

**West Suffolk Annual Report**  
2019-2020



# Introduction

The West Suffolk Annual Report 2019-20 highlights the progress and achievements of West Suffolk Council over the past year when delivering our vision and priorities.

This report presents the key accomplishments of the council in a series of infographics that are categorised under the three priorities that West Suffolk Council set out in its Strategic Framework 2018-2020.

These priorities are focused on growing West Suffolk's economy, fostering resilient families and communities that are healthy and active and ensuring there is increased and improved provision of appropriate housing in both towns and rural areas.

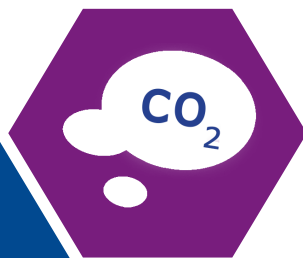
# Growth in West Suffolk's economy for the benefit of all our residents and UK plc



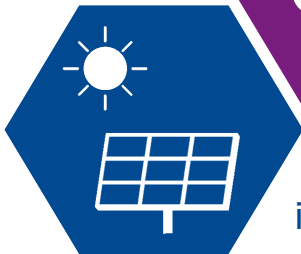
Strategic £3.5m investment in Haverhill High Street sites saving jobs and supporting council services.



1855 planning applications granted including for one of country's largest greenhouses using waste heat from water station.



Declared a climate change emergency and established a taskforce.



Toggam Solar Farm exceeding targets generating 11,947MWh in its third year and £560,000 towards council services.



£3.5m loan to bring forward Haverhill Research Park and Enterprise Zone.



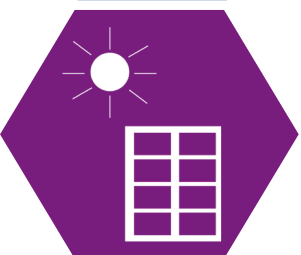
Key business involvement in establishing STEM innovation campus in Bury St Edmunds.



Rural Task Force established for reflecting rural issues in the council's decision making and activities.



Construction started on Mildenhall Hub including a new school, leisure centre, library and health centre.



Solar for Business scheme saved 305 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, £45,000 in bills and generated 1.13MW electricity.

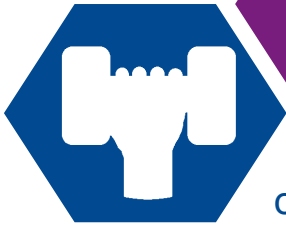
# Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active



Clare Community Hub opened.



£340,000 funding has helped 471 people through West Suffolk Lifelink social prescribing schemes.



Locality budgets supported 169 community projects and 22 organisations were funded through £466,000 Community Chest grants.

64.9% of residents are physically active, an increase of 9.4% thanks to work with our partner Abbeycroft.



Over 55 county lines awareness sessions held in schools and communities.



1450 children aged 10-11 years attended Crucial Crew safety sessions.



14,000 school children visited West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village and week one of Horrible Histories at Moyse's Hall saw 1400 visitors.



1466 volunteers in 70 groups helped collect 728 bags of litter in west Suffolk.



£1.8m investment started at Newmarket Leisure Centre.



Best year yet for The Apex with 150,000 tickets worth £2.1m sold in the first nine months.



Brandon Country Park is the fifth park in West Suffolk to win green Flag status, while The Abbey Gardens welcomed 1.5m visitors.

# Increased and improved provision of appropriate housing in West Suffolk, in both our towns and rural areas



125 empty homes brought back into use.



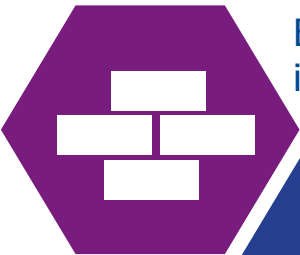
326 affordable homes delivered, 184 in our five main towns and 142 in rural areas.



Forest Heath Local Plan 2011-2031 adopted and 3178 of the 6800 it provides for have been delivered or are in the pipeline



Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan adopted and six rural parishes are now preparing theirs.



Barley Homes has started building 37 homes in Haverhill, 30% of which will be affordable.



1400 households supported in improving the quality of their privately rented homes.



Planted over 1500 trees.



Helped prevent 275 households from becoming homeless and 1092 households guided and advised.



A 10-bedroom house in Newmarket purchased for temporary accommodation and we continue to plan ahead of need.



Rough sleeper numbers dropped from 21 to 13 in one year.