

# Cabinet



Forest Heath  
District Council

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 10 March 2016</b>	
<b>Report No:</b>	<b>CAB/FH/16/013</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	5 April 2016
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<b>Purpose of report:</b>	On 10 March 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following reports:  (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 – April 2016 to May 2017; and  (5) Work Programme Update.	
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/FH/16/013, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</b>	

<b>Key Decision:</b>  <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that <b>do not</b> 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"/>
<b>Consultation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See reports listed in Section 2 below.</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative option(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See reports listed in Section 2 below</li> </ul>
<b>Implications:</b>	
<i>Are there any <b>financial</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.
<i>Are there any <b>staffing</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.
<i>Are there any <b>ICT</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers
<i>Are there any <b>legal and/or policy</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.
<i>Are there any <b>equality</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.
<b>Risk/opportunity assessment:</b>	Please see background papers.
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	Please see background papers.
<b>Background papers:</b>	Please see background papers, which are listed at the end of the report.
<b>Documents attached:</b>	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/FH/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) 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.
- (2) Funding for Crime Prevention Panel: The PCC advised that it might be possible for the Crime Prevention Panel to apply for funding from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant. The guiding principle for the funding was delivering the police priorities.
- (3) Access to justice: Members raised concerns regarding the proposals to close a number of courts. Access to justice was important and people needed a court that they could easily reach. Local justice for victims was needed. The PCC acknowledged that this was a high priority for the constabulary and the Local Criminal Justice Board. Alternative options were currently being looked at, such as "pop up courts". However, any support from local authorities would be gratefully received.

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/FH/16/004 and Verbal)**

1.2.1 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 give an account of his or her portfolio and to answer questions from the Committee.

- 1.2.2 Report No: OAS/FH/16/004 set out the overall responsibilities of Councillor Stephen Edwards, the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance who had been invited to the meeting to discuss his portfolio.
- 1.2.3 The Committee discussed the presentation and asked a number of questions of Councillor Edwards to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular discussions were held on pensions; national living wage; IT (paperless working) and IT (resilience).
- 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/FH/16/005)**
  - 1.3.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/FH/16/005, which asked members to review progress made 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 questions on private sector housing, homelessness and registered providers to which the Lead Member for Housing and the Head of Housing provided comprehensive responses.
  - 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 (April 2016 - May 2017) (Report No: OAS/FH/16/006)**
  - 1.4.1 The Committee considered the latest Decisions Plan, covering the period April to May 2016. Members reviewed the Decisions Plan in detail and asked 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/FH/16/007)**

- 1.5.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/FH/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 advised that the Chairman had written to the Suffolk County Council Portfolio Holder for Roads and Transport on 11 February 2016, inviting him and appropriate officers to the Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 21 April 2016. However, to date, no response had been received from the Portfolio Holder. The Committee was disappointed in the lack of response and felt the work programme item on "transport links for rural villages in Forest Heath" should not be pushed back. Councillor Lance Stanbury suggested inviting some of the interested transport companies to come and speak to a future meeting of the Committee.

Members considered the report, and with the vote being unanimous, it was

### **RESOLVED**

That the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Lance Stanbury and the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) meet to consider which transport companies to invite to a future meeting of the Committee.

## **2. Background Papers**

- 2.1.1 Appendix A: OAS/FH/16/003 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Suffolk Local Policing Review
- 2.1.2 Report No: OAS/FH/16/004 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance
- 2.1.3 Report No: OAS/FH/16/005 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: West Suffolk Housing Strategy: Progress Report against Action Points
- 2.1.4 Report No: OAS/FH/16/006 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Decisions Plan (April 2016 to May 2017)
- 2.1.5 Report No: OAS/FH/16/007 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update

