

**1. New Council Homes**

Work has begun on the first phase of council houses to be built across the two districts in nearly 30 years.

38 new homes will be built in Mid Suffolk, and 27 across Babergh.

Most of the new homes will be classed as local need sites, and priority will be given to people on both council's housing register.

**2. Syrian Vulnerable Person Scheme**

Suffolk public sector leaders voted unanimously to support the Syrian vulnerable person scheme on 16<sup>th</sup> October, and as a result have offered to take up to 200 Syrian refugees under the current re-settlement scheme.

Due to the location of suitable housing, health, education & support services, refugees will be settled predominantly in the greater Ipswich area.

**3. Year of Cycling**

Communities are being urged to apply for a grant of up to £500 to promote a cycling event in their area as part of the Suffolk year of cycling. Events need to be held by the end of March 2016, so please think about how you can benefit from this.

**4. Gypsy and Short-stay stopping sites.**

A reminder that consultation has opened on potential short-stay stopping sites, and will close on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

**5. Open for Business**

A pack has now been produced, primarily aimed at those starting a new business, which contains all the information they need to ensure compliance with the law, good governance and where to find further support.

Trials are also being conducted around setting up a single point of contact for business enquiries.

**6. Council accommodation**

Proposals have been investigated and a high level viability assessment exercise completed. Further proposals are due to come before the programme steering board for further investigation and consideration.

**7. Locality Awards**

Please send in applications for consideration ASAP

Projects must meet one or more of the council's strategic priorities of;

Economy & Environment, Housing and Strong & Healthy Communities.