



Cabinet 1 December 2010

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 17 November 2010

1. Work Programme

- 1.1 The Committee considered the current position of the 2010/2011 work programme, including an early indication of the topics expected at the Committee's next meeting on 5 January 2011. Members were also advised of changes in the membership and frequency of meetings of the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Joint Scrutiny Panel.

2. Cabinet Forward Plan: November 2010 to February 2011

- 2.1 The Committee examined the Cabinet's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period November 2010 to February 2011, and discussed some of the expected reports, including amendments to current street trading and vending policies and the review of Article 4 Directions, but did not request any involvement at this time.

3. Follow-up report on use of Section 106 funding to support public transport provision in St Edmundsbury

- 3.1 Following a review of the Council's Section 106 approach by the Committee in September 2010, Members had asked for a further update on what the S.106 funding secured for public transport provision had been used for within the Borough. The Committee was pleased to welcome Phil Magill, Suffolk County Council's Transport, Planning and Procurement Manager, to the meeting.
- 3.2 Report B295 provided a table of the recent and current position with the S.106 funds held by Suffolk County Council for public transport purposes. The table showed that funding for public transport provision secured via S.106 funding had been mainly used for town bus and rural services in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill, and to support the new demand responsive scheme being set up in the south of the District. Mr Magill took Members' questions on the information provided, and in particular discussion took place on the difficulty of providing a service to the whole of the Moreton Hall estate in Bury St Edmunds, and at the same time hit all popular destinations.
- 3.3 The Committee noted that over the last few years significant community benefits and impact mitigations had been secured through the use of S.106 funds, with funds secured and spent/committed for public transport purposes in particular equating to £455,000.

4. West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Joint Committee

- 4.1 The establishment of a Joint Committee with Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) in March 2008 was to oversee the delivery of waste and street scene services in West Suffolk. The development of the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Partnership was reported to the Committee last year, and identified the significant developments and progress made in bringing the two Councils' operational services closer together.
- 4.2 The Committee received an update on progress made on the specific activities and initiatives that had been undertaken, as well as the priorities of the Partnership, and performance to date against planned actions and performance indicators. The Service Managers from both Councils were present at the meeting to take Members' questions.
- 4.3 Key areas of progress noted by the Committee included the implementation of an interim joint waste management structure, aimed at reducing duplication and saving officer time. The joint round review was discussed in detail, in particular the roll-out of new rounds in June 2010, and the savings and service improvements which had arisen as a result of the review.
- 4.4 On 22 October 2010, the Joint Waste Committee had recommended approval for a comprehensive joint street cleansing review. This review will build upon the successful joint waste collection project and will lead to benefits including increased efficiency and alignment of policies, as well as the joint procurement of major assets such as street sweepers.
- 4.5 Finally, the Committee considered performance against the national performance indicators and agreed targets, and discussed a number of these, including the positive performance with regard to graffiti and fly posting.
- 4.6 The Committee congratulated the waste teams of both Councils on the excellent results following the joint round review, and looked forward to seeing continued co-operation in the future.

5. Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds: Update on Councillor Call for Action

- 5.1 The current parking situation on Skyliner Way was considered by the Committee on 3 March 2010 as a Councillor Call for Action (CCfA), and by the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party on 16 March 2010. Although the road was quite wide, there were occasional difficulties for large vehicles in passing one another. Currently only the west end of the road was adopted, and parking restrictions had recently been implemented to create a passing place for large vehicles on this section.
- 5.2 In view of the short timescale since the restrictions were introduced, it was premature to reach any conclusions regarding their effectiveness. However, the remainder of the road was in the process of adoption, and both the Committee and the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party had agreed that the parking situation in the road should be reviewed once the adoption of the whole road was completed.
- 5.3 The introduction of significant waiting restrictions or the creation of additional parking on Skyliner Way was discussed by the Committee, however it was agreed

that this would be an issue for consideration once the review was undertaken, as it would be likely to displace more of the parking into the residential areas. Officers would continue to monitor the situation, and report back to both the Committee and Working Party as necessary.

6. Overview and Scrutiny Structure

- 6.1 The Committee considered a report which reviewed the structure of the Council's scrutiny committees. The report will be considered by all three scrutiny committees during October and November 2010, with comments and recommendations being brought to Cabinet and full Council in December.
- 6.2 The Council's current overview and scrutiny structure had been in place since 2002, and had been reviewed in the past with little change taking place other than the introduction of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee. In the current financial climate where all areas of the Council were being reviewed with regard to efficiency and reduction of bureaucracy it was considered an opportune time to reconsider the scrutiny structure.
- 6.3 Full details of options were included in Report B270, and the Committee made the same recommendation as the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee (PASC); namely support of Option 2, a scrutiny restructure with the removal of the Policy Development Committee and policy reviews being carried out by 'task and finish' groups of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. PASC's amendment to this option was also supported, with the budget responsibilities of Policy Development Committee (such as the Dynamic Review – Innovation, Value and Enterprise (DR-IVE) and Policy Based Budgeting) transferring to the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee rather than the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 6.4 The comments, suggestions and recommendations of all three scrutiny committees will be included in the final report to Cabinet and full Council in December 2010.

7. Quarter 2 Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications

- 7.1 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Directed Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources) Order 2010 requires that Members should scrutinise the authority's use of its surveillance powers on a quarterly basis. In June 2010 it was agreed that this requirement should be fulfilled by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 7.2 The Monitoring Officer had advised that there was only one directed surveillance authorisation in the second quarter of 2010/2011. The directed surveillance was to establish whether a benefit claimant was co-habiting. The result was that staff from the Revenue and Benefits Section obtained enough information to justify interviewing the claimant under caution.

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