

Scrutiny Committee, 9 March 2016

Information Bulletin

The Information Bulletin is a document that is made available to the public with the published agenda papers. It can include update information requested by the Committee as well as information that a service considers should be made known to the Committee.

This Information Bulletin covers the following items:

1. [Proposed Cycle Bridge, Lowestoft](#)
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1. Proposed Cycle Bridge, Lowestoft

Concerns have been expressed by a member of the public about progress on delivering the cycle bridge proposed to cross Lake Lothing adjacent to the A12 Bascule Bridge. The proposed bridge formed part of the Lowestoft Local Links project funded jointly by the Department for Transport's (DfT) Local Sustainable Transport Fund and by Suffolk County Council.

The proposed cycle bridge formed part of the Lowestoft Local Links Project, which was a scheme awarded £5 million from the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund in 2012. Scheme funding also included a Suffolk County Council contribution of £1 million. DfT funding included a revenue element which was used to support local bus services in the town, to create a business travel network with the Chamber of Commerce and to carry out work in schools and colleges.

The project also included capital improvements – a new bus interchange at the railway station, cycle improvements on the A12, improvement to Commercial Road and a cycle bridge adjacent to the Bascule Bridge.

Work on this part of the scheme was taken forward through design, planning application and commencement of compulsory purchase of land on the north side of Lake Lothing.

The proposed bridge project was put on hold in 2014 because feasibility work was being carried out on a possible third crossing of Lowestoft for all vehicles. A new bridge would be designed to cater for cyclists and pedestrians as well and might potentially provide better connections between local cycle routes and destinations.

By providing an alternative to the Bascule Bridge for vehicles it is also likely that a third crossing would reduce the amount of traffic on the A12 and may make it possible to reallocate a traffic lane on the Bascule Bridge for use by cyclists, thus providing additional benefits.

The prospects of delivering a third crossing were enhanced by the award of funding by Government for further feasibility work in 2015. This work has made it possible for Suffolk County Council to submit a business case to Government for funding a third crossing. The business case was submitted on 29 December 2015 and a decision is expected later in 2016.

The need for the proposed cycle bridge will be reassessed following the Government decision on the funding bid. The DfT capital and revenue funding was fully spent on the project, including the design of the bridge. Should the bridge project be recommenced it would be funded as part of the Council's capital programme.

For further information, please contact: Dave Watson, Transport Strategy Manager; Email: Dave.Watson@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 01473 264833;

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2. Update from Member with Special Responsibility for Outside Bodies

With regard to Sizewell

To be the Council's member lead in discussions relating to the development of Sizewell C power station project.

1. Ensure that the Council's interests are championed in discussion and potential developments relating to:
 - Education and skills development
 - Public protection
 - Environmental protection including coastal defence
 - Highways and transport infrastructure
2. To co-ordinate the resources of the Council in all aspects of its activities.
3. To ensure that east Suffolk in particular gains the maximum benefit from the project while ensuring that the interest of the people are recognised and protected.
4. To chair the Joint Local Authorities Group (JLAG) whose objectives are to ensure both authorities work together for the common good.
5. To propose relevant workstreams for monitoring process on key areas of activity.
6. To take part in gateway reviews to test the effectiveness of Suffolk County Council Members and officers.

7. To lead and chair a Council member focus group to examine the work programme. Examples include the 4 villages by pass on the A12 East Suffolk Energy Gateway.
8. To meet with local Suffolk MPs to gain support for specific projects.

Other associated work

9. To attend external meetings, chaired by local Members of Parliament, to represent the Council's interests on major projects such as:
 - a. 3rd Road Crossing at Lowestoft
 - b. Wet Dock Crossing in Ipswich.

and report of progress to the Cabinet Member responsible for highways.

10. To represent Suffolk County Council on various Environmental Flood Defence Committees (Eastern & Central) including negotiations about the Council's levy payment, following discussion with the Cabinet Member for Finance.
11. To attend Cabinet member briefings on flood issues.
12. To attend public meetings in connection with the Special Responsibility as necessary and as requested by the Leader of the Council.
13. To be the Council's Lead member for rail policy, contribute to discussions with existing and potential providers and support effective lobbying for rail improvements
14. To be the Council's Member lead on developing policy for Level Crossings Consultation.
15. To participate in and contribute to the Rail Conference

Additional Responsibilities:

The Member with Special responsibilities for Outside Bodies will also:

- Report to the Leader of Suffolk County Council on all aspects of the work that SCC is doing following the announcement that Sizewell is one of the preferred sites of two new nuclear power stations.
- Propose work about other modes of transport for the Ipswich/Felixstowe corridor.
- Represent the Council as a Member of the Local Government Association Special Interest Group (LGA SIG) on Coastal Matters.
- SCC's representative member on the Broads Authority.
- Attend New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership Transport Body/Board and propose items for the Agenda which more closely fit Suffolk's needs (e.g. the condition of the A140 the need for road improvements on A12) and the case for an hourly service on the Ipswich/Peterborough line, work schedules.

The building of a new nuclear power station is one of the biggest Civil Engineering Projects in Europe. The role is about ensuring that Suffolk residents are effectively represented in discussions about developments in order to get the best possible deal.

Motions for Full Council and Cabinet Papers include acknowledgements of my inputs.

I have championed the designation of the East Suffolk Energy Gateway as Highway Scheme of National Significance and secured £500,000 to undertake preliminary work.

Councillor Guy McGregor
Member for Special Responsibility for Outside Bodies

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3. Update from Member with Special Responsibility for Property

Activities undertaken

Since May 2015, I have undertaken the following activities within my role:

- Regular attendance and contribution to discussions and decisions made at the Corporate Property Programme Board (CPPB), which now meets on a monthly basis. This also includes consulting with Councillor Richard Smith, Cabinet member for Finance, Duncan Johnson (Assistant Director) and Brian Prettyman (Senior Manager) for Corporate Property.
- Initiated a clear documented process for property disposal to ensure all stakeholders are well informed, which has been signed off by the Corporate Property Programme Board and has been made available to all Councillors.
- Have established being the lead member on the Single Public Sector Estate and One Public Estate work, Mildenhall Hub and West Suffolk Operational Hub.
- Attended a number of meetings as a member of the Shareholder Group for SCC's wholly owned companies, chaired by Councillor John Goodwin. This involves attendance at the Shareholder Group Board, which oversees Suffolk Group Holdings Company Limited.
- Regular contact with Councillor James Finch, who is the Cabinet Member for County Farms, to ensure that there is cohesion between Corporate Property and County Farms.
- Attendance at Cabinet meetings which considered the purchase of Beacon House and the creation of the housing development company, now known as Barley Homes Group Limited.
- Review and contribution to the Annual Property Report, and its presentation to Council in December 2015. This is a regular report generated by corporate property which demonstrates how the service area manages the County Council's estate effectively.

- Attendance at West Suffolk Property Board on 17 December 2015 together with the Assistant Director for Corporate Property.
- Attendance at Audit Committee on 28 January 2016 to present the report considering the Property function, which also included review and contribution to the report created for Audit and to answer the Committee's questions.
- Attendance at numerous Cornerstone meetings to ensure understanding of this, Children and Young People's Services led, project on the Corporate Property Estate.
- Representing, reviewing and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ipswich Hospital Trust (IHT) for a future collaboration between SCC and IHT, together with the sale of The Bridge, former Heathside special school to IHT.
- Attended meetings to provide steer and direction as a member of the Barley Homes Group Limited Shareholders Advisory Board.
- Attended on behalf of the Leader, the Ipswich Vision Board at which property relating to Ipswich was discussed.
- Attended on behalf of the Leader, the media launch of the Eastern Relief Road/Moreton Hall agreement at Bury St Edmunds when legal clearance and sign off achieved.
- Liaison meetings and discussions with local councillors for issues and queries about property in their area, this includes:
 - o As SCC member lead on the Chilton Woods development project, attended briefings for local councillors, together with a number of site visits.
 - o Discussions and meeting with Councillor Andrew Stringer regarding property in Bacton.
 - o Discussions and meetings with Councillor Guy McGregor regarding Paddock House in Eye.
 - o Meetings with Councillor Colin Noble regarding school sites in Ipswich and other sites within Ipswich.
 - o Discussions with Councillor Joanna Spicer regarding Ixworth Court and Bardwell.
 - o Discussions with Councillor Michael Gower regarding property in Saxmundham.
 - o Discussions with Councillor Michael Bond regarding property in Wickham Market.
 - o Discussions with Councillor Garry Green regarding property in Stowmarket.

- o Discussions and meeting with Councillor Tony Brown regarding sites in Haverhill.
 - o Discussions with Councillor Jenny Antill regarding Monks Eleigh.
 - o Discussions with Councillor John Goodwin regarding property in Felixstowe.
- Other meetings and discussions which are at a commercially sensitive stage and will form part of the next bulletin.

Special projects to promote area of special responsibility

- Member lead on Chilton Woods proposals.
- SCC Member representative on West Suffolk Property Board.
- Member of Stakeholder Group (particularly because of Concertus Design and Property Consultants Limited, and Vertas).
- Member of the Barley Homes Group Shareholders Advisory Board.
- Member lead on Ipswich Hospital Trust negotiations with IHT Chief Executive and IHT Director of Estates.
- SCC Member lead on Single Public Sector Estate.
- SCC Member lead on the One Public Estate.
- SCC Member lead on the Mildenhall Hub.
- SCC Member lead on West Suffolk Operational Hub.
- SCC Member lead on Managing the Property Estate.

Objectives and measures of success

- To ensure that the Council is using its property assets effectively as a resource and how those assets are supporting the Council's overall objectives.
- To lead on all property matters relating to the focus and direction of approach for property assets including the Single Public Sector Estate (SPSE) and the One Public Estate initiative (OPE).
- To ensure that property is recognised as a fundamental resource of the Council and plays a major role in the discharge of its functions. It is important that councillors, staff, users, tenants and the public of Suffolk are aware of the use to which property assets are put and how they impact on the overall budget of the Council.
- To provide the Member lead to ensure that property effectively plays a critical role in contributing to the delivery of the Council's corporate objectives. New ways of working and changes to service delivery have had a significant impact

on the Council's relationship with its property. As some services have been divested and changed the Council has moved from a position of predominantly 'owner occupier' to one of 'part owner occupier and part landlord.' Property has been a catalyst for change to enable other parts of the Council to meet its objectives and deliver services differently.

I will achieve this by:

- Continue to be a first point of contact for Councillors with property questions or issues in their area.
- Continue to attend, support and contribute to the decisions and discussions on corporate estate at Corporate Property Programme Board (CPPB).
- Continue to develop relationship with Councillor James Finch to ensure cohesion with the Corporate Property and County Farms Estate.
- Continue to attend and represent SCC and Shareholders at the shareholder advisory group for Barley Homes Group Limited and SCC's wholly owned companies.
- Continue to challenge and support, where necessary, the corporate property team.

Councillor Robert Whiting
Member for Special Responsibility for Property

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4. Update from Member with Special Responsibility for Creating the Greenest County (CtGC)

Activities undertaken

Regularly attend presentations and awards ceremonies for green businesses on behalf of the County Council such as Carbon Charter, Green 100 Businesses Award, Greenest County (GC) Awards and others; visit local businesses (Lignacite and Howards Nurseries to date).

Promoting environmental awareness at all levels within the County Council, such as reviewing the Council's environmental management system and procurement policy with officers.

Reviewing scope of the greenest county programme with officers and Board, working on formally including transport within this Creating the Greenest County (CtGC) scope.

Attended workshop and input to development of updated County planning guidance for environment and landscape with relevant officers (Sue Hooton and Phil Watson).

Have met with various interested parties to share ideas such as Dr.Dan Poulter MP, Green Economy Pathfinder/Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) (Ian Dunnett), Eastern Inland Fisheries Conservation Association (Philip Haslam).

Attend relevant conferences and meetings such as Suffolk Rail Conference (December 2015) and LGA Transport Group Meetings

Planning to meet with transport strategy team about cooperation on GC programme to raise profile of the programme.

Special projects to promote area of special responsibility

Creating the Greenest County Awards – judged 2016 entries (in February)

Carbon Charter Awards

Green 100 Business Awards

Objectives and measures of success

This has been mostly a strategic role with the objective of working collaboratively with officers and other bodies to raise the profile of the CtGC programme and the environment within the County Council's work. I would like the scope of the CtGC programme to be broadened to include transport emissions (because I believe that there are funding possibilities in this area as well as scope for real change) and eventually other things such as promoting a circular economy and environmental capital but these will take time.

Measures of success are therefore difficult to define particularly at this early stage and it needs to develop.

Outside bodies associated with the role

Joint Local Authorities Group – Sizewell C (member)

Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (chairman)

Greenest County Board (member)

Eastern Inland Fisheries Conservation Association

Suffolk Waste Partnership

Councillor Jessica Fleming
Member with Special Responsibility for Creating the Greenest County

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5. Update from Member with Special Responsibility for Transformation

Activities undertaken

- Regular meetings with central lead for Transformation (Jill Korwin until December 2015 and now Matthew Harding) and Assistant Chief Executive Chris Bally on progress with Transformation Programmes.
- Regular Programme Board meetings for identifying divestment projects long list and immediate short list Sensing Change and Schools Choice (Chris Bally, Aidan Dunn, Michael Moll, Richard Selwyn, Stepping Out Project Team)

- Workshop for development of Incubator Structure (Chris Bally, Aidan Dunn, Michael Moll, Duncan Johnson, Bryn Griffiths)
- Workshop for preparing beyond 2018 (Chris Bally, Geoff Dobson, Jill Korwin, Aidan Dunn, Michael Moll, Duncan Johnson, Bryn Griffiths)
- Improving confidence around outcomes for Transformation Programmes (Mark Parker).
- Presentations to Corporate Management Team and Leadership teams on divestment opportunities and Incubator role

Special projects to promote area of special responsibility

- Stepping Out Project
- Future Shape of Public Services
- Incubator Development

Objectives and measures of success

- Divestment of Sensing Change and Schools Choice
- Further Divestments from long list identified by Stepping Out
- Completion of Transformation Programmes

Outside bodies associated with the role

- Stepping Out Project Team
- 3rd party public and private sector organisations including Eastern Enterprise Hub, University of East Anglia, Bridges Ventures as prospective partners/co-investors.

A paper summarising the Transformation Portfolio is attached at Appendix 1.

Councillor Andrew Reid
Member with Special Responsibility for Transformation

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