

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 16 June 2022

Report number:	CAB/WS/22/033	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	19 July 2022
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/22/033, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.**

1. Context to this report

1.1 On 16 June 2022, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items:

1. West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership monitoring report (April 2021 to March 2022)
2. West Suffolk Markets Review Working Group – recommendations report
3. Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee – 6 April 2022
4. Appointment to outside scrutiny bodies (2022 to 2023)
5. Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023
6. Work programme update 2022

2. Proposals within this report

2.1 **West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership monitoring report (April 2021 to March 2022) (Report number: OAS/WS/22/007)**

2.1.1 It is the duty of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee designated under the Police and Justice Act 2006, to scrutinise the work of the Partnership.

2.1.2 The Committee received and **noted** the report, which was presented to the Committee by Councillor Sarah Mansell, Vice-Chair of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP). Councillor Robert Everitt, Cabinet Member for Families and Communities was also in attendance.

2.1.3 Over the past year the WSCSP continued to meet and discharge its statutory duties by carrying out an assessment of crime and disorder in the area, continuing to deliver the three-year plan and action plan to reflect the priorities of the partnership, and carrying out domestic homicide reviews. A review of the WSCSP action plan was completed in June 2021, and following discussions with statutory partners, the action plan was formally agreed by the WSCSP Responsible Authorities Group in June 2021.

2.1.4 Based on the outcomes of partnership discussions, the following priorities remained the focus of the WSCSP:

- County lines.
- Violence against women and girls
- Hate crime
- Prevent
- Domestic homicide reviews

2.1.5 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions to which comprehensive responses were provided. Discussions were held on domestic abuse and whether there were any specific triggers or patterns to domestic abuse; county and local lines and who to report issues

to; anti-social behaviour (ASB) and what was being done to improve ASB; violence against women and girls; delays by Central Government in approving domestic homicide reviews; the impact of the pandemic on the partnership and how local members could get involved in the work of the partnership.

2.2 West Suffolk Markets Review Working Group – recommendations report (Report number: OAS/WS/22/008)

- 2.2.1 The Committee received Report number: OAS/WS/22/008, presented by the Chair of the Working Group, Councillor John Burns, which set out the findings from the Markets Review Working Group. Attached at Appendix A to the report were the proposed recommendations which were split into five key themes. The Committee was asked to endorse the recommendations and recommend the findings to Cabinet for approval.
- 2.2.2 The purpose behind the review was to look at the strategic role West Suffolk Council, aligning the operation of the markets to the council's strategic vision and supporting their development to meet the corporate priorities.
- 2.2.3 The Review Group sought collectively to uncover a wide range of views and experiences from other quarters and commissioned a detailed piece of engagement work which included a tailor-made survey of all the different groups and stakeholders involved with markets. There were seven different groups identified and a survey was created for each market day at each town. In addition to the survey, the Review Group interviewed "expert witnesses" who brought a different perspective to the review. This included two representatives from the National Market Traders Federation who were very complimentary about the work being done on our markets, particular with regard to the encouragement of young traders.
- 2.2.4 A review of the baseline information; feedback from the engagement work; evidence of best practice from elsewhere; and a site visit to Saffron Walden helped in shaping the findings of the Review Group.
- 2.2.5 In essence, the Review Group did not reach any conclusions that would suggest a fundamental change in the way the markets in West Suffolk were configured or operated. Instead, the Review Group identified approaches and enhancements that could build on the existing work in order to support the markets to grow and improve in the future.
- 2.2.6 The Committee considered the report and proposed recommendations and asked questions to which responses were provided. In particular, discussions were held on supporting young people to trade on markets; markets being financially self-sufficient; mentoring for new traders; the desire to transfer markets to town councils to operate. The Committee also suggested the Markets Development Officer wears a high visibility vest so they can be easily identified whilst on the market.

2.2.7 The Committee was unanimous in recommending that Cabinet be recommended to approve the proposed recommendations attached at Appendix A to Report number: OAS/WS/22/008.

2.3 **Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee – 6 April 2022 (Report number: OAS/WS/22/009)**

2.3.1 The Committee received and **noted** Report number: OAS/WS/22/009, prepared by Councillor Margaret Marks setting out what was considered at its meeting held on 6 April 2022. The focus of the meeting was childhood obesity.

2.3.2 Councillor Marks explained that obesity had risen due to COVID-19 and food choices. She felt different approach was needed to address the issue, including that more efforts could potentially be made by supermarkets in helping to tackle obesity. The Health Scrutiny Committee was setting up a Task and Finish Group to look into obesity and if the Committee had any suggestions/ideas, Councillor Marks would feed these into the process.

2.3.3 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked questions to which Councillor Marks provided comprehensive responses. In particular, discussions were held on the potential need to reintroduce home economics into schools which would better educate children about food and food choices; that availability of open spaces where children could play safely was limited; and people should be encouraged to grow more of their own fruit and vegetables.

2.3.4 The Committee suggested there needed to be more community allotments within the district. The Council, through its new local plan and other policies, together with its separate housing company, Barley Homes, may be able to explore this and other opportunities which might contribute towards reducing obesity. Supermarkets should also be encouraged to give away fruit and vegetables, where appropriate.

2.4 **Appointment to outside scrutiny bodies (Report number: OAS/WS/22/010)**

2.4.1 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.

2.4.2 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.

2.4.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was therefore asked to nominate, on an annual basis, one full member and one substitute member to serve on Suffolk County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee for 2022 to 2023.

2.4.4 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 substitute representative to the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for 2022 to 2023.

2.5 **Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023 (Report number: OAS/WS/22/011)**

2.5.1 The Committee reviewed and **noted** the latest version of the Cabinet Decisions Plan, covering the period 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023.

2.5.2 The Committee considered the Decisions Plan in detail. In particular the Committee discussed the "West Suffolk Procurement Policy and West Suffolk Contract Procedure Rules" being considered by Cabinet on 21 June 2022 and suggested that the procurement policy, if it did not already, should make more use of local contractors. Officers agreed to pass on the Committee's comments to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Property.

2.5.3 In response to a question raised in relation to Sunnica Energy Farm and the local impact report Portfolio Holder decision, officers advised that a decision was not being taken at this time due to Sunnica requesting changes to the application which were being consulted on.

2.6 **Work programme update 2022 (Report number: OAS/WS/22/012)**

2.6.1 The Committee received report number OAS/WS/22/012, 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.

2.6.2 The Chair advised a "virtual informal Overview and Scrutiny" meeting was held on 11 May 2022, when Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding, and Suffolk County Council officers briefed the Committee on the "Suffolk County Council 20mph zone, signage and enforcement" process, and discussed how councillors could work with their communities in supporting them through the process. The briefing was extremely informative and following the virtual meeting, the presentation was circulated to all West Suffolk Councillors to enable them to pass on to their Town/Parish councils for their information.

- 2.6.3 The Chair also updated the Committee on the Modern-Day Slavery Bill which was mentioned in the 2022 Queen’s Speech. Once the Bill had progressed and more detail was published the Modern-Day Slavery Working Group would convene its first meeting. He advised that there was a vacancy on the Working Group and if any member was interested in sitting on the Working Group, they could either email the Chair or the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) after the meeting.
- 2.6.4 A member also raised the issue of street lighting in relation to public safety and whether there could be a future work programme item on this topic. Officers explained that a report on “Street Lighting in West Suffolk” was due to be presented to Cabinet on 21 June 2022 where they would be considering the ownership and future management of street lighting within the district and that they may wish to attend Cabinet to speak on the issue. Following the outcome of any engagement with Suffolk County Council on street lighting, they could then submit a work programme suggestion form, if they felt it was still deemed appropriate and was not duplicating any existing council work.

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/22/007](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Monitoring Report (April 2021 to March 2022)
- 8.2 Report number: [OAS/WS/22/008](#) and [Appendix A](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: West Suffolk Markets Review Working Group – Recommendations Report
- 8.3 Report number: [OAS/WS/22/009](#) and [Appendix 1](#), [Agenda Item 5](#), [Item 5, Evidence Set 1](#), [SCC Tackling Childhood Obesity in Suffolk](#) and [HOSC Draft Recommendations](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee – 6 April 2022
- 8.4 Report number: [OAS/WS/22/010](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Appointments to Outside Scrutiny Bodies (2022 to 2023)
- 8.5 Report number: [OAS/WS/22/011](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023
- 8.6 Report number: [OAS/WS/22/012](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update 2022