

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 2 September 2021

Report number:	CAB/WS/21/035	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	21 September 2021
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Decisions Plan: This item is not required to be included on the Decisions Plan.

Wards impacted: All wards

Recommendation: It is recommended that Report number: CAB/WS/21/035, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.

1. Context to this report

1.1 On 2 September 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held its non-decision-making virtual MS TeamsLive meeting, at which it considered the following items:

1. Formal decision making on “minded to” decisions
2. Consideration of Councillor Call for Action
3. Suffolk County Council: Health Scrutiny Committee – 7 July 2021
4. Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 September 2021 to 31 May 2022
5. Work programme update and suggestions for scrutiny

2. Proposals within this report

2.1 Formal decision making on “minded to” decisions

2.1.1 Taking into account the ‘minded to’ decisions made during the non-decision-making virtual meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 June 2021, the Committee unanimously resolved the following matters:

1. Confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2021.
2. Approved the membership of the Review of Council Markets:
 - Councillor Ian Shipp (Mildenhall)
 - Councillor John Burns (Haverhill)
 - Councillor Marion Rushbrook (Smaller Markets/Clare)
 - Councillor Patrick Chung (Bury St Edmunds)
 - Councillor Michael Anderson (Newmarket)
 - Councillor David Palmer (Brandon)

2.2 Consideration of Councillor Call for Action (Report number: OAS/WS/21/016)

2.2.1 Councillor Call for Action came into force on 1 April 2009 and provides a mechanism whereby any member of the Council may refer to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee any local government matter or any crime and disorder matter which affects their ward/division.

2.2.2 On 10 June 2021 Councillor Trevor Beckwith submitted a CCfA entitled “Impact of the Eastern Relief Road and A14 Junction 45 on the Moreton Hall Residential Area” for the consideration of this Committee. His submission form required under the Council’s Constitution was set out in Appendix 1 including additional information in Appendices 2 to 6 of Report number: OAS/WS/21/016. Councillor Trevor Beckwith presented the CCfA form to the Committee, and the Committee resolved that a hearing be held in respect of this issue at its September 2021 meeting.

- 2.2.3 The hearing was run along the lines of a call-in hearing, in that the Committee gathered as much information as possible from a variety of organisations and witnesses who had been involved in this issue.
- 2.2.4 A number of witnesses either submitted written reports, made presentations, or were questioned by the Committee, as follows:
- (a) Councillor Trevor Beckwith, as the Member who brought the issue to the Committee's attention;
 - (b) Kerry Allen and Clive Wilkinson, Officers from Suffolk County Council;
 - (c) Councillor Birgitte Mager, Ward Member for Moreton Hall;
 - (d) Nic Rumsey, Managing Director, Jaynic;
 - (e) Matt Cloke, Development Director, Churchmanor Estates;
 - (f) Robert Houlton-Hart, Secretary of Moreton Hall Residents' Association;
 - (g) Melanie Soanes and Michael Crichton, local residents affected by the lorries.
- 2.2.5 A wide-ranging discussion was held by the Committee, and details of the information provided by each witness will appear in the Committee's minutes. Discussions were held around a number of issues, details of which again will appear in the Committee's minutes, but which included:
- (a) The lack of signage on the A14 and at J45 directing HGVs to specific industrial estates/business parks.
 - (b) Noise generated from HGVs driving over the concrete block (roundabout) along Bedingfield Way, Bury St Edmunds.
 - (c) HGVs parking up overnight in Moreton Hall.
 - (d) Introducing weight restrictions on Orttewell Road to then be able to reinstate normal two-way traffic flow at the Orttewell Road rail bridge.
 - (e) Monitoring of the flow of HGVs.
 - (f) Air and noise pollution.
- 2.2.6 Solutions to resolve the issue had been presented by Councillor Trevor Beckwith in his original presentation to the Committee in June 2021, which were set out in Appendix 3 to Report number: OAS/WS/21/016.
- 2.2.7 Having questioned all witnesses and debated the issue in depth, the Committee made the following **recommendations, that:**
- Suffolk County Council be asked to look at, in consultation with relevant partners (were appropriate) the following:**

- 1) **Installing signage along the A14 and at J45 to direct HGVs to specific Industrial Estates and Business Parks; and revisiting existing signage within the Business Parking to ensure HGVs are directed to J45, where internal roads join the Eastern Relief Road.**
- 2) **Undertake day and night monitoring of HGV traffic flow, overnight parking on Moreton Hall in retail and industrial areas, air pollution and noise along Orttewell Road, Bury St Edmunds to provide a clear evidence base for further action.**
- 3) **To consult on a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order prohibiting HGVs using Orttewell Road, Bury St Edmunds and monitoring the impact of this.**
- 4) **Bring the existing lorry park back into use to ensure that drivers park where facilities are provided and where they do not add to the morning congestion at Junction 44 as they leave Moreton Hall.**
- 5) **Explore and implement an alternative to the concrete block (roundabout) along Bedingfield Way, Bury St Edmunds to address the issue of noise as HGVs drive over it.**
- 6) **Explore long-term solutions to the rail bridge on Orttewell Road, Bury St Edmunds to address the current congestion, for example, introducing weight restrictions to relieve residents of the impact of a number of HGVs which would allow the rail bridge to be reopened to a normal two-way traffic flow.**
- 7) **SCC provides West Suffolk Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a progress report on recommendations 1 -6 above within three months to be presented to the Committee at its scheduled meeting on 13 January 2022, then regular progress updates thereafter.**

2.3 **Suffolk County Council: Health Scrutiny Committee – 7 July 2021 (Report number: OAS/WS/21/017)**

2.3.1 The Committee received and **noted** the report, prepared by Councillor Margaret Marks setting out what was considered at its meeting held on 7 July 2021. The focus of the meeting was:

- Introducing new members to the work of the Committee and providing background information to the structure of the NHS, following the elections held in May 2021.
- Information on the current Clinical Commissioning Structure and the proposed changes to Integrated Care Systems.

- West Suffolk Hospitals New Hospital Project; Maternity Services and Whistleblowing Report

2.3.2 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked questions to which Councillor Marks provided comprehensive responses. In particular discussions were held on the shortage of General Practitioners (GPs), nurses and midwives; dentistry which was significantly under-funded; dementia clinics in GP surgeries and mental health services for young people.

2.3.3 The Committee also discussed health, which had recently been added to Councillor Sara Mildmay-White's Portfolio and suggested a written report setting out the role be included as an item for its 11 November 2021 meeting.

2.4 **Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 September 2021 to 31 May 2022 (Report number: OAS/WS/21/018)**

2.4.1 The Committee reviewed and **noted** the latest version of the Cabinet Decisions Plan, covering the period 1 September 2021 to 31 May 2022.

2.4.2 The Committee considered the Decisions Plan and did not request any further information on items contained in the Plan.

2.5 **Work programme update 2021 and suggestions for scrutiny (Report number: OAS/WS/21/019)**

2.5.1 The Committee received Report number OAS/WS/21/019, which updated Members on the current status of its rolling work programme of items, and items currently agreed but had yet to be programmed for 2021 as attached at Appendix 1.

2.5.2 At its meeting on 8 July 2021, Councillor Diane Hind agreed to complete a work programme suggestion form for the Committee's consideration at its September 2021 meeting focusing on anti-idling. Attached at Appendix 2 to the report was the completed work programme suggestion form proposing that a review be undertaken to introduce "fines for idling".

2.5.3 On 27 July 2021, Councillor Diane Hind approached the Chair of the Committee about a potential scrutiny topic relating to possibly carrying out a review of 20 mile per hour zones and their signage and possibly requesting that Suffolk County Council arrange for 20 mile per hour zones (or limits) to be extended, adequately signed, and enforced. Councillor Diane Hind had prepared a suggestion form, attached at Appendix 3, to undertake a review.

- 2.5.4 The Committee considered in detail both work programme suggestions and officers provided comprehensive information to questions.

In relation to Appendix 2 (fines for idling) Councillor Diane Hind acknowledged the various pieces of work being undertaken in the Environment Action Plan in relation to air quality and suggested, instead that it receives a progress report on the various initiatives.

In relation to Appendix 3 (20mph zones and signage) officers advised that the current process to implement 20mph zones was the responsibility of SCC, and the Council would need to be very clear about what it wanted to achieve. Members supported 20mph limits in the right areas and felt it needed to be promoted more to make it easier for councillors and their residents to pursue further in their localities with their Suffolk County Councillor.

- 2.5.5 At the conclusion of discussions, the Committee:

1. **noted** the current status of topics currently scheduled in its rolling work programme for 2021, attached at Appendix 1;
2. **resolved** that a progress report on the various pieces of work on anti-idling be brought to a future meeting of the Committee, subject to Parking Services being asked to start educating and asking drivers as soon as possible, when idling, to switch off their engines.
3. **resolved** that a review of 20mph zones and signage be included into the Committee's forward work programme, by specifically looking at the desire of West Suffolk Councillors in their localities to see if it was necessary to promote and make it easier for councillors and their residents to pursue introducing 20mph limits with their Suffolk County Councillor, through the Suffolk County Council set process.

3 Alternative options that have been considered

- 3.1 Please see background papers.

4 Consultation and engagement undertaken

- 4.1 Please see background papers.

5 Risks associated with the proposals

- 5.1 Please see background papers.

6 Implications arising from the proposals

6.1 Financial:
Please see background papers.

6.2 Equalities:
Please see background papers.

7 Appendices referenced in this report

7.1 Please see background papers.

8 Background documents associated with this report

8.1 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/016](#) and [Appendix A - Revised](#), [Appendix 1](#), [Appendix 2](#), [Appendix 3](#), [Appendix 4](#), [Appendix 5](#), [Appendix 6](#), [Appendix 7](#) and [Appendix 8](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Consideration of Councillor Call for Action

8.2 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/017](#) and [Appendix 1](#), [Appendix 1A](#), [Appendix 1B](#) and [Appendix 1C](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee – 7 July 2021

8.3 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/018](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 September 2021 to 31 May 2022

8.4 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/019](#) and [Appendix 1](#), [Appendix 2](#), [Appendix 3](#), [Appendix 4](#) and [Appendix 5](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update 2021 and Suggestions for Scrutiny