Cllr Sonia Barker District Councillor for Pakefield & Leader of the Waveney Labour Group Report to Lowestoft Town Council 6.2.18

**Three Key Issues**:

**Vote on the Independent Remuneration Panel’s recommendations for an increase in overall WDC Councillor’s Allowances**

1. On the 24.1.18 Waveney Labour Group voted against the first of three  Independent Remuneration Panel’s recommendations that WDC Councillors should get an average increase overall of  28.6% in WDC Allowances.  23 Conservative Councillors (with one Abstention) voted for the basic WDC allowance to increase to £4,787.57 pa. for all Councillors plus an increase in the amount and the number of Special Responsibility Allowances SRAs).  Conservative Councillors voted for the creation of  up to eight new Deputy Cabinet posts (£2,393.78 pa SRA) and payment to Vice Chairs of Committees (£957.51 - £2393.78 pa SRA).  The Leader of WDC  Cllr Mark Bee will get an increase of £5,056.40 pa SRA  on top of an increase in the basic allowance  – taking his new Leader’s allowance to £14,362.00 (plus the new basic allowance of £4,787.57 pa. making a total of £19149.57 pa).  WDC Cllrs on the WDC Cabinet also get a Basic Allowance plus £4950 SRA pa .  In answer to a question from Councillor Keith Patience, the total cost of the new payments per annum to Waveney District Council was given as between £51,000 to £81,000 per annum.  There are currently 28 Conservative Cllrs and the majority of them will be receiving a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) as a result of the vote which went through last night.  The Waveney Labour Group asked for a recorded vote so all residents of WDC will be able to see how their Councillor voted once the minutes of the meeting are on line.  The Independent Remuneration Panel’s recommendations can be viewed  now at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk).  The increases are to be backdated to the 1st April, 2017.
2. **WDC Labour Cllrs also put forward a Motion on the use of plastics at the same meeting:**

***Motion proposed by Cllr L Gooch and seconded by Cllr M Cherry***

***`In view of the scientific evidence of the growing problem of waste produced by single-use plastics, this Council calls for the introduction of a campaign  by WDC to encourage local businesses to offer discounts for customers using reusable cups or containers.`***

Following the all party vote in support of the Waveney Labour Group’s Motion the WLG will ensure that it follows up the WDC administration on this key issue regarding an effective  campaign  and suggests that the administration starts by looking at the use of reusable cups or containers at Riverside.

1. **Support for the Campaign against the Closure of the Suffolk Record Office SORO**

The WLG wrote in support of the Campaign against the closure of the Suffolk Record Office

1. **Proposed SCC Cuts to School Transport – Consultation to be sent to SCC by 28.2.18**

The WLG raised the issue of the impact of possible proposed cuts to school transport at the WDC Council meeting in a rural district such as Waveney where the Social Mobility Index for England recently showed that Waveney young people are 314 out of 324 in England.

1. **Other Meetings and events attended during Jan/Feb 2018**:-

4.1.18: WDC Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting

9.1.18: WDC Budget & Financial Scrutiny skills Training at Riverside

11.1.18: WDC Joint O & S & Audit & Governance Committee Meeting

12.1.18: Member Programme Board (Merger) Meeting Riverside

17.1.18: WDC Cabinet Meeting to ask questions at Riverside

23.1.18: Constitution & Governance MWG at Riverside

24.1.18: WDC Charity Board Meeting at Riverside

24.1.18: WDC Full Council Meeting at Riverside

26.1.18: Holocaust Memorial Day Remembrance Service at Lowestoft Railway Station in honour of the children who were members of the Jewish Kindertransport who alighted at Lowestoft Station in 1938.

30.118: WDC Member Development Steering Group (Apol) subbed by Cllr Jane Murray

1.2.18: Attended the performance of `The Response` at The Seagull Theatre in Pakefield, a new play written by John Hales which invited Qs & As at the interval and after the performance.

5.2.18: Sparrow’s Nest Park for the planting of an oak on behalf of the Woodlands Trust and the Lowestoft Town Council

5.2.18: Budget Briefing from Homira Javadi Chief Financial Officer WDC