



Draft West Suffolk Councils' Annual Report 2018-2019

Report No:	OAS/WS/19/002	
Report to and dates:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	13 June 2019
	Cabinet	23 July 2019
Cabinet Member:	Councillor John Griffiths Leader of the Council Tel: 01284 757136 Email: john.griffiths@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
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Decisions Plan: This item is included in the Decisions Plan.

Wards impacted: All Wards

Recommendation: It is **RECOMMENDED** that, Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) Considers the draft West Suffolk councils' Annual Report; and
- (2) Makes any amendments and recommends the draft West Suffolk councils' Annual Report to Cabinet.

1. Background / Context

- 1.1 The draft West Suffolk councils' Annual Report (**Appendix A**) highlights the key activities and developments that have been achieved over the financial year 2018-2019, with regard to the priorities set out in the West Suffolk Strategic Framework 2018-2020.
- 1.2 This is the last annual report of Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council working together as West Suffolk councils. It reports retrospectively on our achievements over the financial year 2018-2019, and therefore refers to the 'councils' throughout. In 2019-2020 we look forward to presenting the first annual report for West Suffolk Council.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 It is good practice for local authorities to produce an annual report. It is a way of keeping our residents informed about our activities and how they contribute to our wider strategic priorities for the West Suffolk area.
- 2.2 The draft report contains a number of case studies and examples from West Suffolk to illustrate the achievements described. These have been carefully drawn from a range of localities, urban and rural locations, and service areas, in order to demonstrate the range of activities undertaken by the council. In some cases, initiatives were only focused on one specific area, however, some examples are necessarily drawn from these localities. There are one or two areas, highlighted in yellow, where we are awaiting further information or figures that are not yet available.

3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 The alternative option is to not produce an annual report. However, it is good practice for councils to report on progress against their priorities in this way and ensures transparency on how they spend public money. The report also reflects the excellent work which has been delivered across West Suffolk.

4. Consultation and engagement

- 4.1 The draft Annual Report summarises progress in achieving the priorities set out in the 2018-2020 Strategic Framework which was informed by feedback from residents, business and stakeholders.

5. Risks

- 5.1 Misunderstanding of the role of the report (for example it can only give highlights of West Suffolk councils' activities, not every action taken). This will be mitigated by developing a communications plan to clearly explain the role of the report.

6. Implications arising from the proposal

- 6.1 Equalities - The Annual Report covers evidence to support the achievement of the equality objectives from the Strategic Framework 2018-2020.

7. Appendices

- 7.1 **Appendix A** - Draft West Suffolk Councils' Annual Report 2018-2019
Appendix 1 – Ways we have supported our rural communities in 2018-2019.

8. Background documents

- 8.1 West Suffolk Strategic Framework 2018-2020.