

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 11 June 2015	
Report No:	CAB/FH/15/028	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	14 July 2015
Chairman of the Committee:	Simon Cole Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tel: 07974 443762 Email: simon.cole@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Lead Officer:	Christine Brain Scrutiny Officer Tel: 01638 719729 Email: Christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	On 11 June 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following reports: (1) Overview and Scrutiny Draft Annual Report (2014-2015); (2) Decisions Plan: July 2015 to May 2016; and (3) Work Programme and Re-appointments to Task Group / Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny.	
Recommendation:	The Cabinet is requested to <u>NOTE</u> the contents of Report CAB/FH/15/028, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	
Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not 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"/>	
Consultation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See reports listed in Section 2 below. 	
Alternative option(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See reports listed in Section 2 below 	

Implications:	
Are there any financial implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.
Are there any staffing implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.
Are there any ICT implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers
Are there any legal and/or policy implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.
Are there any equality implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see background papers.
Risk/opportunity assessment:	Please see background papers.
Ward(s) affected:	Please see background papers.
Background papers:	Please see background papers, which are listed at the end of the report.
Documents attached:	None

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation

1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Draft Annual Report (2014-2015) (Report No: OAS/FH/15/005)

1.1.1 The Committee received its tenth annual report on the activity of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which informed Members of the activity of the Committee carried out during the period May 2014 – April 2015.

1.1.2 The Committee considered the Draft Annual Report attached as Appendix 1 to Report OAS/FH/15/005 and **RECOMMENDS that full Council be asked to approve the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2014-2015.**

1.2 Decisions Plan: June 2015 to May 2016 (Report No: OAS/FH/15/006)

1.2.1 The Committee considered the latest Decisions Plan, covering the period June 2015 to May 2016. Members reviewed the Decisions Plan in detail and asked a number of questions to which the Director duly responded.

1.2.2 In particular, discussions were held on the West Suffolk Operational Hub and the Local Housing Investment Options. Members felt that both projects might benefit from joint involvement by pre-scrutinising the two projects with St Edmundsbury Borough Council prior to any final decisions being made by Cabinet.

1.2.3 Members also discussed the Mildenhall Hub Project. The Director updated the Committee on the project, and it was suggested that the Committee might also wish to pre-scrutinise the project in January/February 2016.

1.2.4 The Committee **RESOLVED:**

1) That the following items from the Decisions Plan be considered jointly with St Edmundsbury Borough Councils Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to being considered by Cabinet:

- i) West Suffolk Operational Hub; and**
- ii) Local Housing Investment Option**

2) That the Mildenhall Hub Project be scrutinised by the Committee in January / February 2016 prior to being considered by Cabinet.

1.3 Work Programme and Re-appointments to Task Groups / Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny (Report No: OAS/FH/15/007)

1.3.1 Task and Finish Groups

The Committee considered the current Joint Task and Finish Group running, being the New Housing Development Sites (Joint Scrutiny Review). The Joint Task and Finish Group had been set up with St Edmundsbury's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to "*Jointly review the unacceptable length of time taken by housing developers to bring highways, footpaths and community facilities (landscaping/open-space/drainage/sustainable urban drainage) up to adoption standards on new developments*".

- 1.3.2 The Committee **RESOLVED that Councillor David Bimson; Ruth Bowman and Bill Sadler be appointed to the New Housing Development Sites Joint Task and Finish Group.**

1.3.3 Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny

Members were made aware of Suffolk County Council's reinstatement of its Health Scrutiny Committee. This body included a representative from each of the County's districts and boroughs. As Councillor David Bimson had been the District Council's representative for 2014-2015, and was keen to continue, the Committee **RECOMMENDS that full Council be asked to confirm the appointment of Councillor David Bimson to the Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee for 2015-2016.**

1.3.4 Work Programme

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees has a rolling work programme, whereby suggestions for scrutiny reviews are brought to each meeting, and if accepted, are timetabled to report to a future meeting. The work programme also leaves space for Call-ins and Councillor Calls for Action.

Members discussed the rolling work programme and noted that a report on a Car Parking Review was scheduled to be presented to the Committee on 23 July 2015. The Committee wished to seek clarification on the report to ensure that what was being proposed did not duplicate the work of the Newmarket Vision Group.

Finally, the Committee was advised that as from September 2015, Portfolio Holders would be invited and programmed to attend an Overview and Scrutiny Meeting during the year to give a short presentation on their portfolio. This would enable the Portfolio Holders and Overview and Scrutiny Members to have a dialogue and the chance to ask questions.

The Committee **noted** the annual items expected to be presented to the Committee during 2015/2016.

2. Background Papers

- 2.1.1 Report OAS/FH/15/005 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Draft Annual Report (21014-2015)
- 2.1.2 Report OAS/FH/15/006 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Decisions Plan: July 2015 to May 2016
- 2.1.3 Report OAS/FH/15/007 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme and Re-appointments to Task and Finish Group / Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny