

Joint Scrutiny Committee Report for Council – 29 June 2016**1. Joint Scrutiny Committee Meeting of 15 June 2016 (Chaired by Rachel Eburne – Mid Suffolk District Council)**

There was one main item on the Committee Agenda - for full details please see the reports and the minutes.

1.1 Community Grants: The third phase of the review of the Community Grants process was discussed.

1.2 Members heard from the Corporate Manage with regards to greater alignment of grants with strategic priorities; the focus of the new external funding communities office and the proposed healthcheck for grant recipients.

1.3 Members asked questions on these areas; on the relationship with other grant funders (including the county council); how to overcome difficulties in “form-filling” and how to learn from funders. It was agreed to revisit this area later in the year.

2. Joint Scrutiny Committee Workshop

After the Committee Meeting a workshop was held to discuss the development of the annual workplan.

2.1 The future workplan should allow for input from Portfolio Holders and Senior Management as well as all Members. The importance of coordination and consensus-building was discussed – ensuring that the work of the Joint Scrutiny Committee continued to add value to the work of the Council.

2.2 Members discussed a variety of topics for potential future inclusion on the Workplan and these included (in no particular order):

planning appeals; affordable housing targets; the accommodation process; the asset register; choice-based lettings; neighbourhood plan process; a review of the Community Infrastructure Levy (12 months from inception); a review of the housing repairs system (12 months from any changes); and delayed transfer of care.

The scrutiny of devolution was also briefly discussed in relation to wider scrutiny across many councils in accordance with good governance.

Next meeting: 17 August 2016 to be chaired by Babergh District Councillor Mark Newman and held in Hadleigh.

Councillor Rachel Eburne
Joint Chair (Mid Suffolk)