



## Council 30 June 2014

### CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

#### **Report by Cllr Sara Mildmay-White Deputy Leader**

**Portfolio includes:**

- Health and Wellbeing
- Bury St Edmunds
- Community Safety
- Youth Provision/Children and Young People
- Community Development
- Third Sector/Localism
- Equalities
- CCTV
- Emergency Planning

#### **1. Community Centre Transfer**

- 1.1 You may have seen in the press that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Council, Newbury Community Association, Havebury Housing Partnership and Suffolk County Council in relation to the potential redevelopment of the area around the current community centre. After several years of discussions about the condition of the current centre the Council has committed to support the community in establishing whether a new centre can be secured through planning gain. The Communities team is investing locality officer time in the project to support the community. The Council is not providing or funding a centre. If a redevelopment is possible the new centre would be under community ownership from the outset. This approach is a good example of the Families and Communities Strategy in action.
- 1.2 At Westbury Community Centre an independent building survey is about to be conducted to provide the basis for discussion between the Community Association and the Council. The group is also working on the governance needed to support a transfer.

#### **2. Neighbourhood Working and Locality Budgets**

- 2.1 I was pleased to learn that communities are becoming more aware of the role of our Locality Officers and are approaching them with practical queries about local projects and activities they want to get off the ground. It is also encouraging that at the time of writing (early June) two Locality Budget payments have already been made. One in Haverhill is reported by Cllr Gower. The other is to a residents association in Bury St Edmunds to promote and publicise their AGM with the aim of getting more residents along and involved.

### **3. Bury Skate Park Opening**

- 3.1 The brand new Bury St Edmunds Skate park enjoyed a fantastic opening Jam on 11 May 2014 with over 1500 people attending after a £250,000 construction. The new facility is an excellent example of working with communities. The Bury Skate Park Experience Charity raised £100,000 towards the project and were fully involved in consulting on and refining the design. . This facility will be an asset for young people in the area that will be enjoyed for many years and is a testament to all the hard work of the community and officers in Parks, Families and Communities and Property.

### **4. Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP)**

- 4.1 There have been significant changes to the function of the WSCSP. These flow from the loss of any direct funding for the CSP. Community Safety funding is now part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's budget and is available to voluntary, community and social enterprise groups via a Safer Suffolk Fund which Suffolk Community Foundation are administering on behalf of the PCC. I hope all Councillors will encourage local groups which are addressing community safety issues to put in applications to this funding so West Suffolk can continue to benefit from this funding.

- 4.2 However, CSPs remain statutory bodies with a number of functions which I include below:
- conducting an annual assessment of crime and disorder and setting priorities;
  - carrying out monitoring of the local Integrated Offender Management scheme; and
  - carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews.

- 4.3 The CSP has a role outside of these functions in terms of partnership working and connecting with communities, which complements the West Suffolk Families and Communities strategy and the work of the Families and communities team. During 2014 -15 the WSCSP will be working towards understanding the new role and ensuring that the strategic and operational mechanisms are fit for purpose.

### **5. Health and Wellbeing**

- 5.1 With national Falls Awareness Week having taken place on 16 June one of our locality officers is in contact with a group in Wickhambrook which is looking at setting up an Over 60s Club. Through that club there is interesting in delivery Otago, an exercise programme specifically for elderly people either recovering from a fall, or at risk of falling. This is a very practical way of reducing the impact which falls can have on the elderly population and the consequent demand on public services.