



Council 5 April 2011

CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

Written report by Cllr Terry Clements, Transport & Planning Portfolio

Portfolio includes:

- Highways Agency;
- Engineering;
- Conservation of the built environment;
- Car Parking;
- Transportation policy;
- Bus station and public transport;
- Planning Policy;
- Development Control and Enforcement;
- Building Control;
- Local Land and Property Gazetteer; and
- Local Land Charges.

1. Transport and Engineering

1.1 The Highways Agency arrangement with Suffolk County Council comes to an end on 31 March 2011. All Members will have received a letter setting out the new arrangements and contacts for highway work within Bury St Edmunds. I would like to thank all staff that have transferred across to Suffolk County Council for their hard work over the years and wish them well for the future.

1.2 Traffic Management Schemes: Bury St Edmunds

- (a) The extension to the Zone H Neighbourhood Parking Scheme to parts of Queens Road and York Road has been reviewed. Residents within the scheme, and those in the rest of the street outside of the permit area were consulted. The outcome of this was that the majority of the residents in Queens Road and York Road within the scheme wished to see it continue. The residents of Queens Close also wished to see the bays within their road included in the scheme, this will be pursued with Suffolk County Council.
- (b) The residents of the remainder of York Road and Queens Road, where concerns had been expressed about the impact of the extension of Zone H, were split between those who wished to see the scheme extended to their area and those that did not. In the absence of a clear majority no further action in this regard is proposed.

1.3 **Capital Works: Bury St Edmunds**

- (a) The new toucan crossing in Tollgate Lane is complete and will be commissioned during week commencing 28 March 2011.

1.4 **Highways Maintenance Works: Bury St Edmunds**

- (a) The resurfacing works in Glastonbury Road were undertaken during week commencing 14 March 2011.

1.5 **Public Transport**

- (a) First Eastern Counties have implemented a number of changes to the bus services in Bury St Edmunds that will come into effect from 3 April 2011. Whilst coverage of bus routes is similar there have been changes in frequency and elimination of cross town routes.

1.6 **Car Parking**

- (a) Parking events in Bury St Edmunds in February 2011 were 7% up compared to February 2010.
- (b) The car parking tariff increases will be introduced to all car parks on 3 April 2011.
- (c) The development of our low emissions car park at School Yard East, Bury St Edmunds is well underway and it is scheduled to be operational for Easter.
- (d) Robert Roby Way car park in Bury St Edmunds has had the bay markings re-painted as part of our routine site maintenance work.

2. **Planning Policy**

- 2.1 The Sustainable Development Working Party has considered the draft Suffolk Local Transport Plan and raised a number of concerns over its content relating to the Borough. In particular, the Working Party considered that it contained little in the way of substance that would help plan for transport improvements over the next 20 years. Comments to this effect have been submitted to the County Council and the matter has been raised with the County Council's Portfolio Holder for Roads, Transport and Planning. Subsequent to this, officers have met with County Council officers to seek agreement on potential revisions to the draft Local Transport Plan that will be considered by Full Council of the County Council in May 2011.
- 2.2 The Sustainable Development Working Party has also considered the draft Thetford Area Action Plan and raised concerns about the potential impact that the proposals for growth in the town would have on the Borough. The concerns relate to the impact created by additional users of services in Bury St Edmunds, additional trips on the A134 and the environmental impact of such trips on Barnham and Ingham. These concerns have been submitted to Breckland District Council as part of the consultation process.
- 2.3 The initial stage of preparing Vision 2031 documents for Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill and the Rural Area has been well received and there has been a pleasing level of submissions from both individuals and representative organisations across the Borough. Work on collecting Issues continues in the two towns until the end of April 2011, while work in the rural area continues through May 2011.

- 2.4 As of 1 April 2011 the Council will commence the sharing of the Head of Planning with Forest Heath District Council for an initial six months trial period and the new joint Head of Planning is Mrs Nicola Baker. This arrangement represents an important step towards examining the business case for a shared planning service across the two districts.

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