

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Report for Council – 26 April 2018

The February 2018 Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee reviewed:

- Options to scrutinise an element of Waste Services
- Scoping of Five Year Housing Land Supply

The March 2018 Mid Suffolk Overview & Scrutiny Committee reviewed:

- The Five Year Housing Land Supply
- Costs of the move to Endeavour House, Ipswich (All Together Programme)

The May 2018 Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee will review:

- Babergh and Mid Suffolk Building Services (BMBS)
- Staff turnover and welfare
- Joint Complaints Policy

Waste Services: Members considered the current position of the joint waste contract (due for review in 2018/19) and the recycling contract (due for renewal in 2019) and agreed to review these later in the year. It was noted that the Council should be encouraging waste minimisation and it was agreed to particularly look at ways of reducing food waste.

Five Year Housing Land Supply: A scoping exercise was undertaken in February and a review in March. Matters discussed included the impact of proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, the ability to have regular updates, the accuracy of the Five Year figure and particularly the delivery of housing to meet it. The Committee recommended that Cabinet review the resource to enable this.

Costs of the move to Endeavour House, Ipswich: A variety of issues were discussed including use of touchdown points, cost of the changes to the Stowmarket depot and other fit-out costs, cost comparisons between Needham Market and Hadleigh, IT issues and public access. There was a suggestion for public attendance at meetings to be monitored over the next few months to ensure best practice for public access.

Other matters: The Committee also looked at the procedures for using the Transformation Fund and received assurances that decisions were made on an operational basis with financial input and that Members could assess the outturn quarterly.

Cabinet referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee an issue relating to variance reporting within the Housing Revenue Account. Members heard that administration procedures and accounting procedures had been changed as a result of the issue and lessons had been learnt. A key point of the variances was expenditure relating to BMBS and Members noted a review of BMBS is due to be undertaken by the Committee.