

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 14 January 2016	
Report No:	CAB/FH/16/001	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	10 February 2016
Chairman of the Committee:	Simon Cole Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tel: 07974 443762 Email: simon.cole@forest-heath.gov.uk	
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Purpose of report:	On 14 January 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following reports: (1) Presentation by the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Cultural Services; (2) Presentation on the Mildenhall Hub Project; (3) Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications (Quarter 3); and (4) Work Programme Update and Suggestion for Scrutiny	
Recommendation:	The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/FH/16/0xx, 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 Leisure and Cultural Services (Report No: OAS/FH/16/001 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 No OAS/FH/16/001 set out the overall responsibilities of the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Cultural Services 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:
- (1) Income generation – The Council was looking at various avenues to generate income, such as charging commercial users/event organisers a fee to use green spaces.
 - (2) Balanced scorecards – Officers advised that the service produced an annual business plan and processes were in place to make strategic plans to meet current and future needs for leisure facilities.
 - (3) GP Referral – Officers agreed to circulate a breakdown of the 500 GP referrals across West Suffolk and more specifically those in the district.
 - (4) Discover Newmarket (tourist destination) – Officers agreed to look at providing more tourist activities to show everything that Forest Heath had to offer to visitors.
 - (5) Sports pitches – The Council had commissioned an assessment of all indoor and playing pitch facilities and the findings of the assessment would be considered at the West Suffolk Growth Steering Group on 8 February 2016.
- 1.1.4 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the presentation.

1.2 Presentation on the Mildenhall Hub Project (Verbal)

- 1.2.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Director, which outlined the principles of the Mildenhall Hub Project to get early councillor feedback.
- 1.2.2 The presentation did not cover planning policy as a separate Development Brief was being prepared with member input. The presentation was a snapshot of the project, and a detailed business case was still under preparation.
- 1.2.3 Members discussed the presentation in detail and asked a number of questions of the Director, to which comprehensive responses were provided. In

particular discussions were held on:

- (1) Transport issues – Members were advised this had been recognised as a key issue. The Hub scheme itself was only likely to trigger junction improvements at its own site and in the town centre, but it may need to be part of a wider highways strategy and masterplan for the town, depending on the outcome of the Local Plan process.
- (2) Protection of current amenity area – The Development Brief would take into account the special amenity area by the river, as well as bridal paths and river walks.
- (3) Timescales – The timescales were ambitions but the Hub was deliberately designed to be built in phases.
- (4) Soft play centre/leisure user’s crèche – Officers agreed to look into the feasibility of including a soft play area within the Hub.
- (5) Ambulance Service – The Council had consulted with the ambulance service about the Hub project. Operationally, the site was currently felt to be too far away from A11 for immediate access, which they had at their current location.

1.2.4 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the presentation and that a detailed business case would be presented to the Committee for scrutiny later in 2016.

1.3 **Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications – Quarter 3**

1.3.1 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.

1.3.2 The Monitoring Officer had advised that in Quarter 3 no such surveillance had been authorised.

1.4 **Work Programme Update and Suggestion for Scrutiny (Report No: OAS/FH/16/002)**

1.4.1 The Committee 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.

1.4.2 The Committee was advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner had been invited to its March 2016 meeting to give a presentation on the Suffolk Local Policing Review and to answer any questions. An invitation would be sent to all members inviting them to the Committee meeting on 10 March 2016.

1.4.3 The Committee also considered one suggestion for scrutiny which had been submitted proposing:

- An investigation into the integration of local public transport serving

Forest Heath residents.

1.4.4 A lengthy debate on the issue was held, and taking into account information provided by Cllr Lance Stanbury who submitted the suggestion, members and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth, the Committee **Resolved** that:

- 1) The "lack of integrated transport affecting Red Lodge" be included in the Committee's forward work programme; and
- 2) The Suffolk County Council Portfolio Holder responsible for Transport and appropriate officers be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss transport issues affecting Red Lodge.

2. Background Papers

2.1.1 [Report No: OAS/FH/16/001](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Presentation by the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture

2.1.2 [Report No: OAS/FH/16/002](#) and [OAS/FH/16/002 - Appendix 2A](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update and Suggestion for Scrutiny