

Cabinet



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title of Report:	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 19 April 2017	
Report No:	CAB/SE/17/023	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	31 May 2017
Chairman of the Committee:	Diane Hind Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tel: 01284 706542 Email: diane.hind@stedsbc.gov.uk	
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Purpose of report:	On 19 April 2017, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items: (1) Annual Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities; (2) Monitoring Community Safety Activities including Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership; (3) West Suffolk Housing Strategy: Update on Progress Against Action Points; (4) Review and Revision of the Constitution (Quarter 4); (5) Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications (Quarter 4); (6) Work Programme Update, Formation of a West Suffolk Information Strategy Joint Task and Finish Group and Suggestion for Scrutiny	

Recommendation:	The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/SE/17/023, 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 Annual Presentation by the Portfolio Holder Families and Communities (Report No: OAS/SE/17/012 and Verbal)

1.1.1 The Committee was reminded that on 20 April 2016, the Committee received a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Families and Communities, setting out responsibilities covered under the families and communities portfolio.

1.1.2 At this meeting, the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities, Councillor Robert Everitt, had been invited back to provide a follow-up presentation on his portfolio. Report No: OAS/SE/17/012, 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 Families and Communities Portfolio through to 2019 and were you on target to meet that vision.

1.1.3 Members discussed the presentation and asked questions of the Cabinet Member, to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular, discussions were held on the Bury St Edmunds Bus Station information building and the letting of the unit spaces; the work of the customer services team, including the handling of challenging customers and the volume of telephone calls answered.

1.1.4 Members were also informed about Buurtzorg, which founded in the Netherlands in 2006-2007, was a unique district nursing system, and the Council would, with partners, be piloting the Buurtzorg model in West Suffolk.

1.1.5 The Cabinet Member for Families and Communities thanked officers for all the work they were doing and for the Committee's scrutiny of his portfolio.

1.1.6 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the update.

1.2 Monitoring Community Safety Activities Including Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (Report No: OAS/SE/17/013)

1.2.1 It is the duty of the Committee, as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee designated under the Police and Justice Act 2006, to scrutinise the work of the Partnership.

1.2.2 Over the past year the WSCSP continued to meet and discharge its statutory duties by carrying out an annual assessment of crime, producing an annual plan and carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews, as required.

1.2.3 The Committee received and **noted** the update on the community safety activity in West Suffolk, including the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) from April 2016 to March 2017.

- 1.2.4 In May 2016, the WSCSP completed and published its partnership plan and project plan for identified community priorities for 2016-2017, which was attached as Appendix A to the report.
- 1.2.5 The report also set out the work of the Strong and Safe Communities Group; the multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Group and Public Space Protection Orders.
- 1.2.6 Members scrutinised the report and asked questions of officers. Discussions were held on domestic abuse; the Community Safety Plan 2016-2017; drug addiction and vulnerable adults; the West Suffolk Joint Forum for Domestic Abuse; and the number of responses received regarding the consultation carried out on the Public Space Protection Orders.
- 1.3 **West Suffolk Housing Strategy: Progress Report Against Action Points (Report No: OAS/SE/17/014)**
- 1.3.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/SE/17/014, which asked Members to review progress against the West Suffolk Housing Strategy 2015-2018. Attached at Appendix A to the report was a detailed update on progress as at the end of December 2016, against 40 objectives. The remainder of the report summarised each of the headings, key achievements to date and work underway and highlighted challenges and external factors impacting on delivery.
- 1.3.2 Members considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and the Service Manager (Strategic Housing) who duly responded. In particular, discussions were held on whether there was any demand for self-build properties in West Suffolk; housing need; building to lifetime home standards; current guidance of space standards; bidding for properties through the Home-link system; local lettings agreements; the definition of affordable housing (currently 80% of market rent); and the Cangle Foyer, Haverhill.
- 1.3.3 The Committee congratulated everyone involved in the Housing Strategy and agreed that it would be useful to continue having a Housing Strategy post 2018 when the current one ends, acknowledging that there was no longer a legal requirement to have one.
- 1.3.4 It was **RESOLVED** that the Committee:
- (1) **Noted** the progress made to date against the actions arising from the West Suffolk Housing Strategy 2015-2018;
 - (2) **Noted** the challenges facing delivery of the West Suffolk Housing Strategy; and
 - (3) **Noted** an update would be presented to the Committee in early 2018 in order to monitor delivery in 2017.

1.4 **Review and Revision of the Constitution – Quarter 4 (Verbal)**

- 1.4.1 The Monitoring Officer provided a verbal update on revisions which had been made to the Constitution during the last quarter. These had mainly been changes made to the officer structure / amendments to job titles.
- 1.4.2 In the past, the Committee had received a report each quarter on minor changes which had been made. The Monitoring Officer was happy to carry on that process, if the Committee found it useful, or it might wish to only receive updates when substantial changes were being made to the Constitution.
- 1.4.3 The Committee considered the proposal and agreed that in future that it would only receive updates on substantial changes being made to the Constitution.

1.5 **Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications (Quarter 4) (Verbal)**

- 1.5.1 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.
- 1.5.2 The Committee was advised that in Quarter 4, no such surveillance had been authorised, and that the surveillance powers were mainly used by the Anglia Revenue Partnership (ARP) for carrying out benefits checks.
- 1.5.3 The Committee felt that it should be informed when ARP used its surveillance powers; then questioned whether the Council scrutinised ARP. Members then suggested that the Committee might wish to receive at a future meeting a presentation from ARP on its work.
- 1.5.4 The Committee **noted** that the Monitoring Officer would provide the Committee with an update at its July 2017 meeting on surveillance authorisations carried out by ARP; and then:

RESOLVED that Councillor Sarah Stamp would complete a work programme suggestion form inviting the Anglia Revenue Partnership to a future meeting of the Committee.

1.6 **Work Programme Update, Formation of a West Suffolk Information Strategy Task and Finish Group, and Suggestion for Scrutiny (Report No: OAS/SE/17/015)**

- 1.6.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/SE/17/015, which provided an update on the current status of the Committee's Work Programme for 2017-2018.
- 1.6.2 The Committee was also asked to nominate two Members with appropriate skills to sit on a "West Suffolk Information Strategy Joint Task and Finish Group". The purpose of the Information Strategy will be to seek to recognise the strategic value of information to the Council and to promote and facilitate good information management practice.

The Committee considered the request made by the Service Manager (ICT) and **RESOLVED** to nominate Councillors Clive Springett, John Burns and Diane Hind as a substitute to sit on the Joint Task and Finish Group with Forest Heath District Council.

- 1.6.3 Finally, attached at Appendix 2 to the Report was a "suggestion for scrutiny" submitted by Councillor Diane Hind, suggesting the Committee might wish to consider "reviewing the Scrutiny Committee's working practices at St Edmundsbury Borough Council to try and see how the system might be changed or adapted to better meet the needs of Councillors and the democratic process".

A debate was held and taking into account information provided by Councillor Diane Hind, the Committee **RESOLVED** to include this item in its forward work programme and that the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) be tasked with arranging a dedicated workshop meeting of all Overview and Scrutiny Members to be held on a Wednesday at 4pm.

2. Background Papers

- 2.1.1 Report No: [OAS/SE/17/012](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Annual Presentation by the Cabinet Member for Families and Communities
- 2.1.2 Report No: [OAS/SE/17/013](#) and [Appendix A](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Monitoring of Community Safety Activities including Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership
- 2.1.3 Report No: [OAS/SE/17/014](#) and [Appendix A](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: West Suffolk Housing Strategy: Update on Progress Against Action Points
- 2.1.4 Report No: [OAS/SE/17/015 and Appendix 1](#) and [Appendix 2](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update, Formation of a West Suffolk Information Strategy Task and Finish Group, and Suggestion for Scrutiny