

Climate Change

Babergh and MS Cabinets have approved a raft of environmental measures to help the councils achieve their ambitions of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. This decision will now form the councils' first Carbon Reduction Management Plan, setting out how it aims to fulfil the ambition of becoming carbon neutral within the next ten years.

These are the first steps in achieving the long-term objective to reduce the councils' current emissions of 5,452 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year to net zero. The climate change task force took advice on the areas to target first to achieve the greatest impact.

Headline actions include:

- Exploring the use of the councils' owned or controlled commercial estates, for renewable energy generation schemes, solar ports and battery storage
- Working with the councils' leisure providers to move towards both green tariff energy, and the buildings becoming less energy intensive to operate
- Transitioning existing waste vehicles from diesel to a more sustainable fuel source such as waste vegetable oil, and longer-term to introduce electric or hydrogen fuelled vehicles
- Introducing an electric vehicle charging plan and to explore opportunities for expanding EV charging infrastructure in the districts
- Increasing tree and hedgerow planting and coverage across the district
- Ensuring new and current council housing is as efficient and environmentally friendly as possible, whilst also working with housing developers to build sustainable communities
- Working with partners to improve the infrastructure necessary to increase sustainable travel in our key towns and beyond

CCTV

Councillors have today agreed to an £180,000 upgrade in CCTV provision to ensure that Hadleigh and Sudbury remain safe towns.

Babergh worked with Suffolk Police, Hadleigh and Sudbury Town Councils and neighbouring authorities on proposals for a fully compliant, updated CCTV system.

CCTV coverage helps to reducing crime and disorder – in addition to assisting police with finding missing people. The current CCTV system installed twenty years ago has become outdated.

Both Town Councils will make financial contributions to the ongoing costs.

Pending approval, future Community Infrastructure Levy contributions will provide funding to upgrade the CCTV to a fully digital wireless system.

AONB

The Secretary of State confirmed the extension to the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB to include additional areas along the southern edge of the Stour estuary in Tendring, Essex and two beautiful small river valleys, the Samford Valley and the Freston Brook in Babergh District, Suffolk. In total there is now 38 square kilometers (about 10%) more protected landscape as a result of the announcement.

Suffolk's Delivery of the Local Outbreak Control Plan

Suffolk has put in place a model to deliver the plan which is centrally co-ordinated by the Suffolk COVID-19 Coordination Centre (SC19CC). All information (including outbreak notifications) and national guidance is received into the SC19CC. This enables a complete system overview and a co-ordinated response allowing tasks to be allocated to the most appropriate partners.

A number of enabler workstreams, including data, testing and contact tracing, have been identified which feed into the SC19CC to provide critical information to enable a timely response to an outbreak or key information to support preventive actions.

A number of delivery work programmes have also been established to identify complex settings, complex groups and complex individuals, complete risk assessments and develop preventative tools. They have also identified the most suitable Outbreak Manager and developed clear pathways, action cards and process to allow the SC19CC to provide a robust and resilient response to both prevention of outbreaks and management of outbreaks.

The main objectives of the SC19CC are:

- Provide central systemic co-ordination, expert advice and guidance in liaison with Public Health England (experts in managing infectious diseases) for COVID-19 outbreaks in Suffolk – the SC19CC will stand up the right people to respond.
- Provide expert advice on preventative measures to businesses and settings as per national and local guidance.
- Be able to draw on local expertise (Infection Prevention Control, Environmental Health, Public Health Specialists) and Outbreak Managers.
- Receive, understand and interpret national Public Health England guidance and distributes alongside Suffolk guidance documents.
- Provide governance, leadership and strategic coordination for the local aspect of the NHS Test and Trace Contact Tracing function

Dave Busby

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