

Scrutiny Work Programme 2021 Update and Councillor Call for Action Submission

Report number:	OAS/WS/21/011	
Report to and date(s):	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10 June 2021
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. Advises of at least one new member to the Modern-Day Slavery Work Group following the resignation of Councillor Lisa Ingwall-King.**
- 3. Confirms whether it is inclined to take the Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) matter further, attached at Appendix 2.**
- 4. If the Committee wishes to progress the CCfA referral, it is requested to consider how it intends to take the matter forward and whether it would wish to include the CCfA in its forward work programme. The Committee could:**
 - Consider it will not accept the CCfA referral and give the referring Councillor reasons why it does not wish to take the matter forward, or**
 - Consider it does not have sufficient information to decide whether it wishes to take the matter forward and asks the referring Councillor to provide further information to a future meeting, or**
 - Indicate it wishes to include the CCfA in its forward work programme for 8 July 2021, where evidence will be gathered and witnesses questioned, in the manner of a call-in, in order to enable the Committee to be able to make recommendations to the Cabinet or to the Council's partner organisations.**

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**.

1.2 Modern-Day Slavery Working Group

- 1.2.1 The Committee at its meeting held on 12 November 2020, resolved to include in its forward work programme for 2021 a review of the West Suffolk Council statement and approach to modern-day slavery, and identified Councillors Diane Hind, Mike Chester, and Lisa Ingwall-King to be part of a small working group.
- 1.2.2 In March 2021, the Monitoring Officer received notification that Councillor Lisa Ingwall-King had resigned as a West Suffolk Councillor. Therefore, at least one new member from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is sought to replace Councillor Inwall-King on the Modern-Day Slavery Working Group.

1.3 Councillor Call for Action

- 1.3.1 Councillor Call for Action came into force on 1 April 2009 and provides a mechanism whereby any member of the Council may refer to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee any local government matter or any crime and disorder matter which affects their ward/division.
- 1.3.2 Any Councillor may request that the Committee consider the inclusion of a Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) on its work programme, under the terms of a CCfA Protocol to be agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This should only be in exceptional circumstances where all other possible avenues for resolution of the issue have been followed by the referring Councillor, and yet a problem still exists.
- 1.3.3 Councillor Trevor Beckwith has submitted a CCfA entitled "Impact of the Eastern Relief Road and A14 Junction 45 on the Moreton Hall Residential

Area”, and his submission form, required under the CCfA Protocol, is attached to this report as **Appendix 2**.

Responsibilities of the Committee

1.3.4 The Committee is required today to decide whether it wishes to take this matter further. In deciding whether or not to take the matter further the Committee will consider the information provided on today’s agenda, and will take a number of criteria into consideration as set out in the CCfA Protocol, including:

- Is the Committee satisfied that all reasonable attempts have been made to resolve the issue by the ward councillor, and do the responses received by the referring councillor demonstrate that the matter is not being progressed?
- Have all relevant service areas or partner organisations been informed and been given enough time to resolve the issue? What responses has the councillor received?
- And, as with all scrutiny, does the matter referred have the potential for scrutiny to produce recommendations which could realistically be implemented and lead to improvements for anyone living or working in the referring member’s ward?

1.3.5 If the Committee decides to accept the CCfA referral, it must decide how it intends to take the matter forward and include the CCfA in its work programme. The Committee could:

- Consider it does not accept the CCfA referral and give the referring Councillor reasons why it does not wish to take the matter forward.
- Indicate it does not have sufficient information to decide whether it wishes to take the matter forward and ask the referring Councillor to provide further information to a future meeting.
- Hold a hearing at a future meeting of the Committee, where evidence will be gathered and witnesses questioned, in the manner of a call-in, in order to enable the Committee to be able to make recommendations to the Cabinet or the Council’s partner organisations. Review of the work programme indicates that this is a matter that could realistically be considered at the meeting scheduled for 8 July 2021.

2. Proposals within this report

2.1 Rolling Work Programme

2.1.1 The Committee is asked to note the current status of its rolling work programme attached at **Appendix 1**.

2.2 **Modern-Day Slavery Working Group**

2.2.1 The Committee is asked to seek at least one new member to the Modern-Day Slavery Working Group.

2.3 **Councillor Call for Action**

2.3.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Committee on the background of a topic which has led to the submission of a Councillor Call for Action, and for the Committee to decide whether it wishes to take the matter forward to a formal hearing.

2.3.2 Alternatively, the Committee may request further information from the referring Councillor and make its decision whether to take the matter forward on receipt of that further information, or the Committee may decide not to take the matter forward at all.

3. **Appendices referenced in this report**

3.1 Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Work Programme 2021

Note: In line with Data Protection guidance, the following documents listed below (Appendices 2 to 6), have been redacted to protect the identity of all correspondents.

Appendix 2 – Councillor Call for Action Request Form

Appendix 3 – CCfA SCC post meeting letter – 5 October 2018

Appendix 4 – CCfA Complaint against SCC

Appendix 5 – CCfA Stage 1 response and email exchange

Appendix 6 – CCfA SCC final response to complaint

Appendix 7 – CCfA Map

4. **Background documents associated with this report**

4.1 None