

Councillor Vickery.

# November 2016 Monthly Round-Up Newsletter

## Suffolk County Council commits to pursuing principles of devolution further

At its full council meeting today, Suffolk County Council voted to support a number of recommendations towards looking at the potential for a future devolution deal for Suffolk. The vote was 57 in favour and there were 7 abstentions. The full recommendations discussed and agreed today were as follows:

### **This Council agrees:**

- 1. To reiterate the commitment given previously by the Council to devolution as a means of delivering accelerated growth in the local and national economy and of helping local people and places to fulfil their potential;**
- 2. To authorise the Leader and Chief Executive to:**
  - a) seek an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss the Government's intentions in relation to devolution**
  - b) work with Government and local partners to agree an alternative devolution deal as soon as possible**
- 3. That further reports are presented to the Council and Cabinet, as appropriate, as the devolution process progresses.**

All seven other local authorities in Suffolk have voted on these recommendations and have all agreed these principles.

A statement from Public Sector Leader's was issued shortly after the Secretary of State ended the Norfolk and Suffolk bid process

Cllr Jennie Jenkins, Chair of Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders Group said: "It was disappointing news to hear the results of the votes at King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council last night and it appears as though this means that there will not be an agreement reached for a Norfolk and Suffolk devolution deal at this time.

"However, it is important for those of us in Suffolk who wish to explore the potential opportunities for devolution further, to continue conversations with government and to meet as planned during the next seven days to vote on the commitment previously given to each respective authority in Suffolk.

“We will be seeking to explore the potential for a Suffolk-based devolution deal and to investigate options for establishing interim governance arrangements for any such alternative deal.”

## Chance to have your say in budget setting process

People in Suffolk are being asked to share their views on what matters most to them to inform the budget setting process.

As grant funding from central government continues to reduce, Suffolk County Council is required to make savings of more than £46million in 2017/18, followed by further savings in the years after. This means the council needs to look at where it should prioritise spending and how it can make savings across the services it provides.

As part of the public engagement, people are being asked where they think Suffolk County Council should prioritise spending. The survey closes on 30 December 2016 and the budget report will be considered by the Suffolk County Council Cabinet on 24 January 2017, who will make recommendations to Full Council on 9 February 2017.

To have your say, visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/budgetsurvey2017](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/budgetsurvey2017)

## Students get set for new school building after handover completed

Students at Suffolk’s newest school will be enjoying their state-of-the-art facilities two months earlier than anticipated after the official handover was completed today (Monday 14 November 2016).

Sybil Andrews Academy on Bury St Edmunds’ Moreton Hall estate was expected to be ready for students in January, but the building will now be open within a matter of weeks after the project team officially handed over the building to Suffolk County Council.

Gordon Jones, cabinet member for children’s services, education & skills at Suffolk County Council, said he was delighted that the first phase of development was handed over to Suffolk County Council ahead of schedule.

## Help for family carers

Suffolk County Council has released a new video and booklet giving an insight into what it means to be a carer.

The Council and Suffolk Artlink have worked in partnership to produce the video and booklet which bring together the stories of carers living in Suffolk. Carers have shared their advice and experiences of the carer's assessment process, their ways of coping and how this role has changed their lives.

A carer is anyone who spends a significant proportion of their time providing unpaid support to a family member, partner or friend who cannot manage without help. This can be due to illness, frailty, mental health need, substance misuse or disability.

The aim of the video and booklet, 'Talking Care' is to help further inform people about the carer's assessment and what the assessment could mean for them.

Anyone who provides unpaid care can ask for a carer's assessment from Suffolk County Council as long as the person you care for lives in Suffolk. A joint assessment for you and the person you care for can also be carried out.

To request a carer's assessment, contact Customer First by telephone on 0808 800 4005 or by email at [customer.first@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:customer.first@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk)

More information can be found on our website: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/care-and-support-for-you-and-others/what-is-a-carer/carers-assessment/>

## Upper Orwell Crossings consultation results released

The results of the consultation as part of the process to build the Upper Orwell Crossings have been released.

The consultation was launched on 1 July 2016 after Suffolk County Council received a provisional funding agreement of £77million from the Department for Transport for the Upper Orwell Crossings, which followed the approval of its Outline Business Case which demonstrated how the proposed crossings would support investment, enterprise and regeneration in Ipswich, and would relieve congestion and improve connectivity for all road users.

The consultation aimed to raise awareness and inform businesses, residents and local communities about the project, its objectives, the planning process and their opportunity for input. It also aimed to provide the opportunity for people to have their say about the proposals.

In total there were 743 survey responses between 1 July and 12 August, with 88% of people saying the most important aspect of the crossings were the reduction in

congestion. 82% of people believed another important aspect of the project was the continued investment in Ipswich Waterfront.

With regards to the impacts of the crossing, 82% of people said the visual appearance and design quality of the crossings were the most important. The designs of the bridge are currently part of a Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) competition to select an architectural team, with a decision to be announced in early 2017.

Going forward, the successful elements of this consultation will be built on for the formal consultation and the team behind the project will consider how the proposed walking and cycling provision relates to the wider vision for the broader network.

Consideration will also be given to the locations of the crossing and the types of mitigation required to address traffic impacts.

## First stretch of Bury St Edmunds Eastern Relief Road to open

The first part of the Bury St Edmunds Eastern Relief Road opened Friday November 11 2016

The 350 metre stretch of road, which is part of a £15million scheme and jointly funded by the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, via its Growth Deal with Government, Suffolk County Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council, will make possible the delivery of 500 new homes and provide access to the new Sybil Andrews Academy and Community Sports facility.

This new stretch of road will also open up one part of the Suffolk Business Park site – which will create thousands of jobs and millions of pounds for the local economy.

When completed, the road will run from Skyliner Way to junction 45 of the A14. The design of the road also incorporates a Sustainable Drainage System, which retains and purifies water locally, allowing it to filter into the ground in a way that imitates its natural path.

J Breheny Contractors were appointed by Suffolk County Council in February 2016, with construction beginning in March 2016. The road is on track to be completed by summer 2017.