

Thorndon Parish Council 3.10.2013
County Councillor Report

Education Scrutiny

We have at last had the first full meeting of the newly formed Education Scrutiny committee, It was a very lively meeting where we questioned the robustness of the recent R.S.A report into education in Suffolk, we looked into the consequences of some parents not claiming free school meals, even though they qualify to do so, and the financial strain this puts on Schools. We also probed further into Suffolk's decision to partner up with Hackney's education department to learn some of the lessons that Hackney had learned through the London Challenge, one stark figure to emerge from this is Hackney spends almost £6000.00 per year on their pupils, while Suffolk spends under £4000.00.

CSD Services to be Taken Back in House

SCC has decided that the CSD contract is to not be extended after next May, this means the services run by this joint venture company between SCC MSDC and BT will be brought back in House. SCC had received a proposal from BT to extend the arrangement to provide back office services for a further five years beyond the current CSD contract, After careful consideration of BT's proposal, SCC has agreed not to proceed with this option.

This means that SCC will continue with the original plan to deliver these services in-house beyond 2014. Mid Suffolk District Council and Babergh District Council will continue to work with SCC colleagues on future ICT arrangements and will continue to implement their decision to bring HR, finance and public access in house. The period between now and May 2014 will be intensely busy as we work with CSD colleagues to attempt a smooth and effective transfer into the councils.

Highways Service Outsourced

From the 1st of October Suffolk County Council Highways services are being outsourced to Kier/ May Gurney, All of our normal pothole reporting highways improvements etc will remain the same, from the 1st of October, Kier MG will deliver highway services around Suffolk under the name Suffolk Highways. The aim is to continue to work together with Kier MG to build on the already good service that has been delivered.

Around 200 staff will transfer to Kier MG on 1 October to deliver the operational highways service. The contract is for a minimum of five years with the option for an extension to 10 years based on performance. All existing depots will be leased to Kier MayGurney. normal access to depots won't change. All existing Highways services will transfer to this contract with the exception of the Streetlight team and the bridges and structures element.

