

Babergh District Council Annual Report 2023/24

May

- Local elections: 10 Greens, 9 Independents, 7 Conservatives, 5 Liberal Democrats & 1 Labour Cllr made up the new Council.
- Coalition agreed between the Greens, Independents and Liberal Democrats with the sharing of leadership across the 4-year term.
- The long running Bellevue House issue appeared settled as contracts were exchanged.

June

- Council reiterates its objection to pylon proposals.

July

- Cabinet sets its strategy for the next four years citing climate housing and community at the heart of its priorities.

August

- Cost of living support for residents reviewed. - £100,000 made available to council tenants, a reduction in council tax for low-income households and £150,000 to households struggling with rent.
- A 30% increase in funding to Citizens Advice Bureaus to accommodate increased cost due to increased demand.

September

- Inspectors declare the long-awaited joint local plan part one to be sound and can progress to adoption. The plan has been seven years in the making.

October

- Babergh's new website was launched.
- Storm Babet. Suffolk resilience forum declares a major incident and provides cross agency support to those affected by flooding in the district.

November

- A consultation begins into measures that might streamline energy efficiency upgrades to listed properties.
- A consultation was launched to help shape the future of Babergh following the strategy announcement in July.
- The joint local plan was adopted at full council.
- There was a call for land to support nature, to increase tree coverage and to improve biodiversity.

December

- Parking charges are back on the agenda. Babergh Cabinet declares that it needs to consider all options faced with a potential shortfall of £1.8M of funding.

January

- Babergh urges the government to fix the broken funding for councils after cost of running the council was expected to rise by 12.8% year on year.

February

- A balanced budget was delivered albeit by use of £1.2 million of reserves.
- The parking charges petition was heard.

March

- Babergh District Council was named the best council in the UK.
- Parking proposals were considered by the scrutiny committee and will now be forwarded to cabinet for consideration next month.

April

- Babergh District Council formally objected to NG's plans for more electricity pylons between Bramford and Twinstead – saying the impact on the countryside is too great.
- Following a call-in of Babergh Cabinet's decision to implement parking charges, its Scrutiny Committee requested the decision be referred back to Cabinet for further consideration as it concluded not enough emphasis was given to all available options such as a one hour free period.