



Council 13 December 2011

CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

Report by Cllr Robert Everitt, Tourism and Community Services Portfolio

Portfolio includes:

- Bury St Edmunds;
- Children, Young People and Safeguarding Issues;
- Emergency Planning, Community Safety and CCTV;
- Grants;
- Localism;
- Markets.
- Tourism; and
- Community Development (excluding Haverhill).

1. Community safety

- 1.1 The next 12 months will see a number of changes to community safety arrangements in the county, commencing with some mergers taking place amongst Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). In the west of the county Babergh CSP has indicated a willingness in principle to join the existing Western Suffolk CSP, which currently covers the Borough Council and Forest Heath and Mid Suffolk District Councils. The first joint meeting was held in November and was a very positive first step towards formally bringing together the two CSPs.
- 1.2 The other changes to come relate to the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and the setting up of a Police and Crime Panel (PCP). These are significant changes as, once in post following the elections on 15 November 2012, the PCC will be responsible for setting the strategic direction for policing in the county and will control the police and community safety budgets. They will also have the power to set the CSP structure for the county. The current Police Authority will be dissolved and the PCP will take on the role of scrutinising the decisions of the PCC.
- 1.3 Despite budget pressures there is a lot of activity on the community safety front. National Alcohol Week and the White Ribbon Campaign to raise awareness of domestic violence have both been publicised in recent weeks by way of information stands and displays at West Suffolk House. In the run up to Christmas there is to be a Police campaign around responsible drinking and running alongside that a 'No Means No' campaign aimed at reducing sexual assaults. To support these campaigns officers are working with the Police, SOS bus, Town Pastors and the Kiss FM street team to provide a personal safety event in Bury St Edmunds town centre on the evening of 16 December 2011.

2. Youth development

- 2.1 The annual programme of events has come to an end with Street Jam events in half term and I attended the BurySound competition final on 4 November 2011, which was won by Lewis Mokler, a singer and guitar player. Officers are now reviewing the events held this year and starting to plan for 2012, looking at what has been successful and where it may be time to reshape an event or move on to something new.

3. Community Centres

- 3.1 On 21 October 2011 I joined the Southgate Community Partnership to celebrate the transfer of the Centre to the ownership of the community. It was a wonderful event with a packed hall of local people and users. The Partnership is very positive about the future of the Centre and really relishing having their destiny in their own hands. Through their consultation with the local community as part of the business planning process they have also gathered a large number of new volunteers so community involvement has already increased. Now that we have this successful example I am keen that we develop our discussions with the other Community Associations and wider communities surrounding the other centres.

4. Grants

- 4.1 By the time of the Council meeting the Grant Working Party will have met to consider core-funding applications from a range of community organisations. We have consulted with the recipients of the grants and although the overall funding pot is recommended to be held at the current levels there are inevitably some hard decisions to be made. With a number of existing organisations applying for more funding and new applicants coming forward, it is not possible to meet all the requests. The contribution any organisation makes to the service delivery of the Council has to be considered in reaching decisions about funding.

5. Markets

5.1 General

- (a) As previously reported, a Business Plan for the Market Operations in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill was presented to a full meeting of the Market Forum on 20 September 2011. The market traders' representatives declined to make comment about the plan until they had consulted the National Market Trader Federation (NMTF). Subsequent feedback indicates that the NMTF considers that the plan is both reasonable and beneficial.
- (b) Work has been undertaken on re-drafting the outdated market regulations, which will in future be known as the Market Licence Agreement, to enable the objectives of the Business Plan to be delivered. Advice is being sought on changes to stall charges and the introduction of a market levy, which is intended to help fund the promotion of the markets.
- (c) There are presently a significant number of enquiries from traders wishing to trade in the markets in both Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill. All applicants are being subjected to our new recruitment process in order to drive up the quality of stalls. In the last month three new traders (selling smoothies, smoked meats and cheeses, and mobility aids) have been accepted on to the market in Bury St Edmunds.

5.2 **Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market events**

- (a) A considerable amount of time and effort has been put into organising and promoting a series of four special Sunday Christmas market events, which commenced on 27 November and run through until 18 December. At the time of this report approximately 40 traders have booked and paid for pitches at these events.

5.3 **Christmas Fayre**

- (a) The 8th Christmas Fayre took place on 25 to 27 November, and was once again a resounding success with numbers now attending the 3 days getting towards 100,000 people. This is a fantastic achievement for the Borough as the event has a tremendous economic impact on the town and I have personally spoken to several shop keepers who have been very complimentary about the Fayre. I also received many positive comments from so many visitors who were both local and from outside Suffolk. The Christmas Fayre is definitely one of the best in the country. The feedback we have received from this year's Fayre will help to inform the forthcoming scrutiny review, which I hope will look at all aspects from infrastructure through to content. We will consider the recommendations from the scrutiny review, together with other comments and suggestions received, to improve our very successful Christmas Fayre for 2012.