


Council



Title	Agenda
Date	Tuesday 20 June 2023
Time	7.00 pm
Venue	Conference Chamber West Suffolk House Western Way Bury St Edmunds
Membership	All Councillors You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to transact the business on the agenda set out below.  Ian Gallin Chief Executive 12 June 2023
Interests – declaration and restriction on participation	Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest not entered in the authority's register or other registrable interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda (subject to the exception for sensitive information) and to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on an item in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.
Quorum	One third of the Council (22 members)
Committee administrator	Claire Skoyles Democratic Services Officer Telephone 01284 757176 Email democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk

Venue	Conference Chamber, West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds
Contact information	Telephone: 01284 757176 Email: democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk Website: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk
Access to agenda and reports before the meeting	The agenda and reports will be available to view at least five clear days before the meeting on our website.
Attendance at meetings	<p>This meeting is being held in person in order to comply with the Local Government Act 1972. We may be required to restrict the number of members of the public able to attend in accordance with the room capacity. If you consider it is necessary for you to attend, please inform Democratic Services in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>As a local authority, we have a corporate and social responsibility for the safety of our staff, our councillors and visiting members of the public. We therefore request that you exercise personal responsibility and do not attend the meeting if you feel at all unwell.</p> <p>West Suffolk Council continues to promote good hygiene practices with hand sanitiser and wipes being available in the meeting room. Attendees are also able to wear face coverings, should they wish to.</p>
Public participation	<p>Members of the public who live or work in the district may put questions about the work of the Council or make statements on items on the agenda to members of the Cabinet or any committee. A total of 30 minutes will be set aside for this with each person limited to asking one question or making one statement within a maximum time allocation of five minutes. 30 minutes will also be set aside for questions at extraordinary meetings of the Council, but must be limited to the business to be transacted at that meeting.</p> <p>The Constitution allows that a person who wishes to speak must register at least 15 minutes before the time the meeting is scheduled to start. We urge anyone who wishes to register to speak to notify Democratic Services by 9am on the day of the meeting so that advice can be given on the arrangements in place.</p>
Accessibility	If you have any difficulties in accessing the meeting, the agenda and accompanying reports, including for reasons of a disability or a protected characteristic, please contact Democratic Services at the earliest opportunity using the

	contact details provided above in order that we may assist you.
Recording of meetings	<p>The Council may record this meeting and permits members of the public and media to record or broadcast it as well (when the media and public are not lawfully excluded).</p> <p>Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Committee Administrator who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.</p>
Personal information	<p>Any personal information processed by West Suffolk Council arising from a request to speak at a public meeting under the Localism Act 2011, will be protected in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. For more information on how we do this and your rights in regards to your personal information and how to access it, visit our website: https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/Council/Data_and_information/howweuseinformation.cfm or call Customer Services: 01284 763233 and ask to speak to the Information Governance Officer.</p>

Agenda

Procedural matters

- | | Pages |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Minutes | 1 - 16 |
| To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 21 March 2023 and 23 May 2023 (copies attached). | |
| 2. Chair's announcements | 17 - 18 |
| To receive announcements (if any) from the Chair. | |
| A list of civic events/engagements attended by the Chair and Vice-Chair since their election at the Annual Meeting of Council held on 23 May 2023 are attached . | |
| 3. Apologies for absence | |
| To receive announcements (if any) from the officer advising the Chair (including apologies for absence). | |
| 4. Declarations of interests | |
| Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registrable interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached and to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item. | |

Part 1 – public

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|---|----------------|
| 5. Leader's statement | 19 - 22 |
| Paper number: COU/WS/23/009 | |
| Council Procedure Rules 8.1 to 8.3. The Leader will submit a report (the Leader's Statement) summarising important developments and activities since the preceding meeting of the council. | |
| Members may ask the Leader questions on the content of both his introductory remarks and the written statement itself. | |
| A total of 30 minutes will be allowed for questions and responses. There will be a limit of five minutes for each question to be asked and answered. A supplementary question arising from the reply may be asked so long as the five minute limit is not exceeded. | |
| 6. Public participation | |
| Council Procedure Rules Section 6. Members of the public who live or work in the district may put questions about the work of the council or make statements on items on the agenda to | |

members of the Cabinet or any committee.

(Note: The maximum time to be set aside for this item is 30 minutes, but if all questions/statements are dealt with sooner, or if there are no questions/statements, the Council will proceed to the next business.)

Each person may ask **one** question or make **one** statement only. A total of **five minutes will be allowed for the question to be put and answered or the statement made.** If a question is raised, one supplementary question will be allowed provided that it **arises directly from the reply and the overall time limit of five minutes is not exceeded.**

If a statement is made, then the Chair may allow the Leader of the Council, or other member to whom they refer the matter, a right of reply.

The Constitution allows that a person who wishes to speak must register at least 15 minutes before the time the meeting is scheduled to start. **We urge anyone who wishes to register to speak to notify Democratic Services by 9am on the day of the meeting so that advice can be given on the arrangements in place.**

As an alternative to addressing the meeting in person, **written questions** may be submitted by members of the public to the Monitoring Officer **no later than 10am on Monday 19 June 2023.** The written notification should **detail the full question** to be asked at the meeting of the Council.

7. Referrals report of recommendations from Cabinet

There are no referrals emanating from the last meeting of Cabinet held on 11 April 2023.

8. Annual Scrutiny Report 2022 to 2023

23 - 30

Paragraph 7.5.1 of Article 7 of the Council's Constitution requires that:

'The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee must report annually to the Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate'.

Report number: **COU/WS/23/010**

9. Independent Remuneration Panel appointment process

Report number: **COU/WS/23/011 TO FOLLOW**

10. Constitution Review Group

Report number: **COU/WS/23/012 TO FOLLOW**

11. Any other urgent business

To consider any business, which by reason of special circumstances, should in the opinion of the Chair be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Part 2 – exempt

None

Council



Minutes of a meeting of the **Council** held on **Tuesday 21 March 2023** at **7.00 pm** in the **Conference Chamber, West Suffolk House**, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present

Councillors

Chair Mike Chester

Vice Chair John Augustine

Richard Alecock	Pat Hanlon	David Roach
Michael Anderson	Diane Hind	Richard Rout
Mick Bradshaw	Ian Houlder	Marion Rushbrook
Sarah Broughton	Paul Hopfensperger	Ian Shipp
Carol Bull	Beccy Hopfensperger	Andrew Smith
John Burns	Victor Lukaniuk	David Smith
Patrick Chung	Birgitte Mager	Clive Springett
Max Clarke	Margaret Marks	Sarah Stamp
Nick Clarke	Sara Mildmay-White	Lance Stanbury
Dawn Dicker	Andy Neal	Peter Stevens
Roger Dicker	Robert Nobbs	Peter Thompson
Andy Drummond	Colin Noble	Jim Thorndyke
Robert Everitt	David Palmer	Don Waldron
Stephen Frost	Sarah Pugh	Cliff Waterman
Susan Glossop	Joanna Rayner	Phil Wittam
	Karen Richardson	

274. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(Councillor Karen Richardson arrived during the consideration of this item.)

275. Chair's announcements (Paper number: COU/WS/23/005)

The Chair drew members' attention to Paper number: COU/WS/23/005, which formally gave recognition to current and former members of the Council.

As this was the last Council meeting ahead of the elections on 4 May 2023, the Chair took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank members for their contribution to the work of West Suffolk Council and their dedicated service to the community.

The Chair also paid tribute to Councillors David Gathercole, Jim Meikle and John Smith who had sadly passed away during this first administration of West Suffolk Council.

Following the election, the Chair would be inviting all non-returning members from the current administration to a reception at West Suffolk House on 11 May 2023 at 6.30pm.

The Chair then reported on the civic engagements and charity activities which he and the Vice-Chair had attended since the last ordinary meeting of Council on 21 February 2023.

Attention was particularly drawn to an event scheduled for 9 March 2023, which was to unveil a new painting at Palace House, Newmarket. Unfortunately, this engagement was cancelled due to bad weather.

(Councillor Marion Rushbrook arrived during the consideration of this item.)

276. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Trevor Beckwith, Tony Brown, Simon Cole, Jason Crooks, John Griffiths, Brian Harvey, Rachel Hood, James Lay, Aaron Luccarini, Joe Mason, David Nettleton, Karen Soons and Julia Wakelam.

Councillor Simon Brown was also unable to attend the meeting.

277. **Declarations of interests**

Members' declarations of interest are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

278. **Leader's statement (Paper number: COU/WS/23/006)**

In the absence of Councillor John Griffiths, Leader of the Council, Councillor Joanna Rayner, one of the Deputy Leaders, presented the Leader's Statement on Councillor Griffiths' behalf, as outlined in paper number: COU/WS/23/006.

In her introductory remarks, Councillor Rayner:

- a. **Recognition:** paid tribute to all members, staff and to Councillor Griffiths for his leadership during the first four years of West Suffolk Council. Councillor Rayner placed her thanks on record for the hard work and dedication of the aforementioned in helping to deliver successes for the benefit of communities across the district despite living in challenging times.
- b. **Mildenhall Hub:** referenced Report number: OAS/WS/23/003, which was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee on 9 March 2023. This report provided details of a post-implementation review that had been undertaken on whether the Mildenhall Hub had met its ten objectives. Councillor Rayner emphasised that not only had the objectives been met, but all had been surpassed. She thanked members of the O&S Committee for their scrutiny of the report and for their recommendations which would be presented to Cabinet for consideration in due course. Recognition was also given to the former

Forest Heath members who began the process for creating the, now nationally award winning, Mildenhall Hub.

- c. **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF):** provided an update on the Council's distribution of its share of the Government's UKSPF. The funding provided in the first year of its three-year total allocation of £1,943,467 had been given or allocated to more than thirty initiatives across West Suffolk.
- d. **Environment:** congratulated winners of the West Suffolk area in Suffolk County Council's Creating the Greenest County 2023 Awards; including how tackling climate change and making improvements to the environment required commitment from partners, organisations, businesses and individuals alike. The West Suffolk winners and the schools taking part in the anti-idling campaign were examples of where this commitment was being positively demonstrated.
- e. **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF):** provided details of the forthcoming Government funded HAF programme that would be taking place over the Easter holiday period.
- f. **850th Anniversary of The Battle of Fornham:** explained that together with The Battlefields Trust All Saints Hotel, activities would be put on at Moyse's Hall Museum and West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village to encourage people to learn more about the national significance of this part of history.

The Deputy Leader responded to a range of questions relating to:

- a. **Supplementary questions:** that working within the requirements of the Council Procedure Rules contained in Part 4 of the Constitution, it was not always possible for public speakers to be given the opportunity to ask a supplementary question arising from the reply to their question. The response given depended on the level of detail required to fully answer the question. Whilst a maximum time allocation of five minutes for the question to be put and answered was a requirement of the Procedure Rules, it was at the Chair's discretion to allow a supplementary question if the maximum time allocation had already been reached by the time the original question had been put and answered.
- b. **Recognition of fellow councillors, staff and achievements made:** some members wished to place their thanks on record to fellow councillors and specifically to the Cabinet and committee Chairs for their work over the last four years, with particular recognition given to the tireless efforts made to improve the lives for the residents they represented regardless of political affiliation. Recognition was also given to the officers and staff of West Suffolk Council who continued to deliver excellent services, going above and beyond in many circumstances, especially during the pandemic. The achievements of West Suffolk Council in the last four years were also recognised.

Councillor Rayner wholeheartedly agreed with the sentiments raised and in response to a specific question in relation to the achievements of the Council, she stated that she was very proud of the achievements made to date and work was still ongoing to progress some areas as the Council moved into its new administration. It was hoped these would be taken forward with the same enthusiasm and energy as previously demonstrated.

- c. **Markets:** Following his own personal recognition of fellow councillors, staff, partners and volunteers, together with demonstrating his support for the additional train stops at Kennett Station, Councillor Ian Shipp asked the following two-part question in connection with the markets:
- i. That following the successes of the pilot Makers Markets and their return to Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill and Newmarket, whether there were any plans to be rolled out to the rural markets in Mildenhall, Brandon and Clare.
 - ii. That following the Markets Review undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2022 and the subsequent approval of the recommendations by Cabinet in July 2022, what the current position was in respect of the actions identified to be taken forward as a result of the review.

A written response would be provided following the meeting by Councillor Rayner. In accordance with the Constitution, this response would be circulated to all members and published on the Council's website.

279. **Public participation**

The following members of the public spoke under this agenda item:

1. **Aaron Leeves**, a resident in the district, asked a question in connection with so-called '20 minute neighbourhoods' that were being trialled in towns in various parts of the country. It was asked whether West Suffolk Council was also going to trial a '20 minute neighbourhood' in any of the district's towns.

In response, Councillor Andy Drummond, Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Environment, first drew attention to a document produced by the Town and Country Planning Association which provided guidance to local authorities on planning for climate change. He urged attendees to read the document.

He then responded to the question firstly by reinforcing West Suffolk Council's commitment to addressing the challenge of climate change. That commitment was very transparent through the Council's declaration of a climate emergency and the production of an action plan. The annual monitoring of the action plan, together with the Council's environmental performance was reported to Cabinet with the papers published on the Council's website.

The action plan stated the need to address travel and transport emissions through a range of measures; however, the evaluation or rolling out of 20-minute neighbourhoods was not featured.

West Suffolk Council was also a partner in the Suffolk-wide Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan. This Plan also recognised the need to address transport emissions and means by which these could be reduced. As Suffolk was a very rural county, this would be challenging; however, there were currently no plans for 20-minute neighbourhoods across Suffolk.

2. **Robert Seys**, a resident in the district, provided a statement in the lead up to his question. He expressed concern regarding a number of issues relating to global sign ups to Agenda 21, Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals Programme. On a local level, he felt that the infrastructure was not in place to support the so-called '20-minute neighbourhood' zones. The specific question related to the Council's understanding of the origins of Agenda 21, Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals Programme.

In response, Councillor Drummond reiterated the various policy approaches there had been to addressing environmental challenges. The references made by Mr Seys related to international approaches. The UK Government had put in place its own policies which directed the work of the Council. All this information was publicly available.

3. **Ian Smith**, a resident in the district, expressed concern that West Suffolk Council had signed up to the UK100 organisation, which as a member included pledging 'to deliver a Net Zero future'. Mr Smith asked whether the Council supported the implementation of restrictive traffic measures in Bury St Edmunds or other towns in Suffolk. He urged members not to implement a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN), otherwise known as a '20-minute neighbourhood' or a '15-minute city'.

In response, Councillor Drummond reiterated the reply he had given earlier to Mr Leeves and hoped that this had addressed his concern regarding '20-minute neighbourhoods' and restrictive measures. The Council joined the UK100 organisation last year in order to confirm their commitment to Net Zero and to work with other councils to help achieve this. Councillor Drummond added that Suffolk County Council was the Highways Authority and no '20-minute neighbourhoods' had not been set out in their Local Transport Plan, which covered the period 2011 to 2031.

4. **Geoff Mealing**, a resident in the district, provided some background to the use of digital currencies and so-called Digital Concentration Camps, and his views on what he felt were the potential impacts of their implementation. He specifically asked whether the Council knew anything about Digital Concentration Camps and whether the Council would be a part of it.

In response, Councillor Robert Everitt, Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities stated that the Council was not aware of this issue and thanked Mr Mealing for bringing the matter to members' attention.

4. **Ellie De Pasquale**, a resident in the district, provided a statement in the lead up to her question. She gave her views on what she felt were the potential impacts of 5G emissions on human health, the environment and biodiversity. She specifically asked what health and safety risk assessments

and environmental impact assessments had been done before installation of the 5G communication masts in Bury St Edmunds. Concern was particularly expressed regarding exposure to, in her view, potentially harmful levels of radiation emitted from the 5G towers.

In response, Councillor David Roach, Portfolio Holder for Planning, stated that applicants were required to self-certify that the levels of exposure to radiation met international recognised guidelines as stated in paragraph 117 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Councillor Roach quoted this paragraph to those present.

In response to an additional question regarding the exchange of sources of information relating to this matter, Ms De Pasquale was advised to email Councillor Roach directly outside of the meeting.

No further questions were asked. The Chair concluded this item and invited the members of the public present to remain in the meeting to observe the following agenda items should they wish to do so.

280. Referrals report of recommendations from Cabinet

Council noted that there were no referrals emanating from the Cabinet meeting held on 14 March 2023.

281. Pay Policy Statement 2023 to 2024 (Report number: COU/WS/23/007)

Council considered this report, which sought approval for the Pay Policy Statement 2023 to 2024.

The Localism Act 2011 and supporting guidance provided details of matters that must be included in this statutory pay policy, but, also, emphasised that each local authority had the autonomy to take its own decisions on pay and pay policies. The Pay Policy Statement must be approved formally by Council each year. The statement could be amended in year, must be published on the Council's website and must be complied with when setting the terms and conditions of Chief Officers.

Set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report, were details of what was included in the Pay Policy Statement 2023 to 2024, which was attached at Appendix A.

Councillor Carol Bull, Portfolio Holder for Governance, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council.

On the motion of Councillor Bull, seconded by Councillor Sara Mildmay-White, it was put to the vote and with the vote being 44 for the motion, none against and four abstentions, it was

Resolved:

That the Pay Policy Statement for 2023 to 2024, as contained in Appendix A to Report number COU/WS/23/007, be approved.

282. **West Suffolk Council Constitution - proposed amendments (Report number: COU/WS/23/008)**

Council considered this report, which sought approval for amendments to the two areas of the Constitution.

The Constitution Review Group periodically met to review the effectiveness of the Constitution, identifying any areas that could be developed further to improve the way the Council made decisions, ensuring that processes were efficient and transparent.

The Group met on 8 February 2023 and considered two areas recommended for amendment:

- Part 4; Council Procedure Rules
- Part 4; Scrutiny Committees Procedure Rules

The specific amendments proposed were summarised in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 of the report, with each clearly laid out as tracked changes in Appendices 1 and 2 attached to the report.

Councillor Carol Bull, Portfolio Holder for Governance, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council. This included, as proposer of the substantive motion, proposing an additional change to one of the suggested amendments to the Scrutiny Committees Procedure Rules, as follows:

Referring to paragraph 2.3 of the report (paragraph 1.3 of Appendix 2), the following additional text, shown in bold, was proposed in addition to the suggested revised wording, as indicated below:

- (n) *To appoint one member of the Committee to act as the Council's representative on the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee **who will report their findings back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee** and to appoint one member of the Committee as a substitute member on the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee.*

On the motion of Councillor Bull, seconded by Councillor Jim Thorndyke, it was put to the vote and with the vote being 46 for the motion, none against and two abstentions, it was

Resolved:

That:

1. The revised wording for Part 4; Council Procedure Rules (as set out in paragraphs 1.1.4; 1.2 and 1.3 of Appendix 1 to Report number COU/WS/23/008), be approved.
2. The revised wording, as amended to include the additional text shown below, for Part 4; Scrutiny Committees Procedure Rules (as set out in Section A; Overview and Scrutiny Committee; paragraph 1.3 of Appendix 2 to Report number COU/WS/23/008), be approved:

- (n) *To appoint one member of the Committee to act as the Council's representative on the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee **who will report their findings back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee** and **to** appoint one member of the Committee as a substitute member on the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee.*

283. **Any other urgent business**

There were no matters of urgent business considered on this occasion.

The meeting concluded at 8.06 pm

Signed by:

Chair

Annual Council

Minutes of the **Annual Meeting of Council** held on **Tuesday 23 May 2023** at **7.00 pm** in the **Conference Chamber, West Suffolk House**, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present **Councillors**

Chair Mike Chester

Vice Chair John Augustine

Richard Alecock	Janne Jarvis	Marion Rushbrook
Peter Armitage	Gerald Kelly	Jools Savage
Mick Bradshaw	Rowena Lindberg	Marilyn Sayer
Sarah Broughton	Jon London	Ian Shipp
Tony Brown	Aaron Luccarini	Andrew Smith
Carol Bull	Victor Lukaniuk	David Smith
Patrick Chung	Charlie Lynch	Liz Smith
Nick Clarke	Birgitte Mager	Karen Soons
Dawn Dicker	Margaret Marks	Andrew Speed
Roger Dicker	Andrew Martin	Sarah Stamp
Andy Drummond	Joe Mason	Frank Stennett
Paul Firman	Lora-Jane Miller-	David Taylor
Susan Glossop	Jones	Jim Thorndyke
John Griffiths	Sara Mildmay-White	Julia Wakelam
Luke Halpin	Andy Neal	Don Waldron
Pat Hanlon	Sue Perry	Cliff Waterman
Donna Higgins	Sarah Pugh	Tracy Whitehand
Diane Hind	Joanna Rayner	Indy Wijenayaka
Ian Houlder	Karen Richardson	Phil Wittam
Beccy Hopfensperger	Richard Rout	Kevin Yarrow

284. **Remembrance and welcome**

Before commencing business, and as was custom and practice out of respect to late members of West Suffolk Council and the predecessor councils, all members were asked to stand and observe a minute's silence in remembrance of former St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor Paul Farmer MBE who had sadly died recently. The Chair made a statement of condolence, reflecting on the late councillor's contribution during his time on the Council.

The Chair then welcomed new and returning members to West Suffolk Council's first meeting of the new administration. He then acknowledged the work of the outgoing councillors and paid tribute to Councillor John Griffiths MBE for his 20-year leadership of the Council, acknowledging Councillor Griffiths' remarkable dedication and commitment to the role.

285. Election of Chair of the Council for 2023 to 2024

The outgoing Chair called for nominations for the election of Chair of the Council for the 2023 to 2024 civic year.

Councillor Diane Hind nominated Councillor Roger Dicker.

There being no other nominations, the nomination was put to the vote and with the vote being unanimous, the outgoing Chair

Declared:

That Councillor Roger Dicker be elected Chair of West Suffolk Council for the 2023 to 2024 civic year.

The retiring Chair acknowledged his year in office which included paying tribute to fellow councillors, officers and the work of the volunteers in the community. Special recognition was given to his consort; Ruth Pusterla, Personal Assistant to the Civic Office and to Councillor John Augustine, Vice Chair for 2022 to 2023.

Before inviting Councillor Dicker to take the chair, Councillor Chester removed the Chain of Office and placed it on Councillor Dicker. The incoming Chair then signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office before passing to the Monitoring Officer for her signature.

286. Chair's announcements

The Chair acknowledged his forthcoming year in office, which included thanking fellow councillors for his appointment and very much welcomed the opportunity to represent West Suffolk at events in the ensuing year.

The Chair then recognised the work of the retiring Chair, Councillor Mike Chester, for his outstanding contribution and dedicated service to the Council during his term of office in 2022 to 2023.

The Chair then presented Councillor Chester with his Past Chair's Badge.

287. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rachel Hood and Richard O'Driscoll.

Councillor Michael Anderson was also unable to attend the meeting.

288. Election of Vice Chair of the Council for 2023 to 2024

The Chair called for nominations for the election of Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

Councillor Phil Wittam nominated Councillor Pat Hanlon. The Chair sought further nominations and Councillor Margaret Marks nominated Councillor John Augustine.

There being no further nominations, a vote was taken on each nomination. With the votes being 35 votes for Councillor Pat Hanlon and 25 votes for Councillor John Augustine, and one abstention, the Chair

Declared:

That Councillor Pat Hanlon be elected Vice Chair of West Suffolk Council for the 2023 to 2024 civic year.

Before the Chair invited Councillor Hanlon to take the seat of the Vice Chair, Councillor Augustine removed the Chain of Office and placed it on Councillor Hanlon. The incoming Vice Chair then signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office before passing to the Monitoring Officer for her signature.

289. Election of the Leader of the Council

The Chair called for nominations for the election of the Leader of the Council.

At this point, Councillor Nick Clarke, Leader of the Conservative Group, requested whether it was possible for a recorded vote to be taken on any nominations put forward for the election of the Leader.

The Chair duly invited the Monitoring Officer to set out the position. As the request to seek a recorded vote on nominations for the election of the Leader did not accord with Council Procedure Rule 13.6, 'Voting on appointments', contained in Part 4 of the Constitution, it would be necessary to suspend the Council Procedure Rules if it were the wish of the Council to proceed with a recorded vote on this appointment.

Councillor Nick Clarke proposed that in accordance with paragraph 19.1 of the Council Procedure Rules of Part 4 of the Constitution, Council Procedure Rules be suspended to allow a recorded vote to be taken on the nominations put forward for the election of Leader of the Council. Councillor Clarke explained his reasons for the proposal. In addition to other views expressed, he felt it would promote greater openness and transparency if members were to clearly state the councillor they wished to be their new leader and for this to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The proposal was duly seconded by Councillor Cliff Waterman, Leader of the Progressive Alliance Grouping, who responded to the views expressed by Councillor Clarke and also felt that in the interests of promoting openness and transparency, supported the motion to suspend the procedure rules to allow a recorded vote to be taken on the election of leader.

On the motion of Councillor Clarke, duly seconded by Councillor Waterman, it was put to the vote and with the vote being unanimous, it was

Resolved

That, in accordance with paragraph 19.1 of the Council Procedure Rules of Part 4 of the Constitution, Council Procedure Rules be suspended to allow a recorded vote to be taken on the nominations put forward for the election of Leader of the Council. Normal Council Procedure Rules will resume immediately prior to the recorded vote being taken on the item.

Councillor Victor Lukaniuk, Leader of the Independents, nominated Councillor Cliff Waterman for the election of Leader of the Council. Councillor Andrew Smith, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group, nominated Councillor Nick Clarke. No other nominations were received.

As previously requested by Councillor Nick Clarke, the nominations were put to a recorded vote. Each member was asked to clearly state whether they were voting for Councillor Waterman, Councillor Clarke or abstaining from the vote. The outcome was recorded as follows:

For Councillor Cliff Waterman:

Councillors Richard Alecock, Peter Armitage, Mick Bradshaw, Tony Brown, Dawn Dicker, Roger Dicker, Paul Firman, Luke Halpin, Pat Hanlon, Donna Higgins, Diane Hind, Janne Jarvis, Gerald Kelly, Rowena Lindberg, Jon London, Aaron Luccarini, Victor Lukaniuk, Andrew Martin, Lora-Jane Miller-Jones, Andy Neal, Sue Perry, Jools Savage, Marilyn Sayer, Ian Shipp, David Smith, Liz Smith, Frank Stennett, David Taylor, Jim Thorndyke, Julia Wakelam, Don Waldron, Cliff Waterman, Tracy Whitehead, Indy Wijenayaka, Phil Wittam and Kevin Yarrow.

For Councillor Nick Clarke

John Augustine, Sarah Broughton, Carol Bull, Mike Chester, Patrick Chung, Nick Clarke, Andy Drummond, Susan Glossop, John Griffiths, Beccy Hopfensperger, Ian Houlder, Charlie Lynch, Birgitte Mager, Margaret Marks, Joe Mason, Sara Mildmay-White, Sarah Pugh, Joanna Rayner, Karen Richardson, Richard Rout, Marion Rushbrook, Andrew Smith, Andrew Speed, Karen Soons and Sarah Stamp.

Abstentions

None

Once the process for the recorded vote had been completed, the Chair announced that normal Council Procedure Rules now applied.

With 36 votes for Councillor Waterman and 25 votes for Councillor Clarke, the Chair,

Declared:

That Councillor Cliff Waterman be elected Leader of West Suffolk Council until the next post-election Annual Meeting of Council unless determined before then.

290. **Appointment of Cabinet members**

The Chair called upon Councillor Cliff Waterman, Leader of the Council to make his announcements, which included the opportunity to announce his Deputy Leader, Cabinet and their respective portfolios.

Councillor Waterman duly announced the following appointments and their respective portfolios:

Portfolio	Member
Deputy Leader (no portfolio)	Councillor Victor Lukaniuk
Families and Communities	Councillor Donna Higgins
Governance and Regulatory Growth	Councillor Gerald Kelly
Housing	Councillor Indy Wijenayaka
Leisure	Councillor Richard O'Driscoll
Operations	Councillor Ian Shipp
Planning	Councillor David Taylor
Resources	Councillor Jim Thorndyke
	Councillor Diane Hind

291. **Review of political balance and appointment to committees 2023 to 2024 (Report number: AGM/WS/23/001)**

Council considered this report, which sought approval for the political balance and the allocation of seats to committees for 2023 to 2024.

Members confirmed that they had received copies of the report which had been tabled before them shortly before the start of the meeting.

Councillor Cliff Waterman, Leader of the Council, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council, including that the Constitution required that at each Annual Meeting, Council would decide which committees to establish for the municipal year; the size and terms of reference for those committees; the allocation of seats and substitutes to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules; and to receive or arrange the delegation of nominations and appointment of councillors to serve on each committee.

Committees and the terms of reference for those committees were included in Part 3b, section 2 of the Council's Constitution. A link to this could be found within paragraph 2.1 of the report.

Following careful consideration of the rules on calculating political balance, Council was requested to approve the number of seats and terms of reference for the committees.

On the motion of Councillor Waterman, duly seconded by Councillor Diane Hind, it was put to the vote and with the vote being unanimous, it was

Resolved: That

1. The committees for the 2023 to 2024 municipal year and the terms of reference for those committees as per the West Suffolk

Council Constitution, Part 3b, section 2: "Responsibility for Council (non-executive) Functions", be approved.

2. The political balance and allocation of seats and substitutes on committees as per Appendix A to Report number: AGM/WS/23/001, be approved.
3. Delegation be given to Group Leaders to nominate members from their Groups to seats and as substitutes on committees.

292. **Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of scrutiny committees: 2023 to 2024**

The next item of business was the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny and Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committees for the 2023 to 2024 municipal year.

a. Appointment of Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Cliff Waterman nominated Councillor Sarah Broughton as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

There being no other nominations, the nomination was put to the vote and with the vote being unanimous, the Chair

Declared:

That Councillor Sarah Broughton be elected Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2023 to 2024.

b. Appointment of Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Cliff Waterman nominated Councillor Marion Rushbrook as Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

There being no other nominations, the nomination was put to the vote and with the vote being unanimous, the Chair

Declared:

That Councillor Marion Rushbrook be elected Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2023 to 2024.

c. Appointment of Chair of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Cliff Waterman nominated Councillor Peter Armitage as Chair of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee.

There being no other nominations, the nomination was put to the vote and with the vote being unanimous, the Chair

Declared:

That Councillor Peter Armitage be elected Chair of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee for 2023 to 2024.

d. Appointment of Vice Chair of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Cliff Waterman nominated Councillor Andy Neal as Vice Chair of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee.

There being no other nominations, the nomination was put to the vote and with the vote being unanimous, the Chair

Declared:

That Councillor Andy Neal be elected Vice Chair of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee for 2023 to 2024.

293. Review of representation on outside bodies (Report number: AGM/WS/23/002)

Council considered this report, which sought approval for various member appointments to represent the Council on outside bodies in 2023 to 2024.

Councillor Cliff Waterman, Leader of the Council, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council, including that the Constitution required that at each Annual Meeting, the Council reviewed its representations on outside bodies.

Attached as Appendix A to the report, was the current list of outside bodies, which set out the detail of the organisation, the meeting information (where known) and the required representation.

An ongoing review of the list was undertaken to ensure the outside bodies had the correct representation to best suit their requirements. In the circumstances, it may be subject to change.

Section 2.4 provided a number of proposals and principles for members to consider in respect of the proposed process for appointing appropriate representation to the relevant outside body. This section included a proposal to ensure representation on outside bodies continued to be reviewed so that it remained helpful and effective to have representation from the Council.

On the motion of Councillor Waterman, duly seconded by Councillor Victor Lukaniuk, it was put to the vote and with the vote being unanimous, it was

Resolved: That

1. The Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to appoint the Council's representatives on outside bodies, in accordance with the nominations put forward by Group Leaders.

2. Where no representative is nominated, the Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to seek nominations from other bodies and individuals to be approved by Council in due course.
3. It be noted that where the outside organisation is discharging executive functions, or the Council is an observer on an organisation, these appointments will be undertaken by Cabinet.
4. It be noted that it is intended to continue to review representation on outside bodies to ensure that it remains beneficial for the organisation and for the Council.
5. It be noted that appointments to the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee will be made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(Councillor Peter Armitage left the meeting during the consideration of this item.)

The meeting concluded at 7.45 pm

Signed by:

Chair

Civic communication for council

23 May 2023 to 20 June 2023

Chair attended six engagements

Vice Chair attended six engagements

Event	Venue	Date	Time	Attending
Council AGM	West Suffolk House	Tuesday 23 May 2023	7pm to 9pm	Chair and Vice Chair
Unveiling of a new painting at Palace House by H.M. Queen Camilla	Palace House, Newmarket Palace House Palace Street, Newmarket	Thursday 1 June 2023	11am to 2pm	Vice Chair
Launch of the Urban Frame: Mutiny in Colour contemporary art exhibition	National Horse Racing Museum, Palace Street, Newmarket	Thursday 1 June 2023	6pm to 7.30pm	Vice Chair
RAF Honington Formal Reception	Officers Mess, Royal Air Force Honington	Thursday 15 June 2023	6pm to 8pm	Chair
Armed Forces Day flag raising	West Suffolk House	Monday 9 June 2023	9am to 9.30am	Chair and Vice Chair
Royal British Legion Armed Forces Day flag raising	Abbey Gate Bury St Edmunds	Monday 19 June 2023	10.30am To 11am	Chair
West Suffolk Council Meeting	Council Chamber, West Suffolk House	Tuesday 20 June 2023	7pm to 8.30pm	Chair and Vice Chair
After Council Reception	Breakout Area	Tuesday 20 June 2023	7pm to 8.30pm	Chair and Vice Chair

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Leader’s statement

Report number:	COU/WS/23/009	
Report to and date:	Council	20 June 2023
Documents attached:	None	

Leader’s Statement

1. As this is my first Leader’s Statement following the election, I am taking this opportunity to thank all candidates and councillors for standing. To do so shows your passion for championing and improving life for your communities and I applaud your willingness to do this – a hard job in the eye of public scrutiny when this may be your first time.
2. It would also be remiss of me not to thank the outgoing administration and the former Leader, Councillor John Griffiths in the way they worked collectively for the good of the whole district, taking views from across the chamber. Something I will touch on later.
3. Secondly, I am sure you will all join with me in thanking all the staff that have welcomed us as councillors and who ably carried out the elections, especially with all the new guidance around photo ID that I know they have had to take on board.
4. This administration, working together in partnership, is ready to face the challenges and seize the opportunities ahead. We recognise the needs and differences all our communities have that make West Suffolk such a great place to live, work and play. We will embrace these differences and I will outline how this administration will work with you and your communities to bring improvements, better understanding and engagement with your communities.
5. At the heart of this will be the Cabinet who I announced at the Annual Meeting but I want to repeat here.
 - Deputy Leader Councillor Victor Lukaniuk

Cabinet portfolio holders:

- Planning: Councillor Jim Thorndyke
- Housing: Councillor Richard O'Driscoll
- Resources: Councillor Diane Hind
- Families and Communities: Councillor Donna Higgins

- Leisure: Councillor Ian Shipp
- Growth: Councillor Indy Wijenayaka
- Operations: Councillor David Taylor
- Governance and Regulatory: Councillor Gerald Kelly

6. They bring a range of talent and experience be that as previous councillors or from their professional careers. But importantly, I look forward to working not only with Cabinet, but with all councillors, to really benefit the people and businesses of West Suffolk.

My invite to you

7. West Suffolk is such a vibrant area with many different communities and issues. As such, I am announcing my offer to all councillors the opportunity for either myself or my cabinet to meet and visit you in your ward so we can fully discuss and understand these issues and meet local organisations.
8. We serve the whole of West Suffolk and through local knowledge, will develop and improve upon our unique heritage from our towns and rural areas to our environment, businesses, country parks and history.

Priorities

9. These are early days. I and the Cabinet are meeting staff while also talking to councillors and partners. As this continues more detailed proposals and projects will be coming forward in the coming weeks as this new administration sets out its agenda. But I want to briefly outline the priorities that will set the framework for this.
- Sustainability and the climate change crisis – We are in a climate crisis and everyone has a part to play in tackling this. West Suffolk Council will be far more ambitious in its work around sustainability and net zero for the whole of the district. This mean putting our own house in order as well as helping support and encouraging West Suffolk communities and businesses do more themselves. We will learn from others and put in the right facilities or information so we all can do our bit to tackle this urgent global issue.

That is why Cabinet has agreed* the formation of a new West Suffolk Environment and Sustainability Working Group to review the progress that West Suffolk Council has made in delivering its action plans and move to Net Zero. It will also make recommendations to Cabinet on West Suffolk Council's future role in protecting and enhancing the environment, both in the way in which it carries out its operations and through wider work with our local businesses and communities.

- Families and communities (cost of living) – The cost of living and rising prices continues to be a challenge for the council and for local communities. I believe we have a moral duty to help where we can. We and other public services have done a great job of working with partner organisations to be a safety net for the most vulnerable. But it's so much better if we can help people from falling in the first place. While our communities, councils and organisations have rallied to provide food banks it is damning that they are needed in the first place. We need put more effort into our work with partners and other

organisations to try and break the cycle and lobby our MPs and Government to find better solutions.

- Growth for all – The economic wellbeing of West Suffolk is vital and has to bring benefits for all. We are the gateway from Cambridgeshire and the rest of the country into Suffolk as well as being part of the UK economic engine that is the Cambridge Sub Region. West Suffolk, its businesses and communities, all need to benefit from this and the area must play its role in the success of the local and national economy.
- Housing – making sure we have the right development in the right places to support healthy communities and businesses is vital. People need affordable homes with the right facilities to have healthier and more enriching lives with the ability to access jobs and new skills. This new administration will look at ambitious options for the delivery of homes that not only meet the needs of our communities but will be more than just boxes but homes for people. Some of this is in the control of national government but we need to use what powers we have and where we don't have them to call on the Government and influence national change.

Debate not hate

10. I am pleased that all West Suffolk leaders are working together to sign this council up to the Local Government Association Debate Not Hate campaign. In today's world there are far too many faceless keyboard warriors or people forgetting the difference between critical debate and personal attacks. Indeed, national and local politicians have seen the consequences of this spill into physical assaults. This should not be tolerated; it is not good for democracy or encouraging people to become councillors and champion their area.
11. Residents expect us not to engage in petty politics but to act in a responsible and credible way to tackle the issues they face every day. I expect within the cut and thrust of debate there will be disagreements and strong points put across on all sides. This is welcome, this is normal and through this I hope we can collectively achieve better outcomes. But this can be done with courtesy and professionalism to get the right result for West Suffolk communities.

Making our voice heard

12. From local issues such as the state of the highways to nationally fairer funding for public services and easier access to health services - there are many issues that we will champion and lobby for. We will work with other councils and partners to make sure they know these are priorities that must be solved in order for West Suffolk communities and businesses to truly have the opportunity to thrive.
13. Equally we will look at strengthening the way we engage with residents and businesses to help them understand the issues faced in West Suffolk, what the Council is doing and have their say. In addition, we will look at ways to support and empower all councillors in your work in engaging and communicating with your communities.

Mutiny In Colour

14. I want to end this first Leader's Statement by also paying tribute to some of the good work that has gone before, and the way councillors have worked together. One such project I was delighted to be at the launch of is the Mutiny In Colour Modern Art exhibition which is being held through work with partners in Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill and Newmarket. This is one of the largest and most exciting exhibitions of contemporary art happening in the UK this summer which some of us got a sneak peek at in Newmarket. It includes a world first with the bringing together of seven-life sized high-res images of Banksy's work in Ukraine. The council and its partners have kept ticket prices low and the exhibition is being held in venues across West Suffolk. Not only can people enjoy great art and visit our beautiful area but importantly have the chance to donate to an appeal to help the people of Ukraine. Many of which have joined our communities and become our friends and neighbours in recent months. I would urge you all to come join the mutiny.

Councillor Cliff Waterman Leader of West Suffolk Council

**Note that Cabinet will consider the proposal to establish the new West Suffolk Environment and Sustainability Working Group on the evening of Tuesday 13 June 2023 which will be after the publication of this Leader's Statement on the Council's website. Should Cabinet not agree the proposal, an update will be provided at the Council meeting on 20 June 2023.*

Report number: **COU/WS/23/010**

Annual Scrutiny Report 2022 to 2023

Introduction



Councillor Ian Shipp

Chair of the Overview and
Scrutiny Committee 2022 to 2023



Councillor Ian Houlder

Chair of the Performance and Audit
Scrutiny Committee 2022 to 2023

The West Suffolk Scrutiny Annual Report 2022 to 2023 highlights the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee over the past year.

This report presents some of the accomplishments and highlights of the scrutiny committees which have a vital role in helping the authority to continue to improve and strengthen. The following report aims to give a flavour of the work undertaken during 2022 to 2023 and to confirm to Council it has operated to deliver its role in line with its terms of reference.

The work has been varied and we have done our utmost to make it transparent, relevant, and insightful. We would like to thank councillors, officers, partners, and members of the public who have taken part in this important work and hope you find this annual report both informative and interesting.

We hope it may also encourage you to follow the progress of the scrutiny function at West Suffolk Council and you are welcome to find out more about our work on the Council's website.

Role and approach to scrutiny at West Suffolk

West Suffolk has two such committees.

The primary purpose of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to improve the delivery of services provided to West Suffolk communities. It does this by reviewing and scrutinising decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of Council functions. It also undertakes specific reviews to look at new and evolving policies or an issue affecting the area and makes recommendations for improvements to the Council or Cabinet.

The Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee has the specific role of monitoring the budget and overseeing the performance of services by considering a range of information such as performance indicators, inspection reports and action plan monitoring. It approves the Council's Statement of Accounts and is also the Council's audit committee. The Committee also carries out the Treasury Management function.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Key themes during 2022 to 2023

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee focus over the year is set out below:

Activity	Outcome
In June, the committee received the Markets Review Working Groups Recommendations report.	The committee made a number of recommendations for the Cabinet's consideration.
Activity	Outcome
In July, the committee heard from the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive on the Draft West Suffolk Annual Report 2021 to 2022.	The committee made a number of suggestions for incorporation into the final document, for the Cabinet's consideration.
Activity	Outcome
In November, the committee received a report on air quality and vehicle idling which included recommendations.	The committee made recommendations for the Cabinet's consideration and endorsement.
Activity	Outcome
In January 2023, the committee received an update from Havebury Housing Partnership on the development of their Older Persons; Homelessness; and Community Investment Strategies and how the Partnership's performance is measured and who holds them to account.	<p>The committee asked questions to which Havebury Housing Partnership provided written responses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Energy Performance Certificate breakdown of its 7,000 properties and the age of the properties.- A breakdown of the various types of benefits Havebury helped 1,800 of its residents to access.- The percentage of homes which were social rent.- Of the 210 houses built per year how many were in West Suffolk to help reduce the housing waiting list.

Activity	Outcome
<p>In March 2023, the committee held its first public meeting in the conference room at the Mildenhall Hub, where it carried out a post-implementation review on the Mildenhall Hub.</p>	<p>The committee's concluded the Mildenhall Hub has met the strategic and environmental objectives set for it by Forest Heath District Council in 2018 and is making good progress towards the break-even financial test by year five of its operation.</p> <p>The committee made recommendations for the Cabinet's consideration and endorsement.</p> <p>The committee also agreed to review progress against the year five financial test by way of a final report on the Mildenhall Hub Post Implementation Review be included in the committee's work programme for 2026, subject to the completion of a scoping/key lines of enquiry exercise being carried out with the Strategic Director.</p>

Other areas of focus

The committee has a key role in scrutinising community safety. In June 2022, the committee received the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Annual Report from the Vice-Chair of the Partnership, Councillor Sarah Mansell.

Councillor Margaret Marks, the council's representative on the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee updates the committee on a quarterly basis on the work undertaken by the Health Scrutiny Committee, giving members the opportunity to discuss issues raised and where necessary, give their support on proposals.

Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee

Key themes during 2022 to 2023

The Performance and Audit Scrutiny's programme continues to be impacted by Covid-19 given the dramatic impact the pandemic has had on West Suffolk Council's financial position.

The committee has received quarterly financial and performance reports to understand how the pandemic continues to impact on the achievement of West Suffolk Council's objectives, recognising the need for the council's priorities to change during the recovery phase.

The committee has evaluated quarterly and annual financial resilience reports to understand how the pandemic continues to impact on West Suffolk Council's longer term financial position.

The committee continues to assess how the Covid-19 pandemic impacted on the work of West Suffolk Council's internal and external audit services, assessing whether, in the environment, sufficient assurance can be gained to provide audit opinions for the council.

The committee has evaluated the development of West Suffolk Council's budget, including both the annual and medium-term financial budget, to understand the longer-term effects of the pandemic on the council's finances to 2026.

The Health and Safety Sub-Committee has evaluated the steps West Suffolk Council took to protect staff and the public during the recovery phase of the pandemic, in terms of both physical equipment and measures and the wellbeing of staff.



Scrutiny on a page

Over the past year, the scrutiny committees have collectively considered the following:

West Suffolk Council Annual Report 2021 to 2022	Internal Audit Annual Report and Mid-year Report	Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report 2021 to 2022
Community Safety Partnership Annual Report	Internal Audit Plan	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) – Annual Report and Review of RIPA Guidance
West Suffolk Markets Review Working Groups -Recommendations Report	Year-end performance out-turn	Health and safety summary report 2021 to 2022
Reports on the activity of Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee	Quarterly performance reports	Health and safety incidence reports
Monitoring the Cabinet Decisions Plan	Annual financial resilience report	Health and safety measures to support COVID-19
Air quality and vehicle idling recommendations report	Financial resilience strategy	Health and safety training report
Quarterly financial resilience reports	Annual Governance Statement	Health and safety policy amendments
External Audit Plan	Statement of Accounts	Impact of COVID-19 on staff wellbeing
External Audit Annual Report and Annual Audit Letter	Sustainable medium term budget reports	

The year ahead

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has committed to the following review(s) during the next year:

- A review of West Suffolk Council's approach to modern day slavery (this review is presently awaiting new government guidance).

Both committees will continue to evaluate the impact of the pandemic on the council's services and on the council's financial and non-financial performance.

