

Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title of Report:	Suffolk County Council – Highways Services – Progress Report	
Report No:	OAS/SE/18/029	
Report to and date:	Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee	31 October 2018
Chairman of the Committee	Councillor Diane Hind Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tel: 01284 706542 Email: diane.hind@stedsbc.gov.uk	
Cabinet Member: Suffolk County Council:	Councillor Mary Evans Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs	
Cabinet Member: St Edmundsbury Borough Council	Councillor Susan Glossop Cabinet Member for Planning and Growth Tel: 01284 728377 Email: susan.glossop@stedsbc.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Christine Brain Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) Tel: 01638 719729 Email: christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	To discuss progress made in relation to the recommendations made at the St Edmundsbury Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 October 2017.	

Recommendation:	<p>Having considered the information, the Committee may wish to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Note</u> the update provided by the Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs; or 2) Make further recommendations to the Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs for her consideration; or 3) Request further information and/or receive a future update from the Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs. 		
<p>Key Decision:</p> <p><i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i></p>	<p><i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i></p> <p>Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>		
Consultation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		
Alternative option(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		
Implications:			
Are there any financial implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are there any staffing implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are there any ICT implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are there any legal and/or policy implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are there any equality implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
	Low/Medium/ High*		Low/Medium/ High*
None			
Wards affected:		All	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		Report No: OAS/SE/17/025 Minutes - 25 October 2017	
Documents attached:		None	

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation

1.1 Background: Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1.1.1 On 25 October 2017, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held an Extraordinary meeting to consider Highways Services

1.1.2 Councillor Jane Storey, the then (Substantive Cabinet Member for Highways), Councillor Louis Busuttil (Member with Special Responsibility for Highways Operational Performance) from Suffolk County Council and Jenny Wilson (Suffolk Highways - Head of Strategic Services), were in attendance to discuss how communication could be improved between Highways and various tiers of local government for the benefit of all residents and Councillors in West Suffolk.

1.1.3 As an outcome from that meeting, the Committee made a number of recommendations to the Substantive Cabinet Member for Highways, which are set out below:

"That the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee formally writes to the Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport recommending that consideration be given to the following:

- 1) Several members raised concern regarding the disconnect between the current planning for the Tayfen Road Roundabout junction, proposed by Suffolk County Council, and the Bury Town Centre Masterplan, being led by St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The Committee recognised it is important that any highways modifications take into account the emerging masterplan aspirations to ensure there is a connected approach, and as such recommended:
 - i) To make Town Centre Master Plan aspirations the basis for Suffolk County Council Highways and Transport decisions with respect to the areas covered by such masterplans.
- 2) To make Parish/Town/Borough councillors feel more valued and provide access/opportunities to build a relationship with a designated Community Engineer.
- 3) Pursue Service Level Agreements with Town and Parish Councils for a buy-in to labour for small jobs or enable the Town and Parish Councils to take over certain activities.
- 4) The back office needs to be as efficient as possible with everyone being clear on individual roles.
- 5) Ensure road markings are replaced/redone in time prior for transfer of Civil Parking Enforcement.
- 6) To add value to consultations with the public (including other tiers of government) by demonstrating that full consideration has been given to the views expressed, and using those views in determining any decision.

- 7) There are many different types of materials used in paving surfaces and suggest going forward making surfaces more uniform across the Borough to ensure materials are readily available when surfaces need to be repaired.
- 8) That Suffolk County Council Highways be invited back in 6 months to provide an update on progress being made.
- 9) That a written response be provided to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with regards to recommendations (1 to 8) above”.

1.2 **Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 31 October 2018**

- 1.2.1 At this meeting, Councillor Mary Evans, the newly appointed Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs has been invited to this meeting to update the Committee on progress made in relation to the above recommendations, her achievements to date and aspirations for the future as the new Cabinet Member for Highways.

1.3 **Proposals**

- 1.3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee ask questions of Councillor Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs and comments on what they have heard on progress made relating to the recommendations made by the Committee on 25 October 2017.