



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

A210

Cabinet

16 September 2009

Report of the Policy Development Committee: 2 September 2009

At this meeting the Committee also considered the St Edmundsbury Empty Homes and Wasted Space Strategy 2009-2011, and a separate report appears on this Cabinet agenda.

1. Presentation from Choose Suffolk (Suffolk Development Agency)

- 1.1 The Committee was pleased to welcome a number of representatives from Choose Suffolk to the meeting, including the organisation's Chief Executive, Celia Hodson. Ms Hodson introduced her team, who each gave a presentation on their areas of work within the Agency. These included Tourism, covering the work to attract tourists to Suffolk, and outlining some very impressive campaigns including posters on the London tube; Inward Investment, summarising some very important services provided by the organisation for local businesses, as well as work carried out to attract businesses to Suffolk; and Research and Development, which mainly covered the activities of the Suffolk Observatory, which provided useful statistics for Suffolk, broken down into Borough, Town and Ward areas.
- 1.2 The Committee found the presentation very useful, and relevant to its forthcoming work on the economic assessment and creation of a Recession Action Plan.

2. Cabinet Forward Plan: September to December 2009

- 2.1 The Committee examined the Cabinet's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period September to December 2009. Under the item entitled "Havebury Housing Partnership", Members raised the issue of training for Councillors on the Choice Based Allocations Scheme. Whilst it was acknowledged that extensive training had already been carried out on the scheme, the need for ongoing training was suggested, in particular in the form of sessions for all Councillors to enable them to better advise constituents who approached them about the scheme.

3. Work Programme

- 3.1 Members received a report showing the current status of their work programme for 2009/2010, including an indication of the items expected at the Committee's next meeting on 14 October 2009. The Committee also confirmed the appointment of three members to work with officers and three members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Economic Assessment and resulting Recession Action Plan.

4. Delivering a Sustainable Budget 2010/2011

- 4.1 The Committee considered a report which explained the context for setting the 2010/2011 Budget, in particular the size of the potential deficit to be covered over the next two years, and the approach adopted to close this gap. Savings already identified were discussed, and further details of potential savings will be brought to the next two meetings of the Committee.

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