

# Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 17 March 2022

<b>Report number:</b>	<b>CAB/WS/22/017</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	26 April 2022
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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/22/017, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.**

## 1. Context to this report

1.1 On 17 March 2022, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items:

1. Response on Homes for Life and Ageing Population Housing Questions
2. Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee – 26 January 2022
3. Work programme update 2022

## 2. Proposals within this report

### 2.1 Response on Homes for Life and Aging Population Housing Questions (Report number: OAS/WS/22/004)

2.1.1 The Committee received and **noted** the above report presented by the Cabinet Member for Planning, which had been prepared following a request on 12 March 2020, which came from discussions relating to the West Suffolk Housing Strategy Implementation Plan 2018 to 2023: Year 1 Review. The report provided responses to two questions raised:

- How many Homes for Life are being built; and
- What is specifically being built for the aging population.

The report explained the terminology, history of the change and current policy standards being used to meet housing need across West Suffolk.

2.1.2 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions. In particular discussions were held on whether the number of homes being built to the new standards M4(2) – accessible and adaptable dwellings and M4(3) – wheelchair user dwellings would be included in the new Local Plan; why solar panels and other sustainable materials were not being put on new builds; and the lack of bungalows being built to which comprehensive responses were provided.

### 2.2 Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee – 26 January 2022 (Report number: OAS/WS/22/005)

2.2.1 The Committee received Report number OAS/WS/22/005, prepared by Councillor Margaret Marks setting out a summary of the discussions held at its meeting on 26 January 2022. The focus of the meeting was to consider Dentistry Services in Suffolk.

2.2.2 Councillor Marks explained a significant problem was that around 50 percent of children had not seen a dentist in recent times and this seems to be as a result of parents/guardians struggling to register with a dentist. A specific difficulty was that NHS England appeared to be the only body which has the power to change this situation. Although some progression is being made, work is being undertaken to drive NHS England towards improving this

service, including ensuring budgets are appropriately allocated and encouraging some of the Health Scrutiny recommendations to be adopted within the next year. Recommendations include seeking a change to dentist contracts; ensuring the paperwork that is required to be completed by dentists from overseas is not too onerous; getting dentists back into schools; and providing better support for dentists to help them operate more effectively.

- 2.2.3 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked questions to which Councillor Marks provided comprehensive responses. In particular, discussions were held on the number of bodies involved in dentistry; needs assessments; whether there was a shortage of private dentists; current dental contracts; the number of dentists leaving the NHS and the reasons behind this; and residents experiencing difficulties registering with an NHS dentist.
- 2.2.4 The Committee **noted** the report, and in particular, supported the work being carried out by the Health Scrutiny Committee around the provision of dentistry services in Suffolk.

### 2.3 **Work programme update 2022 (Report number: OAS/WS/22/006)**

- 2.3.1 The Committee received Report number OAS/WS/22/006, 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.
- 2.3.2 The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to be held on 9 June 2022, which coincided with the “Platinum Jubilee Parade and RAF Honington 50th Anniversary Parade”. Therefore, the Chair advised that the meeting would be moved to the following week, **Thursday, 16 June 2022**.
- 2.3.3 The Chair referred to the “20mph zones” which was yet to be scheduled. In moving this forward, the Chair proposed two options in progressing this piece of work, either:
- Inviting Suffolk County Council to a “virtual informal Overview and Scrutiny” meeting between April and May 2022 to brief the Committee on the “20mph zone” process; or
  - Inviting Suffolk County Council to the Committee’s June meeting to provide a briefing.

The Vice-Chair supported holding a virtual meeting between April and May 2022 to progress the “20mph zone” topic, which was also **agreed** by the Committee.

2.3.4 Councillor Cliff Waterman, on behalf of Councillor Diane Hind raised the issue of anti-idling. A meeting had been held on 11 January 2022 with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, Councillors Diane Hind, Julia Wakelam, the Director (Operations) and the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) to discuss anti-idling. At this meeting, the possibility of continuing collecting figures on the number of drivers approached about the topic was not possible because there was not the mechanism to record interactions for idling and issue them as Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). However, two options were suggested being:

1. agree for Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) officers to continue to have informal conversations with idling motorists in the course of their duties (but not record/report interventions); or
2. seek to establish the full impact and cost of obtaining formal powers to enforce idling with the requisite resources, training and back-office system modifications. If the Committee agrees, then a recommendation would need to be made to Cabinet.

Given the importance to our residents' health of reducing air pollution Councillor Waterman asked the Committee to agree that the Director (Operations) be tasked with establishing the costs and impacts of establishing a full anti-idling policy.

The Committee considered the request and **Resolved:** That "Vehicle idling interactions" be included into the Committee's forward work programme and the Director (Operations) be requested to establish the full impact and costs of obtaining formal powers to enforce idling, including the requisite resources, training and back-office system modifications, and provide a report to the Committee by September 2022.

### **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/22/004](#) and [Appendix 1](#), [Appendix 2](#) and [Appendix 3](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Response on Homes for Life and Ageing Population Housing Questions

8.2 Report number: [OAS/WS/22/005](#) and [Appendix 1](#), [Appendix 2a](#), [Appendix 2b](#) and [Appendix 3](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee – 26 January 2022

8.3 Report number: [OAS/WS/22/006](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update 2022