
Council



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title:	Leader's Statement	
Paper No:	COU/SE/17/008	
Paper to and date:	Council	13 June 2017
Documents attached:	None	

1. Firstly, I wanted to say what an excellent Mayor making and annual meeting we had. I believe it was also a social media sensation, with more than a thousand views of live streaming and films on Twitter and Facebook. Thank you again to our outgoing Mayor Julia Wakelam who has been a great champion for the Council and area, and welcome to Terry Clements and Margaret Marks who I know will do an equally excellent job.
2. In addition, I'd like to extend our congratulations to James Palmer who was elected as the first and new Mayor for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. We, of course, know James well as Leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council and know he understands the shared issues and opportunities that cross our borders. I look forward to developing this relationship and working with him in the future.
3. A special Joint Cabinet meeting was held in Mildenhall to discuss looking at the benefits of creating a new Single Council for West Suffolk. Perhaps, as a good omen for future discussions today, it was a unanimous decision by both Cabinets. All believe there are real benefits for the communities we serve, that currently we can't deliver in the best possible way. It also means we can not only meet future challenges better, but create jobs and opportunities, while continuing to deliver high quality services. Equally, we know there are issues that need to be looked at which is why both Cabinets agreed there needs to be a Member Steering Group to consider these. Today's full Council will look at the business case and the setting up of the Steering Group. This will also include engaging with the public on proposals going forward.
4. Last week was National Volunteers' Week, and I would like to publicly praise not only the hundreds of volunteers we work with, but the army of community heroes that make our area so special and make a real difference. Indeed, we can already see the benefits of the new ways we are working

with our residents and local groups as part of our families and communities work. We have worked with residents across West Suffolk to invest £155,877 in 349 community led projects. I know many of you in this room have been at the forefront working with your communities on these projects, which are making a real difference.

5. I know you shared my sadness to hear the news of the passing of fellow councillor and great friend Angela Rushen. Angela was a very much liked, valued and respected colleague who served St Edmundsbury and the Chedburgh Ward so very well since her election in 2011. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.
6. Equally, it was sad to hear of the passing of Forest Heath District Councillor and colleague Bill Sadler, and Waveney District Council Leader Colin Law. Both were dedicated to the communities they served and will be sadly missed.
7. I want to briefly mention the tragic events in Manchester and London. We were all moved by the dreadful stories and pictures we saw following those cowardly act of terrorism. But what was heartening were the tales of courage and compassion, and how emergency and public services (as well as the community as a whole) came together.
8. Communities beat terrorism, by being vigilant and by working together. We have strong, diverse and vibrant communities here in St Edmundsbury and West Suffolk, who I know pride themselves in being good neighbours and looking out for each other. I am sure you will join me in thanking our local emergency and public services, not only for the job they do every day, but also making sure we can all go about our normal lives at this time of heightened security.

Councillor John Griffiths
Leader of the Council