

Cllr Matthew Hicks 2017 Annual Report for the Thredling Division

SCC freezes council tax for seventh year in a row

SCC's share of council tax is to be frozen for a seventh year in a row. The council has made savings in-excess of £200million since the Government's deficit reduction programme began in 2011/2012 and faces the need to make further savings leading to 2020. The budget passed in April saw a ZERO% increase in base Council Tax. We decided to implement the 3% National Adult Social Care Levy and this means with the extra funding from the Social Care precept we will be able to cope with the continuing financial pressures caused by the welcome rise in the national living wage. The administration made a pledge that we would not increase Council Tax for four years if elected, and that manifesto promise has been upheld.

Education attainment in Suffolk

Suffolk County Council continues to drive up educational standards across Suffolk, making sure that every child has access to the best possible education. Validated figures published on the Department for Education's website confirm that Suffolk's GCSE progress has for the first time risen above the national average. Suffolk is now ranked in the top half of all authorities for progress at GCSE level, at 55th out of 151. This is a real improvement since 2014 when Suffolk was ranked 119th for English progress and 108th for maths. It is important to recognise that the way a school's progress is measured has changed this year nationally. Progress 8 is the Government's new way of measuring GCSE results. It measures how well pupils of all abilities have progressed by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country. More information about the new Progress 8 measure can be found on the Department for Education's website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/progress-8-school-performance-measure>.

Across Suffolk, 60.1% of students achieved the national measure of attaining a grade C or above in English and maths. This is 3% higher than last year and marks a 6% increase since 2014. Suffolk students have also closed the gap to the national average state funded schools from 6% in 2014 to just 3% this year. Suffolk continues to be above the national figure of 59.3% for all schools. This is a real sign that Suffolk is making good progress. We are now into the fifth year of the Raising the Bar programme which aims to improve levels of educational attainment and ensure that every child in Suffolk is able to achieve their full potential. Since the programme began in 2012, there has been a more than 20% rise in Suffolk Schools being judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. This rate is currently improving more than twice as fast as those across the country. We will not become complacent and will continue to build on the momentum of the positive results we have seen since the programme started and will continue to ensure that every child and young person in Suffolk reaches their full potential.

EDF Energy's Stage 2 public consultation on the proposed development of Sizewell C

SCC response as part of EDF Energy's Stage 2 public consultation on the proposed development of Sizewell C makes it clear that we support the principal of a new nuclear power station and recognise the benefits for the local economy; including jobs, skills and business. However, at this point there is a lot more work required on the part of EDF Energy to provide much greater detail and demonstrate how they plan to mitigate many of the significant concerns that such a major development brings with it. Particular aspects of the

feedback offered focus on the challenges of accommodation, construction, transport, environment and effect on local communities. The report confirms that some of the proposals are sound; including the temporary extension of rail links and park and ride bus site. The positive economic outcomes are also welcomed. In regards to road improvement the council has made it clear that the preferred option is for the 'SEGway' (the Suffolk Energy Gateway including a 4 village bypass) to be built in time for the development. This means that within EDF Energy's current stage 2 consultation, the option for a 2-village bypass for Farnham and Stratford St Andrew is the absolute bare minimum mitigation that they must fund. The authorities will strive to deliver a SEGWay by seeking government funding to add to what EDF Energy must provide for a two village by pass. The report states that there are aspects of the proposals that require more detail from EDF Energy before we can be content. There is a lack of information regarding potential alternative locations for the borrow pits, spoil heaps (up to a huge 35 metres high) and stockpiling of other materials that will occur as part of construction. There is a significant threat to the surrounding Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). There is also concern about the scale of the site footprint and its proximity and vulnerability to coastal processes. There is similar concern regarding the proposed five storey high accommodation block for construction workers in regards to its location and design. In short, there are many elements of the proposals that really need a greater level of detail. The third element of the report outlines a number of areas of EDF Energy's proposals that simply require much more detail before SCC is even willing to give a view on whether to support or disagree. Further information is required in regards to traffic movement and related volumes that are likely during construction in order to better understand the impact on existing road networks and what additional infrastructure may be needed to help alleviate concerns from the local community including changes to existing road junctions. Without further detail regarding how EDF Energy intend to utilise the different modes of transport available, the councils must assume a worst case scenario at this point, until EDF Energy can clearly demonstrate the benefits of their proposal and how they would deliver this. It is also unclear how social and economic benefits will be delivered to local people and surrounding communities and what part tourism and business plays at this point. The Council will work in collaboration with EDF Energy and Government to look at how such development can be delivered with the appropriate mitigation and level of funding required for such an ambitious project.

Foster & Partners selected to join the Upper Orwell Crossings Project, Ipswich while Lake Lothing Third Crossing, Lowestoft will be supported by Design Council Caba.

Following a competition run in partnership with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), Suffolk County Council is very pleased to announce that Foster + Partners has been selected as the architectural team to join the Upper Orwell Crossings project in Ipswich. The crossings will be the second project Foster + Partners has undertaken in the town, following the construction of the architecturally significant Willis Building in Ipswich town centre. The Panel, chaired by Sir Michael Hopkins CBE, selected Foster + Partners from a strong shortlist of five internationally renowned teams. Foster + Partners impressed the panel by the quality of their overall approach and thinking, including the initial design concepts. The approaches were considered to have the potential to enhance Ipswich's thriving waterfront, as well as acting as a catalyst for regeneration of the wider harbour area. The county council and key partners, including Ipswich Borough Council and Ipswich Vision, keenly anticipate seeing the initial design ideas developed further with the wider project team and in consultation with

local businesses, communities and residents. Competition concept design images can be downloaded from here <https://www.flickr.com/photos/suffolkcountycouncil/> A video is available at www.youtube.com/user/SuffolkCC

It has also been announced that the Lake Lothing Third Crossing design process will be supported by Design Council Cabe. As a leading provider of independent and expert design advice, Design Council Cabe will help ensure a sound design process for the Lake Lothing Third Crossing in Lowestoft. Design Council Cabe will lead design workshops and reviews with the project design team, using an independent design advice panel drawn from their network of experts. The panel will consist of architects, landscape architects, urban planners and designers and engineers to ensure all elements of the scheme are properly considered. This is another important step in making the Lake Lothing Third Crossing a reality and we are delighted to be working with Design Council Cabe to develop a high quality design for the bridge. The construction of the Lake Lothing Third Crossing will bring significant transport benefits to Lowestoft for not just motorists, but pedestrians and cyclists too. The crossing will also open up further opportunities for regeneration and development in the area. Design is a really important element of the scheme and we are confident that with Design Council Cabe assisting us means we have the very best team on board.

Design Team announced for 'The Hold'

The design team who will develop the planned heritage centre, 'The Hold' has been announced. Suffolk County Council and the University of Suffolk, who are partners in the project, have announced that following a highly competitive tender process, world class, award winning architects Pringle Richards Sharratt have won the contract to develop the design for the new building. The name of the new shared building has also been confirmed as 'The Hold', and will use the strapline 'Explore. Discover. Connect.' 'The Hold' is one of the commitments being delivered as part of the Ipswich Vision. 'The Hold' will incorporate facilities to house 900 years of Suffolk's historical archives, along with exhibition space, exciting digital technology, a café, an auditorium and education/seminar rooms. The project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) who have provided a grant of £538,000 to help the partners develop their proposals and apply for a delivery grant of over £10m later this year. As well as providing teaching and research space fit for the 21st Century, it will also form a unique visitor attraction and an important cultural resource for the community. The project will drive a new way for the Record Office to extend and deliver its outreach work; a county-wide activity programme called "Mapping Suffolk's Stories" will see Record Office staff and UCS work alongside a wide range of community groups, volunteers and schools, engaging them with Suffolk's rich heritage in new and exciting ways, beginning with researching and digitising historic map collections. The Hold, which is one of the 21 key delivery projects of the 'Ipswich Vision', should open its doors in time for the 900th anniversary of the Record Office's oldest document, in 2019. Suffolk Record Office now offers online resources to help you search for a particular person or piece of information. The new website allows users to access catalogues for the records from the comfort of their own home and means many more people will be able to use the service. More records are being digitised and added to the collection on an on-going basis. To find out more about the services available online, visit www.suffolkarchives.co.uk

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