



## Council 18 June 2013

### CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

#### ***Report by Cllr Terry Clements Planning and Regulation Portfolio***

**Portfolio includes:**

- Planning (Development Control)
- Planning Policy
- Building Control
- Vision 2031
- Environmental Health (excluding Environmental Management)
- Licensing

#### **1. *Planning Policy***

- 1.1 By the time this meeting of full Council takes place, consultation will have commenced on the final drafts of the Vision 2031 documents as approved by Members on 16 May. Consultation runs until 9 August and the plans and supporting documents are being made widely available to view, including online, at Council offices and libraries, and nearly 3,500 bodies and individuals have been notified of the consultation. There has also been widespread coverage in the local press. Four drop-in sessions have been arranged in July where officers will be available to respond to questions from the public on how to respond to the consultation process.
- 1.2 I am also pleased to report that consultation by developers is imminent on a draft masterplan for the redevelopment of Station Hill in Bury St Edmunds. The site has been earmarked for a number of years for development and is not without complications, but this move does demonstrate developer intention to start bringing forward development on this important gateway into the town. It is expected that the final draft masterplan will be brought before Members for consideration later in 2013.
- 1.3 The Conservation section is currently undertaking consultation in the two Haverhill Conservation Areas on the potential removal of the Article 4 Directions relating to permitted development. The changes would mean that normal permitted development rights, such as installing replacement windows and doors, would be allowed without seeking planning permission.
- 1.4 I would draw Members' attention to a paper considered by Development Control Committee on 6 June about changes introduced nationally to 'permitted

development' regulations allowing larger extensions to be built to homes without the need to formally apply for planning permission. Paper E20 provides an explanation of this temporary change, which applies to new extensions completed before 30 May 2016.

## **2. *Business Regulation and Licensing***

### 2.1 Food Safety

2.2 The Food Standards Agency requires local authorities to submit local food hygiene enforcement data on an annual basis into a national monitoring system called LAEMS (Local Authority Enforcement Management System). This is a web-based system used to report local authority food law enforcement activities to the Food Standards Agency. The data submitted for St Edmundsbury shows that over 95% of the proactive interventions (eg food hygiene inspection) due were achieved.

### 2.3 Health and Safety

2.4 The Health and Safety Executive have launched a Local Authority National Code which sets out the risk based approach to targeting health and safety interventions to be followed by Local Authority regulators. The Code provides a principle based framework that recognises the respective roles of business and the regulator in the management of risk, concentrating on four objectives:

- Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of business, regulator and professional bodies;
- Outlining the risk-based approach to regulation that LAs should adopt;
- Setting out the need for training and competence of LA H&S regulators; and
- Explaining the arrangements for collection/publication of LA data and peer review to give assurance on meeting the requirements of the Code.

2.5 The effective implementation of the new code will be discussed at the Health and Safety Executives Policy Forum later in June, on which the Business Regulation and Licensing Manager is the East of England representative. This discussion will guide the application of the national code in the region and West Suffolk.

## **3. *Licensing***

3.1 On 17 June 2013 the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) (formerly Criminal Records Bureau [CRB]), launches a new service, called the Update Service. The Update Service will put individuals in greater control of their own information, allow DBS certificates to be reused when applying for similar jobs, and reduce bureaucracy. All taxi and private hire drivers are required to undergo DBS checks and the new service will allow Licensing to carry out checks on individual drivers where necessary for the purposes of issuing a licence or in the interests of public safety. The new service should save the customer time and money and improve the overall safeguarding landscape.