

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 21 April 2016	
Report No:	CAB/FH/16/018	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	17 May 2016
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 21 April 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items: (1) Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities; (2) Monitoring of Community Safety Activities including Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership; (3) Review and Revision of the Constitution; (4) Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications (Quarter 4); (5) Decisions Plan: May 2016 to May 2017; and (6) Work Programme Update.	
Recommendation:	The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/FH/16/018, 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"/> 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			
Wards 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 Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities (Report No: OAS/FH/16/008 and Verbal)

- 1.1.1 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.
- 1.1.2 Report No: OAS/FH/16/008 set out the overall responsibilities of Councillor Robin Millar, Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities who had been invited to the meeting to discuss his portfolio.
- 1.1.3 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 care and health in communities; evaluating the impact of our families and communities approach; community chest funding; community safety and domestic violence; Mildenhall bus station; and the role of Councillors around being more aware of their ward area and residents but not turning Councillors into social workers.
- 1.1.4 The Cabinet Member informed the Committee that the work of the families and communities portfolio was about pre-prevention and how to help people deal with a variety of issues to stop them developing into something worse.
- 1.1.5 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the presentation.

1.2 Monitoring of Community Safety Activities including Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (Report No: OAS/FH/16/009)

- 1.2.1 It is the duty of the Committee, as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee designated under the Police and Justice Act 2006, to scrutinise the work of the Partnership.
- 1.2.2 Over the past year the WSCSP continued to meet and discharge its statutory duties by carrying out an annual assessment of crime, producing an annual plan and carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews, as required.
- 1.2.3 The Committee received and **noted** the update on the community safety activity in West Suffolk, including the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) from April 2015 to March 2016.
- 1.2.4 In May 2015, the WSCSP completed and published its partnership plan and project plan for identified community priorities for 2015-2016. Attached as Appendix A to the report, was the WSCSP project plan. Progress of the identified community concerns would be evaluated at the April meeting of the WSCSP.
- 1.2.5 The report also set out the work of the Strong and Safe Communities Group; the multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Group and the PREVENT Strategy which was published by the Government in 2011. The PREVENT Strategy was

part of the country's Counter Terrorism Strategy called CONTEST. The aim of the strategy was to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

1.3 **Review and Revision of the Constitution (Report No: OAS/FH/16/010)**

1.3.1 As set out in the Council's Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis would receive a report from the Monitoring Officer setting out minor amendments made arising from changes to legislation, changes to staffing structures/job descriptions or changes in terminology.

1.3.2 Report No: OAS/FH/16/010 set out minor amendments which had been undertaken by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority from January to March 2016.

1.3.3 All Members of the Council had also been informed of the minor amendments made as part of the ongoing review and revision of the Constitution.

1.3.4 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the minor amendments undertaken by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority.

1.4 **Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications (Quarter 4) (Verbal)**

1.4.1 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. In June 2010 it was agreed that this requirement should be fulfilled by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1.4.2 The Monitoring Officer had advised that in Quarter 4, no such surveillance had been authorised.

1.5 **Decisions Plan: May 2016 to May 2017 (Report No: OAS/FH/16/011)**

1.5.1 The Committee considered the latest Decisions Plan, covering the period May 2016 to May 2017. Members reviewed the Decisions Plan in detail and asked questions to which responses were provided.

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

1.6 **Work Programme Update (Report No: OAS/FH/16/012)**

1.6.1 The Committee received and **noted** Report No: OAS/FH/16/012, which provided an update on the current status of the Committee's Work Programme and the Task and Finish Groups appointed by the Committee.

1.6.2 With regards to the work of the Joint Task and Finish Group on New Housing Development Sites, the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) advised members that following their last meeting on 14 December 2015, the Development Manager undertook to agree the details of the highways adoption conditions with the other Suffolk Authorities and Suffolk County Council.

Whilst agreement had been established in principle, the details were yet to be agreed. Consequently, there was no final report to present at the present time. However, every effort would be made to report to the Committee at its next meeting on 9 June 2016.

- 1.6.3 Members were pleased to hear that Suffolk County Councillor James Finch (Portfolio Holder for Roads and Transport) had confirmed his attendance to the next scheduled meeting of Overview and Scrutiny on 9 June 2016. He would be accompanied by Phil Magill, Passenger Transport Operations Manager to discuss and answer questions from the Committee on "transport links for rural villages in Forest Heath".

2. Background Papers

- 2.1.1 Report No: OAS/FH/16/008 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities
- 2.1.2 Report No: OAS/FH/16/009 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Annual Report
- 2.1.3 Report No: OAS/FH/16/010 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Review and Revision of the Constitution
- 2.1.4 Report No: OAS/FH/16/011 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Decisions Plan: May 2016 – May 2017
- 2.1.5 Report No: OAS/FH/16/012 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update