

Shadow Council

Title:	Leader's Statement	
Paper No:	COU/SA/18/009	
Paper to and date:	Shadow Council	25 September 2018
Documents attached:	None	

Shadow Authority Leader's Statement

1. I would like to welcome everyone back from their summer holidays even though, as always, it has been a busy time for many in West Suffolk.

Rural Conference

2. Our transformation and implementation towards a new West Suffolk Council is already gaining considerable interest nationally. We were invited to speak about it at the Rural Services Network and explain the benefits it will bring. I am pleased to report it was well received and our speakers, including Councillor Carol Bull, were asked questions by councils from across the country. Many of the conference attendees, amongst others have followed up on the conversations subsequently. Thank you in particular to Carol and Ben Smith for explaining our story and ambition, supported, I know, by many colleagues in and out of the room.

Boundary review

3. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has now carried out its consultation and I am pleased to hear they had good engagement and many responses from councillors, local organisations and parish councils amongst others. Thank you to everyone who made their views known to the Boundary Commission to help them in their process of looking at the new wards for West Suffolk Council. I believe we will hear what their findings are around 23 October 2018.

Policy

4. Tonight we have a handful of items on the agenda. One of those is the rolling forward of policies to the new West Suffolk Council. Having seen what is going on in other areas of the country, it is heartening to see the close working we have already achieved bearing fruit. While a perhaps

somewhat dry but necessary subject, it is a clear sign of our continuing progress. Many authorities are behind us on the type of transformational approach that we have achieved through shared services and now as part of the Shadow West Suffolk Council.

Portfolio Holder

5. Most of you will now be aware that one of our colleagues, Alaric Pugh, has stepped down from his role as portfolio holder and, while continuing to be a member at the moment, is not at present planning to stand in the May elections. What you might not know is that Alaric has been has undertaken roles in public service without a break for thirty-five years. I know his decision has been a very hard one but I think we all understand that family must come first. I would like to personally thank him, and I am sure you will join me in this, for his sage advice, professionalism and the immense drive he has shown in working with colleagues to transform the way we invest and encourage growth for the prosperity of our communities. For St Edmundsbury Borough Council I am pleased to say Councillor Glossop will now be leading on planning and regulatory services. At the same time she will work closely with me on the Councils' considerable growth agenda. After this meeting, subject, of course, to your approval tonight, I look forward to working with Councillor Glossop on the Shadow Executive. I am sure you will all welcome her while at the same time thanking Alaric for his tremendous dedication and service.

Councillor John Griffiths
Leader of the West Suffolk Shadow Council