

# Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 14 July 2022

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| <b>Report number:</b>                                | <b>CAB/WS/22/048</b>  |                 |
| <b>Report to and date:</b>                           | <b>Cabinet</b>  | 18 October 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/22/048, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.

## 1. Context to this report

- 1.1 On 14 July 2022, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items:
1. Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2021 to 2022)
  2. Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 July 2022 to 31 May 2023
  3. Work programme update 2022
- 1.2 Note that there is no report from the Committee as a result of its meeting scheduled for 8 September 2022 as this meeting was cancelled.

## 2. Proposals within this report

- 2.1 **Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2021 to 2022) (Report number: OAS/WS/22/0013)**
- 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 (2021 to 2022), which highlighted the key activities and developments that had been achieved over the financial year 2021 to 2022.
- 2.1.2 The Annual Report focussed on the council's achievements over the past year, categorised under the three priorities set out in the West Suffolk Strategic Framework 2020 to 2024, which included support for local communities and businesses as it responds to and begins to recover from the impact of 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, social media and parish councils.
- 2.1.4 The Committee 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 regarding electric vehicle charging points; COVID business grants; the Clinical Commissioning Group; homelessness levels and how families and individuals can be supported to maintain a tenancy; and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 2.1.5 The following amendments to the Annual Report were recommended by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
- Page 1: reference be made to the council's wider suite of documents that report on the performance of the council, including the Annual Statement of Accounts and performance dashboards. Furthermore, that these reporting routes help the council to understand where we

need to improve, the challenges we face and areas of focus for the future.

- Page 3, eighth bullet point, the figure of 39,000 tonnes of household waste sent for processing at the Energy from Waste facility in Great Blakenham be confirmed.
- Page 8: third bullet point, a link to the Housing Needs Assessment be included alongside a brief overview of the content of the assessment.
- Page 9: third bullet point, include the outcomes from the 1,232 households at risk of homelessness who were provided with advice and support.
- Page 10, add further examples of actions carried out by the council to improve biodiversity

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

On 19 July 2022, Cabinet considered and approved the above amendments as an [addendum](#) to Report number: [CAB/WS/22/039](#) and the draft Annual Report itself attached as [Appendix A](#).

## 2.2 **Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 July 2022 to 31 May 2023 (Report number: OAS/WS/22/014)**

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

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

## 2.3 **Work programme update 2022 (Report number: OAS/WS/22/015)**

2.3.1 The Committee received and **noted** report number OAS/WS/22/015, 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 2022 as attached at Appendix 1.

## 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/22/013](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2021 to 2022)

8.2 Report number: [OAS/WS/22/014](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Cabinet Decisions Plan: 1 July 2022 to 31 May 2023

8.3 Report number: [OAS/WS/22/015](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update 2022