
Shadow Council



Title:	Leader's Statement	
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Paper to and date:	Shadow Council	17 July 2018
Documents attached:	None	

Civic Leadership

The engagement period on looking at what Civic Leadership should be for the new West Suffolk Council has started. This gives our communities, businesses and local organisations the chance to shape what Civic Leadership should be for our new council in the future. I would urge all here to make sure they have their say and encourage our local residents to do so too. From the beginning both James and I, as well as portfolio holders Councillors Bowman and Bull, have stressed that Civic Leadership plays a vital role in supporting and promoting our area and local organisations. It is also demonstrated not just by the Chair, Chairman or Mayor but all of us.

However, I wanted to take the opportunity to applaud the Civic Leadership our authorities showed for Armed Forces Day. West Suffolk hosted the celebrations for the County, something we were proud to do not least because armed forces personnel have lived or been based in West Suffolk for centuries and of course are our friends and neighbours now. I know the Chairman of Forest Heath District Council and the Mayor of St Edmundsbury Borough Council have always maintained close ties with our armed forces and both are regular guests at local military events. These latest Armed Forces Day events were unprecedented across the country and a great example of how we work together to generate civic pride in West Suffolk and the wider County. I am sure you will join me in thanking all those involved.

Ward Boundaries

Proposals for the new ward boundaries for West Suffolk Council are due to be discussed today. These are the proposals put forward by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England who will have the ultimate decision. After much engagement we have passed on the various options, issues and concerns our communities suggested locally. Everyone in West Suffolk still has the opportunity to make their views known and their opinion carries the same weight as anyone else who replies to the consultation.

Therefore, no matter what the outcome of our discussions on the paper today I would encourage you to respond directly to the Commission. Indeed, we should also advise our parish and town councils, residents and community groups to make their views known if they wish to.

Strategic Priorities

We are also set to discuss later a number of technical papers that ultimately support the ambition and priorities we have. Our Resources and Performance portfolio holders will speak more on this later in the debate. But I wanted to emphasise one of the reasons we are creating the new West Suffolk Council is to do things in better or different ways to (not just a bigger council doing the same things the same way). This is part of the transformational journey we have been on and the Medium Term Financial Strategy supports the delivery the vision and priorities we agreed for the new West Suffolk Council in the Strategic Framework. It is these principles that should help drive the prosperity and investment that we want to see continue across the whole of West Suffolk for the communities and businesses we serve.

Councillor John Griffiths
Leader of the West Suffolk Shadow Council