

Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report for Council – 23 November 2017

Since the last Council report meetings of Mid Suffolk District Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee have been held in October and November.

The October meeting covered:

- An update on recommendations from the Neighbourhood Plan work
- Scoping of a review on supporting business growth for small and micro businesses.

The November meeting (which at the time of writing will be held on 16 November 2017) will cover:

- Implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act
- Scoping a review of the Legal Services Partnership
- A follow up to supporting business growth

Neighbourhood Plans: The Committee made a series of recommendations in April and the implementation of these was discussed. With 3 plans adopted, 19 plans in hand and 17 expressing an interest (across both districts) members discussed the need for adequate resourcing, clear communication and support. Changes are planned to ensure this happens – including staff changes, using Memorandums of Understanding with groups and signposting information via the Councils' websites.

Supporting business growth: Following a Committee discussion in October on how the Councils can support micro and small businesses, Members will discuss the forthcoming "local" economic strategy and how this can have a positive impact.

Shared Legal Services Partnership: This shared service has been in operation since November 2016 and Members will have scoped a review of this – potentially looking at whether it has achieved its objectives, how it is working and whether any changes should be made.

Homelessness: Following a review of this in July, much work has been undertaken towards preparing for the implementation of the Act in April 2018. Issues to be discussed include the impact of a different approach, partnership working, funding and staff resourcing.

Forward plan: Items include:

- Budget scrutiny
- Pre-scrutiny of the Waste Strategy
- Review of BMBS (Babergh and Mid Suffolk Building Services)
- Review of the impact of the office move

Members also asked about progress on a Leisure Strategy.

Councillor Rachel Eburne