

April Report

Economic Recovery

Following two years of unprecedented challenges, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have launched their economic recovery plan outlining the different initiatives, schemes, and packages to help businesses in the districts. The plan is to provide a direction for the councils to support businesses and communities to stimulate innovation, attract inward investment and encourage strong economic growth. It is segmented into three priority themes; innovation & creative, connected & sustainable, and successful & skilled.

Since the first lockdown in March 2020, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have administered over £81m in government grants to help businesses through the financial impact of Covid. In addition, initiatives such as the Virtual High Street, the Innovation Awards, Innovate Local and the Local Energy Showcase have provided businesses with new opportunities to grow and develop.

Sustainable Travel

Pedestrian and pedal-power gears up as councillors have agreed plans to improve the walking and cycling network across Babergh and Mid Suffolk in a bid to tackle climate change. The plan sets out the councils' approach over the next 10 years in their aim to support residents in shifting towards more sustainable transport.

It identifies almost 200 potential infrastructure improvement schemes across the two districts. These have been scored according to a variety of factors such as effectiveness, policy, economic factors and deliverability. Prioritisation will follow and be key to obtaining local, regional and national funding towards improving sustainable travel facilities and routes in the districts.

Recycle Appropriately

Residents across Suffolk are being encouraged to get behind a campaign calling for people to recycle glass properly. Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP) is launching 'Glass – It's Better in The Bank', a 12-week campaign aimed at getting people to stop putting glass in their household recycling bins and to use a bottle bank instead.

The SWP campaign runs until May 31 and will feature in adverts on buses, at supermarket billboards and on a van touring the county, plus on social media and on radio. Babergh, which collects our rubbish, will be applying bin tags and stickers to recycling bins containing glass. There will be a dedicated web page about the campaign on the [the Suffolk Recycling webpage](#) with a set of FAQs and an information leaflet to distribute at events.

Glass mistakenly placed in household recycling bins costs the SWP around £500,000 a year. It will NOT be recycled and can spoil other good recycling, especially card and paper. Glass represents about half of all the wrong material in household recycling bins – other bad' eggs' include black rubbish sacks, food, nappies, textiles, and cartons – and rejection levels are currently running at around 20%.

Dave Busby