

Cllr Isabelle Reece – Bures St Mary and Nayland Ward

District Council Report 2025 – An Overview ([Links underlined and in blue](#))

Since last year's General Election, apart from all the routine 'day to day' business, the Council's focus has mainly been across three areas, largely driven by the new Starmer Government's National Policy:

- Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation and the implications for the District and across the entire County
- Planning Reform, including the New National Planning Policy Framework and its impact on the Joint Local Plan
- Developing the Administration's *Plan for Babergh* via specific Strategies

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation – This is already creating and will, of course, create massive and costly upheaval across the whole of Suffolk. There are many uncertainties as to the format of both the Mayoral Combined Authority and the Combined Unitary Authority. There are some advantages to the creation of a single Unitary Authority for Suffolk, all of which are outlined in the documents published by Suffolk County Council. But the Two or Three authority format becomes complicated: at current District level, there are concerns as to the exact geographical boundaries of two or three eventual Unitary Authorities, especially with respect to the local economy and local identity. Babergh District Council's administration, in collaboration with other Suffolk district councils, strongly favours the format of either two or three unitary authorities; on the grounds that a single unitary could not but erode local democracy. There is also some belief that a more 'parochial' social care system could be developed with the more numerous and smaller unitaries.

District Councils' [joint interim report](#)

Suffolk County Council [Local Government Reorganisation in Suffolk - Interim Plan](#)

National Planning Policy Framework – The new NPPF, has meant that Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's have been compelled to review the previously Adopted Part 1 of the Joint Local Plan; and revised mandatory housing targets have almost doubled the number of houses that Babergh will be obliged to fulfil. In the wake of this demand, there has recently been a concerted effort to encourage parishes to explore the option of making a Neighbourhood Development Plan, either individually or in concert with others neighbouring communities; something possible even where work on an NDP is already in progress.

Babergh DC has also introduced a number of Joint Supplementary Planning Documents. Hard copies & Consultation Statement and Adoption Statement are available to view at Sudbury Library, Market Hill, Sudbury, CO10 2EN :

Biodiversity and Trees SPD – adopted 20th March 2025 to provide further guidance & detail for the provision of biodiversity and trees within development proposals, supporting the implementation of planning policies contained within the adopted Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 2018-2037 Development Plan Document (November 2023). [Biodiversity and Trees SPD](#)

Housing SPD – was adopted 19th November 2024 to provide further guidance and detail for development proposals in addressing housing needs and affordable housing delivery. This SPD focuses on the housing policies of the adopted Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 Development Plan Document (November 2023). [Housing SPD](#)

Intensive Livestock and Poultry Farming SPD – adopted on 19th November 2024 to provide detailed information & guidance for assessing the impacts of intensive livestock and poultry unit proposals. It

supports the implementation of Policy LP14 of the adopted Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 Development Plan Document (November 2023). [Intensive Livestock and Poultry Farming SPD](#)

The Plan for Babergh & Babergh's Current Strategies

Our Plan for Babergh

Customer Service Strategy – sets out our priorities in ensuring that our customers are at the heart of everything we do.

Joint Housing and Homes Strategy – sets out the Council's ongoing commitment to meeting and addressing housing challenges across the districts.

Joint Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy - sets out Babergh & Mid Suffolk's vision to end rough sleeping within our districts.

Tenant Engagement Strategy – sets out how Babergh will engage with, and empower, residents via its housing function as their landlord - and defines tenant engagement principles and roles

Communities Strategy - establishes how to deliver a coordinated and consistent approach to leadership - and make use of all resources available - so that those who live and work within the districts feel valued, understood and connected within their community.

Wellbeing Strategy – outlines Babergh's framework to: enable families to lead active, healthy, safe, independent lives, and manage their own health and wellbeing; create sustainable places and spaces which maximise health and wellbeing opportunities; reduce health inequalities

Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy – how Babergh will support the delivery of sport and physical activity services.

Carbon Reduction Management Plan – sets out the work of our Environment and Climate Change Taskforce, and our commitments to investigating the ways we can reduce our own emissions - and supporting Suffolk's aim to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Biodiversity Action Plan – sets out how the District Council will aim to protect and strengthen plant life and local wildlife in the districts.

Sustainable Travel Vision & Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan – outline the commitment to helping residents and visitors make sustainable journeys.

Parking Strategy - outlines both on-street and off-street parking provision for the next 20 years.

Economic Recovery Plan – sets out the commitment to build on the strengths of the district's people and partnerships, and around its vibrant, beautiful places, to create a strong economy with a bright future for all.

Culture, Heritage and Visitor Economy Strategy – sets out Babergh intends to work with stakeholders to create distinctive, welcoming, and vital cultural places and experiences which energise communities, enterprises and visitors.

Further information is available from the Babergh District Council Website: [Home - Babergh District Council – baberghmidsuffolk.com](#)

Cllr Isabelle Reece – isabelle.reece@babergh.gov.uk / 07514951182