

(Informal Joint) Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 19 April 2018	
Report No:	CAB/FH/18/031	
Report to and date:	FHDC/SEBC (Informal Joint) Cabinets	22 May 2018
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:	On 19 April 2018, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items: (1) Monitoring Community Safety Activities including Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (2) Car Parking Update; (3) Review of Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre – Scoping Report; (4) Work Programme Update.	
Recommendation:	The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/FH/18/031, 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 Monitoring Community Safety Activities including Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (Report No: OAS/FH//18/010)

- 1.1.1 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.
- 1.1.2 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.
- 1.1.3 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 2017 to March 2018.
- 1.1.4 In May 2017, the WSCSP completed and published its partnership plan and project plan for identified community priorities for 2017-2018, which was attached as Appendix A to the report.
- 1.1.5 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.
- 1.1.6 During their discussions on this item, reference was made to Appendix A particularly in relation to the work being undertaken in relation to domestic abuse. To assist with the understanding of the nature of this issue, Members requested as to whether further quantitative data for the area of Forest Heath/St Edmundsbury could be provided to the Committee. Officers confirmed that they would enquire as to what level of data could be made available and would circulate this through to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members accordingly.
- 1.1.7 It was also noted that the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities would be making their annual presentation on this portfolio to the meeting on 12 July 2018, where Members would also be able to ask questions of the Portfolio Holder. Therefore, thought should be given in advance of that meeting, of particular questions which Members would like to see specifically covered by the Portfolio Holder on the subject of domestic abuse.

1.2 Car Parking Update (Report No: OAS/FH/18/011)

- 1.2.1 The Committee received and **noted** Report No: OAS/FH/18/011, which provided Members with an update of the car parking service across 2017, off-street parking outcomes and work priorities.
- 1.2.2 The report included information on transactions and usage, issue of fines, car park improvements (credit card enabled pay machines and RingGo cashless payments, electric charging points, Park Mark, Disabled Parking Accreditation and Vinery Road car park), planning for future car parking provision, Civic Parking Enforcement and future work streams.

- 1.2.3 The Committee asked a number of questions to which comprehensive responses were provided. Discussions were particularly held around the following areas:
- Concerns around the current car parking capacity within Brandon.
 - The results of the occupancy testing undertaken in Newmarket and the modelling of future car park capacity.
 - The consideration of introducing shorter term car parking in Newmarket (ie 30 minutes).
 - Preparation for the implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement, including the potential for vehicle displacement from on-street parking to the car parks in Newmarket.
 - The increase in the number of cars parking on grass verges in Newmarket.

1.2.4 The Town Council Manager from Newmarket Town Council had also taken the opportunity to address the Committee (under 'Public Participation') to make Members aware of the thoughts of the Town Council on car parking in Newmarket. The Town Council had also recently completed the Suffolk County Council questionnaire on parking policies and the Town Centre Manager also briefly informed the Committee of the comments which had been submitted by the Town Council.

1.3 **Review of Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre – Scoping Report (Report No: OAS/FH//18/012)**

1.3.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/FH/18/012, which sought the establishment of a West Suffolk Joint Task and Finish Group to conduct a review into delivery of the Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre for 2019.

1.3.2 The Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre has been running since 2004. St Edmundsbury Borough Council organises the event and commits staff and resources to running it. It is currently run as a not-for-profit community event and attracts over 120,000 visitors to Bury St Edmunds over a four day period. As such, it was reported by the National Association of British Markets Authorities in 2015 to be in the top dozen Christmas Markets in the UK in terms of its size and economic contribution.

1.3.3 A formal review of the Fayre was last carried out in 2015 by a Task and Finish Group consisting of 6 members of St Edmundsbury Overview and Scrutiny Committee and concluded that "*St Edmundsbury Borough Council should commit to the Christmas Fayre for the remainder of the current administration*" (i.e. May 2019) and made a number of recommendations that have been, or are being implemented.

1.3.4 It was now proposed that a further review of the Christmas Fayre be carried by way of a West Suffolk Joint Task and Finish Group to look at:

- i) The current commitment to continue with the Fayre only runs until April 2019, so decisions are needed as to what should take place in winter 2019;

- ii) Planning for the Christmas Fayre starts in the preceding year. As such, a decision will need to be made in 2018 for the 2019 Fayre;
 - iii) If the event goes ahead as planned, the 2019 Christmas Fayre will be the first to be run by the new West Suffolk Council as opposed to St Edmundsbury Borough Council. For this reason, current members from across West Suffolk need to be involved in the decisions about the future of the Fayre; and
 - iv) The new anti-terrorist requirements for large scale events were not in place in 2015 when the previous review was carried out. These requirements have financial and other implications and it would be helpful to consider these alongside a wider review of the Fayre.
- 1.3.5 The Director updated the Committee of the discussions by St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting which had been held on the previous evening. It was explained that discussion had been held as to the membership of the Task and Finish Group and the importance of ensuring that rural areas and other towns were represented. However, the precise extent of involvement of Forest Heath Members was also carefully considered, to balance the fact that the event had historically been led by St Edmundsbury, versus the benefits from Forest Heath Members giving a different perspective. Various options were discussed, including splitting the review into retrospective and forward looking elements; the former being considered by St Edmundsbury Members only and the latter being constituted by the Shadow Authority.
- 1.3.6 Therefore, to reflect the outcome of the discussion, St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee had **resolved that a Joint West Suffolk Task and Finish Group be established with six members from St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and up to six members from Forest Heath District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to carry out a review of the Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre and to make recommendations for 2019.**
- 1.3.6 The FHDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee acknowledged the importance of the Christmas Fayre for Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding area and expressed their appreciation for having the opportunity to be involved in this review, particularly taking into account that the 2019 Christmas Fayre will be the first to be run by the new West Suffolk Council.
- 1.3.7 The Chairman expressed concerns to ensure that the size of the Task and Finish Group did not become too unwieldy and would not wish to see the size exceed to more than 10 Members, but did indicate that in terms of the FHDC representation on the Group, then he would wish to at least have Members who represented the towns of Brandon, Mildenhall and Newmarket.
- 1.3.5 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions to which Officers duly responded and **RESOLVED that**
- 1. A Joint West Suffolk Task and Finish Group be established, with up to four Members from Forest Heath District Council's Overview**

and Scrutiny Committee (Councillors David Palmer, Robert Nobbs, John Bloodworth and Christine Mason) and six Members from St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to carry out a review of the Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre and to make recommendations for 2019.

2. Final confirmation of the Members nominated to sit on the West Suffolk Task and Finish Group be delegated to the Chairmen of both St Edmundsbury Borough Council's and Forest Heath District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

1.4 Work Programme Update (Report No: OAS/FH/18/013)

1.4.1 The Committee received and **noted** Report No: OAS/FH/18/013, which updated Members on the current status of its rolling work programme of items for scrutiny during 2018-2019 (Appendix 1).

1.4.2 It was also noted that at the meeting on 12 July 2018, along with the Annual Portfolio Holder presentation on Families and Communities (where it was again reiterated that thought should be given in advance of that meeting, of particular questions which Members would like to see specifically covered by the Portfolio Holder), there would also be a Families and Communities Evaluation Report, which will also give Members the opportunity to provide input and scrutiny on the monitoring information contained within this document.

2. Background Papers

2.1.1 Report No: [OAS/FH/18/010](#) and [Appendix A](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Monitoring Community Safety Activities including Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership

2.1.2 Report No: [OAS/FH/18/011](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Car Parking Update

2.1.3 Report No: [OAS/FH/18/012](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Review of Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre – Scoping Report

2.1.4 Report No: [OAS/FH/18/013](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update