



# Overview & Scrutiny Committee

# Annual Report

**2018/19**



## **Vision for Scrutiny Activity within Waveney**

Overview & Scrutiny at Waveney District Council aims to enhance the quality of life for all who live and work in the District by ensuring the provision of a safe, clean, attractive and prosperous environment for our communities.

Scrutiny aims to be objective, evidence-based, transparent and constructive and to reflect the interests and concerns of local communities.

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## **Introduction by the Chairman**

### **Cllr Alison Cackett – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman 2018/19**

I am honoured to present the last ever Annual Report of Waveney District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

This Report comes at a time when Waveney's close partnership with Suffolk Coastal District Council will end as both Councils cease to exist on 31 March 2019 and they join together to become East Suffolk Council, the largest geographical District in the country, from 1 April 2019. These are exciting times!

The role of Scrutiny at Waveney and in local government generally is becoming increasingly important as it lies at the heart of the democratic process, providing an opportunity to look at issues affecting the District and enabling policy decisions to be scrutinised. Ongoing budget cuts mean that it is crucial that the Council's Cabinet and senior officers are challenged to ensure that every penny is spent well to provide essential and effective services to the people living and working across the District.

Over the past year, the Committee has continued to provide a forum for Elected Members working on a cross-party basis with partners and the community to look at issues of concern relating to performance, community issues, Council Policies and national topics.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank everyone who has participated in the Scrutiny process this year including officers, Members, the community and partners.

## What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny was brought into being by the Local Government Act 2000 as part of an overall agenda to reform and modernise the way in which Local Authorities operate.

A requirement of the act is for a Local Authority with executive arrangements to have one or more Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Scrutiny is carried out by Councillors who are not on the Council's Cabinet and can include members of the public co-opted for expertise in a particular area or to represent certain groups. The Scrutiny Committee reflects the overall political balance of the Council.

The Scrutiny Committee's functions and responsibilities are set out in detail in the Council's constitution but can be summarised as:

- Developing new policies and reviewing the effectiveness of existing policies.
- Holding the Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members, Joint Committees exercising executive powers and officers to account for the decisions they make.
- Ensuring best value in the provision of services.
- Considering any matter affecting the District Council or the people who live or work in Waveney or who visit Waveney.
- Review and scrutiny of other public sector bodies in the area and inviting reports from them regarding their activities and performance.
- Encouraging public participation in policy development and review.

Overview and Scrutiny plays an important role in local democracy through:

- enhancing local accountability of services;
- improving transparency of decision making; and
- enabling Councillors to represent the views of local residents.

A Scrutiny review can be a one-off item discussed at a meeting or may be considered in detail over a series of meetings. Reviews may involve discussions with Cabinet members, Council officers, managers and officers from other organisations, organisations providing a service, service users or members of the public – whoever may be relevant to the topic being discussed.

At the end of a review the Committee may make recommendations where they think things could be improved.

## What is Effective Scrutiny?

The careful selection and prioritisation of work is essential if the scrutiny function is to be successful, achieve added value and retain credibility. A summary of what needs to be done to ensure an effective scrutiny function is in operation is outlined below:

An effective scrutiny work programme should reflect a balance of activities including:

- Holding the Cabinet to account.
- Policy Review and Development – to assess the effectiveness of existing policies or to inform the development of new strategies.
- Performance Management – identifying under-performing services, investigating and making recommendations for improvement.
- External Scrutiny – scrutinising and holding to account partners and other local agencies providing key services to the public.
- Public and Community Engagement – engaging and involving local communities in scrutiny activities and scrutinising those issues which are of concern to the local community.

### Key features of an effective work programme

A member led process, shortlisting and prioritising topics – with support from officers – that:

- reflects local needs and priorities – issues of community concern as well as Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy priorities
- prioritises topics for scrutiny that have most impact or benefit
- involves local stakeholders
- is flexible enough to respond to new or urgent issues

Depending on the topic, and planned outcomes, scrutiny work is carried out in a variety of ways, using various formats. Areas of enquiry have been drawn from the following:

- Performance Reports
- One off reports on matters of national or local interest or concern
- Issues arising out of internal and external assessment
- Reports on strategies and policies under development
- Issues on which Cabinet or officers would like scrutiny views or support
- Progress reports on implementing previous scrutiny recommendations

## Overview and Scrutiny at Waveney District Council

Waveney has one Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising 13 Elected Members and is proportional to the overall political makeup of the Council so includes Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent Councillors.

### Committee Membership 2018/19



Councillor Alison Cackett (Chairman)



Councillor  
Nick Webb  
(Vice Chairman)



Councillor  
David Beavan



Councillor  
Jenny Ceresa



Councillor  
Linda Coulam



Councillor  
June Ford



Councillor  
Tess Gandy



Councillor  
Louise Gooch



Councillor  
Jane Murray



Councillor  
Keith Robinson



Councillor  
Kevin Springall



Councillor  
Caroline Topping



Councillor  
Melanie Vigo Di  
Gallidoro

## Committee Meetings

The Committee schedules at least six meetings per year and if necessary Extraordinary Meetings can be called to consider urgent issues. In addition, several joint meetings are normally scheduled with the Audit and Governance Committee to consider major Council financial reports such as setting annual budgets/Council Tax rates as well as reviewing the Medium Term Financial Strategy or annual Audit Reports. The Committee also has the ability to set up time-limited “task and finish groups” to look into an issue in more depth and to give it more time than the full Committee would be able to spare.

In the main, Scrutiny meetings are open to the public to attend. The public may be excluded when a particular item contains “exempt” information (as defined by the Local Government Act 1972, as amended). However the underlying principle will be for reports to be considered in the public section of meetings.

Agendas, reports and minutes for the Committee are available to view on the Council’s website. Alternatively, copies can be provided for inspection on request and a limited number of agendas are made available to the public at meetings free of charge.

## The Committee’s Work Programme

### Responsibilities:

Community Leadership  
Scrutiny Reviews  
Pre-decision scrutiny  
Post implementation reviews  
Policy development and review

External and joint scrutiny  
Call-ins  
Councillor Call for Action  
Holding the Cabinet to account  
Scrutiny improvement

Overview and Scrutiny at Waveney is based on the principle of being Member-led, thereby making the best use of the local knowledge and expertise that Councillors possess. The Committee agrees the annual Work Programme at its first meeting in the Municipal Year but it is a live document that is reviewed at each meeting and updated as and when necessary to take account of changing priorities and urgent issues. This ‘rolling’ work programme approach enables the Committee to be flexible and responsive to changing needs.

## Scoping Forms

Councillors are also able to put forward specific items for scrutiny using a Scrutiny Scoping Form, which asks Members to set out exactly what they wish to achieve from any piece of scrutiny. This ensures that any scrutiny review is targeted, timely, makes best use of resources and has the potential to generate tangible outcomes and/or improvements.

## Information Bulletins

Members can request Information Bulletins to keep a watching brief on various topics. These Bulletins are not discussed at the meeting but if Members decide they wish to scrutinise the item in more depth they can then request a full report to a future meeting.

## **Holding Decision-Makers to Account**

As the Council's "critical friend", the Overview and Scrutiny Committee holds the Cabinet, full Council and officers to account by monitoring the decision-making process and testing existing practices to check they are working properly. It can also "call in" Cabinet decisions to check them before they are implemented. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is able to stand back from the decision-making process, look at the outcomes for the people of Waveney and contribute to ensuring improved performance.

## **Policy Development and Review**

The Committee looks at the impact on the community of key plans and strategies within the Council's Policy Framework, investigating why things are as they are, researching options, challenging assumptions and suggesting improvements. When looking at a new policy, the Committee ensures it will contribute to the Council's priorities and that any links to other Council policies demonstrate continuity. When reviewing existing policies, the Committee investigates how successful it has been, whether it achieved its objectives within budget and to timescale, and what needs to change. In all its policy development the Committee aims to enhance services and make life better for people living and working in Waveney as well as those visiting us.

## **Call-in**

Councillors have the ability to "call-in" decisions of the Cabinet, a Cabinet Member, a Joint Committee exercising executive powers or a key decision made by an officer for review before they are actioned. The rules for calling in decisions are in the Council's Constitution.

The grounds for activating a call-in are:

- The decision may be contrary to the Council's agreed Policy Framework.
- The decision may be contrary to the Council's agreed budgetary framework.
- The decision was not taken in accordance with the principles of good decision-making.

The call-in process should only be used in exceptional circumstances and is very much seen as a tool of last resort.

Any five Councillors are able to call an item in. The Council is keen to increase the level of public engagement with the scrutiny process and so has extended this facility to enable any five members of the public to call an item in. Additionally, joint call-ins of a mixture of at least seven Councillors and members of the public are possible. Call-in forms are available to download from the Council's website or a form can be provided on request.



## **Councillor Call for Action**

Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) is a scrutiny power which came into force on 12 April 2009, and enables any Member of the Council to refer to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee any Local Government matter or any crime and disorder matter which affects their ward/division, within certain limitations. These limitations are set out in the Councillor Call for Action Protocol which is available on the Council's website or by emailing [scrutiny@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@eastsoffolk.gov.uk).

## **Community and Partner Engagement**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee works hard to develop and improve the scrutiny process at Waveney and continually aims to increase the involvement of stakeholders and public engagement. To this end, the Committee often gathers evidence with the involvement of external witnesses.

Opportunities for increased public/community involvement in scrutiny activities are explored as an integral part of the planning for scrutiny reviews and public involvement in scrutiny reviews is welcomed. If you would like to assist the Committee in any future work or review, you can obtain a copy of the Council's Scrutiny Guide available on the Council's website or by emailing [scrutiny@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@eastsoffolk.gov.uk).

## **Training and Development**

The Council recognises the importance of training and development for both Councillors and officers who support the scrutiny role at Waveney. Targeted training, both internally and externally has facilitated the development of a successful Scrutiny function.

## **Scrutiny Budget**

A budget of £4,000 is available to the Committee to assist in its work. This funding can be used, for example, in engaging specialist assistance, obtaining evidence, carrying out site visits, paying for meeting accommodation, training and development. This budget provides an opportunity for the Committee to build upon its successes to date and to develop innovative approaches to Scrutiny at Waveney and constructive relationships with the Cabinet and the Council's partners.

## **Finding out more about the Scrutiny function in Waveney**

For further information regarding how the scrutiny function operates at Waveney District Council (East Suffolk Council from 1 April 2019) please contact a Democratic Services Officer on 01502 523614 or email [scrutiny@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@eastsoffolk.gov.uk). Alternatively visit our website at [www.eastsoffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

## Review of the Committee's Work in 2018/19

### Outcomes for 2018/19

During 2018/19, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have met 10 times.

This section describes the key Scrutiny topics covered during the year (May 2018 to February 2019) and their associated outcomes. Ordinarily the Municipal Year would run until the end of April and the Annual Report would be considered in June/July of the following Municipal Year. This year, however, the Report will be considered earlier as it will need to be agreed at the last ever Waveney Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14 March 2019 prior East Suffolk Council being created on 1 April 2019. The last Committee meeting will also consider one final item of business namely its annual review of the Closure of Tourist Information Centres and their replacement with Visitor Information Points.

Three Scoping Forms were submitted by Members in 2018/19, two of which were reviewed, namely Southwold Harbour and Littering. The Committee also agreed to review the third relating to Suffolk County Highways' process for issuing permits to close roads and carry out repairs to roads but, unfortunately, the Highways Officer was not available to attend before the end of the Municipal Year so the review was not able to be carried out.

During the year, the Committee requested and received four Information Bulletins relating to Asset Management, Public Conveniences, Car Parking Permits and Littering. The latter was subsequently considered in more depth as a full scrutiny review.

In addition, Full Council asked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the possible closure of the Lowestoft Records Office by Suffolk County Council, however, due to the fact that the review was on the County's internal decision making processes, it was subsequently agreed that the County Scrutiny Committee would conduct the review with all Waveney District Council Members invited to attend and ask questions if they wished. This review was held on 29 November 2018.

There were no call-in requests to the Committee during 2018/19.

### Scrutiny Reviews commenced or completed during 2018/19

#### **14 June 2018 - Annual Work Programme, Appointments to Outside Scrutiny Bodies, Anglian Water Future Service Provision and added value in Waveney and an Information Bulletin on Asset Management**

The first meeting of the 2018/19 Municipal Year began with the Committee setting its **annual work programme** for the year ahead.

In addition, Members made their **annual appointments to Outside Scrutiny Bodies**, namely the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub-Committee and the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee thereby ensuring that Waveney's voice would continue to be heard at a County level.

The Committee also conducted a review of **Anglian Water's** (AW) capacity to deal with greater demands on existing sewage systems. Given the seriousness and breadth of this issue, Town and Parish Councils were invited to submit questions for AW's Strategic Growth Manager to respond to.

Members heard that AW was responsible for 77,000km of sewer, 4,000+ pumping stations and 1,000+ water recycling centres servicing 6 million customers, working with 71 Internal Drainage Boards, 64 Local Planning Authorities and 22 Lead Local Flood Authorities. They were advised that 80% of flooding incidents were caused by blockages and there were around 30,000 blockages per annum (one every 15 minutes).

AW had identified four long-term goals:

- Make the East of England resilient to the risks of drought and flooding;
- Enable sustainable economic and housing growth in the UK's fastest growing region;
- Be a carbon-neutral business by 2015; and
- Work with others to achieve significant improvement in ecological quality across our catchments.

Flooding was considered to be the top risk, particularly with the scale of housing and economic growth in the East of England. AW worked with developers to ensure that any proposals were sustainable but, because it was not a statutory consultee for planning applications, their comments carried less weight, although it was a statutory consultee on Local Plans.

Following several questions and answers, the Committee resolved that:

- The Planning Team be recommended to include Anglian Water as a consultee on planning applications.
- The Communities Team be asked to contact Anglian Water regarding any events which could be used to raise public awareness.
- A feature be considered for inclusion in the residents' magazine on easy garden management and driveways, to raise public awareness of how to help reduce flooding issues.

Also, at this meeting the Committee received an Information Bulletin giving an update on **Asset Management**.

### **5 July 2018 – East Suffolk Food and Health and Safety Service Plan and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2017/18 Annual Scrutiny Report**

The Committee reviewed the Council's **Food and Health and Safety Service Plan** in detail prior to its presentation to Full Council for final approval.

Members noted that 39 catering businesses had achieved awards under the 'Eat Out Eat Well' (EOEW) scheme which would be extended from 20 September 2018 to include take-away businesses. The 'Take Out Eat Well' (TOEW) scheme would encourage businesses to offer healthy choices. This led to a discussion on littering and whether it was possible to trace where discarded packaging came from and to find the offenders. Members noted that training had been given to Town and Parish Councils regarding the information required by the Council to enable it to issue Fixed Penalty Notices. Some food businesses had also been given instruction on the necessary information required including vehicle registration numbers. The Committee received details of how the Incident Ticketing Scheme worked and were advised that the scheme had been successful at McDonald's.

The Committee resolved:

1. That the Food Safety and Health and Safety performance against the Service Plan for 2017/18 be noted.
2. That the Service Plan for 2018/19 had been considered and that there were no comments to put forward prior to consideration by Council on 19 September 2018.
3. That Councillor Gooch would complete a Scrutiny Scoping Form regarding littering for consideration at the meeting on 6 September 2018.

Additionally, the Committee approved for publication the **2017/18 Annual Scrutiny Report** which gave an overview of the work undertaken over the previous year.

### **25 July 2018 – Joint Meeting with the Audit and Governance Committee to consider the Annual Governance Statement**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee met with the Audit and Governance Committee to jointly consider the Annual Governance Statement which helped provide assurance to Members and other stakeholders on how the governance of the Council was conducted. Two areas identified in the Statement as requiring further work were already included on the Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for consideration. Members also heard that all seven improvements carried forward from the 2016/17 Statement had been completed.

A thorough debate on the document was held with a number of queries being raised in relation to Freedom of Information Requests, Business Rates Retention, Data Protection and Member Development.

### **6 September 2018 - Annual Community Safety Report and Annual 2017/18 Partnership Report on Sentinel Leisure Trust**

The Committee considered the **Annual Community Safety Report** which provided a progress update on the East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan 2017-2020, together with information on funded projects and work that also supported the delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Suffolk Police key priorities.

Members heard about County Lines which was the supply of Class A drugs from urban hubs to county hubs using mobile phones as deal lines. It was noted that these continued to be a key threat for Suffolk especially as the gangs targeted vulnerable adults and children and could impose high levels of violence, including the use of weapons and firearms, to intimidate and control members of the group and associated victims. Most incidents occurred in Ipswich although incidents had been also been reported in Lowestoft. The East CSP was developing a local Action Plan to raise awareness and keep communities safe from this threat.

In addition, Members received details of several funded community projects and work highlighting early intervention, personal safety, good citizenship and positive role model experiences for many children/young people.

The Committee also discussed imminent Police staffing changes in Suffolk as well as the latest crime statistics, in particular, hate crimes and domestic violence. Members expressed concern that it was difficult to receive localised data so that they could understand what was happening in their Wards.

The Committee noted the Annual Community Safety report and asked the Communities Officer find out how much funding the CSP brought in from bids annually.

In the same meeting, Members considered the **Annual Partnership Report for the Sentinel Leisure Trust** which operated several leisure services on behalf of Waveney District Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council, together with various other commercial activities.

The Committee noted that, over the past 12 months, the Partnership had worked towards resolving a number of concerns including Beccles Quay ownership, pool plant at Bungay Pool and Gym (BPG), ongoing refurbishment/improvement of BPG, temporary huts at Lowestoft promenade. Members also heard that the Board's focus for the next 12 months was to resolve concern regarding the Council's medium to long term asset maintenance programme for leisure stock, drive forward improvement at BPG, deliver projects to support the Council's budget gap and focus on improving the health of local residents.

Members queried if there was any risk to the Council of the Trust spreading out its commercial activities to other enterprises but were assured that this was a risk that was constantly monitored and reviewed by officers.

Following a lengthy debate, the Committee received the Sentinel Leisure Trust's 2017/18 Annual Performance report.

#### **4 October 2018 – Waveney Norse Annual Progress Report and Information Bulletins relating to the Asset Management Service and Public Conveniences**

The Committee considered the **Annual Progress Report for Waveney Norse** for 2017/18 but, due to the commercially sensitive nature of this report, the debate was held in private.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Committee noted the Annual Progress Report for Waveney Norse.

In addition, Members received Information Bulletins on **Asset Management** and **Public Conveniences**.

### **25 October 2018 – Simultaneous Scrutiny Meeting with Suffolk Coastal District Council on Coastal Partnership East**

The Committee met with Suffolk Coastal colleagues to receive a report on Coastal Partnership East, which brought together coastal management expertise from four Local Authorities, including Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils.

Members heard how Coastal Partnership East:

- influenced national policy through, for example, its role on the Local Government Association's Coastal Special Interest Group and by providing evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on Regeneration of Coastal Towns and Communities.
- had enabled additional capacity to be funded by the Regional Flood and Coast Committee, at no cost to Suffolk Coastal or Waveney District Councils.
- was staffed to enable resources to be prioritised according to levels of risk, for example, the need to respond to incidents and related recovery stages.
- had undertaken works along the 173km of coastline in Norfolk and Suffolk which it was directly responsible for - 92km from Holkham in North Norfolk to Landguard Point, Felixstowe.

The Committees also received details of the future works the Partnership planned including the development and delivery of an innovative approach to North Corton, Benacre Levels at Kessingland, North Southwold and Southwold Harbour as well as the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project. The current ten-year capital investment plan identified c£19m within the existing Waveney District area in addition to excluding £63m for the Lowestoft project.

Following an extensive question and answer session, Members noted the report and recognised the importance of Coastal Partnership East's work. They also supported in principle additional investment in resources to deliver coastal management.

### **1 November 2018 - Garden Waste and Information Bulletin on Car Parking Permits**

The Committee received a report on the post implementation review of charges for the collection of **garden waste**. The report set out the performance of the Easy Green Bin (EGB) scheme for 2018. Members heard that around 50% of eligible households had opted into the paid scheme which was the highest level of sign up in the county compared to other Suffolk local authorities. Members stressed the need for more promotion of the scheme and clarification of what could go in and what couldn't.

Members resolved that areas of learning should be explored and that any actions that needed to be carried over into the delivery of the programme in 2019 should be summarised and implemented.

In addition, Members received an Information Bulletin on **Car Parking Permits**.

### **3 January 2019 – St Peter’s Court Fire Risk Update, Jubilee Beach Chalets and Information Bulletins on Littering and Asset Management**

The Committee considered a report giving an update in relation to fire safety at **St Peter’s Court** following the tragic events at Grenfell Tower. The report included details of fire safety works completed, underway or planned as well as the results of a Fire Risk Assessment carried out in November 2018. Members noted that further works were planned including external cladding investigations and further compartmentation surveys.

Following a detailed debate, the Committee resolved that they would carry out a further review in a year’s time.

In addition, the Committee considered a report relating to the redevelopment proposals for the **Jubilee Beach Chalets** site at South Beach, Lowestoft. Due to the commercially sensitive nature of the issue, discussions were held in private.

Following an extensive question and answer session, Members recommended that Cabinet not approve the original project on viability grounds and that they await a full appraisal of the alternative options.

At the same meeting, Members also received an Information Bulletin on **Littering and Asset Management**.

### **7 February 2019 – Southwold Harbour and Littering**

In response to a Scoping Form submitted by a Member, the Committee agreed to conduct a full and detailed review into issues of concern that had been raised in relation to **Southwold Harbour**.

Several Southwold residents took part in the review as witnesses.

The Committee’s review revolved firstly around the Accounts and ring fencing. A detailed discussion was held on the accounts including internal recharges, depreciation and profits made by the Harbour Lands prior to 2010 and since then. Officers explained that the Council had to follow Local Government Accounting Regulations in terms of how the accounts were set out and they had been fully audited by an external auditor.

In response to concern that the profits from Southwold Caravan Site were being used to pay off the outstanding Southwold Harbour debt, assurances were given that Southwold Harbour would not be sold off in the future and any profits generated would be ring fenced for Southwold Harbour, providing certainty and sustainability for the future.

Secondly, issues had been raised around governance and, in particular, an allegation that the Joint Harbour Lands Committee had acted in secrecy. It was heard that the Harbour Lands Committee had met in 2015 but, despite agreeing that it would meet quarterly, the next meeting had not taken place until December 2018. Several informal meetings had been held between Waveney District Council and Town Council representatives during this time but, as there had been no progress to report on, a Harbour Lands Committee had not been called. The Council Leader acknowledged that mistakes had been made in the past, however, the Council wanted to move on and rebuild trust with the Southwold community.

After a lengthy debate, the Committee resolved to recommend:

- 1) That the Southwold Harbour Lands Joint Committee should meet openly and formally with notice and minutes at least once a year.
- 2) That in the light of the information provided and reviewed, the Committee considers that it is not necessary or appropriate to further investigate the allegations made in the Scoping Form dated 20 December 2018 and it would be inappropriate to interfere with the consultation and consideration by the Southwold Harbour Lands Joint Committee of the way forward for the future governance of the Southwold Harbour Lands.

At the same meeting, the Committee considered a report on **Littering** following receipt of an Information Bulletin at their previous meeting.

Members agreed that littering was a significant concern for local communities with many Councillors reporting that they were experiencing the following issues:

- recycling materials escaping from blue bins and causing litter;
- residents being unsure of what could and could not be recycled;
- general confusion about where dog mess could be safely disposed of.

The Committee heard from the Waveney Norse Manager who provided an update on some of the initiatives that were being used to try to reduce the littering problem across the District. It was reported that Waveney Norse had been collecting as much data as possible to formulate a Strategy in order to be as effective as possible.

It was also heard that the Suffolk Waste Partnership regularly reviewed their public education events and campaigns and were working with the plastic waste producers to see if any simple changes could be made to increase recycling rates and make the producers more accountable and involved in the processing and recycling of the products they produce.



A Member suggested that recycling should be standardised across the UK, as the colour of bins and the items that could and could not be recycled varied considerably across the Country.

Details of several options that might improve local kerbside collection rates were reported.

The Committee then held a lengthy discussion in relation to problems with littering, fly tipping and maintaining gardens in good order.

The Committee resolved:

- 1) That officers contact the Youth Council and Primary Schools in the district, in order to offer to provide training on recycling for young people.
- 2) That officers look into the feasibility of having stickers to put onto the Blue Recycling Bins, to provide residents with information on what can and cannot be recycled.
- 3) That local businesses be contacted to see if they would be prepared to consider arranging lick picks in their local area.
- 4) That the Council and other housing providers be encouraged to strengthen the awareness of tenants that their gardens should be maintained to a decent standard and that this matter should be enforced where appropriate.
- 5) That littering be referred as an item for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee for the new East Suffolk Council.

## Feedback

If you have any comments regarding the information provided within this report, please contact a Democratic Services Officer on (01502) 523614 or email [scrutiny@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)