

District Councillor Report 6th Feb 2025 – Cllrs Margaret Maybury and Cllr Paul Clover

Babergh District Council Updates (to be expanded upon during PC Meeting):

- a) February half term holiday events.
- b) Cabinet have changed “Open for Business” to ‘Economic Development.
- c) Changes to car parking charges have caused some concern and confusion for some residents.
- d) The acceptance of Suffolk into the programme of devolution by Government.

What we do know is that County Council elections (only) this year will be postponed whilst the process for mayoral elections take place which will be 2026.

Devolution is one topic, the second is the reorganisation of local government.

Central Government is keen to reorganise local government to allow for local areas to have more say on how central money is used and to save money on a three tier local government system.

Central Government believes a two tier system will be more efficient. Therefore, Borough and District councils will be disbanded. Parish and Town councils are due to remain.

Negotiations are now taking place between Suffolk County Council (the council chosen by central government to negotiate) and Central Government on future terms.

The information is still hazy but as soon as there is further information. It will be cascaded down to all.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk are due to hold a simultaneous council meeting on Monday 10th February to discuss the proposal.