

# Cabinet



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 8 June 2016</b>	
<b>Report No:</b>	<b>CAB/SE/16/035</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	6 September 2016
<b>Chairman of the Committee:</b>	Diane Hind Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee <b>Tel:</b> 01284 706542 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:diane.hind@stedsbc.gov.uk">diane.hind@stedsbc.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Christine Brain Scrutiny Officer <b>Tel:</b> 01638 719729 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk">christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	On 8 June 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items:  (1) Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2015-2016);  (2) Presentation by Leader of the Council on his Portfolio Holder responsibilities;  (3) New Housing Development Sites Joint Task and Finish Group – Update;  (4) Decisions Plan: June 2016 to May 2017; and  (5) Work Programme and Re-Appointments to Task Groups / SCC Health Scrutiny.	
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/SE/16/035, 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"/> Report for information only.	
<b>Consultation:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
<b>Alternative option(s):</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Reports listed under background papers 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"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
<i>Are there any <b>staffing</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
<i>Are there any <b>ICT</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
<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"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
<i>Are there any <b>equality</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
<b>Risk/opportunity assessment:</b>		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
<b>Risk area</b>	<b>Inherent level of risk</b> (before controls)	<b>Controls</b>	<b>Residual risk</b> (after controls)
See Reports listed under background papers below			
<b>Wards affected:</b>		All Wards	
<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 Draft West Suffolk Annual Report 2015-2016 (Report No: OAS/SE/16/013)**

- 1.1.1 The Constitution requires that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives reports from the Leader of the Council or representatives of Cabinet, either prior to the commencement of each financial year or at its first meeting after each Annual Council meeting on the Cabinet's priorities and its performance in the previous year.
- 1.1.2 The St Edmundsbury Leader attended the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and presented the Annual Report, which outlined the Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2015-2016). The Annual Report for the third time had been written as a joint West Suffolk document and was before the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for their comments.
- 1.1.3 The Leader highlighted relevant issues to the attention of the Committee. In particular, the start of the Eastern Relief Road build; working with ONE Haverhill to develop a masterplan for Haverhill town centre; the purchase of Abbots House, Bury St Edmunds and the continued success of the locality budget scheme.
- 1.1.4 Members examined the document in detail and asked a number of questions of the Leader and officers, to which comprehensive responses were provided. Discussions included providing an executive summary of the draft West Suffolk Annual Report for Parish Councils and housing.

### **1.2 Presentation by the Leader of the Council on his Portfolio Holder Responsibilities (Report No: OAS/SE/16/014 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/16/014 set out the overall responsibilities of Councillor John Griffiths, Leader of the Council 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 Leader of the Council and officers, to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular, discussions were held on the two devolution deals, shared funding and how the proposed directly elected mayor(s) would be funded; the post office building in Bury St Edmunds and the proposed of enhancing it as another community facility.
- 1.2.4 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the presentation.

### 1.3 **New Housing Development Sites Joint Task and Finish Group – Update**

- 1.3.1 The Committee was advised that since the last meeting of the Joint Task and Finish Group in December 2015, the Service Manager for Planning-Development had been working with Suffolk authorities to come to an agreement on the wording of highways conditions designed to address the adoptions issues which often arise on new housing developments/estates.
- 1.3.2 The Committee was further advised that the Service Manager had not been able to finalise the work with Suffolk Highways due to recent staff changes, but was actively pursuing the finalisation of this work and planned to report back to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 July 2016.
- 1.3.3 The Committee **noted** the contents of the update.

### 1.4 **Decisions Plan: June 2016 to May 2016 (Report No: OAS/SE/16/0015)**

- 1.4.1 The Committee considered the latest Decisions Plan, covering the period June 2016 to May 2017. 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 and Re-Appointments to Task and Finish Groups / Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny (Report No: OAS/SE/16/016)**

#### 1.5.1 Task and Finish Groups

The Committee considered the current Joint Task and Finish Group running, being the New Housing Development Sites (Joint Scrutiny Review). The Joint Task and Finish Group had been set up with Forest Heath's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to "*Jointly review the unacceptable length of time taken by housing developers to bring highways, footpaths and community facilities (landscaping/open-space/drainage/sustainable urban drainage) up to adoption standards on new developments*".

- 1.5.2 The Committee **RESOLVED that Councillor Jim Thorndyke; Diane Hind and Angela Rushen be re-appointed/appointed to the New Housing Development Sites Joint Task and Finish Group.**

#### 1.5.3 Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny

Members were made aware of Suffolk County Council's reinstatement of its Health Scrutiny Committee. This body included a representative from each of the County's districts and boroughs.

- 1.5.4 The Committee considered the report and nominated Councillor Paul Hopfensperger as the Borough Council's nominated representative and Councillor Margaret Marks as the nominated substitute on the Suffolk Heath Scrutiny Committee for 2016-2017. The Committee **RECOMMENDS that full Council be asked to confirm the appointment of Councillor Paul**

**Hopfensperger as the representative and Councillor Margaret Marks as the Substitute representative to the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee for 2016-2017.**

1.5.5 Work Programme Update

The Committee received and **noted** Report No: OAS/SE/16/016, which provided an update on the current status of the Committee's Work Programme for 2016-2017.

**2. Background Papers**

2.1.1 [Report No: OAS/SE/16/013](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Draft West Suffolk Annual Report 2015-2016

2.1.2 [Report No: OAS/SE/16/014](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Presentation by the Leader of the Council on his Portfolio Holder Responsibilities

2.1.3 [Report No: OAS/SE/16/015](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Decisions Plan: June 2016 to May 2017

2.1.4 [Report No: OAS/SE/16/016](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme and Re-Appointments to Task Groups / SCC Health Scrutiny