



## Cabinet 1 February 2012

### Recommendations from Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party: 24 January 2012 (Feb12/03)

*Cabinet Member: Cllr Robert Everitt    Chairman of the Working Party:  
Cllr Robert Everitt*

**1. Amendments to the boundaries of the Bury St Edmunds Town Centre and Victoria Street Conservation Areas (Report C296)**

***RECOMMENDED that:-***

- (1) the draft amended conservation area boundaries for the Bury St Edmunds Town Centre and Victoria Street Conservation Areas, as detailed in Report C296, be approved for consultation; and***
- (2) the Interim Joint Head of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport, be authorised to amend any minor mapping errors identified prior to the commencement of the consultation.***

The Town Centre Conservation Area was designated on 26 January 1973, with some extensions to the boundary being added on 23 May 1975. The Victoria Street Conservation Area was designated on 5 March 1987.

In reviewing the use of Article 4 Directions in the two conservation areas, it has become apparent that there are places where the boundaries of the conservation areas are in need of updating.

An assessment has been made as to whether each conservation area boundary met specified criteria and as a result of this assessment, several amendments to the boundaries of the Bury St Edmunds Town Centre and Victoria Street Conservation Areas are proposed. It is, therefore, intended to complete the review of the conservation area boundaries before resurveying the Article 4 Directions, as some properties currently with Article 4 Directions may be excluded from the revised conservation areas. In these cases, the Directions will be cancelled following the designation of the amended conservation area boundary.

There is no statutory requirement to carry out any public consultation before designating a conservation area or amending its boundary, however, it is considered 'good practice'. It is also a means of raising public awareness of the conservation areas. It is proposed to seek public involvement in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement. Relevant bodies and

consultees listed in Appendix 4 of the Statement of Community Involvement, including local amenity groups, will be consulted on the boundary amendments. A press release will be circulated informing residents that the draft boundary maps can be viewed at West Suffolk House and the Central Library and also on the Borough Council's web site. Comments can be made in writing or by e mail. At least one drop-in session will be arranged in each conservation area, when anyone can speak to the conservation officers in person and make comments regarding the proposed amendments. The Vision 2031 consultation events will also be shared where appropriate. Following the consultation period the conservation area boundaries will be amended (as appropriate) for adoption.

## **2. St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework: Draft Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031 – Consultation (Report C298)**

***RECOMMENDED that:-***

- (1) the draft Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031 document, as contained in Appendix A to Report C298, be approved for public consultation; and***
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Director of Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport, to make any necessary minor typographical, grammatical or similar textual changes to the draft prior to publication for consultation purposes.***

The Borough Council has made a commitment to prepare a holistic vision document for Bury St Edmunds to cover the period to 2031. The vision will cover both planning and corporate priorities for the town and will form part of the Local Development Framework. Ultimately it will supersede the Replacement St Edmundsbury Borough Local Plan that was adopted in 2006.

Initial consultation on the issues for Bury St Edmunds commenced at the beginning of February 2011 and ran to the end of April 2011. The observations received during the Issues and Options consultation have assisted in the preparation of the first draft Vision 2031 document for consultation.

A comprehensive update of the Issues and Options consultation responses, together with officer responses will be published as part of the consultation. In addition, sites which have been submitted to the Borough Council by landowners and developers for inclusion in the Vision 2031 document, including those in Haverhill and the Rural Area, but have not been included in the draft consultation documents, are set out in one separate report that will be published alongside the consultation document. A full Sustainability Appraisal of the draft has also been undertaken, as required by the regulations for the preparation of planning policy documents, and this will also be published at the time of consultation.

Consultation will commence on 1 March 2012 and last until 30 April 2012.

***(The contents of this item will be considered alongside the Cabinet's discussion on Report C323, Recommendations from the Sustainable Development Working Party: 31 January 2012, which also considered the Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031 document.)***