

## District Council Report

### **Local Government Reform**

The LGR saga goes on. While the County have decided to spend c £100,000 of taxpayer's money on their one unitary campaign the district and borough councils have published their proposals for three unitary councils. The three proposed unitary councils have been set out as they are to ensure that there are enough people in each council to meet the governments requirements.

The three unitary plan responds directly to what people across Suffolk have said they want: councils that are local, greater accountability with local councillor leadership, and provide services that understand and reflect the needs of Suffolk's diverse communities.

It also delivers value for money. Independent analysis by KPMG shows the model could unlock £34 million in annual savings, while allowing reinvestment of £20 million every year back into vital services such as social care, highways, and housing.

It will:

- Put residents first, with services delivered by councils that know their communities.
- Empower town and parish councils making sure they are fully engaged in decision-making.
- Support businesses by aligning council structures with Suffolk's real economic geography.
- Enable the voluntary and community sector to thrive through better engagement and fairer funding.
- Enable councils to continue to work together across Suffolk where there is commonality of service, through shared service arrangements for additional efficiency.

Having said all this I do wonder if there will be any changes to the governments position now that both Angela Rayner and Jim McMahon have lost their jobs. I imagine they will carry on but similarly will not be surprised if things change.

### **New Emergency Accommodation**

As of March 2025, the councils were housing a total of 158 households in emergency accommodation, including women and children fleeing domestic abuse and vulnerable adults with complex needs who might otherwise be sleeping rough.

Rising demand for temporary accommodation has seen Babergh need increase by 69 per cent. This this has led to the councils increasingly relying on bed and

breakfast and hotel accommodation, costing the councils in the region of £70k each month.

To reduce our reliance on high-cost B&Bs and to ensure families in need can be housed safely and appropriately, close to existing schools, jobs, friends and family rather than having to place people further away at a time of crisis the councils have agreed to invest in 30 new properties for each district to be used for temporary emergency accommodation instead.

### **Electrical Recycling Banks**

The Council has launched a new recycling scheme for electrical items. Twelve striking new pink recycling bins can be found across the district where residents can dispose of their broken electrical items.

This includes things like coffee machines, kettles, mobile phones, tablets, and anything smaller than a 4-slice toaster.

The closest bin to Kersey will be located in Magdalen Road car park, Hadleigh.

The scheme has been supported by £47,000 from Material Focus' Electricals Recycling Fund, a not for profit which heads up the national 'Recycle your electricals' campaign.

### **The Tour of Britain**

It was nice to see the Tour of Britain racing through the district last week. It was unfortunate that the weather was against anyone that was out and about, but it was nice to see our lovely countryside used again for a major cycle race. Even if it did only take a few minutes to pass you by.

### **Celebrate our local heroes – nominate now for the 2025 Move More Awards**

Public nominations are now officially open for the 2025 Move More Awards – an event that celebrates the people, groups and organisations who champion sport, physical activity, movement and social cohesion across our communities.

Nominations for the awards are open until the 14<sup>th</sup> September and can be submitted on the Abbeycroft Website.