

District Councillors Report

Local Government Reorganisation

Our council has joined with Suffolk's other district and borough councils to oppose Suffolk County Council's proposal for one unitary council to deliver services for the whole of the county – which will be too large to work effectively and too remote for local residents to be heard.

Our [joint interim report](#) submitted to government describes how 'a one size fits all' approach will not work for a county with such varied communities and businesses - rural, coastal, industrial, agricultural and urban.

Only by creating multiple unitary authorities for Suffolk can we achieve greater outcomes for residents, grow the economy and provide flexible solutions to meet the needs of local communities.

Two/three unitary authorities will provide:

- Cost effective and high-quality services for Suffolk residents
- Long term financial sustainability
- Economic growth and support to local industry
- Stronger democratic representation, community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment
- Governance and support systems which can adapt to future aspirations and sustainable growth
- Ambitions to drive progress, innovation, and long-term success
- Structures to support and enable thriving communities and economies

Solar savings for businesses across our districts

Businesses in both our districts can now apply for free solar panels and installation, through a new partnership with West Suffolk Council - reducing carbon emissions and energy bills.



Solar for Business has been running successfully in West Suffolk for nine years - helping more than a hundred companies to save a total of around £700k and 2,000 tonnes in harmful CO2 emissions per year.

The initiative is now being extended, with businesses across Babergh and Mid Suffolk also able to sign up to the scheme to have solar panels provided and installed on their premises for free.

The electricity generated is then sold back to the business at a rate lower than their current tariff, guaranteeing savings on their bills.

Armed forces covenant signing



Both our councils re-signed our Armed Forces Covenant last week - heralding a range of actions to ensure our councils support local members of the Armed Forces community.

Our Armed Forces champions Cllr James Patchett and Cllr Derek Davis reasserted both councils' commitment to the the Armed Forces Covenant - a promise by the nation that the Armed Forces community should be treated fairly and face no disadvantage when accessing goods and services.

A media release will be issued over coming days, while all council officers have been invited to find out more about our pledge and what it means to those in our districts by attending a lunch and learn session next Tuesday (6 May). Look out for further information.

Compost giveaways



We have once again organised compost giveaways this year, with four set to take place across the districts in May.

Compost bags will be handed out on:

- Saturday 3 May at Eye Community Centre from 8am
- Sunday 4 May at Hadleigh Morrisons car park from 8am
- Saturday 10 May at Station Road car park in Sudbury from 8am
- Sunday 11 May at Needham Lake's Mill Meadow in Needham Market from 8am

The giveaways will operate on a first come, first served basis, with no more than two bags given out per vehicle.

Cash injection for communities in Babergh & Mid Suffolk

Town and parish councils in Babergh and Mid Suffolk are set to receive more than £813,000 in developer contributions to help community infrastructure keep pace with housing growth.

Developers building homes within the districts are charged a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which the councils then reinvest in neighbourhoods via their towns and parish councils.

Of the £813,000 funding, 28 town and parish councils in Mid Suffolk will receive a share of a £539k, with 22 of Babergh's town and parishes receiving a portion of £274K.

The town and parish councils can decide how to spend this money to best support the development of their local area and meet the need of the community.

Those areas with successfully adopted neighbourhood plans will receive a higher amount of funding.

This round of neighbourhood CIL is in addition to the £18 million of district CIL funding which has been allocated in both districts since 2018 and which has included recent awards of £538K for the extension and refurbishment of Stowmarket Library in Mid Suffolk and £100K each for East Bergholt Tennis Club and Layham Road sports ground pavilion rebuild in Hadleigh for Babergh.

Cllr Sallie Davies, Babergh District Council's cabinet member for heritage, planning and infrastructure said: "Although the larger projects funded by district CIL grab the headlines, it's this neighbourhood CIL funding that enables our towns and parishes to reinvest in the truly local infrastructure that their communities need."