

2016/17 County Councillors Report

My end of Four Year Report

I am proud to be part of an Administration that has led Suffolk County Council for the last four years we have ensured that vital services have been retained and kept tax as low as possible.

We have lived up to the pledge of freezing Council tax since the last election, meaning that the residents of Suffolk are not paying a penny more than they did in 2010. That's a 7- year freeze! We are committed to running a low-tax county council and maintaining services by being more effective and efficient with our resources rather than making the residents pay more.

In 2016 Suffolk County renewed more than 300 miles of roads across the county after an investment of an additional £10 million. We implemented an online reporting system for potholes which has seen over 70% of customers move online where they can receive updates on works, greatly decreasing the response time.

Caring for Suffolk's elderly and vulnerable residents has remained one of our highest priorities. With an aging population, we have supported residents to live active and fulfilling lives. To honour our commitment to adult social care, this administration has taken all opportunities presented to it to invest in front line services, for two consecutive years (2016/17 & 2017/18) we introduced the adult social care precept at 2% and 3% respectively. This money is ring-fenced and goes directly to front line services. In the 2017/18 budget this will be investing £12.3m in full to front line services and to those hardworking people who care for our elderly population. We will target this money into the care sector to provide a sustainability and safe, high quality care.

Since the last election in May 2013 Suffolk Schools have gone from 60% 'Good' or 'Outstanding' rating by OFSTED to an amazing 90%. This means that 9/10 children in Suffolk now have access to the highest standards of education thanks to the tireless work of teamwork and staff working together. We are now ranked in the top half of all authorities in the country for GCSE results.

We have been dedicated to keeping the residents of Suffolk healthy. We have established sporting events across the county, which have inspired thousands of people, including "Park Runs", almost 150 walks, the Women's Tour of Britain and the inaugural Great East Run. We continue to work closely with the NHS Mental Health Trust and with other services and charities to help support the most fragile.

Over the past four years we have managed to work with partners to secure millions of pounds of improvement to the rail network, with brand new rolling stock and reduced journey times under the new rail franchise with Greater Anglia. Our continued investment in community transport through our Connecting Communities scheme has extended services in rural areas.

Suffolk is a beautiful county of rich green countryside and breath-taking coastlines and we have tried to protect our county's environment. We have invested in our historic market towns and the re-generation of Ipswich waterfront. The county's energy from waste plant has enabled us to save money on landfill tax, generate electricity and earn income. The plant was built to budget and on time. It takes all Suffolk's domestic waste for incineration and powers 30,000 homes. As a result, waste going into landfill in Suffolk has been cut from 44% to just 1%!

End of Part One ☺