

# Cabinet



St Edmundsbury  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 12 March 2015</b>	
<b>Report No:</b>	<b>CAB/SE/15/020</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	24 March 2015
<b>Chairman of the Committee:</b>	Ian Houlder Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee <b>Tel:</b> 01284 810074 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:ian.houlder@stedsbc.gov.uk">ian.houlder@stedsbc.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Lead officer:</b>	Christine Brain Scrutiny Officer <b>Tel:</b> 01638 719729 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk">christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	On 12 March 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items jointly with Forest Heath's Overview and Scrutiny Committee:  (1) Draft West Suffolk Annual Report 2014-2015;  (2) Monitoring the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership; and  (3) Overview and Update of Planning Enforcement Service.	
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the content of Report CAB/SE/15/020, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</b>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>  <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that <b>do not</b> apply.)</i>	<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Report for information only.	
<b>Consultation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	

<b>Alternative option(s):</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications:</b>			
Are there any <b>financial</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
Are there any <b>staffing</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
Are there any <b>ICT</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
Are there any <b>legal and/or policy</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
Are there any <b>equality</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Reports listed under background papers below</li> </ul>	
<b>Risk/opportunity assessment:</b>		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
<b>Risk area</b>	<b>Inherent level of risk</b> (before controls)	<b>Controls</b>	<b>Residual risk</b> (after controls)
See Reports listed under background papers below			
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>		All Wards	
<b>Background papers:</b> <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		<a href="#">Report OAS/SE/15/001 – Draft West Suffolk Annual Report 2014-2015;</a>  <a href="#">Report OAS/SE/15/002 – Monitoring the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership; and</a>  <a href="#">Report OAS/SE/15/003 – Overview and Update of Planning Enforcement Service</a>  All considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12 March 2015	
<b>Documents attached:</b>		None	

## **1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation**

### **1.1 Draft West Suffolk Annual Report 2014-2015 (Report No: OAS/SE/15/001)**

- 1.1.1 The Constitution requires that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives reports from the Leader of the Council or representatives of Cabinet, either prior to the commencement of each financial year or at its first meeting after each Annual Council meeting on the state of the Borough, the Cabinet's priorities and its performance in the previous year.
- 1.1.2 The St Edmundsbury Leader, together with the Forest Heath Leader attended this meeting of the Informal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and presented the Annual Report, which outlined the Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2014-2015). The Annual Report for the second time had been written as a joint West Suffolk document and was before the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for their comments.
- 1.1.3 Both Leaders highlighted relevant issues to the attention of the Committees. In particular, economic growth which is a key area across West Suffolk, the councils continued support to the Suffolk Business Park; the West Suffolk Operational Hub; locality budgets and Vision 2031.
- 1.1.4 Members examined the document in detail and asked a number of questions of both Leaders and officers, to which comprehensive responses were provided. Issues discussed included improving educational attainment; the closure of RAF Mildenhall and the expansion of RAF Lakenheath; community centre transfers; locality budgets; parks and green spaces; infrastructure and delivery; affordable homes and councillor learning and development.

### **1.2 Monitoring the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (Report No: OAS/SE/15/002)**

- 1.2.1 It is the duty of the Committee, as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee designated under the Police and Justice Act 2006, to scrutinise the work of the Partnership.
- 1.2.2 The Committee received and noted the update on the progress of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) from 1 April 2014 to February 2015.
- 1.2.3 It was confirmed in 2014-2015, by the Police and Crime Commissioner that the Community Safety Partnerships would no longer be the commissioning bodies for the community safety funding and this role would be awarded to the Suffolk Community Foundation. In light of no funding being awarded to the WSCSP, the partnership ceased operating as a commissioning body and undertook a review of its role. However, the WSCSP remained a statutory body and was required to complete an annual strategic assessment, produce a partnership plan and an action plan. In addition, it had a responsibility to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews as required.
- 1.2.4 A review workshop took place in April 2014, to enable partners to consider a new way of working. Attached as Appendix A to the report, was the WSCSP

Plan, which reflected its new focus and identified a number of key actions. Attached at Appendix B to the report was the Project Plan for community identified priorities. Over the next two years the WSCSP would continue to review its role in light of changing needs and demands and amend its role as appropriate.

- 1.2.5 Members scrutinised the report and asked questions to which responses were provided. In particular discussions were held on the partnership's new way of working and the priorities identified in the strategic review.

- 1.3 **Overview and update of Planning Enforcement Service (Report No: OAS/SE/15/003)**

- 1.3.1 The Committee received and noted an update on the newly formed Shared Planning Enforcement Team, including caseloads and forward work programme.
- 1.3.2 Members were advised that the Enforcement Team will be consulting on producing a Local Enforcement Plan in 2015. The Plan will be in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, and gives Councils the opportunity to state what work they will do, how they will do it and what will be given priority. One area of consideration was the attention to issues within Conservation Areas where additional resources or monitoring might be appropriate. A declaration of intent within a published plan would go some way to providing clarity to all parties concerned.
- 1.3.3 Work is also being undertaken on making the Enforcement Registers available online and also on producing a periodic update to Ward Members and parishes so that they know what enforcement cases are being looked at in their area.
- 1.3.4 Members scrutinised the report and asked questions to which officers duly responded. Members expressed their delight that a West Suffolk Enforcement Team had been put in place and that the team would especially be looking at enforcement issues within conservation areas.