

Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Report of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's: 27 September 2018	
Report No:	CAB/JT/18/039	
Report to and date:	Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee	6 November 2018
Portfolio holders: (St Edmundsbury)	Councillor Ian Houlder Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance Tel: 07970 729435 Email: ian.houlder@stedsbc.gov.uk	
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Purpose of report:	<p>On 27 September 2018, St Edmundsbury Borough Council's and Forest Heath District Council's Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's held an informal joint meeting together, and <u>considered the following items jointly</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Ernst and Young – Annual Audit Letter 2017-2018; (2) Annual Corporate Environmental Performance 2017-2018; (3) Work Programme Update; and (4) Approach to Delivering a Sustainable West Suffolk Budget 2019-2020 and Medium Term Plan. <p>Item (4) will be considered by the Shadow Executive (Cabinet), at its meeting on 27 November 2018.</p> <p>The Forest Heath Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee also considered the following item separately:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (5) Decision Relating to Complaint to Local Government Ombudsman Report
Recommendation:	<p>It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that Report No: CAB/JT/18/039, being the report for both St Edmundsbury Borough Council's and Forest Heath District Council's Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee's, be <u>noted</u>.</p>
Key Decision:	<p>No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report for information only.</p>
Consultation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See reports listed in Section 2 below.
Alternative option(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See reports listed in Section 2 below.
Implications:	
<p>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.</p>
<p>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.</p>
<p>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.</p>
<p>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.</p>

Are there any equality implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.
Risk/opportunity assessment:	Please see background papers.
Ward(s) 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 **Ernst and Young – Annual Audit Letters 2017-2018 (Report Nos: PAS/SE/18/026 and PAS/FH/18/029)**

1.1.1 The Committee's received and **noted** the above report, which updated members on the outcome of the annual audit of the 2017-2018 financial statement by Ernst and Young, the councils external auditors as detailed in their Annual Audit Letter for the year ended 31 March 2018, attached as Appendix A (Forest Heath) and Appendix B (St Edmundsbury). The letters were for information and confirmed the completion of the audit for the 2017-2018 financial statements.

1.1.2 The final audit fees for 2017-2018 were as follows:

Audit Fee – Code Work	Planned Fee 2017-2018 £	Final Fee 2017-2018 £
St Edmundsbury BC	43,767	43,767
Forest Heath DC	47,059	TBC

1.1.3 The final fee for Forest Heath was expected to be £2,000 - £3,000 higher than the planned audit fee of £47,059. This additional fee related to work performed over the valuation of the solar farm asset, and would be discussed with management before receiving the final approval from the PSAA Limited.

1.1.4 Work on the certification of the Housing Benefit Subsidy returns was not due to be completed until 30 November 2018, and the results of this work, along with the final fees would be reported in the Annual Certification Reports.

1.1.5 The Committee considered the report and did not raise any issues.

1.2 **Annual Corporate Environmental Performance 2017-2018 (Report Nos: PAS/SE/18/027 and PAS/FH/18/030)**

1.2.1 The Committee's received and **noted** the above report, which set out the work undertaken during 2017-2018 to improve the environmental performance in West Suffolk. Attached at Appendix A to the report was the Annual Environmental Statement covering environmental performance in 2017-2018. The Statement covered the operations of both St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council and Abbeycroft Leisure in West Suffolk in respect of energy and water consumption and renewable energy generation.

1.2.2 Members considered the Statement and asked a number of questions to which officers provided comprehensive responses. In particular discussions were held on renewable energy generation.

- 1.2.3 Members also discussed in detail business mileage. It was suggested that more detail was required in the Environmental Statement, setting out an average figure for staff mileage claimed; councillor mileage claimed and pool car mileage. Officers agreed to provide a written response and would include this information in future Environmental Statements.

1.3 **Work Programme Update Report Nos: PAS/SE/18/028 and PAS/FH/18/031)**

- 1.3.1 The Committee's received and **noted** the above reports, which provided information on the current status of its forward work programme for 2018-2019.

1.4 **Decision Relating to Complaint to Local Government Ombudsman Report No: PAS/FH/18/033)**

- 1.4.1 The Committee received the above report which set out a complaint which had been referred to the Local Government Ombudsman in relation to a Disabled Facilities Grant.
- 1.4.2 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the action taken by the Assistant Director (Planning and Regulatory Services) to remedy the findings of the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) and the payment of £200 to settle the complaint.

2. Background Papers

- 2.1.1 Report Nos: [PAS/SE/18/026](#), [Appendix B](#) and [PAS/FH/18/029](#), [Appendix A](#) to the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committees: Ernst and Young – Annual Audit Letter 2017-2018
- 2.1.2 Report Nos: [PAS/SE/18/027](#) and [PAS/FH/18/030](#) and [Appendix A](#) to the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committees: Annual Corporate Environmental Performance 2017-2018
- 2.1.3 Report Nos: [PAS/SE/18/028](#) and [PAS/FH/18/031](#) to the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committees: Work Programme Update
- 2.1.4 Report No: [PAS/FH/18/033](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committees: Decision Relating to Complaint to Local Government Ombudsman