

Cabinet

10 September 2013

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 17 July 2013

1. Quarter 1 Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications

- 1.1 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. The Monitoring Officer advised that in Quarter 1, no such surveillance had been authorised.

2. Decision Plan: July 2013 to May 2014

- 2.1 Members considered the latest Decision Plan, covering the period July 2013 to May 2014. Clarification was sought on two items on the Plan, these being the latest position with regard to the future Seasonal Park and Ride for Bury St Edmunds and the Street Vending Policy in relation to the Committee's recommendations from its A-Board review.
- 2.2 Members were advised that the Seasonal Park and Ride had not been presented to Cabinet in July but had been progressed under the Chief Executive's urgency powers due to the short timeframe to implement the scheme in time for the Christmas Fair.
- 2.3 The Committee discussed the use of the urgency powers, specifically the safeguards in place to prevent the powers from being over used for expediency reasons and suggested that when the urgency powers were used, more detail should be provided to Councillors at the time of the decision and in the report presented to Cabinet or full Council.
- 2.4 Officers agreed to provide more detail in relation to the Seasonal Park and Ride for Bury St Edmunds when it was reported to full Council, and the urgency powers would be looked at as part of the next review of the Constitution.
- 2.5 Members were also advised that the A-Boards Policy was part of the Street Vending Policy which was currently out to consultation.
- 2.6 The Committee did not request any further information or involvement in any of the current planned decisions.

3. Work Programme Update and Proposals for Scrutiny

- 3.1 The Committee now has a rolling work programme, whereby suggestions for scrutiny reviews are brought to each meeting, and if accepted, are timetabled to report to a future meeting. The work programme also leaves space for Call-ins and Councillor Calls for Action. Members reviewed the current position of the work programme, and noted the items which were expected at the next meetings of the Committee.
- 3.2 The Committee reviewed the Task and Finish Group which was currently running and noted that the Joint Task and Finish Group to review new housing development sites across West Suffolk would commence its review shortly. Members also discussed the general principle for carrying out joint scrutiny and resolved that wherever the subject matter was common and relevant to both districts, the Committee makes and considers invitations from Forest Heath District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to carry out joint scrutiny reviews for West Suffolk.
- 3.3 Finally, the Committee considered a suggestion for scrutiny form concerning 'the feasibility of a rail link between Haverhill and Cambridge'.
- 3.4 A lengthy debate on the issue was held and taking into account the information provided by Councillor Cox and officers the Committee resolved to invite representatives of external organisations to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss future proposals around regional transport in West Suffolk, specifically links between Cambridge and Haverhill.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Cabinet is requested to **NOTE** the contents of this report.

(Note: As the agenda and papers for this Cabinet meeting have been distributed prior to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 September 2013 and as no recommendations are expected from that meeting for Cabinet's consideration, the general information report for noting relating to that meeting will be on the next Cabinet agenda.)

Contacts:

Ian Houlder, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, (01284-810074)
Diane Hind, Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, (01284-706542)
Christine Brain, Scrutiny Officer, (01638-719729)