

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 in April.