

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

(Transport and Infrastructure – SCOPE)

1. Topic: Transport and infrastructure

2. Purpose of the scrutiny review

To establish ways to get upstream and help influence future local plans and provide a report and recommendations for Overview and Scrutiny to consider before referring to Cabinet.

This is not to interfere with the current local plan under review but post this. To ensure that West Suffolk are ahead, as to where SCC might be proposing new schools, roads etc and the NHS are planning health facilities and how West Suffolk Council can assist. The Government is currently consulting on new means of planning and funding of infrastructure and going forward we want to understand more of this and learn from experiences of others (Norfolk is currently doing this through partnership working) and how this might benefit the whole West Suffolk and where we can gain funding for infrastructure.

To also learn and understand the business model and systems used to deliver/provide the service (health, education, highways etc) how West Suffolk can understand and influence the decision-making process to deliver the right infrastructure in the right places to meet the needs of the community.

Key lines of enquiry

Context and Evidence Based Decision Making

- To review the current evidence base for infrastructure on how to predict and forecast; and have a better understanding of their business challenges, constraints in order to identify opportunities to work together and make change.
- To get a better understanding of what kinds of new approaches are being consulted on by government for infrastructure delivery, and why.
- To identify where West Suffolk Council could lobby government to seek to shape the current consultation on new means of planning for and funding infrastructure.
- To learn from experiences of others, including but not limited to a nationally recognised process in Norfolk on infrastructure planning through a partnership between the county and district councils.
- To identify what West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council need to be thinking about now, well in advance of any changes affecting future local plans and developments.

- To engage with Suffolk County Council and the NHS and other partners (as appropriate) to seek their view and thoughts on this issue.
- To identify issues in relation to water supply and long-term growth.
- To understand how future policy and approach is sufficiently adaptable to secure emerging and more sustainable infrastructure provision.

Development of Options

- To scope and learn from best practice across the country.
- To work with the infrastructure providers and develop agreements for partnership working.
- Share business models and systems to understand challenges.
- Identify opportunities to work differently and together in the future to benefit west Suffolk and beyond.

3. Outcomes

For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to make evidenced based recommendations to the Cabinet on ways to get upstream in influencing future local plans by understanding what we as a district can do to assist Suffolk County Council, NHS and other partners, which would not complicate the local plans process in any way.

That there would be joined up thinking as to where new schools or school expansion, hospitals, GP surgeries so a working partnership would be in place. Where required new roads to enable development and to ease congestion on the roads as well as lobbying Government for funding.

4. Approach

The scrutiny review will be carried out by a report prepared by a small Task and Finish Group along with the Director of Planning and Growth and appropriate officers.

Hold meetings with key partners such as SCC, NHS etc. - dedicated meetings; inception meetings. Dependent on the work this might take a year to complete, and the findings brought back to Overview and Scrutiny with outcomes for consideration and referral to Cabinet.

5. Information required

Background data

- Scene- setting presentation (To identify current issues)
- Looking at other authorities for good practice e.g., Norfolk County Council
- Reviewing new government legislation and requirements and how this influences infrastructure delivery.
- Various meetings with infrastructure providers to understand their systems, forecasting and delivery procedures

Views from internal expert advisors

- Director of Planning and Growth
- Cabinet Member for Planning
- Cabinet Member for Growth
- Service Manager (Planning Strategy)
- All West Suffolk Councillors

Views from external expert advisors

- Planning Advisory Service
- Norfolk County Council (critical friend/good practice)

- Suffolk County Council (Schools and Highways)
- National Highways
- Network Rail

- UK Power Networks, solar; ground source etc.
- Anglian Water
- NHS / Integrated Care Board (Hospitals; GP surgeries; Dentists)

6. Resources and support

- Establish a small Task and Finish Group
- Director of Planning and Growth
- Service Manager (Planning and Strategy)
- Christine Brain, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny)
- Small budget to be made available to invite experts (Planning Advisory Service)

7. Timetable and key dates

	Date
Work Programme Suggestion Form and Scoping Document considered by OAS Committee.	20 July 2023
Establishment of a small Task and Finish Group (5 to 7 members)	20 July 2023
Officers to work with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny and partners to set the timetable for the full review.	July /August 2023
Task and Finish Group to hold its first meeting.	September 2023
Various types of meetings to be held during the review process, including engagement / panel meetings with: - UKPN, Solar, Anglian Water - Integrated Care Board, SCC Education, Dentistry - National Highways, Network rail, SCC Highways	September 2023 July 2024

Final meeting of Task and Finish Group to approve the draft report and recommendations.	August 2024
Agreement of draft report and recommendations by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	September 2024
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to present the final report and recommendations to Cabinet.	September / October 2024

8. Follow-up/Monitoring

N/A