

Council 27 September 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 I am pleased to report that parking events for Bury St Edmunds in June, July and August 2011 showed strong demand with consistent rises against the same period last year.
- 1.2 As previously reported, I launched our new low emissions car park at School Yard East, Bury St Edmunds in June 2011 and I can report that this has been a great success with over 3,000 users of low emissions cars benefitting from our offer since its launch.
- 1.3 Other initiatives to improve our customers' experience have also proved very popular especially our half hour 'pop in' rates introduced at St Andrews and Lower Baxter Street car parks in Bury St Edmunds with around 13,000 number of customers utilising this new rate.
- 1.4 Improvements have been made at School Yard West with enhancements to the boundary walls, St Andrews' short stay annexe has been re-lined, and floor markings at Parkway multi-storey car park have been re-lined.
- 1.5 A recent new contract for pay and display parking tickets has proved a commercial success by producing a surplus to be put into our maintenance budget for the car parks.
- 1.6 A new lockable barrier and flow plates has been fitted to Meadows car park in Haverhill in order to improve security and deter anti-social behaviour late at night.
- 1.7 Bus operators, Stephenson's of Essex, who operate from a local base at Haverhill have applied to the Traffic Commissioner to register three service routes in Bury St Edmunds. The routes are similar in most respects to those operated by First Eastern and will

commence at the end of October 2011. In addition, Mulleys began operating a service 88 from 1 August 2011 serving Horringer Court and Priors Estate every 40 minutes.

2. Planning Policy

- 2.1 Some Members will have attended an evening seminar on 31 August 2011 on the preparation of the Vision 2031 documents. The Council has engaged the Prince's Foundation to assist Members with the development of their aspirations for the respective documents and their presentation on the evening focused on the need for sustainable development. I would encourage Members to get involved in the forthcoming Vision 2031 Workshop arranged for Friday 14 October 2011 at West Suffolk House from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm. It is anticipated that the draft options for the Vision 2031 documents will be going through the respective Area Working Parties around the turn of the year, prior to local community consultation early in 2012.
- 2.2 The Coalition Government has published the draft National Planning Policy Framework, which has attracted significant national media interest. It is the intention to replace more than 1,000 pages of national planning policy, in 47 documents, into a single document. The current draft is 58 pages long. The Sustainable Development Working Party has received an overview of its content from officers and has asked me, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Working Party, to agree a response to the Government on the document.
- 2.3 The Borough Council has been consulted on a planning application for 5,000 new homes at Thetford. The Borough Council has raised concerns about the potential impact of this growth on infrastructure on St Edmundsbury since 2008. The officers together, with officers from the County Council, are carefully examining the proposals for any potential detrimental impact on the Borough, especially on the existing facilities and transport networks, and what proposals are being made for mitigating any impacts. The Sustainable Development Working Party has asked me, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Working Party, to agree a response to Breckland District Council.