

Cabinet



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title of Report:	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 20 July 2016	
Report No:	CAB/SE/16/036	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	6 September 2016
Chairman of the Committee:	Diane Hind Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tel: 01284 706542 Email: diane.hind@stedsbcc.gov.uk	
Lead Officer:	Christine Brain Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) Tel: 01638 719729 Email: christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	On 20 July 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items: (1) Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Housing; (2) Dog Fouling in West Suffolk (3) Review and Revision of the Constitution – Quarterly Report; (4) Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications (Quarter 1); (5) Decisions Plan: July 2016 to May 2017; and (6) Work Programme Update.	
Recommendation:	The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report No: CAB/SE/16/036, 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 Housing (Report No: OAS/SE/16/017 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/SE/16/017 sets out the overall responsibilities of Councillor Sara Mildmay-White, Portfolio Holder for Housing who had been invited to the meeting to discuss her portfolio.
- 1.1.3 Members discussed the presentation in detail and asked questions of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and officers, to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular detailed discussions were held on Barley Homes Group Limited and the number of sites they were proposing to develop in Bury; anticipated income from Barley Homes Group Limited; homelessness applications; Home-link's new software operating system and recent software glitches; affordable housing figures and starter homes; devolution and how that would help to deliver housing; houses in multiple occupation and the frequency of inspection intervals; what plans the council had for providing more rented properties or building council houses; and how to bring empty properties back into use.
- 1.1.4 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the presentation.

1.2 Dog Fouling in West Suffolk – Update (Report No: OAS/SE/16/018)

- 1.2.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/SE/16/018, which updated Members on previous information provided in relation to the extent of dog fouling in St Edmundsbury and the actions that are taken to help eliminate it. In particular the report provided an overview of the actions and investigations undertaken to combat dog fouling, including an update on progress with the trail at the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham to investigate the use of DNA registration to tackle dog fouling.
- 1.2.2 The report included information on:
- A trial with Wickhambrook Parish Council on the effective reduction of dog fouling;
 - Public Space Protection Orders;
 - Fixed Penalty Notice Reward Scheme;
 - DNA Registration;
 - Guidance for Staff; and
 - Additional projects.
- 1.2.3 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions to which responses were provided. In particular discussions were held on the affects of Toxocara Canis; PSPO and what would be included; the

potential for rolling out the Wickhambrook scheme to Haverhill; and how enforcement would be exercised.

- 1.2.4 The Vice-Chairman of the Committee endorsed the reward scheme and suggested that the scheme be widened out even further to include people littering, especially along the A14. The dog fouling scheme would be an excellent starting point.
- 1.2.5 The Committee **RECOMMENDS that the Head of Operations be asked to progress the:**
 - (1) trialling of a reward scheme as a means to encourage information to be reported about dog fouling incidents; and**
 - (2) proposed conditions for a potential Public Space Protection Order in St Edmundsbury.**
- 1.2.6 The above recommendation is required to be **noted** by the Cabinet.
- 1.3 **Review and Revision of the Constitution (Quarterly Report) (Verbal)**
 - 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 The Committee was advised that in Quarter 1, no such amendments had been undertaken by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority.
- 1.4 **Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications (Quarter 1) (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 Committee was advised that in Quarter 1, no such surveillance had been authorised.
- 1.5 **Decisions Plan: July 2016 to May 2017 (Report No: OAS/SE/16/019)**
 - 1.5.1 The Committee considered the latest Decisions Plan, covering the period July 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/SE/16/020)**

- 1.6.1 The Committee received and **noted** Report No: OAS/SE/16/020, 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 The Committee also received and noted an update from the Service Manager (Planning –Development) on the current position of the New Housing Development Sites Joint Task and Finish Group. The update provided an overview; highways adoption/maintenance conditions; planning conditions and smarter corporate working.
- 1.6.3 The introduction of standard conditions regarding adoption would improve the situation the Council currently had and the good practice of pre-application advice and the development team approach would also provide benefits to address the concerns raised by the Joint Task and Finish Group.
- 1.6.4 Whilst the adoption conditions for Highways had yet to be agreed across the Suffolk Authorities, officers would continue to work to achieve this. A final report would be presented to the Committee once this had been achieved (or September 2016).
- 1.6.5 Finally, the Chairman informed Members that following discussions held with the Chairman of St Edmundsbury's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on devolution it was agreed that a Joint Overview and Scrutiny meeting would be held on Tuesday 4 October 2016, at 6pm at West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds to consider the item.

2. Background Papers

- 2.1.1 [Report No: OAS/SE/16/017](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Housing
- 2.1.2 [Report No: OAS/SE/16/018](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Dog Fouling in West Suffolk
- 2.1.3 [Report No: OAS/SE/16/019](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Decisions Plan: July 2016 – May 2017
- 2.1.4 [Report No: OAS/SE/16/020](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update