

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - JULY 2018

Cllr Stephen Burroughes - Framlingham Division

- **CHANGES TO THE FUTURE COMMISSIONING OF SEN SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

On 27 June, a consultation launched on proposed changes to the future commissioning of specialist education provision for children and young people. Suffolk's parents and carers of children and young people with SEND are being invited to have their say. As demand for specialist education places in Suffolk continues to grow due to population growth and increasing complexity of special educational needs, Suffolk County Council must ensure there is the right provision in place to support children and young people with SEND.

Currently, the county council has a lower number of specialist education places than other similar authorities. Suffolk also has a high reliance on independent special school placements, which means children and young people often have to access their education outside of Suffolk away from their families.

The six-week consultation is asking for views from the public on two main issues:

- The key principles that will inform Suffolk's future commissioning of specialist education provision; and
- Preference for one of three options, each of which sets out a different commissioning strategy for the development of Suffolk's specialist educational provision.

The options are:

- Option 1 - to meet all additional growth for new specialist places through the independent sector
- Option 2 - to meet most of the additional growth by developing new special schools, using independent placements for a small number of children with very specialist needs
- Option 3 - to meet the additional growth by a combination of new specialist support centres attached to existing main stream and specialist providers and new special schools, using independent placements for a small number of very specialist needs

As part of developing these proposals Suffolk County Council held workshops across Suffolk during April, May and June this year with education providers, parents and carers to develop a set of key principles and alternative options to present for consultation. The consultation closes at 5pm on 7 August.

Visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/SENDSufficiencyEducation for more information about the consultation.

- **MAJOR REVIEW OF HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE IN SUFFOLK LAUNCHED**

On 22 June, a major review launched of the way highways in Suffolk are maintained. The review will explore how Suffolk's limited highways budget can be used to best effect when maintaining the county's roads, pavements, bridges, grass verges, and other highways assets.

Areas to be reviewed include:

- Existing policy which determines how resources are deployed, known as the Suffolk Highway Maintenance Operational Plan (HMOP)
- How utility companies coordinate roadworks and are held to account for their actions
- How residents, councillors and businesses are informed about road repairs and how they can access information
- The approach to, and importance of, innovation within Suffolk Highways
- Financial control and contract management
- How the location of potholes on the road is considered alongside the width and depth, recognising the impact they can have on cyclists and motorcyclists
- How town and parish councils can work closer with Suffolk Highways to make the best use of their local knowledge, skills, money and time.

The views of local businesses, town, parish, district and borough councils and the public will be taken into account as part of the review. With immediate effect, a new Highways Improvement and Innovations Board has been established to oversee the areas that will make up the review.

- **BRINGING AFFORDABLE SOLAR POWER TO SUFFOLK**

On 21 June, a call went out for homeowners, schools, small businesses and community groups to register their interest in buying high quality, low-cost solar panels. The aim is to reduce electricity bills and help Suffolk become the Greenest County. Solar Together Suffolk is a pioneering bulk-buying project, supported by Suffolk County Council and local borough and district councils. It aims to bring affordable solar power to Suffolk and boost the county's renewable energy.

This comes at a time when many residents are interested in exploring solar energy but would welcome a helping hand to make an informed decision and find a trustworthy installer. Similar projects have delivered a discount of 25 - 30% to homeowners on the cost of a solar panel system. Typically, domestic users can expect their investment in solar panels to be repaid within 10 years.

How does the scheme work?

- Homeowners, schools, small businesses and community groups have until 21 August to register for free and without obligation at www.solartogethersuffolk.co.uk
- 22 August: pre-vetted UK solar PV suppliers participate in an auction. A large bulk order means they can pass on better savings to registered users.

- From 10 September: registered users will receive a personalised offer from the winning supplier.
- 19 October: deadline for registered users to make a decision.
- After accepting the offer, a technical survey will be arranged after which an installation date will be confirmed.
- Telephone and email support is available throughout the whole process and information sessions will allow registered users to make an informed decision in a safe and hassle-free environment.

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- **SUFFOLK'S PUBLIC HEALTH TEAMS LAUNCH DIABETES AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

On 12 June, Suffolk County Council Public Health and OneLife Suffolk launched a campaign to raise awareness of how diabetes can be prevented or managed. Approximately 38,000 people are living with diabetes in Suffolk, a number which is increasing by 5% each year. There are also a further estimated 7,500 people in the county living with the condition who have not yet been diagnosed. Diabetes is a lifelong condition that causes a person's blood sugar level to become too high.

There are two main types of diabetes, type 1 and type 2.

- With Type 1 diabetes, the body cannot produce insulin, a hormone produced to keep blood sugar levels from becoming too high or too low.
- With type 2 diabetes, the body either doesn't produce enough insulin or the body's cells don't react to insulin.

In both types of diabetes, this leads to high blood sugar levels, which can lead to severe complications such as cardiovascular disease, kidney failure and blindness, if not managed properly.

Around 60% of Type 2 diabetes can be delayed or prevented by making simple lifestyle changes. Early identification of people at risk and support to make key lifestyle changes can significantly reduce their chances of developing type 2 diabetes in the future.

With regard to the risk of developing type 2 diabetes:

- Risk increases with age. You are more at risk if you are white and over 40 or over 25 if you are African-Caribbean, Black African or South Asian.
- You are two to six times more likely to develop type 2 diabetes if you have a parent, brother sister or child with diabetes.
- Type 2 Diabetes is two to four times more likely in people of South Asian descent and African-Caribbean or Black African descent.
- You are more at risk if you have ever had high blood pressure.
- You are more at risk of type 2 diabetes if you are overweight.

The NHS health check performed by OneLife Suffolk offers a simple blood test called an HbA1c to anyone identified as being at risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Visit onelifesuffolk.co.uk to find out more.

Those who are ineligible to receive an NHS Health Check, can check whether they may be at risk by using the diabetes risk score calculator at www.onelifesuffolk.co.uk/diabetes

OneLife Suffolk's adult weight management and Get Help to Get Active services offer support with diabetes. You can call **01473 718193** or visit www.onelifesuffolk.co.uk for more information. More advice and guidance is available at www.diabetes.org.uk.

- **CONSULTATION ON UPDATED PROPOSALS FOR SAND AND GRAVEL SITES**

On 12 June, a consultation launched on updated proposals for sand and gravel sites. Communities are invited to have their say as part of a six-week consultation.

Suffolk County Council, as a minerals and waste planning authority, is required as part of the planning framework to make a provision for sand and gravel supplies - based largely on the average of sales over the previous 10 years, which is 1.112 million tonnes per year.

The public consultation opened at 5pm on 11 June 2018 and runs until 5pm on 23 July 2018. This follows two previous public consultations.

In response to feedback from the consultation held between October and December 2017, three of the proposed sites have now been reduced in area and additional policies have been introduced on all proposed sites. The 10 minerals sites included in the consultation are:

- Barham
- Barnham
- Belstead
- Cavenham
- Layham
- Tattingstone
- Wangford
- Wetherden
- Wherstead
- Worlington

To find out more about the consultation and how you can have your say visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste

Only one site for waste development is being proposed, at Sizewell A, for the treatment and temporary storage of radioactive material removed as part of decommissioning from Sizewell and other decommissioning stations. Currently Sizewell A is already benefitting from exporting waste to Bradwell Nuclear Power Station in Essex for treatment and temporary storage. While there are no current

proposals to share the facilities in Sizewell, it is considered sensible to have policies in place if such a proposal is put forward in the future.

Feedback from this consultation, along with the draft plan will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and an Examination in Public (EiP) is expected to be held early in 2019. Following the EiP, the Planning Inspector will produce a report which includes recommendations and details of any changes required. The county council will then adopt the plan as planning policy.

Once the plan has been adopted, quarrying companies will still need to submit a planning application to the county council to extract materials. Companies will also pay landowners to dig up the materials on their fields - before selling it to construction companies. This work is likely to maintain employment in the area. Once the site has had its sand and gravel quarried, the site can be restored, by reshaping the land and covering with soils, which are stored during the extraction process. This is followed by a five-year aftercare period to make sure the land is brought up to the required standard.

There will be 10 consultation events where members of the public can learn more about the preferred sites, speak to members of the minerals and waste team and fill in the consultation survey. To find out more about these drop-in events, visit:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste

A paper copy of the survey can be requested by calling 0345 603 1842 or emailing smwlp@suffolk.gov.uk or the survey can be taken over the phone by calling 0345 603 1842.

- **UPCOMING WE ARE LISTENING EVENTS**

Suffolk residents are invited to come along and chat with the Leader of the Council, other county councillors and senior managers about their concerns and ideas for the county of Suffolk. The following We Are Listening events are scheduled for the remainder of 2018:

- **Framlingham:** Tuesday 18 September
- **Bury St Edmunds:** Wednesday 26 September
- **Haverhill:** Friday 12 October
- **Ipswich:** Thursday 25 October

For further information or questions please contact me at:

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Cllr Stephen Burroughes

County Councillor for Framlingham