

# Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 18 March 2021

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| <b>Report number:</b>                                | <b>CAB/WS/21/019</b>  |             |
| <b>Report to and date:</b>                           | <b>Non-decision making virtual Cabinet</b>  | 25 May 2021 |
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**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/21/019, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.**

## 1. Context to this report

- 1.1 On 18 March 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held its virtual TeamsLive meeting, at which it considered the following items:
- (1) Exiting the European Union: West Suffolk Council's preparations and current status.
  - (2) Update on the Mildenhall Hub.
  - (3) Suffolk County Council: Health Scrutiny Committee – 13 January 2021.
  - (4) Work programmes update 2021.

## 2. Proposals within this report

- 2.1 **Exiting the European Union: West Suffolk Council's preparations and current status (Report number: OAS/WS/21/003)**
- 2.1.1 The Committee received and noted the above report which set out some of the context from when UK voters voted to leave the European Union (EU) in June 2016, a summary of preparations and impacts including collaborative work across Suffolk and West Suffolk Council's preparations.
- 2.1.2 The report provided the Committee with a better understanding of the implications of existing the EU for the council, partner organisations, residents, and businesses in Suffolk and to understand how organisations were working together to ensure that information and advice was disseminated appropriately.
- 2.1.3 West Suffolk Council was working collaboratively with partners to be proactive and pragmatic in maximising possible opportunities and minimising potential risks following the UK's exit from the EU. Consideration of Brexit implications were included in the council's business planning and interactions with partners and providers and officers continue to monitor the full impacts as they emerge. Ongoing council preparations have included support and advice to businesses; review of data security; impacts on projects; supply chain; EU residency and housing; support to staff and communications.
- 2.1.4 The Committee scrutinised the report in detail and asked a number of questions to which comprehensive responses were provided. Discussions were held on the Free Port Status for Felixstowe and Harwich Ports; packages from the continent being opened and, in some cases, contents missing; customers receiving customs bills from packages coming from the EU when they were bought from a UK website domain; data security; and whether there was any data on EU nationals leaving West Suffolk.

## 2.2 **Update on the Mildenhall Hub (PowerPoint Presentation)**

2.2.1 The Committee received and noted a follow-up presentation by the Director, which provided the latest information on the planned opening of the Mildenhall Hub and the specific impact of Covid-19. The presentation included some images of what the site looks like at the present time, landscaping etc.; the latest timetable; reopening plans for leisure facilities; initial impact of Covid-19 on using the Hub; practical adjustments; engagement and the College Heath Road offices.

2.2.2 The Chair of the Committee wished to thank everyone involved in the planning and delivery of the project, as it had been challenging at times due to Covid-19.

2.2.3 The Committee considered the presentation and asked questions to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular discussions were held on the new swimming pool.

## 2.3 **Suffolk County Council: Health Scrutiny Committee – 13 January 2021 (Report number: OAS/WS/21/004)**

2.3.1 The Committee received and **noted** the report, prepared by Councillor Margaret Marks setting out what was considered at its meeting held on 13 January 2021. The focus of the meeting was:

- What are children and young people in Suffolk struggling with in terms of their emotional health and wellbeing?
- In terms of accessing the support needed, what has been working well and what could be improved.

2.3.2 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked questions to which Councillor Marks provided comprehensive responses. In particular discussions were held on the West Suffolk Hospital Future Systems Board Task and Finish Group and whether there were any ambitions for having any specialist services, whether the delivery of chemotherapy would continue to be delivered at home after Covid-19 and young people struggling with mental health.

## 2.4 **Work programme update 2021 and suggestion for scrutiny (Report number: OAS/WS/21/005)**

2.4.1 The Committee received and noted Report number OAS/WS/21/005, 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.

- 2.4.2 The Committee also received an update from Councillor Stephen Frost, Chair of the Website Working Party. The group held its first meeting on 24 February 2021 where they received a range of information on how and why customers were using the website and accessing services. All members of the group agreed to do some homework, where they would go away and try to do the “top 10” things customers do the most on the website to see how they find the experience and journey and would feed back their findings to the next meeting on 26 March 2021.

### **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/21/003](#), to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Exiting the European Union: West Suffolk Council’s preparations and current status

- 8.2 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/004](#), [Appendix 1](#) and [Appendix 2](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Suffolk County Council: Health Scrutiny Committee – 13 January 2021
  
- 8.3 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/005](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work programme update 2021