

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 10 September 2015

DRAFT ENABLING COMMUNITIES STRATEGY (REP1286)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. Suffolk Coastal District Council developed its first Enabling Communities Strategy in 2013. Although Waveney District Council has not formally adopted an equivalent strategy, the principles and ethos of 'enabling communities' has underpinned the way in which the Council works.
2. The new draft East Suffolk Business Plan (2015 – 2023) identifies three clear priorities for the Council – growth, value for money and enabling communities.
3. As part of the greater integration between the two Councils, is it therefore proposed that a new Enabling Communities Strategy be adopted to provide a framework for an integrated approach to working with and supporting communities across East Suffolk. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is being asked to review and comment upon an initial draft version of a new East Suffolk Enabling Communities Strategy.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
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Wards Affected:	All Wards
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Cabinet Member:	Councillor F Mortimer Cabinet Member for Customers & Communities
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Supporting Officer:	Nicole Rickard Head of Communities 01502 523231 nicole.rickard@eastsuffolk.gov.uk
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 It is considered that the way in which Waveney District Council works with and enables its communities has significant commonalities with the approach in Suffolk Coastal and therefore a new Enabling Communities Strategy has been developed for the whole East Suffolk area.
- 1.2 This Strategy sets out how the Council intends to work with communities in a way that helps them to help themselves, putting communities at the heart of all that we do.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Both Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Councils have a strong track record of working in an enabling way – literally ‘making things possible or easy’. Enabling communities is about helping communities to do things for themselves rather than doing things ‘to’ or ‘for’ them and the East Suffolk Enabling Communities Strategy is a way of telling communities and partners how we will further embed this approach.
- 2.2 The Strategy is about how we develop vibrant, resilient and sustainable communities that are strong, resistant and quick to recover from setbacks, and how we enable resilient and independent individuals and families who are better supported within their own communities.
- 2.3 Our approach will be one that starts from ‘what’s strong’ in a community, rather than ‘what’s wrong’, prompting a conversation that focuses on what’s already there that can be built upon, rather than deficits and needs. This asset based approach is at the heart of the strategy.
- 2.4 We need to match the assets – the people (and their networks, skills, interests and knowledge), buildings and resources – of communities with those of the public sector so that we can deliver more together. We also need to simplify and join up the support available from the public and voluntary sectors. Engaging the private sector – at an East Suffolk and individual community-based business level will also be key.
- 2.5 Active leadership of ward councillors is essential to the success of the strategy, including helping communities to identify their assets and needs and identifying, engaging, inspiring and supporting the community champions and ‘fiery spirits’ in their communities.
- 2.6 Set out within Appendix A is a draft of the East Suffolk Enabling Communities Strategy. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider and comment on this draft version of the Strategy. An early draft of both the Delivery Plan and accompanying toolkit are also attached for your information.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers and comments on the Draft East Suffolk Enabling Communities Strategy.

APPENDICES

Appendix A Appendix B Appendix C	Draft East Suffolk Enabling Communities Strategy Draft Enabling Communities Delivery Plan Enabling Communities - Draft Toolkit
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BACKGROUND PAPERS – None