



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

B504

Cabinet **16 March 2011**

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 2 March 2011

- 1. Update on the Impact of the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership (WSLSP) and Community Strategy**
- 1.1 The Committee is responsible for monitoring the Community Strategy and the development of the WSLSP and receives an Annual Report on the work of the LSP and its Community Strategy at its September meeting each year, followed by a six month update at its March meeting.
- 1.2 As part of this update Members discussed developments since the last Annual Report, including the progress of the shared services agenda with Forest Heath District Council, progress on projects funded during 2009, distribution of funding in 2010 and discussions which had been held on the future direction of the Partnership and its Community Strategy.
- 1.3 The Committee discussed the distribution of Performance Reward Grant funding during 2010 through the Community Chest. The funding was intended to provide grants of up to £2,000 to voluntary and community groups for very local projects, and the Partnership Fund, for which capital or revenue bids of up to £60,000 could be made. Appendices in the report set out the distribution of grants to successful projects. All revenue funding had now been allocated, and £26,000 of outstanding capital Community Chest funding and £209,400 of capital in the Partnership Fund was in the process of being allocated to projects which would provide a sustainable legacy for the WSLSP from which communities across the Partnership area would derive benefit on an ongoing basis.
- 1.4 Members also received an update on projects which received Partnership Funding in November 2009, and more detailed presentations were given on four of these by the Council's Substance Misuse Co-ordinator (on the SOS Bus) and Holden Cook from Bury Volunteer Centre (on Pathways to Progression, Integrating Community Engagement and the Flexibus).
- 1.5 Finally, Members discussed the future direction of the WSLSP, and opportunities identified by the LSP Board included working with other Suffolk LSPs to develop an 'offer' of core services, serving as a forum for the pooling and aligning of resources across the Partnership area, and facilitating the aims of the Big Society. The Committee concluded that the number of projects running was impressive, and that these continued to have a valuable positive impact on the area of the LSP, which now that they had been running for some time could be evidenced statistically. Concern was raised, however, that once the LSP's remaining funds

had been allocated, many of these projects may find it difficult to attract funding from other sources and some may therefore be unable to continue.

2. Stanton Grundle Flooding Remedial Action

- 2.1 Following the Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) considered initially in June 2009, regular checks had continued to be made of the Grundle, and clearance of the screens arranged as necessary. This would continue within the re-organised Engineering Section from 1 April 2011.
- 2.2 Currently no options for external funding of the necessary studies and works required for a permanent solution to the Grundle flooding issue had been identified. However, as the revised management and funding arrangements arising from the Flood and Water Management Act were implemented, it was likely that new funding streams would develop. Officers would monitor this, and submit bids as suitable opportunities arose. Until that time, the Committee felt that regular monitoring of this matter by the Committee was not necessary, unless the situation changed significantly, although an update on the funding position was requested for one year's time.
- 2.3 Councillor Beckwith took the opportunity to ask for an update on the CCfA that he had initiated, which had concerned on-street parking in Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds. Following consideration of this issue during 2010, both the Committee and the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party had taken the decision that the parking situation should be reviewed once the adoption of the whole road had been completed, and that the introduction of significant waiting restrictions or the creation of additional parking on Skyliner Way would be an issue for consideration following that adoption.
- 2.4 Councillor Beckwith considered that the conclusions detailed in 2.3 above were unsatisfactory and felt that it should be reviewed again immediately. However, this was now an issue for the County Council, which was unwilling to take it forward until after the adoption of the remainder of the road. The Council's Engineer undertook to make the County Council aware of Councillor Beckwith's continuing concerns with this issue.

3. Cabinet Forward Plan/Work Programme

- 3.1 The Committee considered the Cabinet's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period March to June 2011, but did not request any involvement at this time.
- 3.2 Turning to its own work programme, the Committee discussed the current position of the 2010/2011 work programme, including the topics expected at the Committee's next meeting on 20 April 2011.

- 3.3 Following consideration of an issue regarding the provision of fixed play facilities in the Borough at the Committee's meeting in January 2011, a Member/officer task and finish group was set up to look into this issue with officers. Cabinet will recall that when the report for information was discussed with the Chairman, Cabinet had suggested that the terms of reference of this review should be widened to cover all relevant aspects of the forthcoming asset management review of leisure facilities. The Cabinet's proposal was put to the Committee and the Committee has decided to initially run the fixed play facilities investigation as a separate exercise, but that either the same task and finish group, or one re-appointed by the new Committee in June 2011, would then undertake the leisure facilities asset management review, and any recommendations from the fixed play facilities investigation would feed into that wider review.

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