

# Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 8 July 2021

<b>Report number:</b>	<b>CAB/WS/21/030</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	20 July 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/21/030, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.

## 1. Context to this report

1.1 On 8 July 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held its non-decision-making virtual MS TeamsLive meeting, at which it considered the following items:

1. Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2020-2021)
2. Appointments to Outside Scrutiny Bodies (2021-2022)
3. Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 July 2021 to 31 May 2022
4. Work programmes update

## 2. Proposals within this report

### 2.1 **Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2020-2021) (Report number: OAS/WS/21/012)**

2.1.1 The Leader of the Council attended the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and presented the Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2020-2021), which highlighted the key activities and developments which had been achieved over the financial year 2020-2021, with regards to the priorities set out in the West Suffolk Strategic Framework 2020-2024.

2.1.2 The annual report focussed on the council's achievements over the past year, including the council's activities to support local communities and businesses as it responds to and recovers from Covid-19.

2.1.3 The final annual report would include infographics to provide a strong and easily digestible summary of the council's work over the previous year and was designed to be used in a number of ways, including for briefing materials and social media.

2.1.4 Members examined the document in detail and asked a number of questions of the Leader, to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular discussions were held on the Love Newmarket Business Improvement District and what support was provide; the park home insulation scheme; the swift distribution of the business grant schemes during Covid-19; work being carried out with health partners across West Suffolk; and the development of a communications plan to explain the role of the annual report.

2.1.5 Comments and suggestions made by the Committee on the draft Annual Report, for example including:

- contact details under each section of the report;
- growth in West Suffolk's economy - first bullet point, include: '£70m' instead of '£70,000,000'

- highlighting more of the work of West Suffolk Council on the distribution of business grants.
- provision of appropriate housing – listing how many types of houses had been built for lifetime homes;
- wording about the Council working in other towns with health partners and other partner organisations such as with One Haverhill to develop a Haverhill Hub;

to which officers agreed to look at incorporating into the final document, to be presented to Cabinet.

## 2.2 **Appointments to Outside Scrutiny Bodies (Report number: OAS/WS/21/013)**

- 2.2.1 The Health Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutinising wellbeing and health services across the county. The committee has 10 members in total, five county councillors and one co-opted representative from each of the District and Borough Councils in Suffolk. These councillors are from across political groups and are not members of their Council's Cabinet Committee.
- 2.2.2 An extract from the Suffolk County Council's constitution, setting out the role of the Health Scrutiny Committee was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 2.2.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was therefore asked to nominate, on an annual basis, one full member and one substitute member to serve on the Suffolk County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee for 2021-2022.
- 2.2.4 At the conclusion of its discussions, the Committee requests that Council be asked to confirm at its next meeting the appointments of Councillor Margaret Marks as the full representative and Councillor Mike Chester as the interim substitute representative to the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for 2021-2022.

## 2.3 **Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022 (Report number: OAS/WS/21/014)**

- 2.3.1 The Committee reviewed and **noted** the latest version of the Cabinet Decisions Plan, covering the period 1 July 2021 to 31 May 2022, and asked questions on "Delivering a Sustainable Budget 2022 to 2023" and the "Environment Action Plan" reports, to which responses were provided.
- 2.3.2 In particular questions were raised on the following:

- The “West Suffolk Rural Task Force Action Plan Update” report being considered by Cabinet on 21 September 2021. The Committee asked how the recommendations of the Rural Task Force were have been incorporated into the Local Plan, to which officers agreed to provide a written response.
- The “Applications for Community Chest 2022-2023” report being considered by Cabinet on 8 February 2022. The Committee asked how the awarding of the community chest process worked. Officers explained the community chest work was led by the Grant Working Group and agreed to provide a written response on the process.

**2.4 Work programme update 2021 (Report number: OAS/WS/21/015)**

- 2.4.1 The Committee received Report number OAS/WS/21/015, 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. It also set out information seeking at least one new member from the Committee to replace Councillor Ingwall-King on the Modern-Day Slavery Working Group.
- 2.4.2 The Committee considered the request to seek at least one new member from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Ingwall-King on the Modern-Day Slavery Working Group who resigned as a West Suffolk Councillor in March 2021. At the time of the meeting, no members came forward to sit on the Working Group.
- 2.4.3 Councillor Diane Hind informed members she had produced a small report on “anti-idling” on the work carried out by the Residents Working Group which had been emailed to the Committee for information. As a follow-up to this, Councillor Diane Hind agreed to complete a work programme suggestion form for the Committees consideration at its September 2021 meeting, focusing on anti-idling, 20 mile and hour speed limit and improving air quality around our towns. This piece of work was originally raised by Councillor Lisa Ingwall-King back in January 2020.
- 2.4.4 A member of the Committee raised a question regarding the street trading and vending policy, which had previously been scrutinised by the St Edmundsbury Borough Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee over a course of several months and questioned whether this was now due for review. Officers explained that the Licensing Committee would be looking at the policy in the near future as reported to all members in March 2021 and agreed to provide a written response on the proposed time frame for carrying out this piece of work.
- 2.4.5 At the conclusion of discussions, the Committee:

1. **noted** the current status of topics currently scheduled in its rolling work programme for 2021, attached at Appendix 1;
2. **noted** that following the meeting, the Chair would lobby to seek a volunteer to replace Councillor Lisa Ingwall-King on the Modern-Day Slavery Working Group.
3. **noted** Councillor Diane Hind agreed to complete a work programme suggestion form setting out the scope for an update on Anti-Idling.

### **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/21/012](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2020-2021)

- 8.2 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/013](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Appointments to Outside Scrutiny Bodies (2021-2022)
- 8.3 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/014](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 July 2021 to 31 May 2022
- 8.4 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/015](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update 2021