



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

B547

Council 5 April 2011

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

*Written report by Cllr David Lockwood
Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

This report covers the meeting of the Committee held on 2 March 2011.

1. Progress on the Cultural Strategy

- 1.1 Following the former Policy Development Committee's recommended approval of a new Cultural Strategy in March 2009, on 2 March 2011 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the achievements of the Strategy against each of the Council's Corporate Priorities.
- 1.2 Members discussed a number of these achievements and the benefits to the community which had arisen from them. The Committee was pleased to see how much had been achieved under the Strategy across the whole Borough, and that such a diverse range of activities and projects had been undertaken.
- 1.3 The Committee recommended that the future work on the Council's Cultural Strategy should be incorporated into the Master Planning process, and carried out in partnership with Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) where appropriate. The Committee will continue to be involved in work on renewing the Cultural Strategy elements of the Master Plans, as the Committee resolved that its Cultural Strategy Working Group continue to work with officers and the Portfolio Holder on future options for the delivery of the Council's leisure services.

2. Update on the Impact of the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership (WSLSP) and Community Strategy

- 2.1 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.

- 2.2 As part of this update Members discussed developments since the last Annual Report, including the progress of the shared services agenda with FHDC, progress on projects funded during 2009, distribution of funding in 2010, and the future direction of the Partnership and its Community Strategy.
- 2.3 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 Borough 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).
- 2.4 Again the Committee praised the impressive number of projects running, the impact of which could now be evidenced. 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.

3. Stanton Grundle Flooding Remedial Action

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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, 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.
- 3.3 Councillor Beckwith took the opportunity to ask for an update on his CCfA under this item, which had concerned on-street parking in Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds as he was unhappy to wait until the adoption of the whole road before reviewing the matter. 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 Borough Council's Engineer undertook to make the County Council aware of Councillor Beckwith's continuing concerns with this issue.

4. Provision of Fixed Play Facilities in the Borough/Leisure Facilities Asset Management Review

- 4.1 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. When this was discussed with Cabinet, 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.

4.2 The Committee saw the value in its involvement in this larger review, but decided to initially run the fixed play facilities investigation as a separate piece of work. 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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