

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>On-Street Parking - Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds – Update</b>	
<b>Report No:</b>	<b>OAS/SE/16/010</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	20 April 2016
<b>Portfolio holder:</b>	Alaric Pugh Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth <b>Tel:</b> 07930460899 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:alaric.pugh@stedsbc.gov.uk">alaric.pugh@stedsbc.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Lead officer:</b>	Steven Wood Head of Planning and Growth <b>Tel:</b> 01284 757306 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:steven.wood@westsuffolk.gov.uk">steven.wood@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To update the Committee on alternative funding options now available to alleviate the parking issues in Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds. And improve traffic flow in Skyliner Way before the completion of the Eastern Relief Road.	
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p><b>It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. The Committee <u>notes</u> progress made since the last meeting (January 2016); and</b></li> <li><b>2. The Committee supports the action taken by the Head of Planning and Growth in identifying alternative funding from the Borough Councils budgets and in the light of this news asking for a contribution towards the cost of the provision of a Layby in Skyliner Way from:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) the locality budget of the Suffolk County Councillor for Moreton Hall; and</b></li> <li><b>b) asking the County Highways team to reconsider making a contribution towards this project.</b></li> </ol> </li> </ol>	

<b>Key Decision:</b> <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that <b>do not</b> apply.)</i>	<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Consultation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suffolk County Council Highways</li> <li>Head of Operations West Suffolk</li> </ul>		
<b>Alternative option(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Highways Authority are considering an alternative to the proposed layby to create bays to widen the road on the north side of Skyliner Way.</li> </ul>		
<b>Implications:</b>			
<i>Are there any <b>financial</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Are there any <b>staffing</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Are there any <b>ICT</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Are there any <b>legal and/or policy</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Are there any <b>equality</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Risk/opportunity assessment:</b>		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
<b>Risk area</b>	<b>Inherent level of risk</b> (before controls)	<b>Controls</b>	<b>Residual risk</b> (after controls)
Failure to recognise parking issues	Medium	Continually monitor and provide mitigation through Suffolk County Council and Police	Low
Unsuccessful Funding applications	High	Borough Council identify alternative funding budgets	Low
<b>Ward affected:</b>		Morton Hall Ward	
<b>Background papers:</b> <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		None	
<b>Documents attached:</b>		Appendix A - Map of Skyliner Way. Bury St Edmunds	

## **1. Key issues and reasons for recommendations**

### **1.1 Background**

- 1.1.1 The on-street parking problems in Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds, were brought to the attention of the Committee at their meeting on 3 March 2010, as a Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) notification made by Councillor Trevor Beckwith. He felt that the Officers, at the time, had not addressed the issue to his satisfaction.
- 1.1.2 The Borough Council had an agency agreement with Suffolk County Council and had responsibility for all highway issues in the Borough including on-street parking controls. The Highway department felt that, in general, an acceptable level of on-street parking helps to reduce traffic speeds and does not create an issue unless the level of parking is such that there is a continuous line of parked vehicles that drivers have to commit themselves to passing without being able to see traffic approaching from the opposite direction. It was felt that the introduction of wholesale waiting restrictions would only move those parked vehicles to other locations.
- 1.1.3 The Committee, at its meeting on 22 April 2015, acknowledged that it would be expensive to create a layby, but felt this was the most viable option and that any parking restrictions should not be implemented until all options for a layby had been exhausted.
- 1.1.4 The Suffolk County Council Western Area Highways team (SCC) carried out investigations to establish the feasibility of creating a layby including the current depth of various utility services, as this would impact on costs. On completion of these investigations SCC established that a Layby would be feasible in this location and reported to the July 2015 Committee that a layby would cost in the region of £25,000.
- 1.1.5 The Western Area Highways Manager informed the committee that the Highway Authority did not regard the provision of parking as part of its function and as a result did not provide any direct funding for provision of parking places.
- 1.1.6 The Borough Council, however, submitted a bid in July 2015 to the On-Street Parking Account held by the Highway Authority for the full cost of creating a layby parking facility in Skyliner Way.
- 1.1.7 At its January 2016 meeting the Committee received a verbal update from the Principal Planning Officer (Major Projects) and the Western Area Highways Manager (Suffolk County Council), which advised Members on the unsuccessful bid application to the Highway Authorities On-Street Parking Account for £25,000 to implement verge parking in Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds.
- 1.1.8 The Committee unsurprisingly was disappointed that the bid application had not been successful. Members scrutinised the verbal update in detail and felt this needed to be looked at again and queried whether the application could be re-submitted. The eastern relief road would become a major route into Bury St Edmunds and the Committee felt SCC needed to do something now rather than in the future.

## **2. Funding**

- 2.1 Owing to the importance of Skyliner Way in relation to the recently approved Eastern Relief Road (ERR) the Head Of Planning and Growth has been pursuing alternative funding sources to see whether this project could be brought forward before the ERR was scheduled to be completed towards the end of 2017. In doing so the County have revisited the costs of the project which have increased to £35,000. SCC has also agreed to manage the construction work if funding could be found.
- 2.2 The Head of Planning and Growth has identified funds within the Borough Councils budgets that could be allocated to this project. In addition has asked the local County Councillor whether he would be willing to make a contribution from his Locality budget to help deliver the project.
- 2.3 In the light of the Borough's significant contribution the Head of Planning and Growth has asked the County Council whether they wished to review their position and also make a contribution to the establishment of a parking facility along Skyliner Way to improve traffic flow in readiness of the anticipated increases in traffic when the ERR is complete. The Head of Planning and Growth will report the result of these requests and the subsequent Borough Council contribution at the meeting.