**PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES**

The allocation of places for primary school entrance in September 2025 has been announced. In Suffolk there were 6695 applications. Of these 96.3 % received their first choice school, and 99.4 % received one of their three choices. Any child not allocated one of their choices is put on the waiting list for those schools, and parents have the right of appeal against these allocations.

**E.V. CHARGING POINTS**

Suffolk County Council are working in partnership with BELIEV to deliver an additional 6000 public E.V. charging points in Suffolk. These will be installed beginning in summer 2025. The street locations have been identified in collaboration with District Councils. The chargers will be in the form of bollards allowing for long charge or overnight charge. The tariff will be at overnight or residents’ rates. There will also be some in public car parks. This is being funded with £5.3 million from the Government, and £16 million from BELIEV. It has been estimated that Suffolk will require 12000 public E.V. points by 2040, in addition to those at homes or places of employment.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

I have volunteered to be a Member of a working group at County Council. This will be working with the Cabinet Member for LGR to formulate the final business case to be submitted in September. This will set out the Council’s preferred model and arrangements for Unitary Local Government.

**SUFFOLK BUS SERVICE**

On 29 April the Council Scrutiny Committee ( of which I am a Member ) will be looking at the public bus service in Suffolk. Bus usage declined during Covid, and has not fully returned to previous levels since. In the report we have been given there is information on what has been done by Suffolk County Council to assist with bus provision. In 2023/24 and 2024/25 the Government awarded us £1.87 million in each year for bus route subsidies and other improvements. We will now receive an additional £2.8 million for revenue ( day to day ) spending and a further £5.2 million for capital ( investment ) spending. The money in 2023 to 2025 was used for 14 schemes in Suffolk ( from 70 schemes which applied for funding ). The further money will support another 19 projects.

COUNCILLOR STUART BIRD B.A.(HONS)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE NORTH AND TRIMLEY DIVISION

TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE PORT WARD