



Cabinet 21 October 2014

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 September 2014

1. Summary and reasons for recommendation

1.1 On 3 September 2014, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items:

- (1) Update on On-Street Parking in Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds;
- (2) Decisions Plan: September 2014 to May 2015; and
- (3) Work Programme Update

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Cabinet is requested to **NOTE** the content of Report F145, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Contact details

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3. Strategic priorities

- 3.1 The recommendation meets the following, as contained within the West Suffolk Strategic Plan:
- (a) It supports the delivery of the priorities of the Council as contained in the Strategic Plan in an efficient and effective way.

4. Key issues

Update on On-Street Parking in Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds (Report F102)

- 4.1 The Committee received Report F102, which reminded Members of a Councillor Call for Action request brought to the Committee on 3 March 2010, highlighting on-street parking problems in Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds. The solution provided at that time by Councillor Beckwith was to provide additional off-street parking at the commercial premises or to create a full-length layby along Skyliner Way.
- 4.2 The report provided an analysis of the problem of vehicles parking in Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds and confirmed that the appropriate parking standards had been applied to the development in the area at the time permissions were granted.
- 4.3 Suffolk County Council (SCC), as the Highway Authority had introduced some parking restrictions to help with the movement of traffic but admitted that there were limitations to what could be achieved within the present highway layout. SCC is currently reviewing the county-wide parking standards for residential properties in view of the changes in national guidance.
- 4.4 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions to which the Western Area Highways Manager (Suffolk County Council) and the Head of Planning and Regulatory Services duly responded. In particular, discussions included the continued expansion of the Suffolk Business Park; the development of a further 500 houses, a new school and football club in the area; on-street parking and the risk of disbursement into residential areas; the parking needs of employees and how many required parking; how many cars parked along Skyliner Way; what powers had the Planning Authority in placing demands on businesses for parking; freighter lorries parking in the evenings along Skyliner Way instead of using the lorry park and creating a full length layby.
- 4.5 The Committee suggested a number of potential solutions, such as looking into accessing funds from the SCC On-Street Parking Account for a layby in Skyliner Way; persuading businesses to lease out any free parking spaces they had to other businesses and looking into land availability for a future car park in the area, which would generate revenue.
- 4.6 For **noting** by Cabinet, the Committee recommended that:
- (1) the Head of Planning and Regulatory Services vigorously examines all opportunities to alleviate parking issues in Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds by working closely with colleagues at Suffolk County Council Highways Authority to address current and future parking issues by:

- (i) exploring the provision of a layby along Skyliner Way and submits a bid for funding from the Suffolk County Council Highways Authority On-Street Parking Account;
 - (ii) exploring opportunities for businesses to lease their free parking spaces to other businesses;
 - (iii) exploring with Suffolk County Council land availability for developing a new car park in the area;
 - (iv) exploring other funding opportunities available to the Council; and
- (2) the Committee receives quarterly updates on progress.

Decisions Plan: September 2014 to May 2015 (Report F103)

- 4.7 Members considered the latest Decision Plan, covering the period September 2014 to May 2015.
- 4.8 The Committee reviewed the Decision Plan in detail and questioned the process of writing-off outstanding debts; why it took several years for a debt to accumulate and what the critical point was in triggering a write-off, and resolved that the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee be asked to consider looking into the procedure for dealing with write-offs.

Work Programme Update (Report F104)

- 4.9 The Committee has a rolling work programme, whereby suggestions for scrutiny reviews are brought to each meeting, and if accepted, are timetabled to report to a future meeting. The work programme also leaves space for Call-ins and Councillor Calls for Action.
- 4.10 The Committee reviewed the current position of the work programme and the Chairman reminded Members if they had any suggestions for future scrutiny topics to bring these to the Committees/Chairman's attention.
- 4.11 Members considered its work programme and suggested that the Committee might wish to consider scrutinising the Cabinet System (Leader and Executive model); how it is operating and the role of Members across the Council as a number of councils are moving from the Cabinet System back to a Committee System.
- 4.12 It was further suggested that the Committee might also wish to consider scrutinising Shared Services by looking at each department one at a time.
- 4.13 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the current work programme and the Scrutiny Officer will provide Members with the Work Programme Suggestion Form for completion to enable Members to provide further information on their suggested topic areas for future consideration by the Committee.

5. Other options considered

- 5.1 See Reports listed in Section 12 below.

6. Community impact

6.1 See Reports listed in Section 12 below.

7. Consultation

7.1 See Reports listed in Section 12 below.

8. Financial and resource implications (*including asset management implications*)

8.1 See Reports listed in Section 12 below.

9. Risk/opportunity assessment (*potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives*)

9.1 See Reports listed in Section 12 below.

10. Legal and policy implications

10.1 See Reports listed in Section 12 below.

11. Wards affected

11.1 All Wards.

12. Background papers

12.1 Report F102 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Update on On-Street Parking in Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds;

12.2 Report F103 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Decisions Plan: September 2014 to May 2015;

12.3 Report F104 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update

13. Documents attached

None.

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