

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 12 January 2017	
Report No:	CAB/FH/16/001	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	14 February 2017
Chairman of the Committee:	Councillor 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:	<p>On 12 January 2017, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Mildenhall Hub - Funding;(2) Review of Abbeycroft Leisure Ltd Performance 2005-2016;(3) Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) - Changes to Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation;(4) Annual Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture;(5) Review and Revision of the Constitution (Quarterly Report);(6) Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications (Quarter 2); and(7) Work Programme Update. <p>Separate reports are included on this Cabinet agenda for Items (2) and (3) above.</p>	

Recommendation:	The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/FH/17/001, 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 Mildenhall Hub – Funding (Report No: OAS/FH/17/001)

1.1.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/FH/17/001, which provided Members with the opportunity to scrutinise outline funding plans for the Mildenhall Hub project before a funding agreement and final budget is considered by Council in February 2017. The report focused primarily on the funding elements on which Forest Heath will take a direct lead.

1.1.2 The report informed the Committee that the Mildenhall Hub was a bold and innovative project to review and upgrade the public estate in Mildenhall. The Council's own elements of the scheme included a leisure centre and the replacement of its offices at College Heath Road. Whilst the Council had already committed to progressing the design of the Hub, it needed to finalise its funding arrangements in February 2017 before any planning application was made. To enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the funding of the project ahead of that decision, Report No: OAS/FH/17/001 provided some initial financial information.

It was reported that although some information was still awaited, the current indicators were that the Forest Heath elements of the scheme were likely to be financially deliverable in accordance with the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Furthermore, an investment by Forest Heath in the project would deliver considerable benefits on behalf of the local community and also address significant existing asset management issues.

The central element of the Hub, which would contain the Council's new shared offices, was likely to be deliverable within available resources and generate a saving to taxpayers. The new leisure centre offered a considerable increase in the quality and scale of facilities for the area, to meet current identified need. After applying available sources of capital, delivery of this leisure facility would require some borrowing, but this would be supported in full or part by savings made on running costs, including those from moving to new offices and the installation of advanced renewable energy technologies.

1.1.3 The Committee considered the report and the funding of the Mildenhall Hub in detail and asked a number of questions of the Director, to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular discussions were held on: cash-flow for the project; the length of tenant partnership agreements; the capital cost of the Forest Heath elements of the project and other capital receipt estimates; the proposed 40 year life cycle for the project's finances; future renewable energy business case; previous land swaps and assumptions made around site values.

1.1.4 The Chairman of the Committee informed officers that he was pleased at how the scheme was progressing.

1.1.5 The Committee **noted** the current funding position to date, and requested that the later reports to councillors in February included more information on project cash flow.

1.2 **Annual Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Operations (Report No: OAS/FH/17/004 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 The Committee was reminded that on 14 January 2016, the Committee received a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture, setting out responsibilities covered under the planning and growth portfolio.
- 1.2.3 At this meeting, the portfolio holder for Leisure and Culture, Councillor Andy Drummond, had been invited back to provide a follow-up presentation on his portfolio. Report No: OAS/FH/17/004, set out the focus for the follow-up presentation, which was to:
- Outline the main challenges faced since during the first year within your portfolio;
 - Outline some key successes and any failures during the first year and any lessons learned:
 - Set out the vision for the Operations Portfolio through to 2019 and were you on target to meet that vision.
- 1.2.4 Members discussed the presentation and asked questions of the Cabinet Member, to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular discussions were held on the need to promote more the Mildenhall Museum and the Mildenhall Warrior; and the horse statue, gifted to Forest Heath District Council, which the Cabinet Member would like lit up at night, the same as the Queen's statue in Newmarket.
- 1.2.5 The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture thanked officers for all the work they were doing and for the Committee's scrutiny of his portfolio.
- 1.2.6 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the presentation, and supported the Cabinet Member in his aim of having the horse statue lit.

1.3 **Review and Revision of the Constitution – Quarter 3 (Report No: OAS/FH/17/005)**

- 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/17/005 set out minor amendments which had been made to the Forest Heath District Council Constitution arising from changes to legislation, changes to staffing structures/ job descriptions or changes in terminology from October to December 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 3) (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 3, no such surveillance had been authorised.
- 1.5 **Work Programme Update (Report No: OAS/FH/17/006)**
 - 1.5.1 The Committee received and **noted** Report No: OAS/FH/17/006, which provided an update on the current status of the Committee's Work Programme for 2017.

2. Background Papers

- 2.1.1 Report No: [OAS/FH/17/001](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Mildenhall Hub - Funding
- 2.1.2 Report No: [OAS/FH/17/004](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Annual Presentation by the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture
- 2.1.3 Report No: [OAS/FH/17/005](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Review and Revision of the Constitution – Quarter 3
- 2.1.4 Report No: [OAS/FH/17/006](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update