

Council: 13 December 2022 - written responses to questions

Item 5: Leader's Statement: Question from Councillor Diane Hind to Councillor John Griffiths:

In the context of reading reports in the national press regarding electoral changes where it was reported that senior people in local government had apparently asked ministers to delay the introduction of Voter ID, Councillor Diane Hind asked whether the Leader or West Suffolk Council had been involved in requesting a delay in introducing Voter ID, and whether this would in fact be the case.

Response from Councillors John Griffiths, Leader of the Council and Carol Bull, Portfolio Holder for Governance:

We are aware of the recent calls to delay the introduction of voter ID by the Local Governance Association (LGA) and can confirm that we have not directly been part of those requests. The elections on 4 May 2023, which will elect representatives to West Suffolk Council and Parish and Town Councils in West Suffolk, will be the first time that voters will need to show valid photographic identification in a polling station before being issued with a ballot paper. These changes have been legislated for and whilst it is a challenging timeframe for implementation, officers from West Suffolk Council have been engaging with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities regarding the requirement for timely guidance and information to ensure the changes can be communicated to the electorate and implemented at polling stations. The national communication campaign for voter ID will begin in January 2023 and officers are preparing a local awareness campaign, which is tailored to our local population, and as part of this they will be sharing communication material and guidance for members to use to help spread the message and to support their constituents.

Item 5: Leader's Statement: Question from Councillor John Burns to Councillor John Griffiths:

In the context of quoting from paragraph 36. of the Leader's written statement, where it states, 'We introduced civil parking enforcement after public support to help improve safety, reduce pollution and traffic jams, grow the economy and make sure emergency services get through', Councillor John Burns asked where the data could be found to support this statement as he felt that no data had been provided in the last 12 months.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Burns asked when the civil parking enforcement (CPE) service would be reviewed. He reported of a specific area in Haverhill which previously had parking restrictions in place under a Traffic Regulation Order but this was not now included on the CPE maps and therefore there appeared to be no means to currently enforce against inappropriate parking.

Response from Councillors John Griffiths, Leader of the Council and Peter Stevens, Portfolio Holder for Operations:

Since February 2022, parking data is provided through the revised Key Performance Indicator (KPI) dataset made available through the performance team. This information is available to all members.

In addition, we have responded to several requests from Councillor Burns for additional data and detailed comparative breakdowns of available enforceable Traffic Regulation Orders by town. This shows the allocation of resources accorded to Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket and Haverhill and their respective number of restrictions. For information, Haverhill has 662 Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs), Newmarket has 1,005 and Bury St Edmunds has 2,292, which provides the basis for the number of enforcement patrols by location. As a percentage based on Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) patrol visits against the number of TROs, Haverhill is averaging at 27.5 percent compared to Newmarket (27.8 percent) and Bury St Edmunds (16 percent).

We steer Haverhill residents toward the [online infringement tool](#) for reporting issues. In Haverhill, we see around 25 infringements reported over a three-month period compared to 45 in Newmarket and 65 in Bury St Edmunds.

We only enforce on-street lines and signs, the establishment and maintenance of which are the responsibility of Suffolk County Council (SCC) Highways. We would require further detail on the location of the parking restrictions that were in place under a Traffic Regulation Order but are now not included on the CPE maps. We know of no 'TRO disappearing' as we inherited all TROs from SCC on implementation and have given no instruction to SCC to amend or delete a parking place.