

## Cllr Isabelle Reece : General Report to Parishes November 2024

### Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Twenty four town and parish councils in Babergh will receive a portion of £281K 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 reinvest in neighbourhoods through towns and parish councils. The town and parish councils can decide how to spend this money to best support the development of their local area and meet local needs. Areas with successfully adopted neighbourhood plans will receive a higher amount of funding. Bids for the latest bid round for communities wishing to benefit from future CIL funding closed Thursday 31 October. Successful bids will receive their funding decision in due course, subject to approval by Cabinet.

Further information about how CIL works can be found on the council's website.

### Council Housing

Following this Autumn's Report 'Securing the Future of Council Housing' in a joint statement issued on 28<sup>th</sup> October, ahead of the Budget, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils urged the Government to act now on England's "broken council housing finances". The statement reads: "The new Government's commitment to a 'council housing revolution' is a huge step forward for communities across our country." The report urges the new Labour government to "invest in urgently needed new council homes, address the unsustainable debt previously allocated to councils and create a Green and Decent Homes Programme, so together we can deliver the more and better council homes and growth that communities up and down the country so desperately need."

### Solar Battery & Storage Quote – deadline extended

Suffolk's Solar Together scheme deadline has been extended to 15 November 2024 - with over 3,100 Suffolk residents already signed up for a quote. Solar Together Suffolk helps homeowners feel confident that they are paying a fair price for a high-quality installation from qualified installers, without the hassle of shopping around themselves. On offer are solar panels with optional battery storage and EV charge points, as well as retrofit battery storage for anyone who wants to maximize efficiency of existing solar panels. Registration to the scheme is free, with no obligation to go ahead with an installation. [Householders can register online by 15 November 2024 for free and without obligation on the Solar Together website](#)

For Further Information see the Babergh District Council Website: [Home - Babergh District Council - baberghmidsuffolk.com](https://www.baberghmidsuffolk.com)

### Stour Valley Community Energy Projects

Residents were invited to join the council at Sudbury Arts Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> October for an event facilitated by Community Energy South, to provide an opportunity for communities to find out how they can generate clean energy, cut bills and help the planet. With the councils able to gauge interest in setting up a new local community energy scheme for the area.

The programme included presentations from existing successful community energy groups in Suffolk, Q & A, free advice from community energy experts; how community energy projects are developed and how they fit within the council's carbon reduction management plan.

[More information about what community energy schemes are and what they involve can be found on Community Energy South's website.](#)

### Full Council Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> October

My Group Leader, Cllr Michael Holt proposed a motion to review the Council's Governance Model in a specified meeting of Council: January 2025. Cllr Saw's amendment to postpone the review until 'some time in the next financial year' was passed with 19 votes 'For' and 10 votes 'Against'. The main item on the agenda was a review of the Babergh Growth (Corks Lane) Project: this was held in 'closed session'.

### Joint Audit & Standards Committee 28<sup>th</sup> October

We received the Interim Internal Audit Report and requested that, for purposes of clarity and efficiency, the Committee receive ad hoc updates at the same time as the Councils' Senior Leadership. Also received were an updated Elections Review Action Plan and The Treasury Management Half Year Report 2024/25. An extra meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November will be a training session on Statements of Accounts.

### National Landscapes

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October I attended the Teams meeting on the Strengthened Duty from the Levelling Up & Regeneration Act 2023. This puts a revised duty on all statutory authorities to "seek to further the purpose of AONBs. I have shared the presentation slides with Parish Council's in my ward.

Cllr Isabelle Reece – Bures St Mary & Nayland Ward