

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 14 January 2021

Report number:	CAB/WS/21/003	
Report to and date(s):	Cabinet	9 February 2021
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Councillor Ian Shipp Overview and Scrutiny Committee Telephone: 07368 134769 Email: ian.shipp@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Christine Brain Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) Telephone: 01638 719729 Email: christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk	

Decisions Plan: **This item is not required to be included on the Decisions Plan.**

Wards impacted: **All wards**

Recommendation: **It is recommended that Report number: CAB/WS/21/003, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.**

1. Context to this report

- 1.1 On 14 January 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held its virtual TeamsLive meeting, at which it considered the following items:
1. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO): West Suffolk; and
 2. Work programme update 2021 and suggestions for scrutiny.

2. Proposals within this report

2.1 **Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO): West Suffolk (Report number: OAS/WS/21/001)**

2.1.1 The Committee received and noted the above report which informed members that the Council had completed a review of all existing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in September 2020 in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. By virtue of the Act, the Council must undertake a review, communicate intent to introduce new PSPOs and undertake consultations with certain key stakeholders to ensure that it can make informed decisions when determining the outcome of the review.

2.1.2 As a result of the review of existing PSPOs the Council received suggestions for variations in Brandon, Haverhill and Bury St Edmunds. Therefore, Cabinet at its meeting on 22 September 2020 agreed that further consideration be given to the proposed variations submitted during engagement with stakeholders as set out in section 3.3 of Report number: CAB/WS/20/058.

2.1.3 Based on conversations with relevant town councils, the next steps are for more extensive public consultation on the following:

- Haverhill – to remove a residential area
- Moreton Hall – to introduce a new PSPO

Consultation will take place between 18 January and 21 February 2021. Due to Covid restrictions, consultation with the general public within the proposed areas will focus through online, social media and press releases to raise awareness of the consultation. This will run alongside the stakeholder consultation.

Once consultation has been completed, the data will be analysed with a final decision being considered by Cabinet in March 2021.

2.1.4 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked questions to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular, discussions were held on the need for more enforcement; who was responsible for carrying out enforcement of the various PSPOs; how many Fixed Penalty

Notices had been issued in PSPO areas; and how PSPO areas were monitored to ensure they were working effectively.

2.1.5 The Chair of the Committee said it was crucial for residents and members to report any anti-social behaviour in their wards to the police. This will enable the police to compile evidence and deploy resources to those areas affected with anti-social behaviour and issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

2.2 **Work programme update 2021 and suggestion for scrutiny (Report number: OAS/WS/21/002)**

2.2.1 The Committee received Report number: OAS/WS/21/002, which updated members on the current status of its rolling work programme of items, and items currently agreed but had yet to be programmed for 2021, as attached at Appendix 1.

2.2.2 On 2 December 2020, Councillor Terry Clements approached the Chair of the Committee and relevant officers about a potential scrutiny topic relating to the Council's website and public access to help completing online forms. Following discussion with officers, including the Assistant Director (Families and Communities), Councillor Terry Clements completed a work programme suggestion form, which was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

2.2.3 The Committee suggested that the proposed working group should also consider the handling of telephone calls as well as customer access to the website.

2.2.4 At the conclusion of discussions, the Committee noted the current status of topics currently scheduled in its rolling work programme for 2021 (Appendix 1) and **resolved:**

1. To include in its forward work programme for 2021, a review of the Council's website and identified the following members willing to be part of a small working party to support the review, being Councillors Terry Clements, Mike Chester, Stephen Frost and Patrick Chung.

3. **Alternative options that have been considered**

3.1 Please see background papers.

4. **Consultation and engagement undertaken**

4.1 Please see background papers.

5. Risks associated with the proposals

5.1 Please see background papers.

6. Implications arising from the proposals

6.1 Financial:
Please see background papers.

6.2 Equalities:
Please see background papers.

7. Appendices referenced in this report

7.1 Please see background papers.

8. Background documents associated with this report

8.1 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/001](#) and [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#), to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Suffolk County Council: Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO): West Suffolk.

8.2 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/002](#) and [Appendix 1](#) and [Appendix 2](#), to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work programme update 2021 and suggestion for scrutiny.