SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2026 AT 7.00PM

Present: Mr A Stohr– Mayor of Sudbury, in the CHAIR

Mrs M Barrett	Mr A Osborne
Mr P Beer	Mrs J Osborne
Mr N Bennett	Miss A Owen
Ms J Carter	Mr T Regester
Mr S Hall	Mr A Welsh
	Mr N Younger

In attendance: Mr C Griffin – Town Clerk
Mrs C Morgan – Deputy Clerk and RFO
Ms L Smith – Babergh District Councillor and Suffolk County Councillor (until 8:43pm)
Mrs K Turner – Suffolk County Councillor (until 8:43pm)

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Apologies were received from Town Councillors Mr K Graham, Ms E Murphy and Mr J Jeager. Suffolk County Councillor Mr P Faircloth-Mutton sent his apologies as he was detained in another meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors Mr P Beer, Ms J Carter, Mr A Osborne, Miss A Owen and Mr T Regester declared that they were also Babergh District Councillors and as so had an interest in item 13.

3. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

No declarations of gifts or hospitality were made.

4. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

5. TO CONFIRM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED
That the minutes of the council meeting held on 8th September 2026 are an accurate record and are to be signed by the Chairman.

6. QUESTIONS AND REPORTS

a. Public Forum – One member of the public attended but no questions were asked.

b. Policing report – The police were not able to attend due to other commitments, but the Mayor thanked the police for the progress that they had made tackling county lines drug dealing, illegal vape and tobacco sales and dangerous use of powerful e-scooters. A new officer had recently joined the local Sudbury team and they were aiming to achieve greater presence in the town centre. All members of the public were encouraged to report any criminal behaviour to the police.

c. Mayor's Announcements – The Mayor reviewed his civic commitments.
- Holmes and Hills networking event as a guest speaker.
- Heritage Open Day.
- Battle of Britain celebration in Bury St Edmunds.
- Cemetery Gold Award to Town Council staff
- Art Exhibition in the Town Hall.
- MacMillian coffee morning with the Fair Trade raffle.
- Sudbury's Civic Service which recognised the immense contribution of local farmers and firefights.
- Graduation for students of West Suffolk College.
- Army Engagement event in Ipswich.
- Town Twinning Association AGM.
- Launch of the annual Poppy Appeal on Saturday 24th October.
- The Deputy Mayor had attended the launch of Sudbury Football Club's appeal to raise funds for the renewal of their all-weather pitch, and the model railway exhibition in the Stevenson Centre.
- The Mayor's next charity event, a wine and nibbles night at the Gaol Lane Wine Bar, would be on Wednesday 20th October starting at 6pm, for which tickets were available at the Town Hall or online. This would continue his campaign to raise funds for his two nominated charities, the Kernos Centre and Number 72.

d. County Councillors' report – Councillors Mrs K Turner, Mr Philip Faircloth-Mutton and Ms L Smith had sent in their reports, which had been circulated before the meeting, and are shown at minute pages 950 to 954. The following points were raised for discussion.
- When will the improvement work start of the Kingfisher to Bakers Mill path?
- How will the wording of the motion for the Suffolk-wide advisory referendum on the housing of asylum seekers be drafted to ensure balance?
- How will this referendum be funded?
- There was disappointment that the Colchester to Bury bus service would in future be split into 2 separate services (Colchester to Sudbury and Sudbury to Bury).
- Members raised their concerns that the timetable information posted on the bus stops was not current or acturate.
- A crossing on the Waldingfield Road to connect the Nelson Road Estate with the new Aldi store had been requested by Sudbury Town Council, but had not been made a planning condition by Suffolk Highways.
- Members raised their concerns that the consultation to create a new "more efficient" Healthy Child Service, could put 49 nursing posts at risk, so would an equality impact assessment be published?
- Would Suffolk County Council help Babergh fund a new swimming pool?

- The new 'Passenger Promise' from Central Connect included funding alternative transport under certain circumstances, but this would need to be tested with the company concerned.
- Members were concerned about whether Central Connect would hold a meaningful consultation with Sudbury Town Council before the next revision of the bus timetable..
- Members asked for clarification on the areas that had been treated by Suffolk County Council for weed control so that they could assess its effectiveness.
- Members raised their concerns about the design of the new Aldi car park.

RESOLVED
That the County Councillors Ms L Smith, Mrs K Turner and Mr Philip Faircloth-Mutton be thanked for their reports.

e. District Councillor's report – Councillor Mr A Osborne had sent in his report, which had been circulated before the meeting, and are shown at minute pages 955 to 957. The following points were raised for discussion.
   - Members raised their concerns over the lack of information on the Kingfisher swimming pool closure since the briefing at the Leisure and Environment Committee. What were options for alternative swimming provision?
   - How effective was the alternative provision of swimming since the closure of Kingfisher pool? How many people were being transported to use Hadleigh or Haverhill swimming pools? How effective was this for those with disabilities?

RESOLVED
That District Councillor Mr A Osborne be thanked for his report.

7. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES

Planning, Development & Highways Committee on 7th and 21st September, and 5th October 2026– The Chair summarised the minutes.

Finance Committee on 22nd September and 6th October 2026– The Chair summarised the minutes. He asked members their opinion of the request from AFC Sudbury to change the use of their grant of £500 from a contribution to their fridge works to repair their broken oven. Members were content for this change of use for this grant.

Members were briefed on the second draft off the 2027 budget, which had slightly reduced the deficit, but it remained a six-figure sum.

Leisure and Environment Committee on 29th September 2026 – The Chair summarised the minutes. Members focused on the closure of the Kingfisher swimming pool, which had attracted more 100 members of the public to attend in person. Babergh District Council Cabinet were planning to discuss this matter on 10th November, but they had confirmed that the main council chamber in Endeavour House was not available on this date, so the meeting was scheduled for a much smaller room. The Town Clerk was asked to contact the Chief Executive of Babergh to see if they would consider holding this meeting in Sudbury so that members of the public could attend.

8. TO CONSIDER THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S INTERIM REPORT FOR FY2025/2026 (ATTACHED) AND TO DECIDE ON ANY ACTIONS REQUIRED

The Town Clerk had received a letter from the external auditors explaining that they had reviewed the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for Sudbury Town Council for the year which ended on 31st March 2026, but could not formally complete it as a result of correspondence received in relation to 2025/26 and/or prior years. Once they have finalised their review and completed any additional work arising from that correspondence, a final report would be provided with the certificate of completion detailing any qualifications and 'other' matters.

The auditor's 'interim' external auditor report (Section 3 of the AGAR Form 3) is shown at minute page 958. The Town Council must consider this report and decide what, if any, action is required.

RESOLVED
That the auditor's 'interim' external auditor report had been considered and that no further action was required until the final report was available.

9. TO DISCUSS HOW THE TOWN COUNCIL CAN SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE IN SUDBURY AND TO AGREE TO SIGN THE POWER OF YOUTH CHARTER ORGANISED BY THE #IWILL MOVEMENT

The Mayor reminded members of the presentation by Eastern Education Group (EEG) on their Youth Social Action Model at the previous meeting and their invitation to sign the Power of Youth Charter. Some members raised their concerns that there was no money in the budget for this activity and that this charter would commit the Town Council to unfunded costs. There was also a danger that signing the charter would raise expectations that the Town Council could not fulfil.

The Deputy Town Clerk had prepared some options that did not involve additional budget expenditure, as there were some external grants available and that youth groups could also apply for the existing Town Council grant funding. There was scope to work with schools in Sudbury to identify projects where young people could contribute and the facilitator from the Eastern Education Group was willing to help arrange these. Members acknowledged that signing the charter would not commit the Town Council to any spending and that all spending would continue to be authorised in accordance with financial regulations.

This charter had already been signed by Suffolk County Council and all Suffolk district councils, except Babergh. Once Sudbury Town Council had signed, there would be more incentive for Babergh District Council to sign. Before the vote, the Town Clerk read the whole charter out loud so that members were clear on what they were being asked to commit to.

RESOLVED
That Sudbury Town Council will sign the iWill Power of Youth Charter shown at minute pages 959 to 960.

10. TO AGREE TO RE-SIGN THE TOWN TWINNING CHARTER WITH CLERMONT IN FRANCE

The Chair of the Sudbury Town Twinning Society had informed the Town Clerk that they were planning to visit Clermont, Sudbury's twin town in France, between 22nd and 26th October. The Mayor of Clermont had said that he would like to re-sign the charter between the towns, which had been originally signed in 1985.

They had invited the Mayor of Sudbury to come on the visit, but if he was unavailable at such short notice, another town councillor could join the trip to sign the charter on the Mayor's behalf. These dates clashed with the annual launch of the Poppy Appeal by the Mayor, so the Deputy Mayor offered to check to see if she could be available to go to Clermont that weekend.

RESOLVED
To re-sign a copy of the Town Twinning Charter with Clermont, France as shown at minute page 961.

11. TO AUTHORISE A GRANT OF £8,000 TO THE SUDBURY CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (CAB)

Members considered a grant aid application for £8,000 to Sudbury Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), as recommended by the Finance Committee.

RESOLVED
That, using the general power of competence under the Localism Act 2011, ss1-8, to authorise a grant of £8,000 to Sudbury CAB (for revenue) as recommended by the Finance Committee.

12. TO AUTHORISE THE EXPENDITURE OF £18,702.20 EXCLUDING VAT ON REPAIRING THE ALL SAINTS CLOCK

The Town Clerk explained that the clock on All Saints church had been inspected in 2023 after reports that it was stopping every 12 hours. The engineer identified that, although the clock was being serviced regularly, it had reached the point where it required a full overhaul to ensure it was reliable for the future. Once the clock had been overhauled, they anticipated that no major works would be needed for approximately 25 years, so long as there was an annual service. The estimated cost of the overhaul was over £17,000, so an immediate repair was carried out to keep the clock running whilst funds were raised for the overhaul.

Officers had worked on grant applications with the team at All Saints and had managed to secure two grants. Combined with the funds held in the earmarked reserve, the current year budget for clocks and a small contribution from CIL, there were now sufficient funds for the overhaul.

The costs of the overhaul had been rechecked and the quote was now £18,702.20. This could be funded as follows;

- Church of England Grant £7,500.00
- Benefact Trust Grant £2,400.00
- Sudbury Town Council EMR £5,000.00
- Sudbury Town Council 2026 budget £2,500.00
- Sudbury Town Council CIL £1,302.20

RESOLVED
That, under the power of the Parish Councils Act 1957, s.2, members authorised the expenditure of £18,702.20 on repairing the All Saints clock.

13. TO AUTHORISE THE PAYMENT OF A CIVIL PENALTY OF £9,000 FROM BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Town Council had appealed to the First-Tier Tribunal over the civil penalty notice for £16,000 issued by Babergh District Council Environmental Health to Sudbury Town Council for failure to complete the required repairs to Flint Lodge by 12th November 2025. Although the Town Council had authorised the expenditure and were ready with a contractor to complete the repairs in September 2025, the Babergh District Council Planning Officers would not allow the work without listed building consent. The Town Council appealed on the grounds that the same local authority which required the work was also preventing the work, but the Tribunal accepted Babergh's assertion that the environmental health and planning sections were separate authorities. However, the Tribunal did accept the Town Council's appeal that the section 21 notice was not a retaliatory eviction and that the penalty was too severe, so the Tribunal reduced the penalty to £9,000.

The lesson for the Town Council was that an immediate appeal needs to be brought against any future improvement notice within the 21 days allowed.

RESOLVED
That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.111, members authorised the expenditure of £9,000 on paying the civil penalty from Babergh District Council.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)
That pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2), the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified in item 14 to 16 as the publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, which covered legally privileged advice and personal data.

14. TO REVIEW THE SETTLEMENT OFFER TO THE TENANTS OF FLINT LODGE

RESOLVED
See CONFIDENTIAL Annex A, minute page 962.

To extend the meeting by 15 minutes to allow it to continue until 9:15 p.m.

15. TO AUTHORISE THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO £10,000 EXCLUDING VAT ON FURTHER LEGAL ACTIONS

See CONFIDENTIAL Annex A, minute page 962.

RESOLVED
That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.111, members authorised the expenditure of up to £10,000 on further legal actions.

16. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON OTHER PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL LEGAL, CONTRACTUAL AND HR MATTERS

See CONFIDENTIAL Annex A, minute page 963.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9:08pm.

Chairman ……

DRAFT

Report for October 2026 to Sudbury Town Council

From SCC Councillors Kerrie Turner and Philip Faircloth-Mutton

1. UPDATE ON RECENT BUS SERVICE CHANGES IN THE SUDBURY AREA

We know that many residents have been concerned about recent changes to local bus services, particularly the alterations to routes serving Sudbury, Colchester and Bury St Edmunds. Following discussions with Suffolk County Council's transport team, we wanted to provide an update.

The bus network centred on Sudbury is operated largely on a commercial basis by Central Connect. This means that decisions on routes, timetables and ticketing are made by the bus operator rather than Suffolk County Council, although the Council does fund some specific evening, weekend and local services.

One of the most frequently raised concerns has been the loss of the direct bus service between Colchester and Bury St Edmunds. The operator has advised that the previous through-route was proving too long to run reliably, with delays at one end affecting services throughout the route. The decision to split the service into separate routes is intended to improve reliability for passengers.

Residents have also highlighted concerns about the need to change buses in Sudbury and potentially purchase separate tickets. Suffolk County Council has raised this issue with the operator, as there is an expectation that journeys which were previously possible on a single bus should not become significantly more expensive simply because a change of bus is now required. Central Connect remains part of the current £3 national fare cap and intends to remain within the reduced £2 fare cap when it returns in January.

We have also raised concerns regarding changes affecting Thomas Gainsborough School services. Further enquiries are being made and we will share any updates once they are available.

Another issue raised by many residents, particularly older people and those less confident using online services, is the lack of printed timetable information. Suffolk County Council has acknowledged these concerns and is currently working on plans to improve information available at bus stops through the Enhanced Partnership programme. While full printed timetable books are unlikely to return, timetables can be downloaded from Suffolk On Board, libraries can often print them for residents, and printed copies can be posted out on request.

We appreciate that these changes have caused frustration and inconvenience for many people. We will continue to press for improvements where possible and will keep residents informed as further information becomes available, particularly regarding school transport services and ticketing arrangements.

2. FAIRER FUNDING FOR SUFFOLK'S CHILDREN

Suffolk County Council is pressing the Government to address longstanding disparities in funding for children's services. Current figures show Suffolk spends £957.92 per child on children's social care, more than £200 less than Norfolk, while school funding stands at £5,200 per pupil compared with £5,400 in Essex and £5,350 in Norfolk. The Council has written to the Secretary of State for Education and Suffolk MPs seeking support for a fairer funding formula so that Suffolk's children and young people are not disadvantaged by where they live.

3. COUNCIL BACKS REFORM UK MOTION FOR SUFFOLK-WIDE REFERENDUM ON ASYLUM SEEKER ACCOMMODATION

Suffolk County Council will now explore holding the first referendum of its kind in the UK
The motion was proposed by the Deputy Leader of Suffolk County Council, Cllr Philip Faircloth-Mutton and seconded by Cllr Tristan Gale, Cabinet member for Planning, Devolution and the Fire & Rescue Service.

The Council will explore holding a Suffolk-wide advisory referendum on 6 May 2027, giving residents a direct say on the housing of asylum seekers in the county.

- The proposal follows Home Office plans to use RAF Barnham for 1,250 asylum seekers for at least 10 years. Officials have stated the site would house men who arrived via small boats, predominantly single young men, with no maximum capacity confirmed.

- Local communities have been denied a meaningful voice on decisions that will have long-term impacts, and West Suffolk Council unanimously opposed the Barnham proposal in July 2026.

4. IMPROVED CROSSING OPTIONS TO BE EXPLORED BETWEEN NELSON ROAD AND ALDI

Following requests from residents, Cllr Faircloth-Mutton has instructed his local highways engineer to investigate the above-mentioned.

He will keep the Springlands community and Sudbury Town Council informed and would welcome grant support from the Town Council.

DRAFT

Report for October 2026 to Sudbury Town Council

From SCC Councillor Laura Smith

Bus issues

Suffolk Passenger Transport and Schools Transport have been made aware of a number of customer issues with changes to bus routes and allegedly unreliable services.

Central Connect customers can take advantage of their 'Passenger Promise':
If your bus is cancelled, severely delayed (30 minutes or more), runs early or is unable to pick you up for any other reason (e.g. if it is full), and the next Central Connect bus is more than 30 minutes away, we will pay for alternative transport to get you to your destination.
Email contact@central-connect.co.uk or phone 0115 7773187.
More info at https://www.central-connect.co.uk/passenger-promise.

Surface dressing

Suffolk Highways has completed its usual annual surface dressing programme, treating 141 km of roads across the county to help protect and extend the life of Suffolk's highway network. The programme saw more than 750,000 square metres of road treated – equivalent to over 100 full-sized football pitches – across 86 sites in all areas of Suffolk.

Variable Message Signs (VMS) were used at busier sites to provide advance warning and live information to road users. The trial was considered successful and will help inform how Suffolk Highways communicates about future works.

Roads which have had works recently in Sudbury include Ballingdon Street, Cross Street, Great Eastern Road and Cornard Road.

NB Ballingdon Street is scheduled to be closed overnight again in the first week of December as highways maintenance is scheduled for Ballingdon Hill.

Window open to apply for school places

Parents and carers can now apply for a place for their child to start in the normal year of entry at a primary school and a secondary school for September 2027. The closing date for secondary school applications is Saturday 31 October 2026, while the closing date for applications for a primary, infant or junior school is Friday 15 January 2027.

Parents and carers should apply online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions, so they can receive confirmation that their application has been submitted successfully.

The Nearest School Checker is available at Nearest School Checker - Suffolk County Council. Families can find out further information about Suffolk County Council's School Travel Policy at www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

New Family Help service

Families across Suffolk are benefiting from a new Family Help service that makes it easier to access support earlier, helping prevent problems from escalating and reducing the need for crisis intervention.

Family Help supports families facing a range of challenges, including school attendance, emotional wellbeing, parenting, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and wider issues affecting family life.

Alongside Family Help, Suffolk is testing a new Multi-Agency Child Protection Team, bringing together professionals from children's social care, police, health and education. This trial will run for 12 weeks and if successful will be rolled out across the county from March 2027.

Battery safety advice following rise in e-bike and e-scooter fires

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is reminding residents to use and charge lithium-ion battery-powered devices safely following a recent house fire in Lowestoft that is believed to have originated from an e-scooter being charged on the ground floor.
Lithium-ion battery fires are particularly dangerous because they can develop rapidly, release toxic and flammable gases, and re-ignite even after they appear to have been extinguished.

A major fire at a waste site near Red Lodge, believed to have been caused by a discarded battery, burned for eight days, required 660,000 litres of water to extinguish and caused an estimated £60,000 of damage.
In a separate incident, a fire at the Stowmarket Household Waste Recycling Centre is thought to have been caused by a battery that had not been removed from a discarded item before disposal, highlighting the importance of recycling batteries safely.

Weed Treatment

Sudbury footways received their second weed treatment of the year at the end of September.

The current weed treatment programmes are available on the council's website and updated weekly: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-pavements-and-verges/trees-grass-and-weeds/weed-control.

Care Leavers Prom

Suffolk's care leavers have the opportunity to enjoy a special evening of dancing, entertainment and celebration on 27 November 2026 during National Care Leavers Month

The Winter Ball offers an opportunity to celebrate their achievements and recognise their journey into adulthood.

To help make the event possible, organisers are appealing for donations of:

- Prom dresses
- Suits and formalwear
- Shoes and accessories
- Financial contributions through a fundraising campaign
- Support from local businesses and community organisations

Funds raised will help cover event costs including venue hire, refreshments and decorations.

Financial donations can be made here: https://gofund.me/e263af11f

Donations of clothing and accessories can be dropped off at Constantine House, Ipswich, IP1 2DX, or contact Cllr Laura Smith (laura.smith@suffolk.gov.uk) who can arrange to transport them there.

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Babergh Report

October 2026

By Cllr Adrian Osborne

Recycling

The Waste Collection crews have operated at an average 99.8% of food waste collections being made across both councils.

Babergh are still working through and improving on:

- Delivering the final new bins and food waste caddies
- Starting to process more requests in the mix to downsize bins
- New food collection drivers and loaders quality of service delivery
- Maintaining the food waste daily completion rates
- Further reducing the causes which are driving the high volumes of calls and e-mails (mainly missing or missed bins)

The 3 weekly collection schedule continues to work to plan with additional capacity for recycling and reduced residual capacity not throwing up any problems. Vehicle downtime is normal, and we continue to monitor highways and utilities road closures and make arrangement to continue to service impacted properties.

If residents contact you to say they have not had their food waste bin emptied, please can you help us by giving out the following information;

1. Report the missed food waste collection by ideally emailing the details and address to recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk – or by calling 0300 1234 000 (option 4)

2. We will aim to return and empty the food waste bin as soon as possible

3. Where this is not possible, the crew will be made aware, so they should then not miss the food waste bin again the following week

Severe Weather

Babergh have in place a Severe Weather Protocol which allows for support to people who are homeless when the temperature exceeds 26 degrees and when the temperature falls below freezing.

If you are aware of someone needing this support during the winter please contact Babergh.

DRAFT

Help shape the future of our communities

Joint Local Plan

The JLP Scoping Consultation took place over the Summer and has now finished. 1,146 responses were received, which compares favourably with 370 in West Suffolk and 840 in East Suffolk. It also compares favourably with responses in similar sized local authorities across the country. A response in excess of 1,000 provides a high level of statistical significance enabling us to confidently feed the results into the next stages of the JLP.

Local Government Re-organisation

As you are all aware, the LGR process has been paused and the Devolution Priority Area proposals have been withdrawn, pending a review.

It would seem that there are legal questions surrounding the decisions and, rather than engaging in a protracted court case, the new Secretary of State at MHCLG, Angela Rayner decided to ensure everything is completely watertight before proceeding. There will now be no Judicial Review so no one has won, no one has lost. Whether the review of LGR will mean that new proposals have to be prepared or existing ones updated remains to be seen.

We don't yet know the scope or timetable for the review, but we have been promised that this information will be made clear before the end of this month. Noises from government indicate that they do want to move at pace, but we will have to wait to see what that means. We do know that Andy Burnham's top priority is to set up regional Strategic Authorities, with or without a mayor, where they don't currently exist.

We have been told that unitary elections have been postponed and that elections for the existing districts will now take place next year. But there are lots of unanswered questions. How long will the district term be? Will the unitary elections take place in 2028 alongside the mayoral election? Will the latter be brought forward to its original date of May 2027?

Sudbury bus station set for improvements

As you are already aware Babergh District Council has secured £250k to enhance the travel experience for both passengers and operators.

The project to improve the biggest bus station in the district aims to create a safe, accessible and modern bus station that welcomes people to the town.

In addition to the £250k funding, Babergh District Council and Suffolk County Council,, are continuing to work in partnership with the Sudbury Town Council, to carry out a feasibility study to explore longer-term options for the bus station which range from reconfiguring the existing site to a complete relocation.

If there are any questions from members tonight please direct them to members of the Sudbury Story of Place working group.

The Kingfisher Swimming Pool

We are all aware of the sudden closure of the Kingfisher Swimming Pool and feelings were reinforced by members of the public at the Leisure Committee meeting in September.

Babergh officers were present at this meeting and have promised to keep both the public and the Town Councill updated.

The loss of the pool is deeply concerning for the whole Sudbury community. It affects not only families and recreational swimmers, but school swimming, swimming clubs, older and vulnerable users, and community groups who depend on accessible local facilities. For many people, travelling to alternative pools simply isn't a realistic long-term solution.

If there are any questions from members tonight please direct them to Cllr. Laura Smith.

Important planning changes following the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Babergh District Council have written to Town and Parish Councils advising them of important changes introduced by the Government's new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published on 17th August 2026. The new framework replaces the December 2024 version and came into effect immediately. These changes will affect how planning applications are considered and have important implications for development and the application of neighbourhood plans both within and outside settlements.

Whilst the current development plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk remains in place, national planning policies will now carry significant weight where local policies are inconsistent with the new NPPF. The current development plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts is made up of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 (November 2023), saved policies from historic local plan documents, the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan (July 2020) together with adopted (made) neighbourhood plans.

The Councils have arranged an in-person Town and Parish meeting for each district in October to discuss the NPPF in more detail and invitations have been sent out. The meeting in Mid Suffolk is taking place on Monday 19th October and the **meeting in Babergh on Tuesday 20th October**.

Particular matters we would like to highlight include the change to the definition of a settlement; the effect of the NPPF for neighbourhood plans; and the approach to development outside settlements. Changes to delegated planning decision-making are also being introduced.

I would suggest that Members read the new document and raise any questions with our clerk or the Chair of Planning

DRAFT

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26

In respect of **Sudbury Town Council - SF0365**

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2026; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2025/26

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Please see below

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

We are unable to complete our review work on the AGAR and supporting documentation as a result of correspondence received in relation to 2025/26 and/or prior years. Once we have finalised our review and completed any additional work arising from that correspondence, a final report will be provided with the certificate of completion detailing any qualifications and 'other' matters.

Our fee note for the limited assurance review will be issued when we certify completion.

3 External auditor certificate 2025/26

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2026.

We do not certify completion because:

We have not been able to complete our review work in time to enable to smaller authority to publish the required documentation in line with statutory requirements.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature 

Date 18 September 2026

POWER OF YOUTH CHARTER

PART OF THE #iwill MOVEMENT

The Power of Youth Charter sets out a shared commitment to valuing young people's ideas, leadership and potential, outlining the core principles that ensure they are heard, supported and able to shape the issues that matter to them. This standalone version provides a clear reference point for young people, practitioners and partners to understand what meaningful youth engagement looks like, separate from the commitment version used by organisations. By championing these principles, we can work together to create a society where every young person feels respected, empowered and able to make a positive difference.



PRIORITISE SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE SOCIAL ACTION

We will create opportunities that empower more young people, particularly from low-income and minoritised communities, to be positive changemakers.



OPEN UP OUR DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES

We will create opportunities that empower more young people, particularly from low-income and minoritised communities, to be positive changemakers.



WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

We will work collaboratively with other organisations to create more high quality opportunities, reach young people from low-income and minoritised communities to take part, share learning and achieve shared goals



EVIDENCE THE BENEFITS OF YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION

We will capture and share insights, stories and data on how we are working with young people, and the positive impact this has on them, their communities and our organisation



RECOGNISE AND CELEBRATE YOUNG PEOPLE'S IMPACT

We will use our communication channels to advocate for and celebrate young people as positive and powerful changemakers

FOR A BETTER TOMORROW, WE MUST EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

As a society we face an unprecedented set of challenges. Poverty, the climate emergency, worsening mental health and wellbeing, social and economic inequalities, racial injustice.

Too often, young people have been needlessly excluded from conversations; and too many decision-makers still fail to recognise the positive impact young people are currently making in communities across the UK. This has to change. We can't keep taking decisions about young people without young people. And by failing to support us to make a positive difference, we all lose out as a result.

Now, more than ever, we must empower young people to be changemakers. Young people are not simply the leaders of tomorrow. We have the energy, talent and ideas to make a positive difference today.

SIGNING UP TO THE POWER OF YOUTH CHARTER

WHAT IS THE CHARTER AND WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

Based on insights gathered from #iWill Ambassadors, and partners, the Power of Youth Charter provides a framework for your organisation to empower more young people to shape decisions, take social action and make a positive difference.

UNDERPINNING THE CHARTER ARE A CORE SET OF VALUES:

EMPOWERING

Young people are treated as equal partners in tackling common challenges. We listen to young people, work with them and give them the space to create and lead change.

COLLABORATIVE

To achieve our shared vision and goals, we need to work together. #iWill stimulates collective action by connecting organisations, policymakers and young people to collaborate and co-create change.

CHALLENGING

We push for meaningful change to culture, policy and practice so that more young people, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds, are supported and empowered to make a positive difference.

INCLUSIVE

We embrace, champion and celebrate young people, individuals and organisations from a diverse range of backgrounds and beliefs to cocreate solutions and access benefits of youth social action. We stand united against all forms discrimination.

INDEPENDENT

#iWill belongs to everybody. It remains independent of the interests of any single organisation, political party, funding source, form of youth social action or cause.

TOWN TWINNING CHARTER

We, the representatives of the
Citizens of our two towns of

SUDBURY and CLERMONT

do enter into this declaration of friendship on behalf of our respective communities and thereby pledge our municipalities to work together for the furtherance of that bond.

The towns of SUDBURY and CLERMONT do this day make a solemn commitment to establish friendly relations between each other and to do everything in their power to sustain and deepen this friendship.

The partnership is to foster active exchanges over the widest possible field, particularly in the areas of culture and sport.

Exchanges between young people are to be specially encouraged, in particular, individual contact between young people within the circle of the family.

The towns of Sudbury and Clermont do strive towards this common goal at all times to do their utmost to foster this partnership so that the ties of friendship between neighbouring peoples be strengthened and a contribution be made towards the formation of a Europe united in Freedom and Peace.

Dated this Thirteenth Day of April, 1985.

Signed for and on behalf of the Town of Sudbury
MAYOR

Signed for and on behalf of the Town of Clermont
MAYOR