

Cabinet



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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| Title of Report: | Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 9 March 2016 | |
| Report No: | CAB/SE/16/013 | |
| Report to and date: | Cabinet | 29 March 2016 |
| Chairman of the Committee: | Diane Hind Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tel: 01284 706542 Email: diane.hind@stedsbc.gov.uk | |
| Lead Officer: | Christine Brain Scrutiny Officer Tel: 01638 719729 Email: christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk | |
| Purpose of report: | On 9 March 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items: (1) Presentation by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable on the Suffolk Local Policing Review; (2) Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance; (3) West Suffolk Housing Strategy: Progress Report against Action Points; (4) Decisions Plan – March to May 2016; and (5) Work Programme Update. | |
| Recommendation: | The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/SE/16/013, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. | |

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| 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"/> Report for information only. | |
| Consultation: | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Reports listed under background papers below | |
| Alternative option(s): | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Reports listed under background papers below | |
| Implications: | | | |
| <i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i> | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Reports listed under background papers below | |
| <i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i> | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Reports listed under background papers below | |
| <i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i> | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Reports listed under background papers below | |
| <i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i> | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Reports listed under background papers below | |
| <i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i> | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Reports listed under background papers below | |
| Risk/opportunity assessment: | | <i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i> | |
| Risk area | Inherent level of risk (before controls) | Controls | Residual risk (after controls) |
| See Reports listed under background papers below | | | |
| Ward(s) affected: | | All Wards | |
| 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 Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable on the Suffolk Local Policing Review (Appendix A: OAS/SE/16/003)

- 1.1.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Tim Passmore, who had been invited to the meeting to discuss the Suffolk Local Policing Review, with a particular focus on its implications for the west of Suffolk and to answer questions from the Committee and other Members who had also been invited. The PCC was accompanied by the Chief Constable, Gareth Wilson, and Supt. Andrew Mason, Local Policing Commander for the West.
- 1.1.2 The presentation set out the strategic direction and budget; managing demand; partnership working; protecting victims and vulnerable people; commissioning and grants; innovation; tackling new forms of crime and preventing and reducing crime.
- 1.1.3 The Committee was informed that the policing review was not solely financial. It was about the Constabulary responding to the changing nature of crime, with resources being located according to demand.
- 1.1.4 The Committee discussed the presentation in detail and asked a number of questions of the PCC, Chief Constable and the Local Policing Commander, to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular discussions were held on the following:
- (1) Police stations: The PCC reassured Members that no police stations were closing. However, some of the front desks would be closed, but the buildings would still be occupied by police staff. Resources were being invested where it could be best spent.
 - (2) Police attendance at parish/town council meetings: Members were concerned that the police had stopped attending parish/town council meetings or resident association meetings. The Chief Constable reassured Members that the police would attend meetings if there was a problem to solve. He further explained that parish/town councils would receive a police report setting out crime levels in the area; what parish/town councils had asked the police to do; and what had been done. Contact details would also be included.
 - (3) Decriminalisation of parking: Work was underway with district, borough and county councils to transfer responsibility for parking enforcement to the local authority. This would allow Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to spend more time on local problem solving.
 - (4) Police direct service (Police Connect): It was acknowledged that this messaging service needed to be improved.
- 1.1.5 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the presentation.

1.2 **Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance (Report No: OAS/SE/16/004 and Verbal)**

1.2.1 As set out in the Council's Constitution, at every ordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting at least one Cabinet Member shall be invited to attend to give an account of his or her portfolio and to answer questions from the Committee.

1.2.2 Report No: OAS/SE/16/004 set out the overall responsibilities of Councillor Ian Houlder, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance who had been invited to the meeting to discuss his portfolio.

1.2.3 Members discussed the presentation in detail and asked questions of the Portfolio Holder and officers, to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular, discussions were held on the future uncertainties regarding the Government legislation on the National Living Wage and its impact.

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

1.3 **West Suffolk Housing Strategy: Progress Report against Action Points (Report No: OAS/SE/16/005)**

1.3.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/SE/16/005, which asked Members to review progress made to date against the West Suffolk Housing Strategy 2015-2018.

1.3.2 Attached at [Appendix A](#) to the report was a detailed update on progress as at the end of December 2015, against 40 objectives. The remainder of the report summarised each of the headings, key achievements to date and work underway and highlighted challenges and external factors impacting on delivery.

1.3.3 Members considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, and the Head of Housing who both duly responded.

In particular, discussions were held on the following objectives: rural housing; energy efficiency; land and resources (Housing Development Company) and care and support (Gypsy and Traveller transit sites).

1.3.4 There being no decision required, the Committee:

- (1) **Noted** the progress made to date against the actions arising from the West Suffolk Housing Strategy 2015-2018;
- (2) **Noted** the challenges facing delivery of the West Suffolk Housing Strategy; and
- (3) **Noted** an update would be presented to the Committee in early 2017 in order to monitor delivery in 2016.

1.4 **Decisions Plan (March to May 2016) (Report No: OAS/SE/16/006)**

1.4.1 The Committee considered the latest Decisions Plan, covering the period March to May 2016. Members reviewed the Decisions Plan in detail and asked a number of questions to which responses were provided.

1.4.2 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the Decisions Plan.

1.5 **Work Programme Update (Report No: OAS/SE/16/007)**

1.5.1 The Committee received and **noted** Report No: OAS/SE/16/007, which provided an update on the current status of the Committee's Work Programme and the Task and Finish Groups appointed by the Committee.

1.5.2 Members were reminded to complete the Work Programme Suggestion Form when submitting future items for potential scrutiny. This enabled suggestions received to be initially considered by the Committee at each meeting and if accepted included within its forward work programme.

2. Background Papers

2.1.1 [Appendix A: OAS/SE/16/003](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Suffolk Local Policing Review

2.1.2 [Report No: OAS/SE/16/004](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance

2.1.3 [Report No: OAS/SE/16/005](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: West Suffolk Housing Strategy: Progress Report against Action Points

2.1.4 [Report No: OAS/SE/16/006](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Decisions Plan (March to May 2016)

2.1.5 [Report No: OAS/SE/16/007](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update