

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Director of Corporate Services

REPORT NUMBER: L8

TO: COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: 19 May 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.2 In accordance with the Constitution, the Committee must report annually to Council on its work during the last year and make recommendations for future work programmes and if appropriate, amended working methods.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee's Annual Report for 2010/11 be noted.
- 2.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee's Work Plan for 2011/12 be approved.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There have been no financial implications to date other than the costs of officer time and normal allowances for Members that are included in the budget.
- 3.2 Any development of the work of in-depth scrutiny, including items such as the payment of out of pocket expenses for expert and other witnesses, can be accommodated within existing budgets for 2011/12.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 This report is an update on work completed during 2010/11, together with a draft programme for 2011/12. Risk management considerations for individual topics will be included in reports to the committee as the year progresses.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 Officers and Members have been involved to identifying topics and issues to be considered during 2011/12.

6. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT**

- 6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications with this report. That is to say, the contents of the report will have no impact on persons covered by the protected characteristics – age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation. However, any engagement with citizens and other stakeholders will need to pay particular attention to equality and diversity implications.

7. **SHARED SERVICE/PARTNERSHIP IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 A Joint Scrutiny Committee has been established to keep the overall integration / merger implementation plan under review from a customer perspective..

8. **KEY INFORMATION**

8.1 **WORK IN 2010/11**

The following is a brief summary of the Committee's main achievements during the year:

- The Committee agreed a basket of key performance indicators to be scrutinised. This would allow significant variances to be identified and further work carried out to deal with these variances if necessary.
- The Committee has considered the annual review of the Babergh Community Safety Partnership. The Chairman of the CSP, the Community Safety and Leisure Manager and Inspector Crick answered detailed questions from Members on various issues including customer confidence statistics, SNTs and the impact of the economic downturn on crime figures.
- The committee played an active role in the strategic and financial planning process, helping the Strategic and Financial Planning Task Group identify savings, efficiencies and additional income generation. In addition a joint meeting of the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees was held and the draft budget proposals for 2011/12 were scrutinised.
- The Committee carried out a review of the Discretionary Community Grants Scheme. This included a presentation by representatives of the Sudbury and District Citizens Advice Bureau and consideration of a theatre consultant's report on funding options for the Quay Theatre.
- The Committee considered a report providing an update on the performance and development of a key and operational partnership between Babergh and South Suffolk Leisure. This included a presentation by the Chief Executive of SSL.
- The Committee scrutinised the draft Revenue Budget for 2010/11 and draft 3-year Capital Programme for Council Housing.
- The Committee considered the annual report of the Development Committee for 2009/10. Members asked questions on: Pre-application consultations, Section 106 contributions, the Building Control Partnership and staffing resources. The

committee also agreed changes to the format and content of the report, especially relating to business and commercial developments in rural areas.

- The Housing Panel's 2009/10 Housing Review was considered by the Committee who wished to know the effect of proposed changes to the Housing Revenue Account for the Council's landlord service and the effect of the current economic situation on the Council's Affordable Housing Programme. It was noted that the problems of split sites affecting the delivery of affordable housing were under consideration by the Planning Policy and Development Teams. The committee also scrutinised the Choice Based Lettings scheme.
- A report on the action being taken to increase the number of long term empty properties being brought back into use was considered following a significant variance in performance. It also clarified the conditions relating to grants and the limitations to them.
- The Committee considered a report on performance in respect of Waste Collection. The areas where improvements could be made without capital investment were agreed. These included: road sweepings to be recycled, the development of Suffolk Waste Partnership promotions, improving bring site provision, and education and information
- A report on changing the eligibility criteria for the expenditure of Section 106 monies was recommended for approval by Strategy Committee. The changes focussed on: the provision of allotments provided they are managed by Town/Parish Councils or vested in an allotment association which exists for community benefit in perpetuity; the provision of appropriate equipment which will improve or upgrade the leisure usage of parish/town sports and recreation clubs (not necessarily owned by the Parish/Town Council) provided the land on which the equipment is provided is public land or has public access for the benefit of the community in perpetuity; and car parking subject to it improving access and the quality of recreational provision.
- The Committee received an update on the work of the Babergh District Council Emergency Preparedness Forum and associated Emergency Planning and Response action plan. A further report on the work carried out by the Council in discharging its duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 was also considered.
- The Committee considered the annual report by the Council's representative on the Haven Gateway Partnership.
- The Committee considered a report by the Chairman of the Babergh East LSP.
- The Committee considered a report on the possible variation to the existing refuse collection arrangements. This was as a result of a notice of motion.
- A presentation by the Scrutiny Team Manager at Suffolk County Council on the work of the Health Scrutiny Committee was considered. It was agreed that the situation be monitored and a further report be submitted.
- It was noted that the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 had received royal assent and that a further report would be submitted in due course.

- A report on the first year of operation of the scores on the doors to publicise food safety compliance ratings for food businesses was submitted.

8.2 WORK PLAN FOR 2011/12

Appendix 1 sets out a list of items of work that Members and officers have identified for consideration by the committee during 2011/12.

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee: Proposed Work Plan for 2011/12

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO

None.

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BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**FROM:** Director of Corporate Services**REPORT NUMBER:****TO:** OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
(COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE**DATE OF MEETING:****WORK PLAN FOR 2011/12****DATE OF COMMITTEE – 21 JUNE 2011**

Topic	Purpose	Decision or Recommendation to Strategy/Council	Lead Officer
Community Safety Partnership	To consider work of CSP in 2010/11	Decision	Paul Little
Car Parking Charges	To review first six months of operation of long stay charges	Decision	Ryan Jones
District Emergency Preparedness Forum	Review of work plan performance and capability assessment	Decision	Andrew Hunkin
Suffolk Local Flood Risk Assessment	To review Babergh element of this assessment	Decision	Andrew Hunkin
Local Scrutiny arrangements for Health Related Matters	To report on the current position following SCC's consideration of the developing local arrangements	To be determined	Andrew Hunkin

5 DATE OF COMMITTEE – 19 JULY 2011

Topic	Purpose	Decision or Recommendation to Strategy/Council	Lead Officer
Review of Community Grants	To scrutinise community grants scheme	Decision	Sara Jackson
Annual report of Development Committee	To consider annual report	Decision	Nick Ward

DATE OF COMMITTEE – 6 SEPTEMBER 2011

Topic	Purpose	Decision or Recommendation to Strategy/Council	Lead Officer
South Suffolk Leisure Trust	To review performance of SSL in 2010/11	Decision	Paul Little
Haven Gateway Partnership	Annual Report	Decision	Mike Hammond
Local Strategic Partnerships	To consider 6 monthly reports on East and Western LSP's	Decision	Mike Hammond

DATE OF COMMITTEE – 18 OCTOBER 2011

Topic	Purpose	Decision or Recommendation to Strategy/Council	Lead Officer
Housing Services	To consider future strategic direction for Housing Services including sheltered housing	Recommendation to Strategy Committee	Chris Foti
District Emergency Preparedness Forum	Half year review of work plan performance	Decision	Andrew Hunkin

DATE OF COMMITTEE – 6 DECEMBER 2011
JOINT MEETING WITH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
(STEWARDSHIP) COMMITTEE (IF REQUIRED)

Topic	Purpose	Decision or Recommendation to Strategy/Council	Lead Officer
Report of the Strategic Financial Planning Task Group	To consider the Group's recommendations	To be determined	Barry Hunter

DATE OF COMMITTEE – 31 JANUARY 2012

Topic	Purpose	Decision or Recommendation to Strategy/Council	Lead Officer
HRA Budget Proposal	To consider proposals for HRA Budget	Recommendation to Strategy Committee and Council	Barry Hunter

DATE OF COMMITTEE – 27 MARCH 2012

Topic	Purpose	Decision or Recommendation to Strategy/Council	Lead Officer
Annual Report	To consider draft Annual Report for 2011/12	Recommendation to Council	Steve Ellwood

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