

## REPORT TO HADLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Cllr Mick Fraser – County Councillor for Hadleigh Division District Councillor for Hadleigh South Ward

#### Suffolk County Council (SCC)

Dear Mr Mayor and Council,

#### **COVID-19 Response**

As of the 8<sup>th</sup> December there have been **8,103** total lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. In total there have been 1,064 cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people. This is the lowest overall COVID-19 case rate in the East of England. Confirmed cases in Suffolk are broken down by Districts & Boroughs as follows:

Area name	Daily Cases reported	Weekly Cases reported	Weekly case rate*	Wk on wk trend*	Cumulative cases	Cumulative case rate	National Rate Rank (of 315)
Babergh	22	86	82.6	↓	1,107	1202.80	277
East Suffolk	39	185	56.5	↑	2,366	948.40	298
Ipswich	38	231	162.9	↑	2,073	1514.10	231
Mid Suffolk	15	56	49.1	↑	874	841.20	307
West Suffolk	21	107	51.4	↑	1,683	940.00	300
Suffolk	135	665	76.6	↑	8,103	1064.3	
East of England	2,920	19,513	135.8	↑	97,789	1568.1	
England	12,960	87,406	151.0	↓	1,514,139	2690.0	

#### **Overview**

Following the lifting of the four-week national lockdown in England that ran from 5<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December, all districts within Suffolk are in Tier 2. In the 7-days up to the 8<sup>th</sup> December there have been **665** new cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. This is an increase on the numbers in the previous week. The rate of new weekly cases in Suffolk has increased and is now, at 76.6 cases per 100,000 people. This is below the rates for the East of England region (135.8 / 100,000) and for England as a whole (151.0 / 100,000). In total, up to the 27<sup>th</sup> November, there have been **632** deaths in Suffolk where COVID-19 was recorded on the death certificate. The estimated 'R' value for the East of England is between 0.9 and 1.0 which has decreased in the last week, but remains slightly higher than the 'R' value for England (0.8– 1.0).

#### **Weekly Cases and Rates**

COVID-19 cases are identified by taking specimens from people and sending them to laboratories around the UK to be tested. If the test is positive this is referred to as a lab-confirmed case. In the week to the 8<sup>th</sup> December there were **665** new lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. This is an increase compared to the previous week. It is possible to calculate a case rate by dividing the number of cases by the number of people in each population – this makes it possible to compare

cases across different areas. The most recent underlying weekly case rate in Suffolk was **76.6** cases per 100,000 people. This case rate is very similar to the previous week and Suffolk's rate remains the second lowest weekly COVID-19 case rate in the East of England. In the last week there have been **86 cases in Babergh**, 185 cases in East Suffolk, 231 cases in Ipswich, 56 cases in Mid Suffolk and 107 cases in West Suffolk. All areas **except Babergh** have had an increase in cases since last week.

### Coronavirus cases in care homes

In line with government guidelines are reporting weekly on the number of outbreaks within Suffolk care home settings, that Suffolk County Council has been made aware of. These figures are listed on area basis and will not include the details of any specific care homes. They include care homes, extra care housing and supported housing. As a notifiable disease, care homes are required to report any potential or confirmed cases of Coronavirus to PH) in order that this can be captured as part of the national reporting processes and also for PHE to provide advice and guidance on infection control.

Care providers with outbreaks						
	28/10/2020	03/11/2020	19/11/2020	24/11/2020	30/11/2020	08/11/2020
Babergh	2	4	5	6	6	6
East Suffolk	4	4	8	8	9	8
Ipswich	0	0	1	1	3	4
Mid Suffolk	1	0	0	1	1	1
West Suffolk	0	2	2	2	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>

Number of deaths involving Covid-19 occurring in care homes over the last three weeks						
	20.11.20	Change from last week	27.11.20	Change from last week	4.12.20	Change form last week
<b>Suffolk</b>	214	7+	222	8+	234	12+
<b>Norfolk</b>	164	1+	169	5+	179	10+
<b>Cambs+ Peterborough</b>	164	0+	167	3+	167	0+
<b>Essex</b>	329	3+	334	5+	336	2+
<b>Hertfordshire</b>	341	3+	344	3+	351	7+

### Suffolk's new housing joint venture company.

SCC's Cabinet have given the go ahead for the creation of a new joint venture company to lead new housing developments on some of its own land. Since 2019 the county council has been investigating how it can do more with its own assets to support district and borough councils in their role as strategic housing authorities. This should boost the supply of much needed housing in the county and ensure more of its land is being used to create social value within communities.

This decision follows months of detailed preparation, which saw strategic real estate advisor **Avison Young** and multinational law firm **Pinsent Masons** appointed by Concertus Design and

Property Consultants Ltd; the Service Delivery Group of the council's Corporate Property Division. Their role was to consider delivery and viability options for a range of potential sites across the county with a view to considering how best to bring each forward for development. As part of this appointment, and in accordance with the original decision of Cabinet in January, the newly appointed advisors also assessed the option of creating a new joint venture company to manage development of the largest potential sites. A business plan for the joint venture has been presented to SCC's Cabinet where it was agreed to proceed to the next phase.

## **Babergh DC**

### **Advertising our High Street**

I am delighted to report that along with Cllr Grandon, we are co-supporting with Hadleigh Town Council towards an advertisement in the EADT promoting Hadleigh's High Street retailers. This funding £250.00 each is from our respective Babergh Locality Awards funds.

### **Financial support for leisure trust**

On 10<sup>th</sup> December Babergh's Cabinet agreed further financial support for their leisure partner, Abbeycroft Leisure. This support consists of a £150k loan followed by a £270k grant to cover the period up to the end of March 2021. The hope is to ensure Babergh and its residents can remain bright and healthy well into the future. The council has already supported the not-for-profit leisure trust since the first lockdown, having paid its £238k annual management fee in advance and provided a £256,000 grant.

The work Abbeycroft Leisure does to support our districts to remain active and healthy is vital. Babergh's residents value what they offer, and their approach to supporting them with their health and wellbeing. Almost half of all council-provided leisure facilities across the country are run by leisure trusts. Details of a £100m funding package from central Government are expected to set out further support available soon, to assist the trusts with their Covid recovery.

### **Business Support**

Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG) are now available for businesses that require this support. This includes those businesses who are not required to close but will be impacted by the national lockdown. Payments will be: £1,334, £2,000, or £3,000 depending on the rateable value of the business.

I have nothing further to report.

Yours Sincerely

*Mick Fraser*

Cllr Mick Fraser  
Hadleigh Division, Suffolk County Council  
Hadleigh South Ward, Babergh District Council