

Scrutiny Work Programme 2021 and Suggestions for Scrutiny

Report number:	OAS/WS/20/017	
Report to and date(s):	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	12 November 2020
Chair of the Committee:	Councillor Ian Shipp Telephone: 07368 134769 Email: ian.shipp@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
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Decisions Plan: **This item is not included in the decisions plan.**

Wards impacted: **Not applicable.**

Recommendation: **It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

- 1. Reviews and notes the current status of topics currently scheduled in its rolling work programme for 2021, attached at Appendix 1.**

- 2. Resolves to include in its forward work programme for 2021 a review on the operation of West Suffolk markets.**

- 3. Resolves to include in its forward work programme for 2021 a review of the West Suffolk Council statement and approach to modern day slavery and identifies members who would be willing to be part of a small working party to support the review**

1. Context to this report

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, following the completion of the work programme suggestion form, 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.
- 1.1.3 The current position of the work programme, including any Task and Finish Group(s) or Review Groups, and items currently agreed, but yet to be programmed for 2021 is attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Proposals within this report

2.1 Suggestion for Scrutiny: Operation of West Suffolk Markets

- 2.1.1 At its meeting held on 3 September 2020, the Committee supported in principle, looking at the “Operation of West Suffolk Markets”, subject to the Chair of the Committee holding discussions with the Cabinet Member for Operations, the Assistant Director (Operations) and the Chief Executive on the scope of the review, and presents the proposal back to the Committee in November 2020 for further consideration.
- 2.1.2 The Chair met with the Cabinet Members for Operations and Growth and the Assistant Director (Operations) and Assistant Director (Growth) on 9 October 2020 to consider the proposal, as well as drafting the scope and focus of the review. Attached at **Appendix 2** is the completed work programme suggestion form, for the committee’s consideration.
- 2.1.3 In discussion, the timing of the review was raised as an area of concern. At present, the covid-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on the retail sector and to undertake a review at this stage, when the short-term outlook is uncertain, could undermine the long-term effectiveness of the review and its ability to look strategically at the future of the markets. In addition, committing resources to the review at present may mean having to pull key officer time away from efforts to support the pandemic response.

2.1.4 With this in mind, it is proposed to come back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in March with formal terms of reference for the review. The terms of reference will establish:

- The method of conducting the review including timescales
- The outcomes sought, in line with the work programme suggestion
- The composition of the review group
- Potential sources of evidence / research
- Methods of engagement with key stakeholders

If, in the meantime, members have specific thoughts on the terms of the review or matters they consider it would be useful to address they are welcome to raise these with the Chair

2.2 Suggestion for Scrutiny: Modern Day Slavery

- 2.2.1 At its meeting in September, the Overview and Scrutiny received a report from the West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership. Arising from this, it was recognised that it would be beneficial to review both our existing statement and approach to modern day slavery to ensure it is robust.
- 2.2.2 Following the meeting, Councillor Diane Hind has prepared a suggestion for scrutiny form, attached at **Appendix 3**, to undertake a review. If supported, it is proposed that a small group of members would meet alongside officers to discuss the statement and approach, with a view to making any recommendations back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January or March.
- 2.2.3 If members would like to be part of the review they are requested to highlight this at the meeting so that work can progress.

3. Appendices referenced in this report

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Work Programme 2021
Appendix 2 – Completed suggestion for scrutiny, operation of West Suffolk Markets
Appendix 3 – Completed suggestion for scrutiny, West Suffolk policy and approach to modern day slavery

4. Background documents associated with this report

- 8.1 None