

COUNCIL

Thursday 24 May 2018

CABINET MEMBERS' REPORT AND OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT TO COUNCIL (CL 14/18)

Cabinet Members' Report to Council

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Geoff Holdcroft, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development
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East Suffolk Economic Growth Plan

Both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Cabinets have now approved East Suffolk's new Economic Growth Plan. This sets out the vision and objective for achieving economic growth over the next five years. It recognises and seeks to exploit the major economic strengths in East Suffolk such as Energy, Ports & Logistics, Tourism, ICT/ Creative digital, food and drink production sectors as well as focussing on the place-based approach to economic development and regeneration. In order to achieve this the strategy identifies the building blocks of a successful economy such as a highly and appropriately skilled workforce, tackling infrastructure constraints, business support and finance, marketing and promotion of east Suffolk as an inward investment location.

The new strategy is aligned to the new Norfolk & Suffolk Economic Strategy and in part because this regional strategy is highly dependent on east Suffolk performing well economically as we are an economic powerhouse area within the region. We represent seven of the nine regional key growth sectors and half of the priority growth places.

The new strategy sets out our approach to delivering economic growth and this is due to be followed shortly by a delivery plan setting out the specific activities we will pursue to achieve this.

Channel 4 relocation bid

SCDC is working in partnership with Ipswich BC to bid for one of three Channel 4 hubs which will be relocating from London. Specifically, we have targeted one of the two creative hubs and east Suffolk lends considerable weight to the application due to our strengths in digital creative i.e. Adastral Park and Bentwaters Parks (regional filming and production hub which is due to have a new sound stage in 2019 which will further reinforce its position as a regional centre for film/ post production) and cultural i.e. Aldeburgh Music. Furthermore the high quality of Suffolk Coastal's natural and built environment also makes it a major draw for film makers.

The bid was submitted on 11 May and shortlisting will begin in June. If successful, the bid will then go to the full application stage and we should know whether the greater Ipswich area has been selected as a location in the autumn.

Sizewell C Economic Impact Report

The Economic Development team have recently commissioned Hardisty Jones to undertake an economic impact assessment of the proposed Sizewell C development. The scale of this new power station has the ability to massively impact the local economy, both positively and negatively, and in order to develop a beneficial economic strategy alongside EDFe we need a thorough understanding of how we best maximise the potential benefits and dis-benefits.

Hardisty Jones has worked on Hinkley Point C as well as proposed new nuclear developments in Anglesey and Cumbria and as such has a wealth of experience to bring to this work in East Suffolk. The report is due to be completed in September in time for the anticipated stage 3 consultation in January 2019. Furthermore, it will inform our input into EDF Energy's Sizewell C economic strategy which will be submitted as part of the Development Consent Order possibly towards of the end of 2019 and, ultimately, it will support our negotiations with EDF in ensuring appropriate mitigation for any potential negative economic impacts. This is a joint commission with Suffolk CC.

Joint Local Authority Group visit to Hinkley Point C

Members and Officers from SCDC, WDC and SCC visited Somerset on 24 and 25 April. On the first day we visited the associated developments including the park and ride facilities, accommodation sites and travelled the lorry routes to site as well as meeting with Members and Officers from the three local authorities involved. On the second day we toured the development site itself and heard from EDFe about progress there and what it might mean for Sizewell C.

Some of these matters have already been reported to the Sizewell C Task Group, which you were free to attend, and the learning from the two days will be/was discussed at the next meeting of JLAG on 18 May. I am happy to brief any Member about what we learnt on this visit.

Sizewell A&B Site Stakeholders' Group

Site Stakeholder Groups (SSG) are long-established at each of the Magnox nuclear power sites and provide an opportunity for stakeholders to find out more about the work being undertaken there. They are independently-chaired, and the SSGs meet regularly to examine the work of Magnox, as well as that of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and regulators. The SSG's membership includes local councillors, non-governmental organisations and other interested stakeholders.

At Sizewell the role of the SSG has been widened to include Sizewell B which is operated by EDF Energy. Its role does not extend to the proposed Sizewell C station although discussion often encompasses looking at the cumulative implications. The Sizewell A&B Site Stakeholders Group is currently Chaired by the former SCDC Councillor Marianne Fellows.

The last Quarterly Meeting of the Sizewell A & B Stakeholder Group was held on 19 April; unfortunately, I was unable to attend but Carolyn Barnes represented SCDC at the meeting.

The meeting heard reports from Allen Neiling (Closure Director, Magnox), Rowland Cook (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation), Phil Heaton (Environment Agency) and Jonathan Jenkin (NDA) regarding Sizewell A. On Sizewell B the meeting heard reports from Paul Morton (Station Director, EDF), Colin Tait (Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation) and Victoria Thomas (Environment Agency).

Earlier in the year the Group undertook a visit to both Sizewell A and B stations as well as the Dry Fuel Store. We saw some of the decommissioning work at Sizewell A including the preparations for divers undertaking the clear up of the ‘ponds’. At the B site we were fortunate that it was during an outage and we saw some of the work that is undertaken during that phase of the operational cycle. We were able to visit the ‘ponds’ and have a rare glimpse inside the reactor vessel itself. A very instructive day.

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Tony Fryatt, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning
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Ipswich Strategic Planning Area Board

There has been much confusion regarding the role and status of the Ipswich Policy Area Board. This was a body established to agree the way in which Ipswich and the neighbouring Districts should work together to provide a cohesive plan for the area and meet the statutory obligation for our “duty to cooperate”. It did not function successfully and much of the work was undertaken by other committees. However, the need is still there. In fact given the changes to Government policies and the preparation of local plans in all the Districts to a tight timescale, it is vital that we are all singing off the same hymn sheet. If we were to tell different stories, the Inspector would tear us to pieces. After several very useful discussions, it has been agreed to replace this body with the Ipswich Strategic Planning Area Board (ISPAB). The title defines the function more succinctly. We now have a good working relationship in accordance with Government aspirations as set out in the draft NPPF and an agreed way of working together to develop our Local Plans. The Board will meet at least once every two months.

The Terms of Reference have been updated from the 2015 version and now read:

- To provide a forum in which the five local authorities can work together to develop, promote and deliver their vision for the Ipswich Strategic Planning growth area within the Greater Ipswich sub-region, County of Suffolk and the New Anglia LEP area.
- To enable them to co-operate as local planning authorities on the preparation and monitoring of their Local Plans and share relevant evidence and intelligence.
- To provide a mechanism to ensure that all partners and stakeholders work together to deliver the housing and employment growth requirement for the ISPAB.
- To produce and facilitate agreement and keep under review as necessary, a Statement of Common Ground in relation to the above.
- The ISPAB covers the geographic areas of Ipswich Borough Council and the District Councils of Babergh, Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal.
- The Board will consist of one Councillor and one or more Officers as necessary from these Authorities and from Suffolk County Council.

Housing Needs Calculations

Given the concerns that have been expressed over recent months regarding housing supply and the 5 Year Building Land challenges, it is helpful to consider the emerging thinking coming from the Local Plan Working Group. The LPWG is working well and is providing the right platform to debate and develop policies for our needs looking forward, but the timescales are very tight.

The proposals for the next part of the Local Plan (draft Plan consultation) will shortly go to Cabinet for them to consider an eight weeks consultation period from 22 July. The updated 5 year Building Land supply figure will be published in June.

Below is the current calculation showing the residual housing need to be planned for in the Local Plan. Please note that this is based upon the information available as at the end of February 2018 and that checks /monitoring are still underway for the 2017/18 year. Please, therefore, treat this as a “work in progress” but the figures do give a clear picture of the trends.

The figures are based upon the Local Plan covering the period 2016 – 2036. This reflects the new standard methodology as consulted upon in the earlier ‘Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places’ consultation and the current consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework.

Residual housing needs calculation (working draft)

	Number of dwellings
Completions (1.4.16 – 28.2.18)	999
Outstanding planning permissions (28.2.18)	4,036
Dwellings with resolution to grant planning permission, subject to S106 (28.2.18)	2,619
Allocations in current Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plans (<i>without</i> permission or resolution to grant subject to S106) (28.2.18)	907
Total commitments (28.2.18)	8,561
Proposed housing requirement (2016 – 2036): new national standard method plus 10% (545 x 20) (<i>Note 1</i>)	10,900 (545 dwellings per annum)
Residual need (requirement minus commitments)	10,900 – 8,561 = 2,339
Residual (2,339) plus contingency of 10% on top of housing requirement (1,090) (<i>Note 2</i>)	3,429 (190 dwellings per annum)

Note 1

The new national standard requests that we consider the housing figures to be the absolute minimum and asks that we uplift our District figure if we are able to. Given the supply position we are recommending that this uplift should be 10%.

Note 2

In addition, it is proposed that we do go forward with 10% contingency in view of the current uncertainties across the ISPAB area.

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Housing Benefit and Local Council Tax Support

Suffolk Coastal has met performance indicators for the 2017-2018 year for the processing of new claims and change of circumstances for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support.

Anglia Revenues Partnership is working with Customer Services to implement new on line forms to ease and enhance the on line process and experience for customers needing to claim Benefits or regarding their Council Tax and non-Domestic Rates.

Universal Credit

Suffolk Coastal is scheduled to implement the Universal Credit Full Service (UCFS) in October 2018. The national rollout programme for Working Age new claims commenced in Spring 2016 and is scheduled to conclude by December 2018 - the Council will benefit from the improvements seen at Waveney District Council where UCFS has been live since May 2016 and enhancements adopted nationally. Improvements to Universal Credit have been implemented this year, including the removal of the seven waiting days, the transfer back to Councils of temporary accommodation (homeless) customers' rent allowance and the two week Housing Benefit transitional payment.

Whilst we are seeing some improvements there remains, however, concerns regarding some delays with the first and subsequent UC payments to customers, rent arrears and the process for vulnerable persons. Along with the Head of Customer Services, the ARP will implement a programme of planning meetings and sessions internally and with stakeholders in preparation for October, replicating the work undertaken at Waveney.

In recognition of this work the East Suffolk Universal Credit Support Partnership, comprising Suffolk Coastal District, Waveney District Council, Anglia Revenues Partnership, Department for Work & Pensions and Waveney Citizens Advice, won the Silver Award at the iESE Public Sector Innovation and Transformation Awards held in London in March. This was an excellent achievement especially as 38 nominations were shortlisted. Indeed, during a presentation event held at East Suffolk House in May with members of the team and the Chief Executive, the iESE Chief Executive commented that it is most unusual for a nominee to receive an award in the first year of their project as, usually, nominations might receive a certificate of merit then progress to an award as their project develops to deliver objectives.

The ARP Strategic Manager (Benefits) represents the East of England Councils along with the LGA at national LA/DWP Steering Groups looking at and planning welfare reforms, including the implementation and escalation of UC – representations are ongoing regarding these plans, customer access and delays, and funding implications for Councils.

Looking ahead, the DWP plan to enter the final stage of the roll out of Universal Credit from July 2019 to March 2022, when all existing working age customers will have to claim Universal Credit to receive any means tested benefit. By the end of 2018 the DWP expect nearly one million customers will be in receipt of Universal Credit – with six million due to be migrated by March 2022; the Government continues to state the position for Pensioners will be reviewed in 2022.

Housing

The Government has recently introduced the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (the Act) which is regarded as the biggest change to homelessness since 1977. The Act came into force in April 2018. The focus of the legislation is the prevention of homelessness, and it introduces a statutory duty to do so. Most households at risk of homelessness within 56 days will be covered under the legislation, regardless of whether they are in priority need or intentionally homeless – a major change.

The Act will significantly increase the number of people owed a statutory duty which will mean a related increase in casework for local authorities. It has been estimated nationally (by interested bodies such as the National Practitioners' Support Service) that there could be an increase in demand of between 26-51%. These are the first set of figures since the implementation of the new Act – it will take a while to judge its impact on the Council.

- Total number of service users approaching SCDC Housing Options since 03/04/2018 = 121

The breakdown of which is:

1. Triage (advice only cases) = 81
 2. Prevention cases (within the 56 day prevention duty) = 23
 3. Relief cases (within the 56 day relief duty) = 17
- For every person that approaches the service for assistance it takes between 1-1.5 hours to complete the interview and assessment and issue the Personal Housing Plan/s184 letter.
 - Legacy cases:
 1. Advice and Prevention cases = 67
 2. Homelessness cases pending enquiries = 1
 3. Homelessness cases (duty accepted) awaiting rehousing = 3

The Gateway to Homechoice for SCDC has provided the following information as a snapshot into the last quarter, if more detailed information is required this can be found in the latest Quarterly Performance Report presented at the May meeting of cabinet.

- Current number of active applications for Social Housing on the SCDC Gateway to Homechoice Register = 1784
- During the last quarter (Jan/Feb/Mar 2018) the total number of households rehoused through the Gateway to Homechoice Register for SCDC = 76

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Carol Poulter, Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Green Environment
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The East Suffolk Greenprint Forum

What have we done?

We continue to facilitate the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum. The Forum started in 1996 in Suffolk Coastal and now covers the whole of East Suffolk. It is facilitated by the Council and is one of the delivery vehicles for our Business Plan; specifically enabling our communities to be more resilient, supportive, engaged, valued and empowered whilst protecting, enhancing and making sustainable

use of our environment. It is steered by a group representing community groups, town and parish councils and key funding organisations.

One of the projects initiated by the Greenprint Forum, the innovative Thriving Community Buildings (TCB) project (2016-2018), has now been successfully delivered. The project provided 63 east Suffolk communities with assistance to build resilience through their community buildings. TCB offered communities help with resource efficiency, renewable energy, energy management, health and safety, governance, safeguarding, financial management and fundraising, business planning, employment and emergency support. Village hall representatives were contacted directly by Groundwork, the Council's delivery partner, and prioritised on the type and level of support needed. A key strength of the project was strong partnership working, access to high levels of professional skills across the offer and connections with funding providers.

What difference has it made?

This project has helped the dedicated volunteers who run these community buildings to implement around 50 improvement measures including: improved governance and procedures, solar PV installations, improved insulation, LED lighting, replacing storage heaters with modern electric convector heaters and improved wildlife habitats. 171 further actions are in progress or planned, all of which will help these community facilities function more efficiently both financially and in terms of their environmental impacts. The project case study can be found on:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Your-Council/Business-Plan/Case-studies/Thriving-Community-Buildings-case-study.pdf

What is underway and planned?

2018 is our year of Plastic Action. Since January we have:

- Instigated monthly half hour staff healthy walks and litter picks from Riverside and Melton and made litter pick sticks available to borrow at ESH and Riverside.
- Organised community litter picks in Felixstowe and Lowestoft and supported one in Boyton and one in Beccles.
- Held three community engagement events, two with local groups and one Greenprint Forum event. These have engaged with and inspired around 200 individuals directly and information from the events has been shared online and hopefully through local town and parish meetings or newsletters.
- With the Suffolk Waste Partnership we have run one visit to the Materials Recycling Facility at Great Blakenham and have two more visits planned. We will also be running two visits to the Energy from Waste Plant.
- Produced four newsletters with plastics as a key theme.
- Produced three webinars – all accessible online.
- Gained support (a final proposal is yet to go to the East Suffolk Partnership Board) and graduate time towards a Plastic Action project which divides into three developing work-streams: Plastic Action in Business, Plastic Action Champions and Plastic Action in the Arts.

These work-streams will help us:

- Understand the economic and social benefits of the plastics industry within East Suffolk specifically throughout the plastic lifecycle but also within the broader context of New Anglia.
- Identify the steps that organisations that are identified as a priority can take to reduce single use plastic waste and support community clear up action. Identify blocks and, if possible, identify ways in which the Greenprint Forum and partners can support them in overcoming these and to identify business development and promotional opportunities.
- Share the learning via the various business networks and newsletters and start the conversation on a shift to a bio based economy utilising locally grown crops to create fossil fuel free plastics and investigate recycling and energy from waste feedstock options for these.

Further information on Plastic Action Champions and Plastic Action in the Arts will be shared at a future briefing. These are being developed in partnership with other organisations and areas within the Council and Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Norse.

If you would like to receive copies of the monthly e-newsletter and do not currently do so please email greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk and ask to be added to the mailing list. If you are aware of or have specific comments on litter or use of plastic in your patch that could be used to help direct activity please get in touch directly with Deborah Wargate by email: Deborah.wargate@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

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Recruitment will commence later this month through Community Action Suffolk for the local Felixstowe TimeBank Coordinator post to work alongside Timebanking UK to set up the first TimeBank in Suffolk. The post-holder will be based in the Felixstowe Forward office at the Town Hall and work closely with Helen Greengrass. A range of promotional material is being designed (postcards, posters etc.) and the TimeBank will be officially launched at the annual Felixstowe Forward event in July.

The East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership met recently and started discussions about where we can add most value at a local level in terms of the four Suffolk community safety priorities – Gangs and County Lines, Prevent, Violence Against Women and Girls, and Hate Crime.

An event was held in early May at Bruisyard Village Hall to launch the rural social prescribing project covering the area north of Framlingham under the ‘Community Connector’ brand. Our key partners on this project are the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Suffolk County Council and the Rural Coffee Caravan. As per my last update to Council, this is part of a much bigger project to be submitted shortly for EU Interreg funding of more than £300, 000.

Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG are now funding one day a week (0.2FTE) of the Head of Communities post (Nicole Rickard) and 0.25FTE of each of the Community Support Officer posts (Chloe Winlow and Louise Thomas). This mirrors the arrangement that has been agreed with Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG for 2018/19 and will hopefully continue into future years.

Licensing

The proposals for a new scheme to license Rickshaws for use for 'hire and reward' within the district was approved by the Suffolk Coastal District Council's Licensing and Health Committee on 24 April 2018. The same policy had been approved by the Waveney District Council's Licensing Committee on 4 April 2018 and therefore the policy now covers both of the district Councils' areas. Some Town Councils have chosen not to allow this type of vehicle to operate in the town. Enquiries have been received recently from a potential operator/driver who wishes to work in Felixstowe. Felixstowe Town Council is willing to allow this type of vehicle to operate in Felixstowe.

The Council's adopted Licensing Act Statement of Policy and Gambling Act Statement of Principles have to be revised and updated ready for publication in January 2019. Draft revised policies will be presented to the Licensing and Health Committee in July to be approved for an 8 week consultation synchronised with Waveney District Council. Both of the current policies are already aligned with the equivalent policies adopted by Waveney District Council, other than the introduction describing each district. The aim, whilst revising the documents, is to produce two documents, both in a joint format that can be re-branded and adopted by the new East Suffolk Council in 2019.

A policy relating to Sex Establishments will also be produced in a draft format for consultation. Suffolk Coastal District Council has adopted Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009) so that it can license sex shops, sex cinemas, and sexual entertainment venues in the local authority area. Currently, however, the Council does not have a policy relating to these licensing powers.

Once again, the aim is to produce a joint policy with Waveney District Council which can be re-branded and adopted by the new Council in May 2019.

Suffolk Workplace Wellbeing Charter

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, along with a number of other Suffolk public sector organisations, have all signed a commitment to work towards the standards in the Workplace Wellbeing Charter. The Charter is a statement of intent and commitment to supporting and improving the health and wellbeing of employees.

Many factors influence our health and wellbeing including lifestyle, the environment in which we live and the workplace. The Workplace Wellbeing Charter for Suffolk aims to help everyone in the county to improve their health and wellbeing. The aim is to create an environment where employees feel valued and supported to maintain good health and wellbeing as part of an effective work-life balance.

The Suffolk organisations currently working together with us on this project are Suffolk County Council, Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils, St Edmundsbury & Forest Heath Councils, Ipswich Hospital, EELGA, Cambridge Universities Hospital NHS Foundation Trust / West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust; Tendering District Council and Public Health East England.

The Charter aims to address health and wellbeing issues within the workplace and provides a framework and a set of standards to benchmark, evaluate and improve health and wellbeing support in a co-ordinated and consistent way across the Suffolk system.

The Charter standards cover a range of areas including:-

- ☑ Leadership
- ☑ Absence Management
- ☑ Health and Safety

- ☒ Mental Health
- ☒ Smoking and Tobacco
- ☒ Physical Activity
- ☒ Healthy Eating
- ☒ Alcohol and Substance Misuse

There are three levels of achievement for each area:

- Commitment
- Achievement
- Excellence

And the Suffolk group commitment was that all organisations achieve the level of excellence by January 2019.

In east Suffolk we have been working to support staff health and wellbeing and achieve Charter status through the activities of the officer Wellbeing team and the Councils' Health & Safety Committee. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken to raise staff awareness of mental health issues, the support available for staff and how to manage mental health problems. Other activities and awareness raising has focussed on physical activity with lunchtime Pilates sessions, health checks and general information on healthier lifestyles.

Earlier this year we requested an audit in all 8 areas of the Charter and on 20 February 2018 a team of three auditors from the County's Public Health Team and Public Health England visited the Council offices to assess a portfolio of evidence submitted in support of our Charter application. The audit involved scrutiny of the Council's policies, procedures and activities in support of the staff wellbeing agenda followed by checks on our office accommodation and facilities and interviews with staff to assess whether the Council's commitment and policies were being translated into action to support staff wellbeing.

The results of the audit were announced in April and the Councils' have done extremely well in achieving the highest rating in six of the eight areas assessed. We achieved:

<i>Leadership</i>	<i>Excellence</i>
<i>Absence Management</i>	<i>Excellence</i>
<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Excellence</i>
<i>Mental Health</i>	<i>Excellence</i>
<i>Smoking and Tobacco</i>	<i>Achievement</i>
<i>Physical Activity</i>	<i>Excellence</i>
<i>Healthy Eating</i>	<i>Excellence</i>
<i>Alcohol and Substance Misuse</i>	<i>Achievement</i>

As well as achieving an excellent audit report the Councils' were commended on areas of best practice including our use of Natural Work Teams to develop initiatives such as My Conversation. The audit report also highlighted the following:

Strengths and areas of good practice

There were a number of areas of strength and of good practice that arose during the course of this assessment, particularly with regard to leadership, absence management, mental health, staff engagement and your emerging programme of activity for 2018/19. There were a good and wide

range of policies and other documents provided alongside supporting narrative. Where there were gaps or a question relating to what was provided, a further layer of information was provided.

The Wellbeing Team will be working on an improvement plan with the aim of achieving ‘Excellence’ in the remaining two areas by January 2019.

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Coastal Partnership East (CPE) evolves

CPE – first formed in April 2016 – has just completed its 2nd year of operation. A major landmark was the eventual recruitment of our Coastal Engineering Manager, Tamzen Pope, after a sadly protracted recruitment exercise. However that was targeted at ensuring that we found the right person for this critical job, and I am very pleased to formally welcome Tamzen in post since the beginning of the year, and to confirm that she is very fully proving her worth in fulfilling our aspirations in that respect. We have introduced her now to the great majority of CPE’s extended coastline, from Wells-next-the-Sea in Norfolk to Landguard Point in Felixstowe. I had the pleasure of an extended tour of the Felixstowe frontage with her in April to point out the extensive schemes we have completed over recent years, and the areas which may need further upgrading as they begin to age.

Tamzen’s appointment will now allow both Bill Parker as the Head of CPE to further address the strategic issues facing our coast and for our senior engineer Paul Patterson to concentrate on the many projects in the pipeline. As part of this, Bill is examining how best to further strengthen the team within the existing staffing budget, coupled with the development of a more detailed Action Plan for the entire coast in the coming years.

Overall the development of the collective capability of the CPE team is progressing extremely well, with the original aspirations of the potential for the combined larger Partnership being amply fulfilled.

A significant “bump in the road” is however to develop a suitable IT system capable of both enabling the team itself to work cohesively, while simultaneously allowing full interaction with staff and members at each of the 4 (to become 3) Local Authorities involved. Extensive work is in progress on that front.

A significant event around the entire Eastern Coast was Storm Emma in March, and the two subsequent lesser events. Although the meteorology behind the storm was extremely unusual – an unbroken weather stream from the far North East in Russia and beyond, with very heavy snowfalls for the time of year - it was severe, but not an extreme event, from a coastal perspective. While the headlines were grabbed by the sad events at Hemsby in Norfolk (which unfortunately were entirely predictable), the effects on the SCDC frontage were relatively modest in comparison for example to 2013 and other earlier events. However that did include some significant local concerns at Thorpeness and the Aldeburgh / Slaughden frontages. We worked quickly with the Environment Agency at Slaughden to ensure that the significant reduction in the width of the shingle bank did not go further, with a potential breach into the Alde estuary, and they did the necessary regulatory work on emergency criteria and the like to ensure an ability to act if the need arose. At Thorpeness, there

was some modest damage to the northern end of the defences, and significant short term loss of shingle on the beach, both of which CPE monitored and addressed.

Similarly at Felixstowe there was significant short term loss of material on the upper beach, particularly on the Northern half of the bay between the Pier and Cobbolds Point. While not of undue concern from a Coast Protection perspective, this did have a serious effect on the viability of our continued re-creation of sand platforms on the upper beach for beach huts. It has now been decided that this is indeed not viable in the longer term, due to the different designed mechanisms and behaviours of the modern rock groyne defences from 2008 (South) and 2012 (Central). Accordingly discussions are under way between our Leisure and Assets teams and the affected hut owners about how the hut sites can be managed in both the short term for this season and in the longer term.

On the great majority of our frontage, a significant return of material has occurred and is progressing, as on previous occasions, and is expected to continue, given a reasonably normal weather pattern of predominantly South Westerly winds for the remainder of the Spring and Summer.

We also learned a further lesson from Emma, as to the need to be prepared to close the Felixstowe flood gates against wave wash on such a comparatively rare occasion with severe wind and wave action from the North East, but where that did not result in unusually high tides and consequent flood alerts triggering the closure. We have updated the protocols for working between CPE and Suffolk Coastal Norse to ensure that we predict these conditions and close the gates accordingly, and that has already been tested successfully twice.

We still recognise the need to ensure a full understanding of the interaction of coastal issues with other parts of the Councils' operation and membership and will aim to address this via a suitable event in the not too distant future – a workshop or similar.

Relations with the Government and other coastal agencies

The combined work of CPE and the LGA Coastal SIG, has continued to enable further very significant developments of our influence on national policy at this critical juncture, with HMG's new 25 year Environment Plan, further realignments of the operations of the DEFRA "family" (the EA, Natural England and the MMO), and DEFRA's ongoing fundamental review of Flood and Coastal Management policy and funding mechanisms.

In early October we enjoyed a very productive visit from John Curtin, the Director of FCERM at the Environment Agency, and his colleague Ken Allison. We were able to demonstrate in the range of different situations in Norfolk, Waveney and SCDC the needs for different approaches in several contexts, and our visitors have since taken on board some of our suggestions in significant ways.

In March, The SIG for the first time played a significant role in the annual major flood and coastal event "Flood and Coast 18", at Telford. We ran an interactive workshop as one of the main conference events, and also had a stand for the whole 3 days. We also had many very useful offline conversations, given that almost all of the major government and professional players were at the event. What was very encouraging indeed was that, at the main Keynote session on the opening day, both the Chair of the session, Clare Dinnis, Director for Flood & Coastal Risk Management Strategy at DEFRA, and Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, in his introductory speech, used the word "Coast" in their opening sentences, a very real change of emphasis, which we have not seen before.

A further innovation for the SIG was our recent field learning event for 2 days in Holland, primarily to learn more on site of the innovative “Sandmotor” concept of beach management on the grand scale. There is a likely initial opportunity for a similar concept (on a smaller scale) at the Bacton Gas Terminal in Norfolk, where CPE have now acquired the necessary funding from a variety of sources. We also visited 2 other locations to see their hugely interactive approach between essential new flood defences and the wider enhancement of the communities involved, with a new 2Km promenade in one case (Scheveningen) and a brand new 800-space car park integrated into the new coastal defence structure (Katwijk). These approaches were truly inspiring, and the quality of the outcomes for the 2 towns involved, one larger and one small truly amazing. Our challenge now is to work out how to even begin such a scale of joined up thinking in the UK context. Watch this space!

Outside Bodies Representatives’ Report to Council

Kyson (River Deben) Fairway Committee	
Representative	Councillor Geoff Holdcroft
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In addition to representing SCDC on this committee I also represent Woodbridge Town Council.

This Fairway Committee manages most of the moorings on the River Deben from Methersgate Quay to the Tide Mill. It holds a lease from the Crown Estate and provides annual licences specifying a site where individuals can lay their own mooring to secure their boat. The Committee is responsible for allocating sites in such a way as to allow safe navigation of the river and to buoy that fairway appropriately. Having recently taken over the area previously managed by the Knoll Fairway Committee, it now manages nearly 200 moorings and is responsible for 13 navigation buoys. The entire operation is run by volunteers and they report annually to an Annual Public Meeting normally held every April.

The Mooring Fees for 2018 were set at:

Wet Mooring (water all round at low water springs) £85

Dry Mooring (some visible mud adjacent to mooring at low water springs) £53

Moorings are allocated according to boat length and draft, to maximise numbers while ensuring a clear and safe navigational channel. Moorings are available for certain size of boat especially those with a shallow draft.

As in previous years concern was raised about related problems of silting up of the river and loss of salt marshes. Water flows in the river especially in Woodbridge and Waldringfield appear to be slowing down which exacerbates these problems. All these matters have been discussed with the Inland Drainage Board but no areas have yet been identified where dredged material could usefully be deposited. It appears that the name of the river might at some point have to be changed from The Deep One (Deben) to The Shallow One!

Now that the Whisstocks development in Woodbridge has been completed and Woodbridge Town Council has become the owner of Whisstocks Quay, the Town Council is seeking to take over the lease of part of the foreshore from the Kyson Fairway Committee so it can better manage the Whisstocks Quay, the Town Quay and the approaches to The Tide Mill which are now all in the Town Council’s ownership.

The Mills Charity	
Representative	Councillor Carol Poulter
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The objective of The Mills Charity is to provide assistance to those in the Framlingham area in need, hardship or distress. We continued to do this during 2017 through the provision of our eight Almshouses in Station Road, as well as helping with other projects which are for the general benefit of local people of Framlingham. The Mills Education Foundation has continued to help organisations and individuals in the education sector, including local schools and their pupils.

The Mills Almshouses in Station Road were built in 1703. The big event of the past year has been the construction of 14 new almshouses in Mills Crescent, off Brook Lane. These 10 three-bedroom almshouses and four one-bedroom flats are now very nearly finished, despite a short delay caused by the bad weather in late February and March. Applications opened in February and were (as expected) several times oversubscribed. All dwellings have been allocated and we hope that the families will be able to move in in July.

During the year we have provided funds to several local organisations to enable them to continue their work with children of the town. Additionally, we have been able to support various organisations, such as churches and village halls to provide or upgrade facilities that benefit local people of all sorts. We have helped local families with special items for disabled or disadvantaged children and provided much assistance to families with stretched budgets in a great variety of ways connected with their children's learning and extra-curricular activities.

The Charity has once again seen an increase in requests for help from various sectors of the Community, including many families under great financial pressure, as well as from other charities and even public-sector bodies. Local people who find themselves in need may apply to The Mills Charity or The Mills Educational Foundation for assistance – each application is considered on its merits and not all requests are agreed.

Our team of eight Trustees and the Clerk, who meet monthly, remained unchanged during the past year.

Suffolk Coastal Disability Forum	
Representative	Councillor Steve Gallant
Contact details	steve.gallant@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk 01394 276336

The Suffolk Coastal Disability Forum is a reference group to assist Suffolk Coastal District Council to listen, learn and consult with disabled people. The Forum creates opportunities for disabled people, their families, and disability organisations in Suffolk Coastal District to come together to:

- Consult directly with Suffolk Coastal District Council services and facilities
- Provide a collective and stronger voice on all issues of disability
- Make a difference
- Improve lives

Membership is free and open to:

- Everyone with an interest in disability
- Disabled people and their family carers, who live in Suffolk Coastal, including people with physical disabilities, sensory disabilities, learning disabilities or mental health problems.
- Representatives of disability organisations that provide a service to people who live in Suffolk Coastal.
- Representatives of Suffolk Coastal District Council and Parish/Town Councils.

Meetings are held quarterly (in January, April, July and October). Guests are invited to discuss particular areas of concern and to respond to members' questions.

Recent Issues that have been discussed relate to:

- Public transport
- Parking
- Paths and pavements
- Access to health services
- Access to leisure
- Housing
- Employment
- Shopping

The Forum has been consulted on the Suffolk Coastal Leisure Strategy, the review of polling stations, and the play equipment at the Martello Park in Felixstowe.

The full reports from two action days (carried out as detailed below) are available to Members who would like to receive them.

- Felixstowe – 5 July 2016
- Woodbridge – 28 June 2017

To join the Forum telephone 01394 274345 or email jen.morcom@daseastsuffolk.org.uk

Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner's Fund Grant Panel	
Representative	Councillor Steve Gallant
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I am privileged to sit on the Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner's Fund Grant Panel which allocates funding to a number of very worthwhile initiatives across the County; the fund seeks to support organisations that can show clear measurable outcomes that are addressing the key objectives of the Police and Crime Plan for Suffolk 2017 – 2021.

Funding amounts

Grants of between £250 and £20,000 are available to support the work of voluntary and community groups, charities, Social Enterprises and Community Interest Companies that are delivering services that help make Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest in.

Conditions of grant funding

A grant would not normally exceed 10% of an organisation's total income. However, some exceptions may be allowed for start-up groups and grassroots organisations. This fund replaces the Safer Suffolk Fund. Operational overheads can only be included where they form an integral part of the project delivery costs. Reclaiming general, management and staffing overheads will not be accepted.

Making an application

Before applying, organisations should refer to the full Police and Crime Plan for Suffolk 2017 – 2021 which details further information on the priority areas: however, as an overview the following information is provided.

It is recognised that VCS organisations play a significant role in reducing crime and disorder, and in supporting victims. Therefore, the fund is looking for strong applications from organisations that are providing support in partnership/collaboration, where links can also be made with the key areas of focus in the Police and Crime Plan:

- **Vulnerable people** – who are or could be a target for crime.
- **Victims of crime** – helping people cope with the immediate impact of the crime and recover from the harm caused – especially where partnerships are formed to support victims.
- **Hidden harm** – supporting those who are or could become a target for crime, cyber-crime, human trafficking, child sexual abuse.
- **Substance misuse** – working with those who have drug and alcohol issues.
- **Preventing reoffending** – working with those who offend to reduce re-offending.
- **Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour** – towards reducing anti-social behaviour.

In addition, they should identify how they meet one of these key themes:

- **Volunteering and Rural Communities** (where the population is less than 10,000 IMD index, or an isolated community/ward where the Social Mobility Index is low)
- **Hate Crime**
- **Business Crime and the local economy**
- **Substance Misuse**
- Human trafficking, female genital mutilation, modern day slavery, honour-based violence, hate crime and other offences committed out of sight, online, etc.

And demonstrate:

- Working in partnership/collaboration.
- Working with hard to reach groups.
- Filling gaps in services.

Interventions that are free at point of delivery for victims of crime are more likely to be successful.

All successful applicants will be required to send in a press release prior to release of funding – this will be passed to the PCC's office for comment and returned for distribution. In addition, wherever possible, visits are requested to successful grant recipients.

Outcomes and monitoring

All funding supported must show **three clear measurable outcomes** which will have to be reported on at the end of the grant funding, the outcomes need to be aligned to the Police and Crime Plan.

A full end-of-grant monitoring report will be expected at the end of the intervention. This will need to include benchmarking of the beneficiaries at the beginning and end of the service, i.e. how were they referred to the service, what crimes had been committed etc.

Details of the funds allocated are provided below (next pages) -