

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 11 November 2021

Report number:	CAB/WS/21/053	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	7 December 2021
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Councillor Ian Shipp Overview and Scrutiny Committee Telephone: 07368 134769 Email: ian.shipp@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
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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/21/053, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.**

1. Context to this report

- 1.1 On 11 November 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items:
1. Health - Portfolio Holder Overview
 2. Air Quality and Anti-Idling Campaign Update
 3. Suffolk County Council: Health Scrutiny Committee – 13 October 2021
 4. Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 November 2021 to 31 May 2022
 5. Work programme update 2022

2. Proposals within this report

2.1 Health – Portfolio Holder Overview (Report number: OAS/WS/21/020)

- 2.1.1 At its meeting on 2 September 2021, the Committee had requested further information in relation to the role of the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Health and Housing in relation to health, which followed changes made to her portfolio holder responsibilities announced by the Leader in July 2021.
- 2.1.2 The Committee received and **noted** the report, which set out the role and responsibility held by the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Health and Housing, and the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities in relation to health.
- 2.1.3 For a number of years, the Council has been working alongside partners in the health and care sector. This work has been wide ranging but falls largely into two broad areas:
- Prevention and early intervention
 - Effective partnerships

The close co-operation between health providers and the Council was accelerated during the Covid-19 pandemic and will remain important during the recovery phase.

- 2.1.4 Recognising that there were a number of significant projects and initiatives to support and/or deliver over the next few years the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Health and Housing was asked by the Leader of the Council to take a more strategic leadership perspective in relation to health and would be responsible for the following areas of focus:
- Future system programme
 - Health and care governance
- 2.1.5 The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Health and Housing's role in health was in addition to that of the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities. This

was in response to the growing workload associated with health and the Council's role in the pandemic recovery and reducing health inequalities.

- 2.1.6 The Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities would retain the lead for the wider health responsibilities, including, but not limited to, Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board; delivery of the social prescribing LifeLink service; community safety; supporting the voluntary and community sector; and building community capacity and resilience.
- 2.1.7 The Council has a seat on the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee. This role was separate to that of the portfolio holders as the Committee was responsible for scrutinising wellbeing and health services across the county.
- 2.1.8 The Committee considered the report and asked questions to which comprehensive responses were provided by the Cabinet Member. In particular discussions were held on the "future system programme" in relation to thinking ahead and building in health capacity into the local plan and being more ambitious with the local plan; linking health with housing; the need for more health hubs locally for people to access; planning for unintentional consequences; the West Suffolk Hospital public consultation events; and the restart of community groups following the pandemic.

2.2 **Air Quality and Anti-Idling Campaign Update (Report number: OAS/WS/21/021)**

- 2.2.1 At its meeting on 2 September 2021, the Committee had considered a work programme suggestion on anti-idling and asked officers to consider using the Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO) to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) under the 2002 traffic regulations. Officers did not consider issuing FPN was appropriate but did agree that CEO would undertake informal action and record the findings of interactions with idling drivers.
- 2.2.2 The Committee received an update on the anti-idling campaign, other air quality improvement work and an initial update on the work of the CEOs approaching idling drivers as part of their day-to-day activities by asking drivers to switch their engines off.
- 2.2.3 The Committee considered the report and asked questions to which responses were provided. In particular discussions were held on getting back into schools to spread the anti-idling message and the possibility of a poster competition for schools; the Suffolk Air Quality Summit being held on 26 November 2021; more engagement with businesses on anti-idling; and whether literature could be included within Council Tax bills, to which responses were provided.

2.2.4 The Committee made the following suggestions:

- Including the anti-idling figures where CEOs have approached drivers in the monthly report members already received which listed all Civil Parking Enforcement figures.
- Using online videos in schools on anti-idling until officers were able to enter schools again, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Whether there was any scope in talking with Suffolk County Council Highways in having signage behind roadworks to remind drivers about anti-idling.
- More social media posts on the consequences of unnecessary idling.

Officers agreed to look into the above suggestions.

2.2.5 The Committee **noted** the update subject to comments made during the meeting.

2.3 **Suffolk County Council: Health Scrutiny Committee – 13 October 2021 (Report number: OAS/WS/21/022)**

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 October 2021. The focus of the meeting was:

- To consider the impact and current challenges in delivering Primary Care services has on patients
- Provision of GP Services in Suffolk
- Healthwatch Suffolk

2.3.2 The Committee considered the report and asked questions to which Councillor Marks provided comprehensive responses. In particular detailed discussions were held on GP vacancies in West Suffolk; the lack of NHS dentists and questioned what was planned to resolve the issue and the draft recommendations made by the Health Scrutiny Committee.

2.4 **Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 November 2021 to 31 May 2022 (Report number: OAS/WS/21/023)**

2.4.1 The Committee reviewed and **noted** the latest version of the Cabinet Decisions Plan, covering the period 1 November 2021 to 31 May 2022.

2.4.2 Councillor Mike Chester referred to the "Applications for Community Chest 2022 to 2023" and asked how the process worked. In response, Councillors

Ian Shipp, Margaret Marks and Diane Hind, who also sat on the West Suffolk Grant Working Party agreed to discuss the process with Councillor Chester following the meeting.

2.4.3 The Committee considered the Decisions Plan and did not request any further information on items contained in the Plan.

2.5 **Work programme update 2022 (Report number: OAS/WS/21/024)**

2.5.1 The Committee received and **noted** Report number OAS/WS/21/024, 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 2022 as attached at Appendix 1.

2.5.2 The Chair informed members he would be writing to Suffolk County Council seeking an update report for its 13 January 2022 meeting relating to the Councillor Call for Action Hearing held on 2 September 2021 and the recommendations made by the Committee.

2.5.3 Councillor Diane Hind referred to Appendix 1, and the list of items carried forward and not yet scheduled and suggested that the item on "Homes for Life" be programmed for a future meeting of the Committee, which the Democratic Services Officers (Scrutiny) agreed to progress with officers.

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/21/020](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Health - Portfolio Holder Overview

8.2 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/021](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Air Quality and Anti-Idling Campaign Update

8.3 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/022](#) and [Appendix 1](#), [Appendix 1A](#), [Appendix 1B](#) and [Appendix 1C](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee – 13 October 2021

8.4 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/023](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 November 2021 to 31 May 2022

8.5 Report number: [OAS/WS/21/024](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update 2022