

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 10 September 2015	
Report No:	CAB/FH/15/050	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	27 October 2015
Chairman of the Committee:	Simon Cole Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tel: 07974 443762 Email: simon.cole@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Lead Officer:	Christine Brain Scrutiny Officer Tel: 01638 719729 Email: Christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	On 10 September 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following reports: (1) Presentation by the Cabinet Member for Planning Growth; (2) Presentation on the Role of Newmarket Vision and Discover Newmarket; (3) Local Air Quality Strategy Progress Report 2014-2015; (4) Decisions Plan: September 2015 to May 2016; and (5) Work Programme Update.	
Recommendation:	The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/FH/15/050, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	

Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i>	<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consultation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See reports listed in Section 2 below.
Alternative option(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See reports listed in Section 2 below
Implications:	
<i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.
<i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.
<i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers
<i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.
<i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.
Risk/opportunity assessment:	Please see background papers.
Ward(s) affected:	Please see background papers.
Background papers:	Please see background papers, which are listed at the end of the report.
Documents attached:	None

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation

1.1 Presentation by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Growth (Report No: OAS/FH/15/008 and Verbal)

- 1.1.1 As set out in the Council's Constitution, at every ordinary Overview and Scrutiny meeting at least one Cabinet Member shall be invited to attend to given an account of his or her portfolio and to answer questions from the Committee.
- 1.1.2 Report OAS/FH/15/008 set out the overall responsibilities of the Cabinet Member of Planning and Growth who had been invited to the meeting to discuss his portfolio.
- 1.1.3 The Committee discussed the presentation and asked a number of questions of the Cabinet member to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular discussions were held on:

- The size of the Portfolio for Planning and Growth
- Economic Develop (public transport; attracting businesses to the area)
- Industrial units (types)

The Committee congratulated the Enforcement Team on the work being carried out in driving down the backlog in older cases.

- 1.1.4 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the presentation.

1.2 Presentation on the Role of Newmarket Vision and Discover Newmarket (Verbal)

- 1.2.1 The Committee received a presentation on Newmarket Vision, which provided a broad overview on its role. The Cabinet Member for Families and Communities explained the role of the Steering Group, which was established to keep the whole project on track by supporting the four delivery groups in delivering the 45 agreed actions as quickly as possible.
- 1.2.2 Members were advised that the Steering Group was currently looking at the role of the steering group and delivery groups, its achievements and its own structure going forward with a focus on being more of an enabler rather than an authorising body.
- 1.2.3 Members discussed the presentation in detail and asked a number of questions of the Cabinet Member and officers who provided comprehensive responses. In particular discussions were held on:
- Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan
 - Benefits from Newmarket Vision
 - The importance of engagement
 - A suggestion to review the position of the Newmarket Vision Group and consider establishing Working Groups.

The Cabinet Member acknowledged that there had been some criticism of the Newmarket Vision and that he was very keen to address these. However, there were 111 people actively involved in Newmarket Vision, largely people from Newmarket who wanted to play an active role in shaping their community. He reiterated that the Steering Group was currently looking at changes to its structure going forward, and would be happy to update the Committee in six months on progress.

1.2.4 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the presentation on Newmarket Vision, subject to an update being provided in six months.

1.3 **Local Air Quality Strategy Progress Report 2014-2015 (Report No: OAS/FH/15/009)**

1.3.1 The Committee considered Report No: OAS/FH/15/009 which reported on work undertaken during 2014-2015 to meet the Local Air Quality Regulations across West Suffolk.

1.3.2 The Committee asked a number of questions to which responses were provided. In particular, discussions were held on:

- The improvement of the air quality in the High Street, Newmarket.
- The effects on air quality from aviation and agricultural activities.
- Whether air quality had an effect on the racing industry.
- Air quality in Brandon following the completion of the A11.

1.3.3 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the report.

1.4 **Decisions Plan: September 2015 to May 2016 (Report No: OAS/FH/15/010)**

1.4.1 The Committee considered the latest Decisions Plan, covering the period September 2015 to May 2016. Members reviewed the Decisions Plan in detail and asked a number of questions to which the Director duly responded.

1.4.2 The Committee considered the Decisions Plan and suggested more publicity was needed in promoting the Community Chest Grant Funding. There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the Decisions Plan.

1.5 **Work Programme Update (Report No: OAS/FH/15/011)**

1.5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees 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.

1.5.2 The Committee considered the rolling work programme and **noted** the annual items expected to be presented to the Committee during 2015/2016, subject to earlier discussions to include an update on Newmarket Vision in six months time.

2. Background Papers

- 2.1.1 Report [OAS/FH/15/008](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Presentation by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Growth
- 2.1.2 Report [OAS/FH/15/009](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Local Air Quality Strategy Progress Report 2014-2015
- 2.1.3 Report [OAS/FH/15/010 - Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Decisions Plan September 2015 to May 2016
- 2.1.4 Report [OAS/FH/15/011](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update