

District Councillor Report: Framsdén

March 2025

Council meeting and annual budget	<p>The monthly council meeting for February took place on 27th February. The meeting primarily revolved around the council's annual budget, including approval of both the General Fund Budget and Housing Revenue Account. Other agenda items include the local development framework and a new policy for community engagement for planning .</p> <p>The full budget details can be read in the agenda here: (Public Pack)Agenda Document for Mid Suffolk Council, 27/02/2025 17:30</p>
Suffolk Devolution updates	<p>A public consultation has opened into the Norfolk and Suffolk mayoral combined authority by the government, until the 13th April.</p> <p>Norfolk and Suffolk devolution consultation - GOV.UK</p> <p>– but please note that this consultation does not cover proposals for any local government reorganisation of our existing councils, and that views on this will be sought as part of a separate process.</p> <p>Councillors across both Babergh and Mid Suffolk will be attending workshops about the Local Government Review and Devolution next week. All the district councils in Suffolk are collaborating to produce a business case to present to the Government.</p>
Joint Local Plan	<p>MSDC and Babergh are now working on a new local plan because the uplift in housing numbers imposed by the new Government would have meant that the current part 1 plan would become out of date too soon and we would run the risk of no longer having a 5-year housing land supply.</p> <p>The local development framework to be discussed at the Council meeting includes the timetable for the new updated local plan to be delivered in 2029.</p>
Housing and tenant services	<p>Housing Services have launched a new Tenant Handbook providing information about tenants' rights and responsibilities, as well as setting out what the council's responsibilities are as their landlord.</p>
Energy developments	<p>The Leader of Mid Suffolk has written to the Secretary of State calling for a co-ordinated and strategic approach to energy developments and connections to the grid along the A140 corridor in view of the number of applications for very large solar farms, and battery sites battery sites in the area.</p>
Localities grants	<p>I am glad to have been able to help with funding for the Community lunches at The Greyhound. The current funding round is about to close, but we have an increase in the councillor localities budget for the next round and I look forward to helping more great community projects in due course.</p>

February Council meeting - annual budget	<p>The Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) meeting on 27th February approved the council's annual budget for 2025/26. Details can be found here: (Public Pack)Agenda Document for Mid Suffolk Council, 27/02/2025 17:30</p> <p>No increase in Council Tax: The council tax bill for a Band D property remains at £175.03. That works out under £3.37 a week to cover all district council services, including waste collection, licensing, planning, public realm and supporting the local economy, culture and communities. (Council Tax overall is expected to rise, however, as MSDC only sets and receives a small portion, with the bulk going to the County Council.)</p> <p>MSDC expects a budget surplus of £2.4m in 2025/26: This is down from last year, due to factors including rising employee costs and costs for services, and the ending of the government's Rural Services Delivery Grant.</p> <p>Capital programme agreed: The Council committed to a capital programme of £36.3m (£26m committed, with another £10m proposed 'capital ambition' projects), partly funded from reserves. This will deliver an ambitious pipeline of projects across the district.</p> <p>Among other things, expenditure includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - investment in sports and health facilities in Stowmarket and in Stradbroke (with a £540k investment in Stradbroke's leisure centre.) - major investment in the new Skills and Innovation Centre to upskill the District - £1.5m fund to support High Street regeneration in our largest town, Stowmarket - £300k per year funding pot for projects in other market towns and rural communities - investment in cycling and walking infrastructure - an increase in the Locality Award to £10,000 per Ward, giving an annual total of £340,000 in Locality grants to fund smaller projects around the District - ongoing support for range of other grant schemes to fund community projects
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