



## **Cabinet**

### **16 September 2009**

#### **Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 9 September 2009**

At this meeting the Committee also considered the implications for scrutiny of the Police and Justice Act 2006, and a separate report appears on this agenda (Report A213 refers).

- 1. Update on Councillor Call for Action considered on 8 July 2009: Stanton Grundle Flooding Remedial Action**
- 1.1 Cabinet will recall the recommendations brought to its last meeting arising from the above Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) hearing which took place in July 2009. The call-in period for implementation of these recommendations ended on Monday 10 August 2009, and at this meeting the Committee received an update from officers on progress which had been made in the intervening four weeks.
- 1.2 A number of consultants had been approached to provide a quotation for carrying out a catchment study for The Grundle and the downstream network through Stanton and down to the A143, and these will be reported to the next Committee meeting. It may be possible to make a bid to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to fund this work under new legislation, through the County Council, and this will be investigated.
- 1.3 The build-up of excess debris in the lower part of the Grundle had been cleared, and the main pipeline surveyed. Councillor Thorndyke disagreed with this, and circulated photographs showing that there was still debris in this area, and officers would investigate this and send a written response to the Committee.
- 1.4 Following a survey showing some localised deposits of debris (including, interestingly, a road sign), a specialised water jetting company had been instructed to clear deposits in the pipeline. Finally, the 9 month gully emptying frequency adopted by Suffolk County Council had been increased to every 3 months in The Street.
- 1.5 The Committee requested a further update at its next meeting in November 2009, and also requested that the Cabinet be made aware of the progress so far and the discussions held at the meeting, as set out above.

## **2. Cabinet Forward Plan/Work Programme**

- 2.1 The Committee examined the Cabinet's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period September to December 2009, and requested further information on a number of areas which were either answered at the meeting, or will be circulated to the Committee as written responses, including the Empty Homes Strategy, Tree and Woodland Plan, Corn Exchange options and Rural Services.
- 2.2 Turning to its own Work Programme, the Committee carried out a short scoping exercise of the items expected at its next meeting 18 November 2009. Additionally, due to the quantity of her commitments as representative on a number of outside bodies, Councillor Levack had indicated that she would like to resign her position on the Suffolk Joint Scrutiny of Flooding and Flood Risk Working Party. The Committee has recommended that its Chairman, Councillor Lockwood, be appointed to take up the vacancy left by Councillor Levack on this Working Party. On 22 September 2009 full Council will be asked to endorse this recommendation.

## **3. Annual Report on the Impact of the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership and Community Strategy**

- 3.1 The Committee receives an annual report on the work of the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership and its Community Strategy in September each year, followed by a six month update at its March meeting. The Committee is responsible for monitoring the Community Strategy and the development of the Partnership, and this annual report gave an update on the projects being run by the Partnership. The Committee discussed, in particular, the "WOS-UP" project, and the SOS Bus, details of which are to be found in Report A188 to the Committee.
- 3.2 The Committee also received an update on the distribution of "Community Chest" grants, a 'pot' of £20,000 for the funding of smaller projects (up to £1,500 each), which had been allocated at a meeting on 9 September to 17 projects, details of which were circulated to Members. Additionally, Members were informed that the review of the Community Strategy was due to commence at the forthcoming Annual Conference on 25 November 2009. As part of the next update expected in March 2010, the Committee will receive details of distribution of £420,000 of Performance Reward Grant funding.

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