

**Suggestion for Scrutiny Work Programme Form  
(To be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee)**

<b>Suggestion from:</b>
Councillors Diane Hind and Susan Glossop.
<b>What would you like to suggest for investigation / review?</b>
Suffolk County Council (Highways)
<b>What are the main issues / concerns to be considered?</b>
<p>Item raised by Cllr Hind and Cllr Glossop due to the concerns raised with them by residents relating to Highways issues. In addition to potholes, concerns include lack of tree maintenance, cutting back of verges, resurfacing roads without repairing the potholes first.</p> <p>White lining roads after resurfacing and getting the lining incorrect where entrances to properties are.</p> <p>Additionally, in the villages there are problems with Traffic management and the speeding of lorries and juggernauts using road through the villages which they are not supposed to use, and rat-runs through the Town. The County Council does not seem to work with Councillors at any level, nor do they work with the Parish or Town councils.</p>
<b>Would this review benefit from a "West Suffolk" approach (i.e. joint scrutiny by both Councils), or is it relevant only to your council?</b>
Not at this time.
<b>Who is responsible for providing this service, or tackling the issue in question?</b>
Suffolk Highways: Suffolk Highways is the partnership between Suffolk County Council and Kier Limited.
<b>Have you spoken to them, and if so, what was the response?</b>
Not applicable.
<b>What is the Portfolio Holders view on this issue?</b>
Not applicable as the Portfolio Holder responsible for this issue is SCC.

**What would be the likely benefits and outcomes of carrying out this investigation / review?**

An improved service by working together with the Borough, Town and Parish Councils and a better understanding of the Highways Maintenance Programme.

**Estimated Committee and officer resource implications (eg research group, one-off report, dedicated meeting etc)**

To invite the SCC Cabinet Member and relevant officers from SCC and Kier Limited to a future meeting of the Committee to talk about planned maintenance and issues around rural roads in West Suffolk.

**Suggested witnesses, documentation and consultation**

Suggested members and officers to be invited:

- Councillor James Finch, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport from SCC
- Assistant Director (Operational Highways) from SCC; and
- General Manager (Kier Limited).

*[Note: Suffolk County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 December 2016 received the following reports, Highways Services Contract; and Highways Infrastructure Asset Management (documentation attached at **Appendix 3A** as background information).*

*On 27 July 2017, the SCC OAS Committee will receive a further report from the Assistant Director (Operational Highways), focussing on progress with the "restructuring/integration of SCC and Kier staff into "Suffolk Highways".*

*Councillor Evans, Chairman of the Committee, would be pleased for the SEBC Chairman / Vice-Chairman of OAS, and indeed other members to attend the meeting if this would be useful].*

**Will this investigation / review contribute to one or more of the Council's Strategic Priorities? If so, which (please tick)**

<b>Increased opportunities for economic growth</b>	
<b>Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active</b>	
<b>Homes for our communities</b>	

**Will this investigation / review contribute to the achievement of one or more of the commitments within the Council's Strategic Plan 2014-2016? If so, which (please tick)**

<b>Increased opportunities for economic growth:</b>	
1. Benefit growth that enhances prosperity and quality of life.	<b>X</b>
2. Existing businesses that are thriving and new businesses brought to the area.	
3. People with the educational attainment and skills needed in our local economy.	
4. Vibrant, attractive and clean high streets, village centres and markets.	<b>X</b>

<b>Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active:</b>	
1. A thriving voluntary sector and active communities who take the initiative to help the most vulnerable.	
2. People playing a greater role in determining the future of their communities.	<b>X</b>
3. Improved wellbeing, physical and mental health.	<b>X</b>
4. Accessible countryside and green spaces.	<b>X</b>
<b>Homes for our communities:</b>	
1. Sufficient housing for current and future generations, including more affordable homes; improvements to existing housing.	
2. New developments that are fit for the future, properly supported by infrastructure, and that build communities, not just housing.	
3. Homes that are flexible for people's changing needs.	

<b>Will this investigation hit one of the essential elements of a scrutiny review when analysing potential scrutiny reviews? If so, which (please tick)</b>	
<b>Public Interest:</b> The concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen by overview and scrutiny.	<b>X</b>
<b>Impact (Value):</b> Priority should be given to issues that make the biggest difference to the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area, and which have the potential to make recommendations which could lead to real improvements. The outcome must also be proportionate to the cost of carrying out the review in terms of staff and councillor time.	<b>X</b>
<b>Relevance:</b> Overview and scrutiny must be satisfied that an issue identified for review is relevant and does not duplicate existing work being undertaken elsewhere by various Working Groups, Cabinet, partners etc.	<b>X</b>
<b>Partnership working or external scrutiny:</b> The focus of scrutiny is moving towards joint action and community leadership, so anything which offers this opportunity should be given serious consideration.	<b>X</b>

<b>Would you like to be involved in the investigation / review?</b>	
<b>Yes</b>	
<b>Date of request:</b>  7 June 2017	<b>Signed:</b>  Councillor Diane Hind and Councillor Susan Glossop

**Please return this form to the:**

Scrutiny Officer, Forest Heath District Council, College Heath Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 7EY

Email: [Christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

Updated: July 2013

Updated: June 2014 (Revised West Suffolk Strategic Priorities)

Updated: March 2015 (Amended as a Joint Form)