

# Cabinet



St Edmundsbury  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 22 July 2015</b>	
<b>Report No:</b>	<b>CAB/SE/15/052</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	8 September 2015
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<b>Purpose of report:</b>	On 22 July 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items:  (1) Review of Car Parking; (2) Dog Fouling in West Suffolk; (3) On-Street Parking – Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds: Update; (4) Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications (Quarter 1) – Verbal Report; and (5) Work Programme Update.	
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/SE/15/052, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</b>	
<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"/> Report for information only.	

<b>Consultation:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
<b>Alternative option(s):</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications:</b>			
Are there any <b>financial</b> implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
Are there any <b>staffing</b> implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
Are there any <b>ICT</b> implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
Are there any <b>legal and/or policy</b> implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
Are there any <b>equality</b> implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
<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)
See Reports listed under background papers below			
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>		All Wards	
<b>Background papers:</b> <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		<a href="#">Report OAS/SE/15/010</a> – Review of Car Parking  <a href="#">Report OAS/SE/15/011</a> – Dog Fouling in West Suffolk  <a href="#">Report OAS/SE/15/012</a> – On-Street Parking – Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds: Update  <a href="#">Report OAS/SE/15/012</a> – Appendix – Map Skyliner Way  Verbal Report – Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications (Quarter 1)  <a href="#">Report OAS/SE/15/013</a> – Work Programme Update	
<b>Documents attached:</b>		None	

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

### **1.1 Review of Car Parking (Report No: OAS/SE/15/010)**

1.1.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/SE/15/010, which sought the establishment of a Review Group and adopt the Terms of Reference to conduct a review of car parks in the Borough.

1.1.2 A full review of car parking was timely given that the Borough Council, in partnership with Our Bury St Edmunds had commissioned a study to review:

- (1) current car parking occupancy across the Borough;
- (2) short-term capacity issues and long-term parking solutions/interventions;
- (3) the impact of Pay on Exit/Automated Number Plate Recognition systems on capacity and operation of car parks; and
- (4) the financial implications for the car parking service arising from the implementation of either a Pay on Exit or Automated Number Plate Recognition operation.

1.1.3 It was proposed that a Review Group be established comprising five Members from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, including a representative from the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee to oversee the review of car parks. The Lead Officer for the review would be the Car Parks Manager, supported by officer representation from Finance, Economic Development and Growth, and Operations.

The proposed Terms of Reference for the Review Group were to:

- (1) Evaluate the current performance including usage; the location and condition of the car parks; the quality of service delivery; the issue of fines; car park incentive schemes and customer feedback.
- (2) Consider current levels of occupancy; future capacity projections and any interventions as required.
- (3) Assess the conclusions of the study on both the merit and business case for the implementation of Pay on Exit/Automated Number Plate Recognition operation systems.
- (4) Review car park tariffs for the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, backed by consultation.
- (5) Identify changes and amendments needed to the Traffic Road Order.

1.1.4 The Review Group would present its findings to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 November 2015. Any recommendations agreed by the Committee would then be considered by the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee as part of the budget setting process.

1.1.5 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions to which officers duly responded, and **RESOLVED that:**

- (1) the Terms of Reference for a review of car parking be adopted; and**
- (2) Councillors John Burns, Susan Glossop, Paul Hopfensperger, Angela Rushen and Jim Thorndyke be nominated to sit on the Car Park Review Group.**

1.2 **Dog Fouling in West Suffolk (Report No: OAS/SE/15/011)**

1.2.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/SE/15/011, which provided an overview of dog fouling within West Suffolk. The report included information on the general issue of dog fouling (national and West Suffolk perspective); why it was difficult to fine offenders; current Council initiatives in West Suffolk (proactive and reactive work); changes in legislation, such as the requirement for dogs to be micro-chipped by April 2016; and options and actions available to the Council to combat dog fouling.

1.2.2 There were a number of tools available to and used by the Council to change what was in essence a behavioural issue. This included an extensive network of bins and signs supported by both educational and enforcement activity. However, dog fouling was a localised issue and tended to be dealt with through targeted actions and working with the local community. In order to support this moving forward, the report included a number of additional actions would be taken.

1.2.3 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions to which officers duly responded. In particular discussions were held on:

- the low number of dog fouling incidents reported and suggested a simple reporting method on the website to enable the community to report incidents with the ability to upload the location of the incident;
- the lack of enforcement and Fixed Penalty Notices;
- the proposed banner campaign for football pitches and suggest including rugby pitches;
- sponsorship of 'dog poop' bags with the sponsors and Council's logo and suggested these could be dispensed alongside dog bins;
- a publicity campaign to identify dog fouling hot spot areas in West Suffolk; and
- the DNA testing being piloted by Barking and Dagenham Borough Council.

1.2.4 For **NOTING** by Cabinet, the Committee recommended:

- (1) That the Head of Operations be asked to investigate further the following initiatives to combat dog fouling in West Suffolk:
  - (i) investigate introducing "Paws on Patrol" in West Suffolk;
  - (ii) produce reporting guidance for staff;
  - (iii) investigate a banner campaign for football pitches with Suffolk Football Association;

- (iv) launch a "Clean It Up" campaign in October 2015;
  - (v) introduce a Public Spaces Protection Orders for dog fouling offences across West Suffolk;
  - (vi) consider a Fixed Penalty Notice reward scheme across West Suffolk for reported dog fouling offences; and
  - (vii) introduce a publicity campaign by carrying out a survey to identify dog fouling hot spot areas in West Suffolk.
- (2) That Streetkleen Bio Limited be invited to give a presentation on their PooPrints DNA program at a future Joint Overview and Scrutiny meeting with Forest Heath District Council.

### 1.3 **On-Street Parking – Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds: Update (Report No: OAS/SE/15/012)**

- 1.3.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/SE/15/012, which updated Members on progress made on a number of options explored to see whether improvements could be made to alleviate the parking issues in Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds, following consideration of this item on 22 April 2015. At that meeting the Committee acknowledged that it would be expensive to create a layby, but felt that this was the most viable option and that any parking restrictions should not be implemented until all options for a layby had been exhausted.
- 1.3.2 The Western Area Highways Manager (Suffolk County Council) (SCC) updated the Committee on the findings from the feasibility study into the current depth of various utility services, which would impact on costs in creating a layby.
- 1.3.3 The Highway Authority did not regard the provision of parking as part of its function, but would endeavour to manage such parking as could be permitted on the highway. As a result, it did not provide any direct funding for provision of parking places. However the Borough Council had been invited to submit bids to the On-Street Parking Account held by the Highway Authority. Bids had to be submitted by 31 July 2015. Whilst the emphasis was for bids for the provision of off-street car parks, there was no reason why the Borough Council should not submit a bid to implement verge parking in Skyliner Way.
- 1.3.4 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions to which officers duly responded.
- 1.3.5 For **NOTING** by Cabinet, the Committee recommended that the Head of Operations, on behalf of the Borough Council be asked to submit a bid of £25,000 to the On-Street Parking Account held by the Highways Authority by 31 July 2015, to implement verge parking in Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds.

### 1.4 **Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications (Quarter 1) (Verbal)**

- 1.4.1 The Committee received a verbal report from the Council's Monitoring Officer, which outlined the Authorisations of Directed Surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA); including the process in place on the use of RIPA. Members were advised that local authorities had to obtain authorisation for directed surveillance from a magistrate and that the purpose of it was to gather information that could lead to a court case.

1.4.2 There being no decision required, the Committee **NOTED** the verbal update by the Monitoring Officer and that in Quarter 1 of 2015-2016, no such surveillance had been authorised.

1.5 **Work Programme Update (Report No: OAS/SE/15/013)**

1.5.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/SE/15/013, which provided an update on the current status of the Committee's Work Programme and the Task and Finish Groups appointed by the Committee.

1.5.2 Members were reminded to complete the Work Programme Suggestion Form when submitting future items for potential scrutiny. This enabled suggestions received to be initially considered by the Committee at each meeting and if accepted included within its forward work programme.

1.5.3 The Chairman advised Members that the Portfolio Holder for Operations had accepted the Committee's invitation and would be in attendance on 11 November 2015 to give a short presentation/account of his portfolio.

1.5.4 The Committee considered the report and there being no decision required, **NOTED** the items currently expected to be presented to the Committee during 2015-2016.