

# Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 12 January 2023

<b>Report number:</b>	<b>CAB/WS/23/003</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	7 February 2023
<b>Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:</b>	Councillor Ian Shipp Overview and Scrutiny Committee Telephone: 07368 134769 Email: <a href="mailto:ian.shipp@westsuffolk.gov.uk">ian.shipp@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>	
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**Decisions Plan:** This item is not required to be included in the Decisions Plan.

**Wards impacted:** All wards.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that Report number: CAB/WS/23/003, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.

## 1. Context to this report

1.1 On 12 January 2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items:

1. Registered Provider of Social Housing (Havebury Housing Partnership)
2. Work programme update 2023

## 2. Proposals within this report

### 2.1 **Registered Provider of Social Housing (Havebury Housing Partnership) (Report number: OAS/WS/23/001)**

2.1.1 Andrew Smith, Chief Executive, Jenny Spoor, Director of Operations and Scott Baily, Director of Development and Deputy Chief Executive from Havebury Housing Partnership had been invited to the meeting to provide a progress update on the following strategies which in March 2020 were in their early stages of being revised/developed:

- New Older Persons Strategy
- New Homelessness Strategy; and
- New Community Investment Strategy.

2.1.2 The presentation covered the above topics as well as including information on performance indicators; tenancy sustainment, forming a group called Independent East to encourage working together and looking at joint research with other registered housing providers; the Government's Planning for the Future White Paper; Draft Building Safety Bill; The Charter for Social Housing Residents White Paper, and Havebury's governance review in 2022 and renewed structure chart including a new range of chairs on the Havebury Board and Committees', refocusing its governance to being more customer eccentric.

2.1.3 Following the presentation, discussions and responses were provided on the following:

- Clarification on the meaning of affordable rent
- Performance and overall satisfaction score (81.90 percent) – ambition was to be in top quartile
- Being less reliant on burning oil and gas to heat homes
- Rent arrears (just over 2 percent) – eviction being the absolute last resort
- Increases in hoarding
- Land ownership and community space issues, for example finding out who the landowner was to clear up litter and fly tipping
- Education around Havebury being independent from West Suffolk Council
- Flexible working

2.1.4 A number of questions were asked to which Havebury agreed to provide a written response on:

- Energy Performance Certificate breakdown of its 7,000 properties and the age of the properties
- A breakdown of the various types of benefits Havebury helped 1,800 of its residents to access
- The percentage of homes which were social rent
- Of the 210 houses built per year how many were in West Suffolk to help reduce the housing waiting list

2.1.5 The Committee thanked Andrew Smith and his colleagues for attending the meeting, and there being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the update provided by Havebury Housing Partnership and written responses being provided on areas discussed during the meeting.

## 2.2 **Work programme update 2023 (Report number: OAS/WS/23/002)**

2.2.1 The Committee received and **noted** report number OAS/WS/23/002, which updated Members on the current status of its rolling work programme of items at attached at Appendix 1.

2.2.2 The Chair reminded members its next meeting was being held on 9 March 2023 at the Mildenhall Hub.

## 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/23/001](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Havebury Housing Partnership

8.2 Report number: [OAS/WS/23/002](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update 2023