
Council



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title:	Leader's Statement	
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Leader's Statement

1. Today is the last full Council meeting of St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The end perhaps of an era but also a continuation and new beginning within, and for, West Suffolk. For that reason - and because there are both long service awards and a review of St Edmundsbury's history on our agenda tonight - I will try to keep this last Leader's report as brief as possible.
2. All of us in this Council Chamber tonight (and many others) deserve to take great pride in, and indeed celebrate, our many achievements, great and small, for the people we serve and represent in the Borough; and the new West Suffolk Council will inherit an excellent platform to build on our impressive work in this wonderful part of the country.
3. This is not by chance but has resulted from councillors of all parties, and our officers and staff, working together to improve the quality of life, prosperity and value for money services that our residents need and deserve. This has not always been easy; indeed there have many challenges, often disagreements, arguments and even cross wordsbut this has always been overcome by the passion and desire in this room to do our very best for our local communities and businesses whom we serve.
4. We have shown leadership, sometimes in the face of considerable criticism, to deliver major projects that have transformed our towns and villages to secure a prosperous future. But we have also listened, and worked with our communities, local businesses, organisations and others to bring forward and deliver these initiatives together.

5. Since the creation of St Edmundsbury Borough Council we have invested many millions of pounds and attracted much more investment to bring jobs, business, facilities, growth, and protect our future prosperity. We have not stood still, thought strategically, and innovated to get the best possible outcomes for our residents, but at the same time we have worked hard to preserve our heritage, traditions and environment in this unique and lovely area.
6. I have been immensely proud, and indeed honoured, to have been Leader of this Council. But this would not have been possible without the collective effort, input, enormous contributions and sheer hard work of Members, officers and staff alike (past and present) working together with the communities and businesses we serve. It has been humbling to see so many of the things this Council does behind the scenes.....helping some of the most vulnerable off the streets or to access social prescribing and fundamentally improve their lives being just one of so many examples. It has also been rewarding to represent the Council and see local businesses thrive and develop while both national and international businesses have come to our area bringing better homes, facilities, services and job opportunities. And the difference that all Councillors have been able to make for residents and organisations in their Wards with their locality grants is equally gratifying.
7. Since I have been Leader, I believe St Edmundsbury successes and service have always been a team effort. No matter what your roles at the Council - past or present - or your political or personal interests, I would like to thank each and every one of you (and your predecessors) for your contributions, support, ideas and challenges. And the same goes for all our officers and staff who have shown such commitment and delivered so well for residents, businesses and organisations in our towns and villages.....often way past the call of duty.
8. I hope our ethos will continue into the new West Suffolk Council following the elections. The future should be a bright and good one for West Suffolk. There are, and will no doubt be further, challenges (locally, nationally and internationally) but the new Council should put us in the best possible position to face them, champion our area and seize opportunities. Good luck to all those who are standing for election and thank you again to those of you standing down for the service you have given. It has been an immense honour to work with you at St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

John Griffiths
Leader of the Council