



March 2023

Babergh budget agreed – protecting rural services

Babergh District Council has agreed its budget for 2023/24 – ensuring rural communities have access to the services they need and providing ongoing support for the district's residents, businesses, towns and villages. [More information](#)

New £12m depot would 'future-proof' services for residents

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are exploring plans to consolidate three aging operational sites into a shared £12m depot – future-proofing services for residents and improving conditions for their staff. [More information](#)

New service aims to turn more than 1,000 empty houses into homes

With over a thousand homes across Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts currently classified as empty, 'Houses4Homes' encourages owners of vacant residential properties to come forward for advice and support in turning their property into a home for another family. [More information](#)

First look at culture, heritage and visitor economy strategy for Babergh and Mid Suffolk

The first steps towards a dedicated cultural, heritage and visitor economy strategy could be taken, should proposals be approved by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' cabinets in March. [More information](#)

Food network approved to help people through cost-of-living challenges

Action to support even more people through the cost-of-living challenges will be taken in Suffolk as food bank usage rises. [More information](#)

VCFSE Resilience Fund: Councils launch third sector funding 'lifeline'

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are delivering vital support to incredible organisations already helping those in our communities most exposed to the cost-of-living crisis. [More information](#)

Target to end rough sleeping in Suffolk

Suffolk's public sector leaders, including those from Babergh and Mid Suffolk, are targeting an end to rough sleeping across the county by 2027. [More information](#)

Suffolk's Exemplary Commitment to Retrofitting Homes

Commendable efforts are being made across Suffolk to ensure the retrofit of energy inefficient homes. [More information](#)

Suffolk councils secure £2.2m to improve tenants' quality of life

Suffolk's district and borough councils have secured £2.2m of Government funding to improve the standard of private rented homes in the county – tackling poor housing conditions and improving tenants' wellbeing. [More information](#)

Babergh Chairman raises thousands for Blossom Appeal

Babergh District Council Chairman, Cllr Kathryn Grandon, raised over £11,000 at a recent fundraising Civic Dinner... for a cause very close to her heart. [More information](#)

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Land Charges team shortlisted for new national award

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are in the running for a national award, for making a critical step in the house buying process as easy as possible for residents. [More information](#)

Belle Vue House development opportunity

Developers interested in regenerating Belle Vue House in Sudbury have until noon on 13th March 2023 to submit a bid to Babergh District Council on an informal tender basis. [More information](#)

Supporting the elections this May

As you know, the local and parish elections are due to be held on Thursday 4 May. You can now [see a full election timetable on our website](#).

- **Voter registration**

We will be supporting the Electoral Commission's 'Got 5?' campaign running through March and April to raise awareness of upcoming elections and drive voter registration. The Commission will be advertising across a combination of channels including TV, radio, posters, social media, website banners, cinema advertising, and Google search. We will also be sharing the messages through the council's social media channels and invite our towns and parishes to do the same.

- **Staffing**

There are still positions that need to be filled to ensure the elections are run smoothly across the districts. If you want to get involved, or know someone else who is interested please [see our website](#) or [email the Babergh and Mid Suffolk elections team](#) to find out more.

- **Voter ID**

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station, which will be implemented in the upcoming local and Parish elections in May. [More information](#). We will continue to support the Electoral Commission's national awareness campaign through all available council channels and ask that you also help where possible. You can find Electoral Commission resources, including posters and social media, here: [Voter ID resources | Electoral Commission](#)

- **Webinar by the Electoral Commission**

The Electoral Commission is hosting a pre-election webinar on **Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 12pm – 1pm** for candidates and agents taking part in the upcoming elections.

The webinar will provide an opportunity to gain essential information on the nomination process and the spending and donation rules, including information on:

- standing for election
- the nominations process
- when the spending rules apply
- how much you can spend
- notional spending rules
- who you can accept donations from
- what you need to report after the election

There will also be a chance to ask questions. **To confirm attendance please email Stuart Butler on sbutler@electoralcommission.org.uk**

For those unable to attend, we understand the Commission plans to publish slides from the webinar after the event.