



Cabinet **23 June 2010**

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 2 June 2010

1. Annual Report of the Cabinet 2009/2010

- 1.1 The Leader attended this meeting of the Committee, and presented the Cabinet's Annual Report for 2009/2010. The Committee examined the document in detail, questioning the Leader on the report's contents, including discussions on shared services, the number of new homes likely to be built in the Borough, changes to the waste collection service, anti-social behaviour, car parking (an update on car parking enforcement across the County was requested), engagement with young people, transfer of community centres and services in rural areas.
- 1.2 Other issues discussed included the potential effect on the Council's priorities of the Government's plans to reduce public spending, such as the 0% Council Tax rise for 2011/2012. The Committee acknowledged that the Annual Report showed that the Borough had responded very effectively to the recession to date, and could point to successes such as the arc and Christmas Fayre despite the economic downturn. The Committee expressed its broad support for the document and the revised priorities of the Cabinet for 2010/2011.

2. Cabinet Forward Plan: June to September 2010

- 2.1 The Committee examined the Cabinet's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period June to September 2010, and questioned the Leader on a number of areas including the change from Section 106 Agreements to the Community Infrastructure Fund, the review of the Enforcement Policy and the development of the Picturehouse Cinema in Hatter Street, Bury St Edmunds.
- 2.2 The Chairman took the opportunity to remind the Leader that the Cabinet had not commissioned any scrutiny for a while, and offered the services of the Committee should the Cabinet wish it to carry out some exploratory work on any issues which may arise during the year.

3. Adoption of 2010/2011 Work Programme and Nominations to Working Groups and Suffolk Joint Scrutiny Committees

- 3.1 The process for setting the work programme for 2010/2011 began in February this year, with the distribution of forms for the suggestion of new items to all Members and senior officers. In previous years, the high number of suggestions received had meant that the Committee had to analyse and rank suggestions, generally adding the higher scoring items to the work programme. This year, however,

fewer suggestions for new areas of work were received, and the Committee was, therefore, able to include all suggested work to the work programme for 2010/2011. All the new areas of work suggested will make interesting reviews, and the Committee anticipates an exciting scrutiny year ahead. The new work programme was adopted by the Committee.

3.2 In addition to adopting the work programme, the Committee considered its requirements for 2010/2011 and appointed Councillors Oliver and Buckle to work with officers on the review of the Cultural Strategy. Officers would welcome up to six Members on this review, and remaining Members of the Committee, or other non-Cabinet Members with an interest in the subject, are invited to put themselves forward to work on this review. Further information will appear in the Members' Bulletin shortly. The Committee also received an annual report from Councillor Beckwith, the Council's representative on the Suffolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, on the work of that Committee over the past year.

3.3 The Committee noted that Councillor F Warby had taken over from Councillor Mrs Levack into the fourth year of the four year term as this Council's representative on the Suffolk Joint Local Area Agreement Scrutiny Panel, and made the following nominations to the other three Suffolk Joint Scrutiny Committees, which are required to be confirmed by full Council. The Committee

RECOMMENDS that full Council be asked to confirm the appointment of:-

- (a) **Councillor Beckwith to the Suffolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2010/2011;**
- (b) **Councillor Thorndyke to the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Policy Panel for 2010/2011 with Councillor Oliver as substitute member; and**
- (c) **Councillors Lockwood and Price to the Joint Scrutiny of Flooding and Flood Risk Working Party for 2010/2011.**

4. Environmental Health and Licensing Service Peer Challenge/Self Assessment

4.1 The Environmental Health and Licensing Service undertook a self-assessment and peer challenge of their services between December 2009 and April 2010. The Committee was apprised of the process undertaken, and the results arising, which had been included in an Improvement Plan for the Service, as well as individual targets being included in staff development plans. The feedback from the peer review had also become available on the day of the meeting, and this was discussed with Members.

4.2 The Improvement Plan arising from the review was discussed, and Members confirmed that it covered all the points which had become apparent during the review process.

5. Update on Councillor Calls for Action:-

- (a) **Stanton Grundle Flooding Remedial Action;**
- (b) **Road Safety in Bell Meadow, Bury St Edmunds;**
- (c) **Improving Resident Parking and Pedestrian Safety on the Howard and Mildenhall Road Estates, Bury St Edmunds; and**
- (d) **Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds: On-Street Parking.**

- 5.1 Cabinet will recall that full Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) hearings were held on two of the issues above, and initial submissions discussed on the other two. Although two of the issues had not been taken through to full hearing, recommendations had nevertheless arisen at the submission stage.
- 5.2 The Committee received updates on the current position with all four CCfAs. Regarding the Stanton Grundle, Councillor Thorndyke reminded Members that it had now been a year since this issue first came before the Committee, and he felt that in that year a lot had been achieved. Thanks to the dredging that had taken place, the Grundle now had more capacity to cope with the water which flowed through it, however, the final cure would not come until funding could be identified. It was reported that bids for funding had been unsuccessful, and officers would, therefore, continue to investigate other sources of funding, whilst continuing to clear build-ups of debris as necessary.
- 5.3 Regarding road safety in Bell Meadow, a speed survey had been conducted in the road as requested by the Committee, and the results showed that high speeds were not a significant issue in this road. The Committee now considered this CCfA to be closed.
- 5.4 Moving on to the recommendations following the hearing on the Howard and Mildenhall Road estates, a bid for funding to take forward some of the recommendations had been submitted but the outcome was not yet known.
- 5.5 Finally, regarding Skyliner Way On-Street Parking, the proposed changes to the parking management in the adopted section of the road had been approved for implementation, and the remainder of Skyliner Way was likely to be adopted in around 10 months' time, following which any additional parking issues could be considered.
- 5.6 Further updates on the CCfAs with outstanding recommendations will be brought to the Committee as information becomes available.

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