

Overview and Scrutiny of Committee



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title of Report:	Work Programme Update and Suggestion for Scrutiny	
Report No:	OAS/SE/17/022	
Report to and date:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	19 July 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:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To update the Committee on the current status of its rolling work programme of annual items for scrutiny during 2017-2018 (Appendix 1) 2) To consider two work programme suggestions submitted on the "Anglia Revenues Partnership" and "Suffolk County Council Highways" (Appendices 2 and 3) 	
Recommendation:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That, Members note the current status of the work programme and the annual items expected during 2017-2018. 2) To consider the two suggestions submitted for the work programme, as set out <u>Appendices 2 and 3</u>, and if accepted, includes the issues in its forward work programme with a timescale to be recommended by members in inviting the Anglia Revenues Partnership and Suffolk County Council Highways to future meetings of the Committee. 	

<p>Key Decision: (Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</p>	<p><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"/></p>
<p>Documents attached:</p>	<p>Appendix 1 – Current Work Programme 2016-17</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Suggestion for Scrutiny (Anglia Revenues Partnership)</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Suggestion for Scrutiny (Suffolk County Council Highways)</p>

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendations

1.1 Rolling Work Programme

- 1.1.1 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.
- 1.1.2 The work programme also leaves space for Call-ins and Councillor Calls for Action. The current position of the work programme, including Task and Finish Group(s) for the 2017-2018 is attached at **Appendix 1** for information.

1.2 Member Work Programme Suggestions Submitted for Consideration

- 1.2.1 At its meeting held on 19 April 2017, the Committee considered the Quarter 4 update on "Directed Surveillance Authorised Applications". Members were informed that surveillance powers were mainly used by the Anglia Revenues Partnership for carrying out benefits checks. Councillor Sarah Stamp agreed to submit a work programme suggestion form for further consideration by the Committee.

Appendix 2: Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP): On the 10 June 2015, ARP gave a presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OAS) and presented their joint debt management and recovery policy.

At its meeting held on 19 April 2017, the Committee felt it would be beneficial to receive another presentation and ask if the debt management and recovery policy needed to be updated. There were questions asked by new member of the Committee if we scrutinised ARP.

It was suggested that the OAS Committee might wish to receive a follow-up presentation from ARP to get a better understanding of how they carry out their debt management work and what are the working practices carried out before compiling a list of debts to be written off; and also what percentage of written off debts are eventually recovered.

- 1.2.2 At its meeting held on 7 June 2017, under the Leaders Annual Presentation to the Committee discussed a number of concerns in relation to Suffolk County Council Highways. At that meeting it was agreed that Councillors Susan Glossop and Diane Hind would submit a work programme suggestion form for further consideration by the Committee.

Appendix 3: Suffolk County Council Highways (SCC): Item raised by Cllr Hind and Cllr Glossop due to the concerns raised with them by residents relating to Highways issues. In addition to potholes, concerns include lack of tree maintenance, cutting back of verges, resurfacing roads without repairing the potholes first. White lining roads after resurfacing and getting the lining incorrect where entrances to properties are.

Additionally, in the villages there are problems with Traffic management and the speeding of lorries and juggernauts using road through the villages which they are not supposed to use, and rat-runs through the Town. The County Council does not seem to work with Councillors at any level, nor do they work

with the Parish or Town councils.

1.2.3 Members are asked to:

- 1) Consider whether issues would be appropriate for scrutiny, including potential outcomes: and
- 2) If agreed, and included in its forward work, member are asked to decide on an appropriate timescale for inviting representatives from Suffolk County Council Highways, and the Anglia Revenues Partnership to a future meeting of the Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Rolling Work Programme (St Edmundsbury Borough Council)

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.

Description	Lead Member	Details
13 September 2017		
Annual Portfolio Holder Presentation	Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth	The Portfolio Holder has been invited to provide an update on their portfolio and to answer questions from the Committee.
Overarching Strategy for Facilitating Growth and Investment	Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth	To consider the development of an overarching strategy for the councils' assets and investments.
	Portfolio Holder for Resources & Performance	
Cabinet Decision Plan	Leader of the Council	To peruse the latest Decision Plan for items on which it would like further information or feels might benefit from the Committee's involvement.
Work Programme Update	Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny	To receive suggestions for scrutiny reviews, appoint Task and Finish Groups for these reviews and indicate review timescales.
8 November 2017		
Annual Portfolio Holder Presentation	To be confirmed	The Portfolio Holder has been invited to provide an update on their portfolio and to answer questions from the Committee.
West Suffolk Information Strategy	Portfolio Holder for Resources & Performance	To scrutinise a West Suffolk Information Strategy, which has been jointly produced with Forest Heath District Council.
Cabinet Decision Plan	Leader of the Council	To peruse the latest Decision Plan for items on which it would like further information or feels might benefit from the Committee's involvement.
Work Programme Update	Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny	To receive suggestions for scrutiny reviews, appoint Task and Finish Groups for these reviews and indicate review timescales.

Description	Lead Member	Details
10 January 2018		
Annual Portfolio Holder Presentation	To be confirmed	The Portfolio Holder has been invited to provide an update on their portfolio and to answer questions from the Committee.
Car Parking	Portfolio Holder for Operations	To receive an annual report on car parking in the Borough.
Cabinet Decision Plan	Leader of the Council	To peruse the latest Decision Plan for items on which it would like further information or feels might benefit from the Committee's involvement.
Work Programme Update	Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny	To receive suggestions for scrutiny reviews, appoint Task and Finish Groups for these reviews and indicate review timescales.
7 March 2018		
Annual Portfolio Holder Presentation	To be confirmed	The Portfolio Holder has been invited to provide an update on their portfolio and to answer questions from the Committee.
Cabinet Decision Plan	Leader of the Council	To peruse the latest Decision Plan for items on which it would like further information or feels might benefit from the Committee's involvement.
Work Programme Update	Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny	To receive suggestions for scrutiny reviews, appoint Task and Finish Groups for these reviews and indicate review timescales.
18 April 2018		
Annual Portfolio Holder Presentation	To be confirmed	The Portfolio Holder has been invited to provide an update on their portfolio and to answer questions from the Committee.
Cabinet Decision Plan	Leader of the Council	To peruse the latest Decision Plan for items on which it would like further information or feels might benefit from the Committee's involvement.
Work Programme Update	Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny	To receive suggestions for scrutiny reviews, appoint Task and Finish Groups for these reviews and indicate review timescales.

Futures items identified to be programmed:

1. Future Developments for Regional Transport in West Suffolk (A1307) – Progress Report.

Current position of Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups

	Title	Purpose	Start date	Members appointed	Estimated End date
1.	West Suffolk Information Strategy (Joint Task and Finish Group)	<p>The purpose of the Information Strategy will seek to recognise the strategic value of information to the Council and will promote and facilitate good information management practice, based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a set of underlying data sharing principles; - seeking to define how we use information currently; - how we should be using information in the future; - how this can deliver key outcomes to both our staff, - our operations and our customers/consumers ; and - describing where technology can help facilitate this. 	April 2017	<p><u>St Edmundsbury</u> Cllr Clive Springett Cllr John Burns Cllr Diane Hind (Sub)</p> <p><u>Forest Heath</u> Cllr Brian Harvey Cllr Simon Cole</p>	November 2017