

Cabinet



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title of Report:	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 15 March 2017	
Report No:	CAB/SE/17/017	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	28 March 2017
Chairman of the Committee:	Diane Hind Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tel: 01284 706542 Email: diane.hind@stedsbc.gov.uk	
Lead Officer:	Christine Brain Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) Tel: 01638 719729 Email: christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	On 15 March 2017, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items: (1) Annual Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance; (2) Update on Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan and North West Relief Road, Haverhill; (3) Decisions Plan: March 2017 to May 2017 (4) Work Programme Update.	
Recommendation:	The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/SE/17/017, 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 Annual Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance (Report No: OAS/SE/17/008 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 The Committee was reminded that on 9 March 2016, the Committee received a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, setting out responsibilities covered under the leisure and culture portfolio.

1.1.3 At this meeting, the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, Councillor Ian Houlder, had been invited back to provide a follow-up presentation on his portfolio. Report No: OAS/SE/17/008, 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; and
- Set out the vision for the Operations Portfolio through to 2019 and were you on target to meet that vision.

1.1.4 Members discussed the presentation in detail and asked questions of the Cabinet Member, to which comprehensive responses were provided. Discussions were held on the difficulties around recruitment; the welfare of staff; the percentage of illnesses related to stress at work; and the new shared legal services arrangements.

1.1.5 The Committee also discussed the importance of member development, and questioned what was being done to encourage members to attend training events/development sessions. The Committee was informed of work currently being undertaken by the Joint Member Development Group. The Committee questioned whether consideration had been given to holding webinars and whether the forthcoming proposed West Suffolk Information Strategy could help deliver this. It was also suggested that the timings of training sessions and the possibility of holding four days a year for intensive training should be reviewed. It was suggested by the Assistant Director (Human Resources, Legal and Democratic Services) that this could potentially be a future piece of work for scrutiny.

1.1.6 In response to particular questions raised:

- i) The Cabinet Member agreed to feed back comments made relating to Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership (ARP) regarding specific issues experienced by some Committee Members.

- ii) Officers agreed to feed back to ARP the possibility of paperless billing for council tax.

1.1.7 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the presentation.

1.2 **Update on Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan and North West Relief Road (Report No: OAS/SE/17/009)**

1.2.1 The Committee received and noted Report No: OAS/SE/17/009, which updated Members on the Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan and the North West Relief Road, Haverhill. The report provided Members with detailed information on:

- The role of The One Haverhill Partnership in the Haverhill Town Centre Masterplanning process;
- The Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan process in the production of the masterplan document;
- The Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan process in implementing the adopted masterplan;
- Key issues and challenges;
- Lessons to be learnt for the other West Suffolk masterplans; and
- The North West Relief Road, Haverhill.

1.2.2 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Growth and the Council's Chief Executive and officers, to which comprehensive responses were provided.

In particular discussions were held on the marketing and promotion of the Haverhill Masterplan; communication channels available; the need for regular updates for residents; the current consultation taking place on the Bury St Edmunds Town Centre Masterplan and timings of the events being held; and that all comments received on the Bury St Edmunds Town Centre Masterplan consultation required a response.

Discussions were also held on the wording of the Section 106 agreement for the development and North West Haverhill Relief Road; the bond which had been secured to ensure that the relief road was delivered within the five year timescale; and health contributions from the Section 106 agreement.

1.2.3 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the update on the Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan and the North West Haverhill Relief Road.

1.3 **Decisions Plan: March to May 2017 (Report No: OAS/SE/17/010)**

1.3.1 The Committee considered the latest Decisions Plan, covering the period March 2017 to May 2017.

1.3.2 Members reviewed the Decisions Plan and noted that the "*North East Bury St Edmunds Masterplan: Transport Assessment*" had presently been removed from the current publication, and questioned the reasoning for this. The Chairman agreed to contact the Lead Officer and would circulate a written response to the Committee in due course.

1.3.3 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the Decisions Plan.

1.4 **Work Programme Update (Report No: OAS/SE/17/011)**

1.4.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/SE/17/011, which provided an update on the current status of the Committee's Work Programme for 2017-2018.

1.4.2 The Chairman reminded all Members of the Committee, to complete the Member Work Programme Suggestion Form if they had any ideas on what the Committee might wish to look at over the coming months. She then suggested topics which the Committee might be interested in scrutinising, such as homelessness and the Suffolk County Council Transport Strategy.

The Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) informed Members it was a requirement of the Council's Constitution to complete the suggestion form, which was in place to ensure the Committee received all the information it needed to then decide whether to take an issue forward, or not.

1.4.3 The Committee considered its work programme, and noted that the report on the West Suffolk Information Strategy scheduled for 19 April 2017 had been deferred until November 2017. The Committee was informed that Kevin Taylor, Service Manager (ICT) had recently been appointed and would be progressing this piece of work shortly. The Chairman questioned whether the Committee could be involved in the development of the Strategy at an early stage, which the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) agreed to raise with officers.

1.4.4 The Committee was also reminded that the Portfolio Holder for Housing would be presenting the "*West Suffolk Housing Strategy to the Committee*" on 19 April 2017, and this would be the ideal opportunity for the Committee to ask the Portfolio Holder if there were any housing related issues, such as homelessness which she would like the Committee to look at in more detail, subject to the completion of the relevant suggestion form.

1.4.5 The Committee also noted early discussions held under the Annual Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance presentation regarding the possibility of working with the Joint Member Development Group on a future detailed piece of work on Member Development.

1.4.6 There being no decision required **noted** the contents of the work programme update report.

2. Background Papers

- 2.1.1 Report No: [OAS/SE/17/008](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Annual Presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance
- 2.1.2 Report No: [OAS/SE/17/009](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Update on Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan and North West Relief Road, Haverhill
- 2.1.3 Report No: [OAS/SE/17/010 - Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Decisions Plan: March 2017 to May 2017
- 2.1.4 Report No: [OAS/SE/17/011](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update