

Cabinet



Title of Report:	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 14 November 2019	
Report No:	CAB/WS/19/039	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	26 November 2019
Chair of the Committee:	Councillor David Nettleton Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tel: 01284 702212 Email: david.nettleton@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Lead Officer:	Christine Brain Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) Tel: 01638 719729 Email: Christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	On 14 November 2019, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items: (1) Draft West Suffolk Strategic Framework 2020-2024; (2) Cross Authority Task and Finish Group – Citizens Advice; (3) Suffolk County Council: Health Scrutiny Committee – 10 October 2019; (4) Cabinet Decisions Plan (1 November 2019 to 31 May 2020); (5) Work Programme Update. A separate report is included on this Cabinet agenda for Item (1) above.	
Recommendation:	It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that Report No: CAB/WS/19/039, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be <u>noted</u>.	

Key Decision:	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 in Section 2 below. 	
Alternative option(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See reports listed in Section 2 below. 	
Implications:		
Are there any financial implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.	
Are there any staffing implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.	
Are there any ICT implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.	
Are there any legal and/or policy implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.	
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 Draft West Suffolk Strategic Framework 2020-2024 (Report No: OAS/WS/19/012)

- 1.1.1 The Committee received Report No: OAS/WS/19/012, presented by the Leader of the Council, which sought input into the development of the draft West Suffolk Framework 2020-2024 (Appendix A). The document was intended to succeed the West Suffolk Strategic Framework 2018-2020.
- 1.1.2 The report summarised the work carried out to date in developing the draft West Suffolk Framework 2020-2024, and sought the Committee's views on the draft document. Work undertaken in preparing the document had involved officers compiling information on Members' existing and future priorities. This included analysis of the previous Strategic Framework and other council strategies, the Single Council Business case, existing business plans for council services and Ward member priorities, as shared with the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities. Two workshops were then held on 11 and 17 September 2019, to which all Members were invited. Following the workshops, input from Members was then combined with the existing commitments and priorities, including those of partner organisations to produce the attached draft document.
- 1.1.3 The Committee noted the document was not comprehensive; it was proposed that the council's strategic priorities remain the same; West Suffolk's contribution was only part of the picture; the document included a new emphasis on the Environment and Rural issues; and the document was a draft which would be designed and formatted before final publication.
- 1.1.4 The Committee considered the report in detail. In particular discussions were held on the need for one bedroomed properties and bungalows; responding to the issues arising from an ageing population and increased prevalence of dementia; protecting the environment and mitigating the impact of climate change and how this could be integrated more fully in the document; and including more detail on the evidence to support the selection of the priorities to which comprehensive responses were provided.
- 1.1.5 The Committee then made comments on the following areas of the draft West Suffolk Strategic Framework document:
- (1) Page 10: Bullet Point 1, - suggest sentence be reworded to read as follows: *"encourage economic growth in West Suffolk that benefits our local economy, our workforce, our families and communities and our global and local environments, **in particular by tackling climate change.**"*
 - (2) Page 10: number 3, under "during 2020-2024 we will" – suggest sentence be reworded to read as follows: *"Drive progress with partners to plan for the infrastructure needed to support our*

economy, including infrastructure that reduces our impact on the environment, for example, non-car transport”.

- 1.1.6 The Committee **RECOMMENDS: That subject to the approval of Cabinet and Council, the Draft West Suffolk Strategic Framework 2020-2024, attached as Appendix A to Report No: OAS/WS/19/012, be approved, inclusive of comments made during the meeting.**
- 1.2 **Cross Authority Task and Finish Group – Citizens Advice (Report No: OAS/WS/19/013)**
- 1.2.1 In August 2019, Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a presentation from the Sudbury and Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice (CA) services. The Councils currently revenue fund both organisations (with some funding also going to the CA services in Ipswich and Diss). Councillors wanted a greater understanding of the work undertaken by CA and the current funding position.
- 1.2.2 Their councillors were concerned about the uncertainty faced by Citizens Advice following last year’s budget processes, which attracted a lot of public and press comment. Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees therefore decided to examine CAB’s from the point of view of their Funding, Value and Impacts (both on the public and on council services).
- 1.2.3 Attached at **Appendix 2** was their report, which summarised the presentation; subsequent debate; resolutions; additional contextual information and invites Suffolk local authorities to join with Babergh and Mid Suffolk in a joint scrutiny exercise. Attached at **Appendix 1** was the Cross Authority Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference, produced by Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2.4 The position regarding West Suffolk is different from Mid Suffolk and Babergh. In our area, the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) have come together as West Suffolk, aligned to our Council area. Each year, they apply to us for Community Chest funding and their application is considered alongside other funding bids. Any funding is provided subject to the CAB providing satisfactory monitoring reports to Council staff. As such, officers have no present concerns regarding the operation of the CAB in West Suffolk, and are satisfied that the CAB is delivering support to residents in line with our strategic priorities. Furthermore, the operation of the Council’s grant funding scheme has recently been reviewed by the Grant Review Group.
- 1.2.5 On 21 October 2019, Councillor David Nettleton, as the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, was invited to a meeting of the Task and Finish Group to discuss their terms of reference and understand more as to how the Group intended to work.
- 1.2.6 Whilst officers do not hold concerns about the operation of the CAB locally, there is the opportunity through the review to share learning

amongst participating Councils, and understand how the sector can work together with the CAB's to support each other effectively.

- 1.2.7 The Committee considered the request to be involved in the cross authority scrutiny, and **RESOLVED: That Councillor David Nettleton and Councillor Patrick Chung be nominated as the full members and Council Mike Chester as the named substitute member to sit on the Cross Authority Task and Finish (Citizens Advice).**

1.3 **Suffolk County Council: Health Scrutiny Committee – 10 October 2019 (Report No: OAS/WS/19/014)**

- 1.3.1 The Committee then received a report, prepared by Councillor Margaret Marks setting out what was considered at its meeting held on 10 October 2019. The main focus of the meeting was to Scrutinise the provision of non-emergency transport services (NETS) in Suffolk and to receive an update on progress with the transformation of mental health services in Suffolk.

- 1.3.2 The Committee considered the report and asked a number of questions to which Councillor Marks provided comprehensive responses.

- 1.3.4 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the report.

1.4 **Cabinet Decisions Plan (1 November 2019 to 31 May 2020) (Report No: OAS/WS/19/015)**

- 1.4.1 The Committee considered the latest version of the Cabinet Decisions Plan, covering the period 1 November 2019 to 31 May 2020. Members reviewed the Decisions Plan and asked questions, to which responses were provided.

- 1.4.2 In considering the Decisions Plan, the Committee asked for further information on the following two points:

- 1) Queensbury Lodge, Urgent Works Notice: Members requested further information on why this had been remove from the Decisions Plan.
- 2) Newmarket Cinema: Members asked whether the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could look at this in the future as a critical friend as the project develops.

- 1.4.3 There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the contents of the latest Decisions Plan, subject to receiving written responses to the above.

1.5 **Work Programme Update (Report No: OAS/WS/19/016)**

- 1.5.1 The Committee received and **noted** Report No: OAS/WS/19/016, which provided an update on the current status of the Committee's Work Programme for 2019-2020.

- 1.5.2 The Committee **noted** that due to the General Election being held on 12 December 2019 that the Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny meeting scheduled to scrutinise the report from the Parking Review Group would now be rescheduled for late January 2020.
- 1.5.3 The Committee was also informed that the Chair had written to the Chief Executive at Havebury Partnership inviting him to its meeting on 12 March 2020, which he has accepted.

2. Background Papers

- 2.1.1 Report No: [OAS/WS/19/012](#) and [Appendix A](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Draft West Suffolk Strategic Framework 2020-2024
- 2.1.2 Report No: [OAS/WS/19/013](#) and [Appendix 1](#) and [Appendix 2](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Cross Authority Task and Finish Group – Citizens Advice
- 2.1.3 Report No: [OAS/WS/19/014](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Suffolk County Council: Health Scrutiny Committee – 10 October 2019
- 2.1.4 Report No: [OAS/WS/19/015](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Cabinet Decisions Plan (1 November 2019 to 31 May 2020)
- 2.1.5 Report No: [OAS/WS/19/016](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update