

CLlr Isabelle Reece: General Report to Parishes (September) October 2026

Withdrawal of LGR

The main headline this month has been the Withdrawal of Local Government Reorganisation: all work by officers on LGR ceased on 7th September. Parish Councils have, of course, received separate detailed communication on this subject. In brief, as a result of the Government's decision, there is currently no LGR proposal in place for Suffolk and a withdrawn decision cannot simply be restarted without a new formal decision by the Secretary of State; the Government will carry out a rapid review of existing LGR proposals and will provide further detail on how this process will operate; the normal scheduled elections for Babergh District Council will go ahead, but there will be no elections for Shadow Unitary Authorities. More about the decision on the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk).

Changes to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Babergh's Director of Place will have written to parish councils about the planning changes occasioned by the new NPPF. The changes are to definition of Settlements, Neighbourhood Development Plans, development outside Settlements and Planning Committee and Delegation arrangements. [Important planning changes following the publication of the NPPF.pdf](#)

Sudbury Swimming Pool

The swimming pool at Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury was closed on 17th September to ensure public safety after surveys showed the pool requires a complete rebuild.

The building is owned by Babergh District Council and it had been hoped that ongoing repairs and maintenance would extend the pool's expected lifespan, but this is no longer viable. Kingfisher's pool is now approaching 40 years old - Swim England, the national governing body for swimming in England, says the average life of a pool is 38 years. The swimming pool, sauna and jacuzzi must close with immediate effect. All other Kingfisher facilities, including the gym, will remain open.

Social Care Consultation

The Consultation closed on 23rd September. For updates see the Casey Commission newsletter link: [September 2026 newsletter](#)

Full Council

At the September Meeting Council received the Capital Investment Business & Trading Report, the Annual Treasury Management Report, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Annual Report, the Joint Audit & Standards Committee Annual Report and Approved the CIL Expenditure Framework Review. The next meeting of Full Council is scheduled for Tuesday 20th October.

Cabinet

At its meeting on 6th September Cabinet approved Development of an LDO (Local Development Order), the CIL Expenditure Programme September 2026, received the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Financial Monitoring 2026-7 Q1 Forecast Out-turns. The October Cabinet Meeting has been cancelled

Dedham Vale National Landscape & Stour Valley Partnership

At the meeting on 25th September we AGREED an Accord Between Parish Councils and Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley Project: a non-binding agreement that represents a commitment by both parties to work together to maximize the benefits to enhancing and protecting the environment in the Dedham Vale National Landscape & Stour Valley Project area. We also received updates of activity from Partners and had a presentation on the Tarchon Interconnector Project. See the following link:

[Tarchon Interconnector | Connecting Germany and the UK](#)

For Further Information about Babergh District Council link to the Babergh District Council website at:
[Home - Babergh District Council – baberghmidsuffolk.com](https://www.baberghmidsuffolk.com)