

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 21 July 2016	
Report No:	CAB/FH/16/033	
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 21 July 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items: (1) Presentation by the Lead Portfolio Member for Housing; (2) Review and Revision of the Constitution - Quarterly Report; (3) Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications (Quarter 1); (4) Decisions Plan: July 2016 to May 2017; and (5) Work Programme Update and Suggestion for Scrutiny.	
Recommendation:	The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/FH/16/033, 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:			
Are there any financial implications? <i>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 	
Are there any staffing implications? <i>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 	
Are there any ICT implications? <i>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 	
Are there any legal and/or policy implications? <i>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 	
Are there any equality implications? <i>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 Lead Portfolio Member for Housing (Report No: OAS/FH/16/018 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/16/018 sets out the overall responsibilities of Councillor Sara Mildmay-White, Lead Member 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 Lead Member for Housing and officers, to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular detailed discussions were held on the affordable housing figures and starter homes; Barley Homes Group Limited and the number of sites they were proposing to develop; future housing stock; Home-link's new software operating system; houses in multiple occupation including the value of ward walks to identify properties; the lack of developers currently building houses and what could be done to stimulate building.
- 1.1.4 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the presentation.

1.2 Review and Revision of the Constitution (Quarterly Report) (Verbal)

- 1.2.1 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.
- 1.2.4 The Committee was advised that in Quarter 1 no such amendments had been undertaken by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority.

1.3 Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications (Quarter 1) (Verbal)

- 1.3.1 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.
- 1.3.2 The Committee was advised that in Quarter 1, no such surveillance had been authorised.

1.4 Decisions Plan: July 2016 to May 2017 (Report No: OAS/FH/16/019)

- 1.4.1 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.

- 1.4.2 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the Decisions Plan.
- 1.5 **Work Programme Update and Suggestion for Scrutiny (Report No: OAS/FH/16/020)**
- 1.5.1 The Committee has a rolling work programme, whereby suggestions for scrutiny reviews are brought to each meeting, and if accepted, are timetabled to report to a future meeting. The work programme also leaves space for Call-ins and Councillor Calls for Action.
- 1.5.2 The Committee considered a suggestion for scrutiny which had been submitted jointly by Councillor Chris Barker and Councillor Robin Millar, Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities proposing "*an investigation into the lack of parking enforcement*".
- 1.5.3 The Committee felt the current suggestion form was not currently focused enough and questioned whether the intention was just to focus on parking issues specifically in Newmarket.
- 1.5.4 A lengthy debate on the lack of parking enforcement was held, and taking into account information provided by Cllr Chris Barker at the meeting, the Committee **Resolved** that a reworded suggestion form be completed by Councillors Chris Barker, with help from Councillors Ruth Bowman and Brian Harvey so that the revised work programme suggestion contained more detail in relation to the issues faced in Newmarket.
- 1.5.5 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.
- 1.5.6 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.
- 1.5.7 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).
- 1.5.8 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/FH/16/018](#): Presentation by the Lead Member for Housing
- 2.1.2 [Report No OAS/FH/16/019](#) & [Appendix 1](#): Decisions Plan: July 2016 – May 2017
- 2.1.3 [Report No OAS/FH/16/020](#): Work Programme Update and Suggestion for Scrutiny