



Cabinet 23 November 2011

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 12 October 2011

1. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 1.1 The Committee considered the Cabinet's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period October to January 2012, but did not request any further information or involvement in any of the expected decisions on this occasion.

2. 2011/2012 Work Programme: Update

- 2.1 The Committee reviewed the current position of its work programme for 2011/2012 and noted the items which were expected at the next meeting of the Committee on 16 November 2011.
- 2.2 Four Task and Finish Groups were currently running, with others in the pipeline, as follows:-

Recommendations reported at this meeting:

1. Leisure Facilities Asset Management.

Due to report recommendations at the November meeting:

2. Review of Blue Badge Holder Parking.
3. Conservation Area Policy.

Due to commence following a report to the November meeting:

4. Licensing, planning and enforcement of street signage.

Due to commence before the end of the year:

5. Universal coverage of Broadband in St Edmundsbury.

Continuing into the New Year:

6. Litter collection and litter/dog bin distribution.

Commencing in the New Year:

7. Commitment to and expectations of the new Health Agenda.

- 2.3 In addition, some Members had indicated that they would be bringing "suggestion for scrutiny" forms to future meetings of the Committee on a variety of issues.

3. Framework for development of the new Corporate Plan and Priorities

- 3.1 A review of the corporate plan and priorities is necessary due to a number of factors, including increased focus on localism and the ending of the Council's major capital programme, as well as budget limitations.
- 3.2 Members considered a report which set out a framework for developing the new corporate priorities, and planned consultation with local people, Ward Councillors, staff and senior managers, and were asked to make suggestions as necessary for how the corporate plan and priorities could be developed.
- 3.3 The new corporate plan would be viewed as a short to medium term document for delivering Vision 2031. Engagement with Councillors and staff would be through interactive sessions, and with the public and partners through the existing consultation processes on Vision 2031 and the budget.
- 3.4 The Committee agreed that the consultation process and timescale as set out in the report were appropriate, and did not recommend any revisions to these plans.

4. Review of free parking for blue badge holders

- 4.1 As stated in 2.2 above, the Task and Finish Group working on the review of free parking for blue badge holders is due to present its recommendations to the November 2011 meeting of the Committee. However, Members had requested a progress report to be brought to the October 2011 meeting.
- 4.2 The Task and Finish Group of three Members plus officers had met to develop options for consultation, which had been sent to over 30 local disability groups seeking their comments. A question had also been included on the Council's budget consultation circulated to 2,000 households regarding whether the introduction of charges would be supported, and focus groups had been held with 12 groups of residents and parish councils.
- 4.3 Consultation responses were being analysed, and would be reflected in the recommendations expected at the next meeting of the Committee. Members of the Task and Finish Group were also due to visit Waveney District Council, which had recently introduced charges, in order to learn the rationale behind their decision and the lessons learnt from implementation.

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