

Item 434.21

## East Suffolk Partnership Annual Forum

### 'East Suffolk: So much on the Horizon'

My report of the above Forum held at Trinity Park 9<sup>th</sup> November. There were representatives from a good number of the Town and Parish Councils from the East Suffolk region along with Suffolk County, Waveney and Suffolk Coastal Councils.

The Forum was opened by Councillor Herring on behalf of the Partnership who introduced the 2 keynote speakers.

First to speak, Stephen Baker, Chief Exec of the two Councils soon to merge to an area of 487 sq miles with 49 miles of coastline. He touched on the unique working together of both Councils for the last 10 years. He then spoke about the opportunities and challenges for the next 10 years which will have an impact on Town and Parish Council areas.

The opportunities:

- Sizewell
- Offshore energy
- Plans for the largest offshore wind farm in Europe
- 3<sup>rd</sup> crossing in Lowestoft
- Expansion of Carlton Marshes
- BT Adastral Park
- Investment in CEFAS
- Flood protection scheme in Lowestoft

The challenges:

- Large Council supporting 250,000 residents
- Promoting skills development
- Supporting the 9000 small businesses
- Stewardship of the environment
- Sustaining lifestyles
- Reduction in plastic
- Digital and technological changes
- Pressure of Housing availability

All of these are a joint responsibility for us all

Next was Anna Crispe, Head of Knowledge and Insight, Suffolk County Council who spoke about the health challenges in Suffolk for the next 20 yrs.

- 2 out of 3 are currently overweight
- Lowest smoking population for years (a positive)

In 20 years time in Suffolk:

- 1 in 3 people will be over 65 (currently 1 in 4)

- 8500 people will have some form of dementia (Currently 5000)
- It follows then that family carers will be a lot older as well
- Unless housing development improves 40% of people will still be living with parents (Currently 14%)
- As productivity improves may mean less jobs available due to different type of delivery in businesses.

Other topics

- Males in deprived areas have a shorter lifespan of 10 yrs against the national average
- Waveney is the most deprived area in the County (she may have said Country!)

I attended two seminars from a choice of ten, the first was

### 'The Funding Landscape–Post Brexit'

Led by Frances Bedding and Ben Porter of SCC

The exit of the EU is likely to be 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Context:

- Significantly less, if any, access to new EU programmes
- If we have an exit deal the current programme 2014-2020 will be extended to 2023.
- No deal the treasury guarantee to operate the programme until 2023

What we do know:

- Businesses will need help and support to adjust
- There is likely to be national funding to replace but not replicate some funding streams
- We do have the Government Growth Deal, Growing Business and Small Grant Schemes funds already to help businesses to expand

Funding we know about:

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- The funding is likely to be linked to the LEP review

What we don't know:

- How the funding will be applied-areas of deprivation or areas of potential growth
- How existing EU funds will be distributed if no deal
- Whether the funding will be targeted on a LEP, regional or other basis

What can we do locally as Councillors and Volunteer Groups:

- Support residents to raise their aspirations to access adult learning, work, education and training opportunities
- Promote the importance of families in supporting their young people to achieve life skills, resilience and wellbeing
- Support the most vulnerable by identifying and responding to 'hidden needs'

- Connect key individuals, organisations and communities together through community action
- Promote the use of community assets and open spaces
- Encourage the growth of sustainable tourism
- Increase the social and economic benefit of volunteering
- Signpost funding grants, External Funding at SCC can assist to signpost
- Encourage those seeking funding to be specific in their application, but not to apply for them

The second seminar was:

'Making our Communities and Businesses Resilient to Cyber Crime'

Stephen Baker led this. He is also a member of SOLACE (Society Of Local Authority Chief Executives) which aims to improve public services for the benefit of the residents it serves.

Understanding the threat:

- Where will it come from? Anywhere
- What will it do to my systems? Disrupt the service, affecting staff and customers (in our case the public)

Who are the targets?

- Public & private sector
- Third sector and individuals (in other words anyone)

What form does it take?

- Hacking
- Credit card misuse
- Phishing. Fake websites to obtain personal information, passwords etc
- DOS attacks (Denial of Service) Flooding the service with superfluous requests to overload the system

Constraints:

- Other priorities
- Lack of skills and understanding
- Difficult to quantify the risk
- Denial. Always someone else's fault (Usually the IT department)

Management response:

- Take responsibility but don't blame. If someone inadvertently accesses something they shouldn't, encourage them to own up to shorten the risk.
- Never use screensavers
- Ensure adequate system protection

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) is a good website for advice etc.

The forum closed at 2pm with lunch

I've strived to capture the morning in 3 pages from a full on agenda.  
I felt it was a very informative and worthwhile forum to attend.