

**PAUL CLOVER/MARGARET MAYBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR LAVENHAM
PARISH MEETING 8TH AUGUST 2024.**

Local car park charges

Babergh Cabinet have decided to implement all the parking charges originally proposed without any of the concessions proposed by Overview and Scrutiny. Many district councillors attended the meeting and raised a number of questions regarding the implementation of this strategy however these were disregarded as the motion was carried by a majority.

Cifco Investment Fund

At the latest full council meeting it was reported that the cifco investment fund was flatlining. Officers reported that they expected income to rise as the commercial sector begins to grow again.

Listed buildings Energy upgrade

BMSDC are one of the first councils to introduce listed building consent order for works to windows such as secondary glazing for windows and modern extensions and solar panels on outbuildings within the curtilage of a listed building. These new orders may be affected by any new Govt. legislation.

New Chief Operations and Monitoring Officer

Tom Barker has now been appointed to this position. It will run alongside his current role of Director of Planning and Building Control.

State of District Report

BMSDC second state of the district report has been published. Amongst other things, this showed that business growth, adult qualifications and earnings all fall behind regional and national averages. 88.4% of households have access to a car. Greenhouse gas emissions down by 38% 2005-2021. Median house prices are 10.72 median annual resident earnings. (2023).

Solar and Low Carbon Energy Statement

This has now been adopted and should be available on the council's website.

Additional Funding for vulnerable residents

BMSDC have agreed to increase grants to carry out home adaptations for some of their most vulnerable residents -helping them to retain their independence in their own homes for as long as possible.

Household Support Fund

This fund is aimed at helping tenants who are experiencing difficulty in paying their housing costs and it can be used to reduce rent arrears. Applicants must have already attempted to resolve their payment problems.