

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 9 June 2016	
Report No:	CAB/FH/16/032	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	13 September 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 Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) Tel: 01638 719729 Email: christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	On 9 June 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items: (1) Transport Links for Rural Villages in Forest Heath; (2) Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2015-2016) (3) Presentation by the Leader of the Council on his Portfolio Holder responsibilities; (4) Newmarket Vision Update; (5) New Housing Development Sites Joint Task and Finish Group – Update; (6) Decisions Plan: June 2016 to May 2017; and (7) Work Programme and Re-Appointments to Task Groups / SCC Health Scrutiny.	
Recommendation:	The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/FH/16/032, 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 Transport Links for Rural Villages in Forest Heath (Report No: OAS/FH/16/013)

1.1.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/FH/16/013, which reminded members that in January 2016, it resolved to include in its forward work programme a member suggestion on transport links for rural villages in Forest Heath. The Committee had acknowledged that the District Council was not the responsible authority for transport and suggested before contacting various bus and rail operators that Suffolk County Council be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to listen to its concerns regarding transport issues in Red Lodge and to answer questions from the Committee.

1.1.2 Mr Phill Magill (Passenger and Transport Operations Manager) from Suffolk County Council was in attendance to answer questions. Mr Magill advised that SCC had a duty to assess the need for transport, but there was no duty to provide. SCC held regular liaison meetings with various bus companies across and outside of Suffolk. It was currently working towards a Quality Bus Partnership with certain standards set, such as better co-ordinated timings and multi-use tickets. SCC monitored transport provision and looked at the unmet need, which could be brought to the attention of transport providers at the liaison meetings. However, bus timings were set by the schools and where the peak demand was. In between these times, buses were expected to connect with other service providers. He also explained the developer contributions from Section 106 monies and the percentage allocated towards pump priming transport provision.

1.1.3 The Committee asked a number of questions of Mr Magill, to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular, discussions were held on the changes in social needs; ticket machines and real-time information; connecting communities; public transport apps and the possibility of creating a website to enable users to discuss their public transport requirements. Members also questioned what influence the District Council could bring to bear, with SCC in understanding and improving rural transport.

1.1.4 The Committee considered the next steps and suggested inviting Stephenson's Coach Company and Abellio Greater Anglia to a future meeting of the Committee, and **RESOLVED that:**

1) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee works in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Growth in improving, where possible, transport links in Forest Heath; and

2) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee invites Stephenson's coach company and Abellio Greater Anglia to a future meeting of the Committee so as to gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by each service around public transport connectivity.

1.2 **Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2015-2016) (Report No: OAS/FH/16/014)**

- 1.2.1 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.
- 1.2.2 The Leader of the Council 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.
- 1.2.3 The Leader highlighted relevant issues to the attention of the Committee. In particular, the continued success of the locality budget scheme.
- 1.2.4 Members examined the document in detail and asked a number of questions of the Leader and officers, to which comprehensive responses were provided. Comments and suggestions were made by the Committee on the draft Annual Report, which officers agreed to incorporate into the final document.

1.3 **Presentation by the Leader of the Council on his Portfolio Responsibilities (Report No: OAS/FH/16/015 and Verbal)**

- 1.3.1 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.
- 1.3.2 Report No: OAS/FH/16/015 set out the overall responsibilities of Councillor James Waters, Leader of the Council who had been invited to the meeting to discuss his portfolio as Leader.
- 1.3.3 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/proposed mayor(s) / Local Enterprise Partnerships and supporting members.
- 1.3.4 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the presentation.

1.4 **Newmarket Vision Update (Report No: OAS/FH/16/016)**

- 1.4.1 In September 2015, the Committee received an initial report which summarised the future work the groups intended to undertake. The Cabinet Member for Families and Communities presented Report No: OAS/FH/16/016, which updated members on the progress made by the Newmarket Vision delivery groups since September 2015.

- 1.4.2 The partners in the Vision Group met on 21 April 2016 to reflect on the progress that had been made since the Vision was launched and what the groups should be focusing on moving forward. The structure of the group (Appendix 1 to the report) was set up not as a decision making traditional hierarchy but rather as an enabling structure.
- 1.4.3 Members discussed the report and asked a number of questions to which comprehensive were provided. In particular discussions were held on the work being undertaken by the Traffic/Highways Delivery Group; ongoing parking issues in Newmarket; and how the Newmarket Vision was established.
- 1.4.4 The Committee **noted** the contents of the report.

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

- 1.5.1 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.
- 1.5.2 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 21 July 2016.
- 1.5.3 The Committee **noted** the contents of the update.

1.6 **Decisions Plan: June 2016 to May 2017 (Report No: OAS/FH/16/017)**

- 1.6.1 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.
- 1.6.2 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the Decisions Plan.

1.7 **Work Programme and Re-Appointments to Task Groups / SCC Health Scrutiny (Report No: OAS/FH/16/018)**

1.7.1 **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 St Edmundsbury'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"*.

1.7.2 The Committee **RESOLVED that Councillor Ruth Bowman and Bill Sadler be re-appointed to the New Housing Development Sites Joint Task and Finish Group.**

1.7.3 Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny

The Committee considered the report and nominated Councillor Christine Mason as the District Council's nominated representative and Councillor John Bloodworth 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 Christine Mason as the representative and Councillor John Bloodworth as the Substitute representative to the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee for 2016-2017.**

1.7.4 Work Programme Update

The Committee received and **noted** Report No: OAS/FH/16/018, 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/FH/16/013](#): Transport Links for Rural Villages in Forest Heath

2.1.2 [Report No OAS/FH/16/014](#) & [Appendix A](#): Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2015-2016)

2.1.3 [Report No OAS/FH/16/015](#): Presentation by the Leader of the Council on his Portfolio Responsibilities

2.1.4 [Report No OAS/FH/16/016](#) & [Appendix 1](#): Newmarket Vision

2.1.6 [Report No OAS/FH/16/017](#) & [Appendix 1](#): Decisions Plan: June 2016 – May 2017

2.1.7 [Report No OAS/FH/16/018 & Appendix 1](#); & [Appendix 2](#): Work Programme and Re-Appointment to Task Groups / SCC Health Scrutiny