

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2018



Cllr Stephen Burroughes - Framlingham Division

- **CONTRACTOR ANNOUNCED FOR LOWESTOFT'S THIRD CROSSING**

On 24 October 2018, it was announced that leading civil engineering contractor, BAM Nuttall, has won the contract for the first stage of completing the Lake Lothing Third Crossing in Lowestoft. The contract starts on 1 November 2018. Following a comprehensive tender process and approval by Suffolk County Council's cabinet, BAM Nuttall will now finalise the design of the crossing, ready for building. The award of the construction stage of the contract, is scheduled to be announced in the Autumn of 2019.

The Lake Lothing Third Crossing is being built with the aim of reducing vehicle congestion in the town and boosting the local economy. BAM Nuttall already has strong links to the region, having worked on projects such as the Great Yarmouth Flood Alleviation Scheme and the ABP Ipswich Quay Works. They also have a regional base in Thetford.

This contractor announcement coincides with the next official stage of the project which involves the government's Planning Inspectorate. This is the Examination Stage, which should begin in December 2018, and will last up to six months. During this time interested parties, such as local businesses, are formally invited share their views of the project at hearings and in writing, with the Planning Inspectorate.

At the end of the Examination Stage, the Planning Inspector has up to three months to prepare a report and a recommendation on the application for the relevant Secretary of State.

- **CARERS CELEBRATE 'OUTSTANDING' RATING FROM THE CARE QUALITY COMMISSION**

On 19 October 2018, it was announced that the standard of care provided by Mid Suffolk Home First has been rated as Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission. Mid Suffolk Home First, which is provided by Suffolk County Council, provides a short-term reablement service and a longer-term care service.

Inspectors, who visited in July, said the quality of care was 'exceptional'. Under CQC's programme of inspections, the service was rated according to whether it is safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led. Mid Suffolk Home First is rated Outstanding for being responsive and well-led, and Good for being safe, caring and effective.

The reablement and care services offered by Mid Suffolk Home First support people following a period of ill health or a significant loss in their ability to manage their day to day care needs. The service aims to help the person reach their optimum level of independence. During the short-term reablement support period, which may last one or two weeks or for some people up to a maximum of six weeks, people's progress is monitored and reviewed. The team have been able to support many people to leave the service confidently and without the need for further social care support. All the people who receive Home First reablement and care services are assessed to see if they need to be supported by another service following this short-term care.

At the time of the inspection, the service was providing support to 55 people in their own homes including 12 people needing longer-term personal care.

- **A CALL FOR FAMILY CARERS TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS**

Suffolk County Council is calling for family carers to share their experiences of support by completing a survey by 22 November 2018. All answers will be used anonymously. Sharing their experiences will help Suffolk County Council to:

- understand what currently works well for family carers
- identify any gaps in support for family carers in Suffolk.

Carers can complete the survey online at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FamilyCarers/>

Carers can contact Helen Robinson (9am to 4pm Monday to Friday) on **01473 260354** or family.carers@suffolk.gov.uk if they would like an alternative format of the survey, for example:

- easy read
- large print
- or an alternative language.

The survey has been created by a multi-agency group that includes:

- Family Carer representatives
- Suffolk County Council
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Health
- Suffolk Family Carers.

• **PROVISIONAL GCSE RESULTS SHOW CONTINUED PROGRESS FOR SUFFOLK STUDENTS**

Provisional GCSE results, released on 16 October 2018 by the Department of Education, illustrate that 1% more students in Suffolk are achieving the expected standards in English and Maths compared with last year.

There has been a change to the way that English and Maths GCSEs are graded. Results are now graded from 9 to 1, (previously A to G) with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest. The expected standard for pupils to achieve is now a grade 4 and above (previously a C grade and above), with grade 5 considered a 'strong pass'.

Suffolk is now in line with national figures with 64% of students in the county achieving the standard pass in English and Maths. Suffolk is also in the top half of all authorities for achieving the threshold of grade 5 in English and Maths. Suffolk has risen by 40 places in national league tables for this measure, to 43 out of 151 authorities.

GCSE progress remains above average and has seen a steep increase this year for Suffolk pupils, with a Progress 8 score of +0.07, compared with the national figure of -0.03. This figure also puts Suffolk at number 1 among our statistical neighbours (11 other local authorities with similar geographic and social structures).

Progress 8 measures how well GCSE students, of all abilities, have progressed since age 11 by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country.

• **CONSULTATION STARTS AS SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL LOOKS TO SAVE £25 MILLION IN 2019/2020**

On 8 October 2018, Suffolk County Council launched its annual budget consultation. The consultation closes at **5pm on Friday 16th November 2018**. Residents are being asked to give their views on the services provided by the council as it faces the challenge of making savings of £25 million in 2019/2020. Like all local authorities, Suffolk County Council faces significant financial challenges in the delivery of essential frontline services to support the lives of the most vulnerable young people and older residents across the county.

As part of its careful financial planning and management in recent years, the council has saved £260million since 2011. It has also established innovative new ways to engage with communities and deliver services in the digital age, but there are still tough calls ahead. The council wants to hear residents' views on which services

are most important to them. A proposed budget will be presented at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 29 January 2019 and the final budget will be discussed at Full Council on Thursday 14 February 2019.

Residents can visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/budget2019 to learn more about the budget setting process and to take part in the short survey to give their views. Details are also available on [Suffolk County Council's Facebook page](#) and on its Twitter account [@suffolkcc](#).

- **PARENTS URGED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION**

On 1 October 2018, Suffolk County Council launched a consultation on its proposed admissions policy for the 2020/2021 school year as well as future arrangements. This is to ensure school places are offered to children in a fair way. The consultation, which started on Monday 1 October, will run until **5pm on Monday 12 November 2018**.

The county council are not proposing to make any significant changes to the admission arrangements for schools in Suffolk for the 2020/2021 school year. They would, however, still like to seek views on the proposed admission arrangements, including potential future changes to the oversubscription criteria and the continued use of catchment areas to rank applications.

Governing bodies and academy trusts are responsible for admissions to academies, voluntary aided, foundation and free schools. If parents and carers want to view the arrangements for these schools, they should contact the school directly.

To find out more about the consultation and how they can have a say, parents and carers can visit [Consultation on admissions to schools in Suffolk for the 2020/2021 school year](#).

They can also request a paper copy of the survey or take the survey over the phone by calling 0345 603 1842.

For further information or questions please contact me at: stephen.burroughes@suffolk.gov.uk

Cllr Stephen Burroughes

Member for the Framlingham Division | Suffolk County Council

Member for the Peasenhall & Yoxford Ward | Suffolk Coastal District Council

Rotating Chairman | East Suffolk Shadow Authority

Twitter | @CllrStephenB