



## Council 18 December 2012

### CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

#### ***Report by Cllr Terry Clements, Planning and Transport Portfolio***

**Portfolio includes:**

- Planning Policy, including Conservation and the Built Environment;
- Building Control;
- Property Gazetteer and Land Charges;
- Transportation Policy, Public Transport, Bus Station and Car Parking; and
- Engineering.

**1. Planning Policy**

- 1.1 Following on from the resolution to consult at the September 2012 meeting of the Council, consultation on the final draft of the Joint Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Development Management Policies document commenced in October 2012 and ends on 14 December 2012. Planning officers from both Councils will now be analysing the comments received and determining whether to recommend that the document is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for public examination. It is anticipated that the February 2013 meeting of Full Council will be asked to make this decision.
- 1.2 Consultation has recently concluded on the introduction of supplementary planning guidance for developers on the delivery of open space. Amendments have been made to the draft document and the recommendation from Cabinet to adopt it is elsewhere on this agenda. The implementation of the guidance will provide clarity on expectations and clarify how contributions for the maintenance of open space required as part of development approvals will be calculated.
- 1.3 Consultation on a joint Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document ends on 14 December 2012, and officers will be analysing comments prior to recommending the final document is adopted. This is likely to take place in the New Year.

## **2. Transport**

- 2.1 In October I attended the Suffolk Rail Conference at Ipswich where Network Rail announced their ambitions for the electrification of the rail line between Felixstowe and Peterborough, which would include the stretch through Bury St Edmunds. Although it remains an ambition, I believe that this project would certainly have significant benefits for residents of Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding area. Securing improvements to rail services to Ipswich, Cambridge, Peterborough and beyond remains a high priority for the Council and it is encouraging that those involved in rail are now talking about how improvements can actually be delivered.

## **3. Parking Services**

- 3.1 I am pleased to report that customer visits to our car parks have continued to rise against the previous year.
- 3.2 The car parking team have been closely involved in providing information and statistics for the review of car parking charges carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This has provided a very positive opportunity to learn about stakeholder and customer views on parking in the Borough.
- 3.3 The Parking Services front line team have built on their experience in traffic management by providing an invaluable service, especially around major events like the Olympic Torch and the recent Christmas Fayre.
- 3.4 This year for the first time at the Christmas Fayre the team operated the Park and Ride service at Rushbrooke Lane, offering up to 1,000 spaces, which resulted in the highest visitor numbers to date over that weekend despite challenging weather conditions.
- 2.5 I was pleased to launch our waterless car wash service in September 2012. It is operating at the Cattle market/arc car park and is providing a great additional service to our customers and employing local people.