

MSDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report for Council – 21 December 2017

The November 2017 Mid Suffolk District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting covered:

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

The December 2017 Joint Overview and Scrutiny meeting (which at the time of writing will be held on 18 December 2017) will cover:

- Review of the Legal Services Partnership
- Review of the impact and delivery of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Off-Payroll costs

Homelessness: Following a review of this in July, much work has been undertaken towards preparing for the implementation of the Act in April 2018. Members had particular concern regarding whether the Council was allocating sufficient funding and asked that Cabinet monitor this.

Supporting business growth: Following a Committee discussion in October on how the Councils can support micro and small businesses, Members reviewed the forthcoming “local” economic strategy and looked at how members could assist in its delivery.

Shared Legal Services Partnership: This shared service has been in operation since November 2016 and Members will be reviewing whether it has achieved its objectives, how it is working and whether any changes should be made. This will include responses to legal issues, any delays in providing legal services, the level of expertise within the service and delivery in relation to the budget.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): This is the first review of the impact and delivery of CIL and will include detail on collection of CIL monies including debt recovery and appeals. Information is provided on how CIL is to be spent and the process for this.

Off-Payroll Costs: A review of the costs for interims and consultants shows that, across both Councils, for 2016/17 a total of 98 positions will have cost £2.4 million and for 2017/18 to date 81 positions at a cost of £1.1 million.

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

Councillor Rachel Eburne