



## **Cabinet** **27 April 2011**

### **Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 20 April 2011**

#### **1. Annual Report of the Cabinet 2010/2011 and Corporate Plan 2011/2012**

- 1.1 The Leader attended this meeting of the Committee, and presented the Cabinet's Annual Report for 2010/2011. The report reviewed the work of the Cabinet during 2010/2011, however, the Committee was advised that, unlike previous years, the Annual Report did not set out the commitments and key activities for the next year, as this would be the responsibility of the new administration following the Borough Council elections on 5 May 2011. Similarly, there were sections of the Corporate Plan which could not be updated until after the elections.
- 1.2 The Committee examined the document in detail, questioning the Leader on the report's contents, including discussions on the shared services project, the importance of Staff and Councillor training, the Local Development Framework, future housing provision in the Borough, the impact of The Apex and engagement with young people.
- 1.3 The Committee expressed its broad support for the document and looked forward to seeing the final document, including the new administration's priorities for 2011/2012 and the completion of the Corporate Plan, following the Borough Council elections.

#### **2. Cabinet Forward Plan**

- 2.1 The Committee considered the Cabinet's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period April to July 2011, but did not request any involvement at this time.

#### **3. Monitoring the West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership**

- 3.1 The Committee received its annual update on the progress of the West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) from 1 April 2010 to date. It is the duty of the Committee, as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee designated under the Police and Justice Act 2006, to scrutinise the work of the Partnership.
- 3.2 The Council's Community Safety Officer, Helen Lindfield, introduced the report, and updated Members on the progress of the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) co-located team, the work of the WSCSP during 2010/2011 and future funding and structure arrangements for CSPs in Suffolk from 2011 onwards. The ASB co-located team had now been in place since October 2010, and details of the work of this multi-agency team, and police statistics, were provided to Members.

- 3.3 The Committee was also updated on the Strategic Assessment of the Partnership, which identified areas of concern for the WSCSP which would be incorporated into its 2011/2012 Partnership Plan. As the majority of the areas of concern were the same as previous years, many of the projects commissioned were continuations of existing projects, which had a proven track record of achieving good results. More in-depth details of three specific projects were provided to Members.
- 3.4 Finally, the future funding and re-structure of CSPs across the County was discussed. During 2010/2011 all CSPs had seen a 50% cut in capital funding; during 2011/2012 no capital funding would be made available and there would be a 20% reduction in revenue against a baseline of the 2010 allocation; in 2012/2013 there would be a further cut of 40% against the 2010 baseline allocation. In 2010/2011 the WSCSP had revenue of £197K; for 2011/2012 the WSCSP would be allocated £106K, and for 2012/2013 this could be as low as £50K.
- 3.5 The structures around CSPs in Suffolk were currently being reviewed, and options for future working were being analysed, including the merging of the Police and County CSPs, and a reduction in the number of CSPs across Suffolk. Changes should be in place in time for implementation on 1 April 2012.
- 3.6 Discussions were held on a number of elements of the report, including anti-social behaviour, the selling of alcohol to minors, problems with drug taking in Bury St Edmunds, the reduction in funding to the Partnership and the high number of cautions given for some crimes. The Committee was asked if it wished to receive an update report once more detail was known on the future funding and structure of CSPs across the County, but felt that this was something which should be requested by the newly appointed Committee following the Borough Council elections, should it wish to receive this information.

#### **4. Quarter 3 Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The Monitoring Officer had advised that in Quarter 4 there were two directed surveillance authorisations. Both were observations regarding suspected undeclared co-habitees. Surveillance was discontinued in one case after observations produced no evidence to justify interviewing the claimant. The other had now been cancelled because enough evidence was found to justify an Interview Under Caution.

#### **5. Work Programme**

- 5.1 This was the final meeting of the Committee for 2010/2011, and the 2010/2011 work programme was completed at this meeting.

- 5.2 Turning to plans for setting the 2011/2012 work programme, the Committee was advised that the Chairman and Vice Chairman felt it would be appropriate to set a work programme for the first six months of 2011/2012, to allow the newly appointed Committee following the Borough Council elections to get used to the way scrutiny worked, following which it would set the remainder of the work programme itself.
- 5.3 During February 2011, forms to suggest items for scrutiny review had been circulated to all Members and senior officers. One form had been returned by a Member, and two by officers. There was therefore no need for the Committee to carry out an analysis and ranking of the suggestions, particularly as two of the suggestions were more appropriate for the latter end of the work programme.
- 5.4 Taking into account work already planned, and the one new suggestion which could be considered in the first half of the new civic year, the Committee recommended a draft work programme to the new Committee for June to October 2011. The new Committee would be asked to adopt this work programme at its first meeting in July 2011, and shortly afterwards would ask Members and officers to suggest items for the second half of the work programme.
- 5.5 The Committee was also advised of the three-module scrutiny training workshops to be offered in June, September and November 2011. The first session would take the place of the June Committee meeting, so that by the time of the Committee's first meeting in July, most new Members should have received basic training in the role and responsibilities of scrutiny.

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