and Tourism)

Members are invited to a **Meeting of the Cabinet** to be held in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House, Melton on **Tuesday, 5 October 2021 at 6:30pm**

In order to comply with East Suffolk Council's coronavirus arrangements and guidance, the number of people at this meeting will have to be restricted to only those whose attendance is reasonably necessary.

Ordinarily, East Suffolk Council encourages members of the public to attend its meetings but on this occasion would encourage the public to watch the livestream, via the East Suffolk Council YouTube channel instead at

<https://youtu.be/kzjpucvFCzs>.

If you do believe it is necessary for you to be in attendance we encourage you to notify Democratic Services, by email to [democraticservices@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@eastsoffolk.gov.uk), of your intention to do so no later than 12 noon on the working day before the meeting so that the meeting can be managed in a COVID secure way and the Team can endeavour to accommodate you and advise of the necessary health and safety precautions.

However, we are not able to guarantee you a space/seat and you are advised that it may be that, regrettably, we are not able to admit you to the meeting room.

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.

### **KEY DECISION**

### **4 East Suffolk Council Funding for Disability Information, Advice and Support Services in East Suffolk ES/0904 1 - 7**

Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism

### **NON-KEY DECISION**

### **5 Environment Task Group - Quarterly Update ES/0905 8 - 15**

Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment

### **6 Exempt/Confidential Items**

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.

## KEY DECISIONS

### 7 Cultural Development Fund

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

### 8 Operating Agreement for East Point Pavilion

- 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**

The Council, members of the public and press may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Committee Clerk (in advance), who will instruct that they are not included in any filming.

If you require this document in large print, audio or Braille or in a different language, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01502 523521 or email:

[democraticservices@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)



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**CABINET**  
**Tuesday, 05 October 2021**

<b>Subject</b>	East Suffolk Council funding for disability information, advice and support services in East Suffolk
<b>Report by</b>	Councillor Letitia Smith Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	Nicole Rickard Head of Communities <a href="mailto:Nicole.rickard@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">Nicole.rickard@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a> 07766998074

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Aldeburgh & Leiston Carlford and Fynn Valley Deben Eastern Felixstowe Framlingham Kelsale and Yoxford Kesgrave Martlesham and Purdis Farm Melton Orwell and Villages Rendlesham and Orford Rushmere St Andrew Saxmundham Western Felixstowe Woodbridge

## Purpose and high-level overview

### **Purpose of Report:**

To seek growth funding to ensure equitable access to information, advice and support services for people with disabilities across East Suffolk.

### **Options:**

Two well established organisations provide service for people with disabilities in the East Suffolk area – Disability Advice North East Suffolk (DANES) and Disability Advice Service – East Suffolk (DAS), covering the north (former Waveney District) and south (former Suffolk Coastal District) areas respectively. East Suffolk Council currently funds services in the north of the District through DANES, but not in the south of the District through DAS. The options considered were therefore to cease funding DANES or to provide funding for DAS in order to ensure that similar provision is supported by East Suffolk Council across the district.

### **Recommendation/s:**

That Cabinet approves an additional £12,000 per annum to fund the Disability Advice Service to provide information, advice and support on all aspects of living with a disability to disabled people in the former Suffolk Coastal area, and a small increase in grant funding of £1,000 per year for Disability Advice North East Suffolk which provides services in the former Waveney area.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

### **Governance:**

Quarterly service review meetings will be held with the Disability Advice Service to review delivery.

### **ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

The Council's Enabling Communities Strategy emphasises the importance of enabling communities of interest as well as communities of geography. Our Equality and Diversity Policy outlines that Disability is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 and our Equality Impact Assessment guidance documents clearly identify the benefit of engaging with organisations such as DANES and DAS to inform changes to services and policies.

### **Environmental:**

None

### **Equalities and Diversity:**

Disability is one of ten Protected Characteristics identified by East Suffolk Council (the nine protected characteristics in the Equality Act plus deprivation/socio-economic disadvantage) and one which affects a significant proportion of the East Suffolk population.

20.4% of the East Suffolk population say that their lives are limited 'a little' / 'a lot', compared to 17.6% nationally. The Council has recently revamped its Equality Impact

Assessment (EqIA) process to encourage staff to undertake EqIAs as early as possible and to engage with representatives of the protected characteristic groups, including organisations representing those with a disability such as DANES and DAS.

**Financial:**

This proposal, if agreed, would cost the Council an additional £13,000 per year. This additional funding would start from the current financial year (2021/22) funded from the In Year savings reserve, with future years funding being growth from the 2022/23 budget onwards.

**Human Resources:**

None, although ESC has a lead officer who is the Champion for this Equality strand.

**ICT:**

None

**Legal:**

A simple Service Level Agreement would be developed in conjunction with DAS if the proposal is agreed, aligned to the SLA already in place with Disability Advice North-East Suffolk.

**Risk:**

This proposal mitigates a current risk in that it ensures equity in terms of support, advice and information for people with Disabilities across East Suffolk.

<b>External Consultees:</b>	This proposal is based on a representation from the Disability Advice Service
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## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**How does this proposal support the priorities selected?**

This proposal will ensure that support can be provided to people with a wide range of disabilities across the whole of the District Council area. This will help provide greater certainty that the health, wellbeing and safety of those with Disabilities is maximised.

Funding to support two organisations covering the whole of the District will maximise the opportunity to enable/support people with Disabilities to participate in the eight Community Partnerships and enable both organisations in this area to work with us to take positive action on the issues identified by the target group.

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

<b>1 Background facts</b>	
1.1	Disability is one of nine Protected Characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010. People with disabilities have been identified as a priority group during the work that the Council's Communities Team has done over the last 15 months with Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals. There are a higher proportion of people with disabilities and life limiting long term conditions than in both Suffolk and England – 20.4% in East Suffolk compared to 17.6% nationally.
1.2	The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of those with disabilities to a significant extent and increased some of the inequalities within East Suffolk, as well as increasing social isolation and loneliness within this section of the population. In July 2020, disabled people reported more frequently than non-disabled people that the coronavirus pandemic was affecting their well-being because it makes their mental health worse (46% for disabled people and 18% for non-disabled people), they were feeling lonely (42% compared to 29%), they spend too much time alone (36% and 25%), they feel like a burden on others (25% and 8%) or have no one to talk to about their worries (17% for disabled people and 10% for non-disabled people). <i>Coronavirus and the social impacts on disabled people in Great Britain: July 2020</i>

1.2	The New Policy Institute in its report Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion 2016 found, "One aspect of poverty that can be understated in the official statistics is disability. When the extra costs of disability are partially accounted for, half of all people in poverty are either disabled, or in a household with a disabled person. Disability and family type are significant in explaining the children still in workless households; 46% of children in workless households have at least one disabled adult in the household."
1.3	According to Scope.com, life costs £583 more a month if you are disabled; and disabled people are more than twice as likely to be unemployed. According to the Centre for Social Justice there are 7.7m working-age disabled people in the UK, of whom 53.6% (4.1 million) are in work. This compares to an employment rate of 81.9% for working-age non-disabled people – meaning there is an employment gap of 28.2%. For certain health types, the numbers are even more concerning. Those with learning disabilities have an employment rate of just 5.9% despite the fact that 65% of them want to work.
1.4	Currently East Suffolk Council provides funding of £9,500 per annum (£9,000 core funding plus £500 for servicing the Disability Forum) to Disability Advice North East Suffolk and has done for a number of years, pre-dating the formation of East Suffolk Council. It is proposed to increase this to £10,000 a year plus the £500 for servicing the Disability Forum, given their increasing costs and the fact that the grant amount has remained static for a number of years. The Council also owns the building that DANES operate from and DANES do not pay rent on these premises – the value of this contribution is approximately £2,000.

## 2 Current position

2.1	Disability Advice North East Suffolk (DANES) are funded by East Suffolk Council to provide services to clients in the former Waveney District Council area but there is currently no equivalent funded support/service for residents in the south of the District i.e. the former Suffolk Coastal District Council area. Disability Advice Service provide significant support to our residents, but this is unfunded by East Suffolk Council (although several Councillors have funded DAS through their Enabling Communities Budgets in the past). Information about DAS governance can be found at: <a href="http://www.daseastsuffolk.org/about/about-trustees/">http://www.daseastsuffolk.org/about/about-trustees/</a>
2.2	At least 85% of Disability Advice Service clients live in East Suffolk (in the former Suffolk Coastal District Council area). The remainder of their clients are from Ipswich. The DAS annual budget is £185,000 and they run a continuous programme of applying to charitable foundations in addition to local government bodies to try to maximise their income.
2.3	DAS expenditure is divided 70% on salary and related costs and 30% on premises and related costs. They employ 3.8FTE in part-time staff and rely on 8-10 volunteers to run the service (which is a different model to DANES).
2.4	The table below shows some key statistics for DAS from 2019 and 2020:

	2020	2019
Clients advised	1,086	1,248
Enquiries received	5,632	5,379
Appeals representations	75	77
Success rate on appeals	100%	92%
Benefit gain (Year One)	£2,111,829	£2,481,838
Benefit gain (Full)*	£7,175,091	£6,250,500
Crisis clients	127	29
Listening Service contacts	897	0
Referrals from Listening Service contacts	206 (23%)	0
Subsistence grants and food parcels to individuals	£14,772	£4,086

\* Some benefits have longevity beyond the first year and the full benefit calculation accounts for this.

The increase in crisis clients during the Covid-19 pandemic is notable – from 29 in 2019 to 127 in 2020. The Listening Service is a new service set up following the DWP suspension of assessment activity, which left a lot of clients worried about their situation as well as the implications of shielding. The Listening Service involves a pro-active "call with a purpose" (i.e. not just to say hello) and by the end of 2020 DAS had contacted 900 clients, over 200 of whom needed referral to an adviser or signposting to other agencies.

2.5	<p>A simple SLA is in place with DANES, and this is reviewed and revised on an annual basis. The SLA identifies the following key areas of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide free of charge, independent, confidential information and advice on all aspects of living with a disability (including outreach to key locations)</li> <li>• Maximise the income of people with disabilities in East Suffolk, including by supporting applications for Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments, Universal Credit and personal budgets</li> <li>• Support people with disabilities with housing applications/bids</li> <li>• Empowerment of disabled people to maximise choice and control over their lives</li> <li>• Ensure equality of opportunity for disabled people and challenging discrimination</li> <li>• Work with local organisations, including Access Community Trust and Job Centre Plus to promote the provision of volunteering opportunities</li> <li>• Engage in relevant partnerships, including the Universal Credit Support Partnership, Suffolk Benefits Forum</li> <li>• Provide information/data on clients supported</li> <li>• Provide administrative support for the Waveney Disability Forum (£500 allocation within the overall grant of £9,500)</li> </ul>
2.6	An equivalent SLA would be co-produced with Disability Advice Service for services in the south of the District.

### 3 How to address current situation

3.1	In the interests of equity, it is proposed to provide £10,000 per annum grant funding to both Disability Advice North East Suffolk and Disability Advice Service in order to ensure coverage, between the two organisations, of the whole of the East Suffolk district. The Council currently provides £9,000 funding per annum to DANES (plus £500 for servicing the Disability Forum in the north of the District) and therefore this represents growth of £1,000 per annum. In addition it is proposed to contribute £2,000 towards rent and premises costs per annum for Disability Advice
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	Service as the Council provides an equivalent contribution towards the DANES premises in Lowestoft.
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#### **4 Reason/s for recommendation**

4.1	Currently, the Council is funding independent information, advice and support for residents with disabilities in the north of the District but not funding equivalent provision in the south of the District.
4.2	Given the impact of the pandemic on people with Disabilities and the increase in demand seen by both DANES and DAS, it is clear that this investment would enable a priority group in East Suffolk to continue to receive tailored, targeted support.

## **Appendices**

<b>Appendices:</b>
None.

<b>Background reference papers:</b>
None.



**CABINET**  
**Tuesday, 05 October 2021**

<b>Subject</b>	Environment Task Group - Quarterly Update
<b>Report by</b>	Councillor James Mallinder Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	Andrew Jarvis Strategic Director <a href="mailto:andrew.jarvis@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">andrew.jarvis@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a> 01394 444323

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards

## Purpose and high-level overview

### **Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet on the work of the cross-party Environment Task, chaired by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment, since its last report on 1 June 2021. Confirmation is also sought that the Group is continuing to deliver on the task it was set to investigate ways to cut East Suffolk Council's carbon and other harmful emissions

### **Options:**

Not applicable

### **Recommendation/s:**

1. That this report from the Environment Task Group be accepted and approved.
2. That Cabinet confirm that the Group is to continue to deliver the task it was set to investigate ways to cut East Suffolk Council's carbon and other harmful emissions.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

### **Governance:**

The Environment Task Group is a cross-party group chaired by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment and reports direct to Cabinet.

### **ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

The work of the Environment Task Group directly supports the Council's Strategic Plan and delivering on the corporate commitment to "put the environment at the heart of everything we do" is progressively influencing all the Council's policies and strategies.

### **Environmental:**

The Environment Task Group through the issues it is considering and monitoring is having a direct and far-reaching effect on the Council's environmental agenda and priorities.

### **Equalities and Diversity:**

There are no specific equalities or diversity impacts arising from this report. The work of the Environment Task Group directly and through its influence the work of the Council to respond to the Climate Emergency will however impact on all those who live and work in East Suffolk or visit the area.

### **Financial:**

There are no specific Financial impacts arising from this update report.

### **Human Resources:**

There are no Human Resources impacts arising from this update report.

### **ICT:**

There are no ICT impacts arising from this update report.

**Legal:**

There are no Legal impacts arising from this update report.

**Risk:**

There are no new Risks arising from this update report.

**External Consultees:**

None

## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		

XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</b></p> <p>The Environment Task Group continues to be a valuable forum in which to consider and debate environmental issues and to help deliver on the Council’s commitment to put the environment at the heart of everything we do. The environmental work done by Council and the resultant spending is directly impacting on the local economy and the Council is increasingly engaging with businesses engaged in renewable and low carbon energy, sustainable development and wider environmental protection work. Several initiatives the Task Group has worked on or has supported have involved community groups, for example environmental promotion, biodiversity projects, tree planting, action on plastic and as further projects are delivered it is confidently predicted that there will be an increasing feeling of community pride in what has been delivered. Financial Sustainability is a key consideration in the work of the Task Group, some carbon saving changes requires investment but many also result in coincidental cost savings, for example, energy cost savings/income from solar power generation on council buildings and savings on chemical and grass cutting costs. The Group have been supportive of the role digital technology can play in reducing carbon emission savings, for example, through the wider enablement of home working and video conferencing and the consequent reduction in travel. It is suggested that the Environment Task Group is good example of collaborative working and that in the comparatively short time it has been working it has helped the delivery of the Council environment priorities significantly. This is expected to continue as further significant challenges arise, for example in helping to formulate the Council’s response to the nation Resources and Waste Strategy.</p>			

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts	
1.1	<p><b>FORMATION</b></p> <p>On 24 July 2019 (Full Council agenda item 9(a)), the Council resolved unanimously to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declare a climate emergency</li> <li>• Set up a Cross Party Task Group, commencing by October 2019, to investigate ways to cut East Suffolk Council’s carbon and harmful emissions on a spend to save basis, with ambition to make East Suffolk Council (including all buildings and services) carbon neutral by 2030.</li> <li>• To work with Suffolk County Council and other partners across the county and region, including the LEP and the Public Sector Leaders, towards the aspiration of making the county of Suffolk carbon neutral by 2030.</li> <li>• To work with the government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a) deliver its 25-year Environmental Plan, and</li> <li>• b) increase the powers and resources available to local authorities in order to make the 2030 target easier to achieve.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>656 The Environment Task Group was formed as a cross-party Task Group</p>

## 2 In context of the East Suffolk Council Strategic Plan

2.1	The Council's Strategic Plan sets out its vision to deliver the highest possible quality of life for everyone who lives, works in or visits the district. The five themes of the Strategic Plan are: Growing our Economy; Enabling our Communities; Remaining Financially Sustainable; Delivering Digital Transformation; and Caring for our Environment.
2.2	Within the theme of Caring for our Environment, the Council is committed to lead by example, seeking environmental benefit in everything we do, working with communities for biodiversity and optimising the use digital solutions to reduce environmental impacts; to minimise waste, promote reuse and maximise recycling; to explore opportunities to invest in renewable energy solutions as a council and encourage others to do the same; and to use our influence and regulatory functions to protect our natural environment and coastline.
2.3	The Strategic Plan recognises the interconnectivity between the five Themes of the Plan, with actions arising under each theme having the potential to contribute towards any or all of the other themes.

## 3 Summary of Environment Task Group activity since last report

3.1	<p>The ETG has met once (15 July 2021) since its last report to Cabinet on 1 June 2021 when it discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Suffolk Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS),</li><li>• Alternative Vehicle fuel, and</li><li>• The East Suffolk Climate Change Action Plan (under development)</li></ul> <p>In terms of actions:</p>
3.2	<p><b>Alternative Vehicle fuel – an interim fuel solution to reduce fleet emissions</b></p> <p>The ETG has encouraged the development of a 'meanwhile' solution using a Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel to replace the use of fossil diesel in the Council's fleet vehicles. Transport accounts for some 40% of the Council's carbon emissions. A report on this project was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 7 September when it resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approve changing the fuel used by all the Euro 6 rated diesel-powered vehicles in the Council's vehicle fleet from diesel to certified palm oil free Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil fuel.</li><li>• Approve a procurement process in autumn 2021 for the supply of certified palm oil free Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil fuel meeting the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification.</li><li>• Require that other than in the most exceptional circumstances any replacement or new fleet vehicles (whether leased or purchased) are Euro 6 compliant.</li></ul>

	<p>The Head of Operations is now overseeing the procurement of a supply of certified palm oil free Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil fuel.</p> <p>It is anticipated that compatible existing vehicles on the fleet will begin to use HVO from the beginning of 2022, following a procurement process that will, as a prerequisite, specify that the fuel is certified free of palm oil under the International Sustainability &amp; Carbon Certification programme.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Biodiversity and nature</b></p> <p><b>East Suffolk House (ESH) enhancements</b></p> <p>Following high-visibility work completed during the summer to plant strips of wildflower meadows and erect insect shelters along the entrance to ESH, and erection of bird and bat boxes on many of the trees on the grounds, further work has been carried out to enhance provision for nature and the ability for members of staff working from the site to enjoy the surroundings and wildlife attracted to it. Additionally, in September work will be completed on providing a new planted outdoor seating area. The work highlights the importance of sharing our outdoor spaces with nature and can act as an example to other land managers.</p>
3.4	<p><b>Greenprint small grants scheme Nature First</b></p> <p>The Greenprint Forum launched its small grant scheme, “Nature First”, funded by ESC, in summer 2021, to support community projects that promote and enhance biodiversity. It has so far awarded a total of £6170.18 to 8 projects. Examples include a project to provide swift next boxes and engage the students in learning about swift behaviour at a high school in Framlingham; training courses for volunteer hedge layers to create new hedgerows and enhance and conserve existing hedgerows in Waldringfield; and the creation of a nature garden in Lowestoft where children from local schools will be able to discover wildlife, learn where food comes from and carry out activities. The fund remains open for further bids from community groups.</p>
3.5	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>A Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document is being drafted to provide guidance on a range of topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable transport and use of materials, to support the implementation of the Council’s adopted Local Plan policies. A public consultation on the draft SPD will follow this autumn. Once adopted, the Sustainable Construction SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.</p>
3.6	<p><b>Resource and Waste Strategy</b></p> <p>The Government’s Resource &amp; Waste Strategy is expected to have a fundamental impact on the delivery of services and the council’s resources to achieve this. However, beyond the need to introduce separate food waste collections and increase the range of materials collected, the final legislative framework is not expected to be published until late 2021, with significant local decisions likely to be required by April 2022 in order to prepare for the potential need for implementation from April 2023.</p>

	<p>Research to assess the viability of delivery on anticipated requirements of RAWs has been undertaken by the SWP which indicates that either a co-mingled dry recycle plus separate glass collection system, or an alternate weekly separate-stream collection system keeping glass, paper &amp; card, plastics, and metal separate during collection, would be viable in principle with potential for c. 10% increase in local recycling rates. However significant issues lie ahead with likely higher operating and capital costs and resource implications and added complexity for service users and our delivery partners. This will require further discussion internally including via the ETG.</p>
3.7	<p><b>Delivering a sustainable Housing Portfolio</b></p> <p>The Council is in the course of engaging a consultant team to commence a review of the full portfolio of current HRA stock. Information from the data-driven review will be used to prioritise 2 pilot schemes for retro fit and determine what additional actions we can take to reduce carbon emissions and contribute to our climate emergency objectives as part of a longer-term refurbishment programmes across the HRA Stock.</p> <p>The review will be data-driven. Data describes the fabric of the building and its components; roof, floors, windows, insulation, heating and energy performance. We have identified new software, “Intelligent Energy”, that will improve greatly our capability to analyse this data and develop plans for improvements in energy efficiency and de-carbonisation of the housing stock.</p> <p>Whilst the HRA portfolio has been maintained to a good standard over the years the carbon neutral targets add significant strain to the existing maintenance programme. Much of the work required to decarbonise the existing HRA stock goes beyond the planned maintenance which has traditionally been done to ensure the homes are in a good condition and comfortable to live in. These interventions will give the properties a longer life span, reduce running cost for tenants and most importantly reduce the properties reliance on non-renewable sources of energy.</p> <p>Any proposed environmental enhancements will take into consideration the existing planned maintenance workstreams to ensure efficiencies can be achieved where properties are suitable for retrofit enhancements. This process will ensure the Council's housing portfolio positively contributes towards our carbon neutral ambitions whilst also provide truly sustainable and affordable homes for our tenants.</p> <p><b>New ‘Green’ New Build Design Guide</b></p> <p>The Council’s Housing Development Strategy 2020-2024 identifies ‘Environmental Sustainability’ as an essential element in the creation of homes and communities in which people want to live and work. It notes that lowering the whole-life carbon footprint of properties will help tenants save money and deliver lasting environmental, social, and economic benefits.</p>

	Housing, both our existing stock and new build programme, has a huge role to play in the current environmental challenges we are facing. The team are developing a new 'New Build Design Guide' which will outline our minimum requirements in terms of energy standards and environmental impact.
3.8	<p><b>Assets</b></p> <p>The Council is in the course of updating the EPC certificates of its built assets. All EPCs displayed in those assets that are open to the public are now up to date. A further 15 in non-public facing buildings are close to expiry and are in the process of being renewed.</p> <p>In the course of updating the EPC certificates the assets team are identifying those assets where opportunities for energy efficiency improvements exist and generate the business case for measures to reduce energy consumption and related emissions and improve the future EPC ratings of those assets.</p>
3.9	<p><b>Communication of wider activities of the Council with regards to the environment</b></p> <p>The ETG regularly hears from internal and external speakers on environmental projects that the council is leading on or contributing towards.</p> <p>To help communicate progress on the environmental agenda to a wider audience, even where the ETG itself has not played a central role in driving particular projects, in order to raise the profile of these wider activities, this progress is being collated and publicised on the ETG's webpage <a href="#">Work so far » East Suffolk Council</a>.</p>

#### 4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	It has been agreed that the Environment Task Group would provide quarterly updates on its work to Cabinet. The Group has been performing well and considers it is fulfilling the role set and the tasks allocated.
4.2	As the need to react further and faster to the climate emergency becomes increasingly apparent the Group will continue to have a significant role considering and supporting initiatives and providing opinions to Cabinet on any matters referred to it. For this reason, Cabinet is invited to confirm it is delivering the task it was set and to give any further guidance it considers appropriate.

### Appendices

#### Appendices:

None.

#### Background reference papers:

None.