

# Parish Report September 2017

## County Councillor

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## Cabinet decision on school transport policy changes called-in by LDGI Group

A decision made by Cabinet on 12 September, to go to public consultation on proposed changes to SCC's school transport policy, was 'called-in' to scrutiny by opposition councillors from the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group.

Proposed by Cllr Penny Otton and seconded by myself, the call-in cited several problems with the report that informed Cabinet's decision, and argued that to go to public consultation without a comprehensive impact assessment would be premature. The councillors questioned the expected savings and stressed the need to fully research how changes might impact on educational attainment, increased car use, and school viability.

The call-in will be examined by the Scrutiny Committee on 28 September.

## Search for a new Chief Executive continues

A full day of interviews and assessments took place on Monday 11 September in the search for a new Chief Executive for Suffolk County Council to succeed Deborah Cadman, who has moved to work for the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The field of candidates was very strong and each person was put through a range of assessments, presentations and interviews as part of the process. The interview panel included five councillors from across the three main Groups.

However, it was decided that there was no clear candidate that met the high standards expected for the role. Therefore no appointment was made, and the recruitment process will begin again in the coming months. Sue Cook is currently acting as interim Chief Executive and will continue to do so, supported by other members of the corporate management team.

## New Suffolk Observatory website launched

The Suffolk Observatory website has undergone a complete overhaul, making it easier to find data and intelligence. It is the one-stop-shop for statistics about Suffolk, and will provide easy access to information along with an improved search function. Data is now updated automatically from online sources.

Through data, reports and analysis, the Suffolk Observatory provides a comprehensive picture of the county and is a great source for useful facts and figures that will help you write reports and presentations, inform strategic and business planning, prepare funding applications or support academic research.

The new site was officially launched at the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board on 7 September 2017. The old site was replaced with the new version on 18 September 2017, and is available via this link: <http://www.suffolkobservatory.info/>

### **PCC will not pursue plans to take control of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service**

Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, has announced that he will not be pursuing plans to take control of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Services.

Earlier this year the PCC commissioned PA Consulting to undertake an options appraisal to consider the future governance of the Fire and Rescue Service and a potential shift of governance from the County Council to the PCC. This review concluded that there is insufficient evidence to suggest that a governance change would be clearly in the interests of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness; or public safety.

### **Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service launches 'escape plan' campaign**

The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has launched a new safety campaign and website highlighting the importance of fire escape plans. The campaign addresses the fact that every year there are 40,000 accidental house fires in the UK. Having an escape plan will allow Suffolk residents to escape the fire quickly and safely.

Visitors to the campaign website will be able to:

- Take a quiz to test how prepared they are to escape a fire
- Create their own escape plan for everyone in their household

The 'escape plan' fire campaign will run until 31 October 2017. More information can be found at [fire.suffolk.gov.uk](http://fire.suffolk.gov.uk).

