



Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny

An annual review of the work undertaken by the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2024/25



Published June 2025
www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/overview-and-scrutiny



As Chair of the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee, I am pleased to present our annual report to Full Council. This report outlines the Committee's work over the municipal year 2024–2025, highlighting the topics we have scrutinised, the outcomes we have achieved, and how our work continues to enhance governance, transparency, and accountability within Mid Suffolk District Council.

I commend all members of the Committee for their hard work and dedication.

Throughout this year, we have continued to focus on a wide range of strategic and service-related issues, working closely with our colleagues at Babergh District Council. We maintained a strong emphasis on improving the effectiveness and transparency of council services, scrutinising six out of our seven directorates. The Planning Directorate was the only department not scrutinised this year. We are still at an early stage with the Joint Local Plan (JLP), which will significantly change the planning landscape, and as such we intend to revisit this area in the next municipal year.

Our agenda this year included reviews of CIFCO, the Greenhouse Gas and Carbon Reduction Plan, the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account, and updates from the newly established Tenant Scrutiny Board. In total, we scrutinised 10 reports and made over 50 recommendations, a significant proportion of which have already been completed or are currently in progress.

Although the number of meetings was affected by some disruptions, we held roughly the same number as neighbouring councils. Nevertheless, I hope we can increase this in future years. One idea is to maintain a 'reserve' item — something requiring minimal officer input — that can be slotted into the agenda when needed. However, looking at our current and upcoming work plan, I believe we will already have plenty to focus on.

A particular highlight this year has been the development of the Tenant Scrutiny Board. It is encouraging to see the positive impact this group is having on the shaping of housing services. Their work on the Tenant Handbook and anti-social behaviour has brought a valuable tenant voice to the forefront. This level of co-production is precisely what we should aspire to in public service design and delivery.

There have been challenges, too. As in previous years, ensuring timely completion of, and responses to, our recommendations remains a priority. Our action tracker continues to evolve as a key tool in maintaining momentum and accountability. We are working with officers to make the process more responsive, ensuring that scrutiny is not only thorough but also drives real and measurable change.

Our refreshed scoping document has proven invaluable in shaping a focused, relevant, and forward-looking work plan. These plans are under constant review to ensure we remain aligned with evolving priorities.

Looking ahead, our ambition remains to broaden the scope and impact of our work. This includes seeking greater input from the public and external organisations. The new scoping process is already helping us to build a more dynamic and inclusive work plan. We also aim to refine our methods, including the use of call-ins and how we communicate our findings more widely.

I would like to thank my Vice Chair, Cllr Keith Scarff, whose support has been invaluable, and all members of the Committee, Cllrs Baker, Patchett, Pearson, Piper, and Row, for their contributions. I am particularly impressed by the quality of questions raised and the depth of research conducted by members in preparation for meetings, which I think really shows in the quality of our recommendations.

Finally, I extend my sincere gratitude to Alicia Norman, our Lead Officer. Her commitment, insight, and tireless dedication has been the Committee's greatest asset. She has driven improvements, enhanced our effectiveness, and continually sought ways to strengthen our processes. Her contribution is immeasurable, and deeply appreciated.

Councillor James Caston

Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee | Mid Suffolk



Cllr James Caston
(Chair)
Bramford



Cllr Keith Scarff
(Vice Chair)
Combs Ford



Cllr Lorraine Baker
Chilton



Cllr James Patchett
Stow Thorney



Cllr (Dr) Ross Piper
Needham Market



Cllr Miles Row
Combs Ford



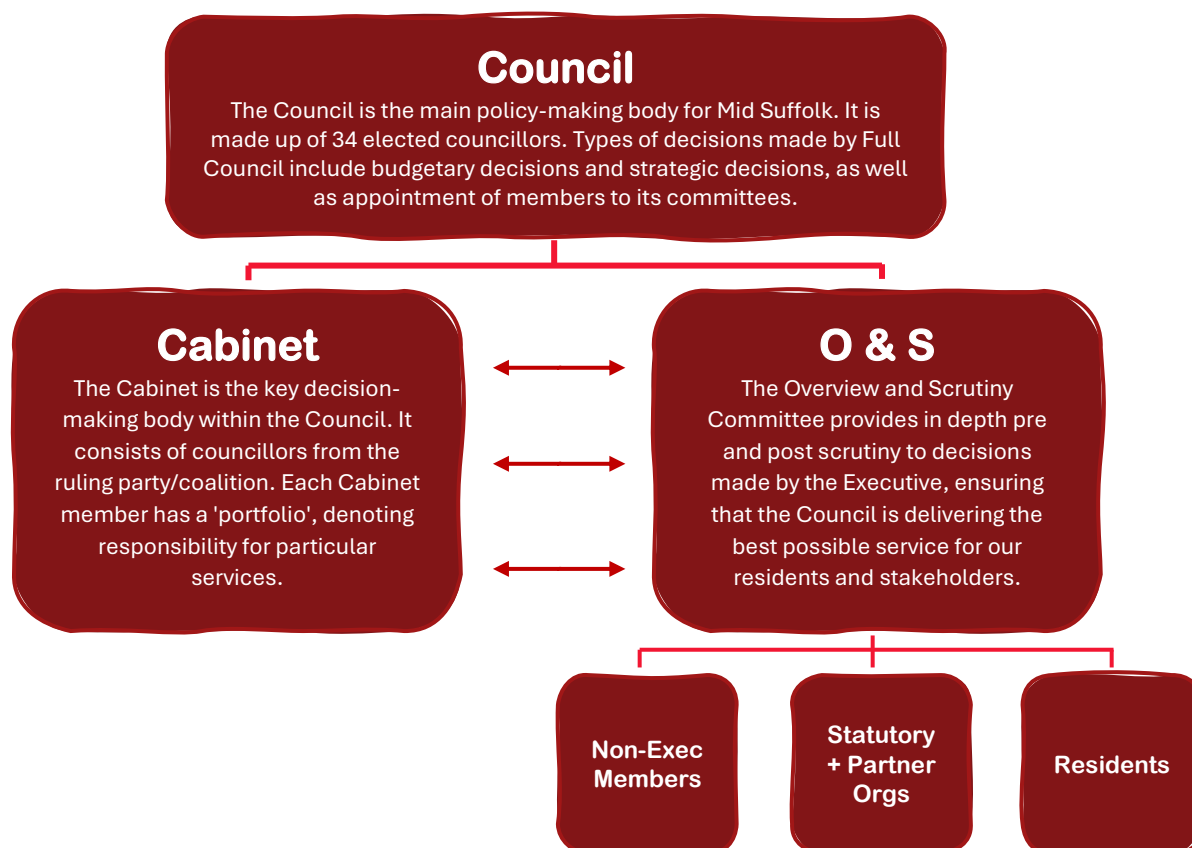
Cllr Janet Pearson
Haughley, Stowupland, and Wetherden
On Committee: May 2023 - Nov 2024

Since the introduction of the Local Government Act (2000), the implementation of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee was deemed a statutory requirement for all Councils which operate on a Leader / Cabinet model of governance, such as Mid Suffolk. The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to act as a 'critical friend' to the decision-makers of the Council, also known as the Executive, and to provide steer and direction to ensure that the Council are delivering the best and most effective services for our residents.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee acts as an independent body within the Council's governance structure. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must not be members of the Executive, and must not be involved in the scrutiny of any decisions / strategies that they have had a part in developing.

Due to working in partnership, the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee often combines with the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake joint meetings where there are items for consideration that affect both Councils to equal measure. Each Council is still able to convene an independent meeting to scrutinise specific items (e.g. the budgets) where appropriate.

A full terms of reference for Mid Suffolk's Overview and Scrutiny Committee can be found in Part 3: Rules of Procedures in the Constitution as linked [here](#).



During 2024/25 the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee, often in partnership with the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee in a joint capacity, was responsible for the following:

7

Committee
Meetings

10

Reports

400

YouTube Views

6 / 7

Directorates
Scrutinised

2

Cabinet
Members

19

Directors and
Officers

8

External
Representatives

50

Recommendations
Overall

15

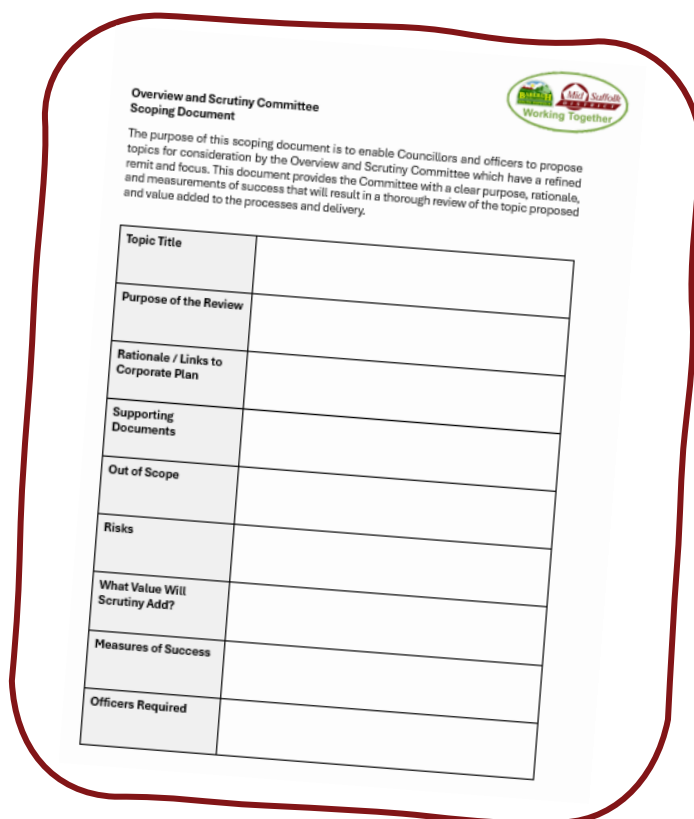
Recommendations
to the Executive

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee sets out a work plan at the beginning of the year that provides Members with key areas to focus on and review. These work plans are put together through considering:

- The Councils' Plan
- The Forthcoming Decisions List
- Statutory Items
- Requests from Councillors
- Requests from the Public
- Call-ins of Cabinet decisions

The work plans are reviewed at monthly meetings between the Chairs and Vice Chairs, and are also presented monthly to the Committee for further discussion and agreement.

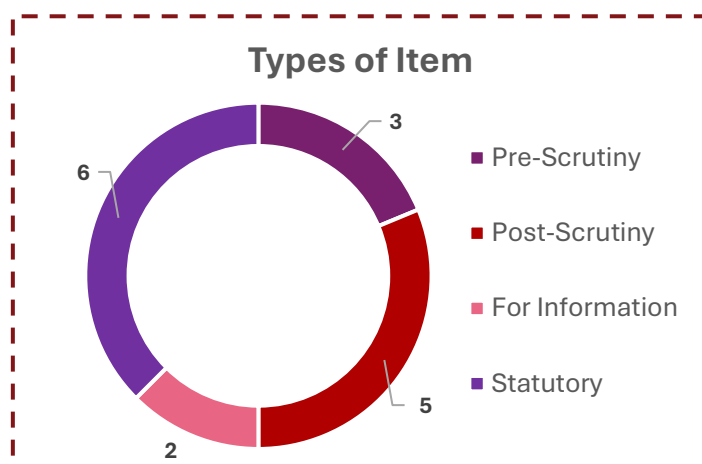
In 2024, the scoping document (as seen above) for the Overview and Scrutiny committee was refreshed. This document can be used by any Member of the Council to put forward a topic / item for potential inclusion on the Overview and Scrutiny work plans. By encouraging a clear scope to be explored as part of initial discussions Members have more autonomy and direction over what information needs to be presented as part of an item, and the value that the committee can add is clearly defined. These documents are reviewed by the Lead Officer for Overview and Scrutiny, and signed off by the Chair of the Committee.



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Scoping Document

The purpose of this scoping document is to enable Councillors and officers to propose topics for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which have a refined remit and focus. This document provides the Committee with a clear purpose, rationale, and measurements of success that will result in a thorough review of the topic proposed and value added to the processes and delivery.

Topic Title	
Purpose of the Review	
Rationale / Links to Corporate Plan	
Supporting Documents	
Out of Scope	
Risks	
What Value Will Scrutiny Add?	
Measures of Success	
Officers Required	



Items on the work plans range from statutory items, information bulletins, brief updates on specific topics and areas of interest, or fact-finding pieces of work for items the Committee may wish to scrutinise in the future.

The following work plans were devised by Members of the Committee at a workshop meeting in May 2024:

TOPIC	LEAD OFFICER	CABINET MEMBER
13 MAY 2024		
CIFCO Performance Report (2023/4) and Business Plan (2024/5)	Director – Property, Development and Regeneration	Cabinet Member for Finance, Assets, and Investments
Is the Councils' Housing Stock Inspection Ready?	Director - Housing	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property
15 JULY 2024		
Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership	Director – Sustainable Communities	Chair of WSCSP
14 OCTOBER 2024		
Annual Review of the Joint Homes and Housing Strategy	Director - Housing	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property
Tenant-Led Scrutiny: 6 Month Review	Director – Housing	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property
14 NOVEMBER 2024		
Greenhouse Gas and Carbon Reduction Management Plan Update	Director – Operations	Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Nature Recovery, and Biodiversity
19 DECEMBER 2024		
Draft General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (2025/6)	Director – Finance Director - Housing	Cabinet Members for Finance & Housing
13 JANUARY 2025		
Local Government Ombudsman and Housing Ombudsman Annual Complaints Update	Director – Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resilience
17 MARCH 2025		
Tenant-Led Scrutiny: 6 Month Review	Director – Housing	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property



CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND COMPANY (CIFCO CAPITAL LTD) PERFORMANCE REPORT (2023/24) AND BUSINESS PLAN (2024/25)

The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee are committed to reviewing the CIFCO performance report and upcoming business plan on an annual basis, as decided by Full Council. The Committee's purpose is to oversee these reports, which include details on the Company's KPIs, the current investment portfolio, and the five-year cashflow forecast, ahead of their consideration by Council.

The following Cabinet Members and officers were in attendance:

- Director for Property, Development, and Regeneration
- Head of the Councils Companies and Development

Members asked questions on issues including:

- The acquisition of properties to the portfolio
- Works to improve Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings
- Repayment of key loans
- Factors that impacted the valuation of properties
- Impact of interest rates
- Implementation of renewable energy and carbon saving

The following recommendations were made:

- 1.1. That the Committee notes the CIFCO Performance Report (2023/4) and the Business Plan (2024/5) ahead of its consideration at Full Council.
- 1.2. That Officers explore means of providing more details about redacted information without disclosing identifying features.
- 1.3. That more details are provided in the report to Council on the proposed strategy to reach the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) target and requests that localised benchmarking is introduced to measure the effects of EPC ratings.
- 1.4. That future reports provide financial information about each property, including comparative data and forecasting.
- 1.5. That a risk management key is provided within future reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Full Council.
- 1.6. That further training is provided for all Members on CIFCO and the Councils' Companies.
- 1.7. That a glossary of key terms is provided within future reports to Overview and Scrutiny.



Economy Items



DRAFT GENERAL FUND BUDGET (2025/26) AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL POSITION

The Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee have a statutory responsibility to scrutinise the draft general fund budget and medium term financial plans ahead of further discussion and approval by the Cabinet and Council. The Committee are able to provide a steer on areas within the budget that may require further detail and exploration by the Cabinet in order to ensure the Council are delivering robust services in line with priorities.

The following Cabinet Members and officers were in attendance:

- Lead Member for Finance
- Director for Finance and Procurement
- Senior Finance Business Partners

Members asked questions on issues including:

- Increasing council tax
- Quarter 2 forecasted premises costs
- The robustness of the assumptions that underpin the Budget
- Spend on external contracts and services
- The potential impact of a business rates reset
- The increase in employee insurance costs in comparison to decreasing payroll costs
- Identification of new income streams
- The split and adjustment of pooled investment funds

The following recommendations were made:

- 1.1. That the Committee notes the draft General Fund and Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 1.2. That the Committee endorses the administration's ambitious capital programme.
- 1.3. That the Cabinet gives consideration to priorities within the capital programme, and explores bringing forward projects, such as SHELF, where deliverable.
- 1.4. That the Director for Finance and Procurement explores increasing locality grant funding to a minimum of £10,000 per councillor for 2025/6, and raising this figure annually by at least CPI.
- 1.5. That the Cabinet reviews the decision to not raise council tax for the 2025/26 budget and considers introducing a small increase.



IS THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING STOCK 'INSPECTION READY'?

In 2024, a new proactive inspection regime was introduced by the housing regulator resulting in a 4-year inspection cycle on the Council's social housing stock to ensure that it was up to decent standard. The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee were tasked with ensuring that appropriate measures were being put in place to adequately prepare the Council for these inspections and to ensure our housing service was running smoothly. The Committee were also requested to oversee the creation of a Tenant Scrutiny Board to ensure that tenants' voices were being heard by the Council and taken into account through decision-making processes.

The following Cabinet Members and officers were in attendance:

- Housing Transformation Officer

Members asked questions on issues including:

- Training provisions for tenants wanting to sit on the Tenant Scrutiny Board
- Introduction of competence and conduct standards
- Training provisions for housing managers and staff
- Standards for allocation in relation to Gateway to Homechoice
- Implementation of a new repairs interface for tenants
- Accessibility of information provided to tenants
- Officer support available for members on the Tenant Scrutiny Board
- The terms of reference for the Tenant Scrutiny Board
- Advertising positions on the Board and upholding engagement

The following recommendations were made:

- 1.1. That the Committee notes the report and commits to supporting the new Tenant Scrutiny Board, welcoming the opportunity for our tenants to engage with the Councils.
- 1.2. That a quorate for holding a meeting is established within the Tenant Scrutiny Board's terms of reference.
- 1.3. That a Vice Chair position on the Tenant Scrutiny Board is created.



TENANT SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATES

As part of the Council's response to the new inspection regime, a Tenant Scrutiny Board was created to ensure that the voices of tenants were integrated into the delivery of all housing services. As part of the Board's terms of reference, it was agreed that Overview and Scrutiny Committee would receive updates from the Board on a 6-month basis.

The Board presented their first update in October, and provided a presentation on the work undertaken so far by the group regarding the creation of a new Tenant Handbook and improvements to communication between Tenants and the Council.

The following Cabinet Members and officers were in attendance:

- Cabinet Member for Housing and Property
- Director for Housing
- Housing Transformation Officer
- Tenant Engagement Co-Ordinator
- Chair of the Tenant Scrutiny Board

Members asked questions on issues including:

- Support provided to tenants with complex needs
- Return rates for the tenant survey
- Equality assurances within support provided to tenants
- Competency measuring for housing managers and staff
- Support provided for new council housing tenants
- Information provided within the new tenant handbook
- Target completion time for repair works
- Number of homes successfully meeting decent standards

The following recommendations were made:

- 1.1. That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee supports the work undertaken so far by the Tenant Scrutiny Board, in particular the creation of the Tenant Handbook.
- 1.2. That the Committee endorses the suggestion that the Tenant Scrutiny Board reviews housing complaints and anti-social behaviour in the near future.



TENANT SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATES

The Board presented their second update in March and provided a presentation on their most recent scrutiny project, which involved assessing anti-social behaviour within tenant properties and deriving various recommendations to the housing service to assist in improving delivery.

The following Cabinet Members and officers were in attendance:

- Housing Transformation Officer
- Chair of the Tenant Scrutiny Board

Members asked questions on issues including:

- Results of the Tenant Satisfaction Survey
- Overall implementation of the Board's recommendations
- Tenant grievances related to the closure of their complaints
- Criteria used to rank actions as 'low effort' or 'high effort'
- Methods of reporting anti-social behaviour for tenants
- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion measures
- Support provided to non-tenants facing anti-social behaviour
- Digital software provided to housing staff

The following recommendations were made:

- 1.1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commends the work undertaken by the Tenant Scrutiny Board and is assured that this work is meaningful and that tenants are successfully influencing services.
- 1.2. That future Tenant Scrutiny Board reports presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee contain data on meeting key performance indicators and tenant satisfaction measures.
- 1.3. That officers further review the 'Our Tenants' webpage to ensure that all appropriate information is included, such as support for overall tenant wellbeing.
- 1.4. That the Tenant Handbook is amended to outline accessibility adjustments and different languages available at the top of the document.
- 1.5. That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee supports Tenancy Services' business case for procuring up-to-date housing management digital solutions.



ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE JOINT HOMES AND HOUSING STRATEGY

The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee are committed to reviewing the Joint Homes and Housing Strategy on an annual basis. Members are invited to review the progress made towards the main aims and objectives of the Strategy, as well as the reconfigurations made throughout the year to the action plans and the key themes that underpin this delivery.

The following Cabinet Members and officers were in attendance:

- Cabinet Member for Housing and Property
- Director for Housing
- Housing Transformation Officer

Members asked questions on issues including:

- Level of control over the types of housing that gets constructed in the District
- Service level agreement for grounds maintenance on council estates
- Recharge of public realm work to the housing revenue account
- Implementation of a housing inspection regime
- Use of external contractors
- Work undertaken to reach an EPC rating of C or above by 2030 in council properties
- Input of Cabinet Members into the formulation of the Joint Local Plan
- Measures to support tenants with rising costs of energy and heating

The following recommendations were made:

- 1.1. That the Committee notes the contents of the Annual Joint Homes and Housing Strategy and endorses the improvements made to the service.
- 1.2. That the Committee encourages the Cabinet Member for Housing to create social housing development opportunities during the formulation of the Joint Local Plan Part Two and the Housing Allocations policies.
- 1.3. That the Committee encourages the Director for Housing to start conversations with ward members about Alms Housing and what can be done to support residents who live in this type of accommodation.
- 1.4. That the Committee asks the Housing department to prioritise retrofitting properties to assist tenants with the costs of heating their homes.



REVIEW OF THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2025/26 DRAFT BUDGET AND 30 YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

Much like with the General Fund, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have a statutory responsibility to scrutinise the draft housing revenue account and upcoming business plans ahead of further discussion and approval by the Cabinet and Council. The Committee are able to provide a steer on areas within the accounts that may require further detail and exploration by the Cabinet in order to ensure the Council are delivering a robust service in line with priorities.

The following Cabinet Members and officers were in attendance:

- Lead Member for Finance
- Director for Finance and Procurement
- Director for Housing
- Finance Business Partner

Members asked questions on issues including:

- Types of complaints made by residents
- Varying performance levels in relation to rent arrears between Babergh and Mid Suffolk
- Repairs and maintenance work
- Application of Tolerance to houses being re-let
- Compliance with electrical inspection regulations
- Spend on external and contracted services
- Work carried out by Direct Labour Organisations (DLOs)
- Total financial spend on maintaining the housing stock
- The possibility of introducing fixed term tenancy contracts

The following recommendations were made:

- 1.1. That the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the draft Housing Revenue Account for 2025/26 and the 30 Year Business Plan.
- 1.2. That the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognises the need for a more proactive approach to inspecting properties.
- 1.3. That the Cabinet considers introducing fixed term contracts for tenants as a means of managing tenancy agreements more appropriately.



WESTERN SUFFOLK COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Community Safety Partnerships were established nationally in response to S.17 of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998), comprising of the following partner organisations: local authorities, the police, probation services, fire and rescue services, education providers, and the Youth Justice Service. Under S.19 of the Police and Justice Act (2006) and the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Regulations (2009), it is a requirement that every local authority annually reviews and scrutinises the activity and effectiveness of their Partnership.

The following Cabinet Members and officers were in attendance:

- Head of Communities
- Manager for Community Safety
- Head of Community Safety at Suffolk County Council
- Inspector of Suffolk Constabulary

Members asked questions on issues including:

- Resolving instances of anti-social behaviour
- Funding for the Partnership
- Use of the Suffolk Domestic Abuse Helpline and Anglia Care Trust
- The loss of the Suffolk Rape Crisis and further support services for sexual abuse
- Cost of officer and partner time
- Delivery of safeguarding training to Members and

The following recommendations were made:

- 1.1. That the Committee notes the report and commends the partners for their work undertaken as part of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.2. That Officers provide Members with access to e-learning and training modules concerning PREVENT.
- 1.3. That Officers provide a catalogue of training concerning issues covered by the Partnership to Town and Parish Councils through Town and Parish Liaison Meetings and District Forum Meetings.
- 1.4. The Cabinet engage with third-sector organisations to identify ways of leveraging funding to support the delivery of the Partnership's key strategic areas.
- 1.5. That the Community Safety Team review the current format of the report and presentation of the information ahead of the 2025 annual review.
- 1.6. That Officers review the motion approved by Full Council concerning modern slavery and put in place a business accreditation scheme.



GREENHOUSE GAS AND CARBON REDUCTION MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

In an effort to ensure that the Council is on track to meet its target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have requested annual reports on the work undertaken as part of our agreed Carbon Reduction Management Plan (CRMP). The first of these annual reports was presented in November detailing recent reduction in emissions as well as the Council's plans for further measures.

The following Cabinet Members and officers were in attendance:

- Director for Operations and Climate Change
- Climate Change Manager

Members asked questions on issues including:

- Integration of ambitions into the Joint Local Plan
- Impacts of the implementation of the Simpler Recycling scheme
- The scale and cost of the current ambitions detailed within the Plan
- Emission hotspots, such as the leisure centres, and proposed carbon reduction work

The following recommendations were made:

- 1.1. That the Committee notes the report and supports the work undertaken by the Climate Change team to reach the Council's net zero targets.
- 1.2. That the Committee supports the separation of the approach towards carbon emission reduction and decarbonisation investment between Babergh and Mid Suffolk.
- 1.3. That Officers present an information bulletin to the Committee in June 2025, including financial costings and savings of work undertaken, as well as individual profiles of each leisure centre.
- 1.4. That Officers present annual update reports on greenhouse gas reduction and progress towards the Carbon Reduction Management Plan to the Committee.
- 1.5. That Officers provide more clarity about changes to gas usage, electricity consumption, and carbon emissions within the Council's sheltered housing stock and communicate this to the Cabinet.
- 1.6. That Cabinet review the carbon efficiency of the district's leisure centres, conduct a cost benefit analysis on their financial and social value, and set end of life dates.
- 1.7. That Officers review the carbon emissions generated through the Council's external events, and request that this information is included within the annual reports.
- 1.8. That Cabinet considers building a ringfenced climate reserve to a sufficient amount that covers the Council's decarbonisation projects, and enables the Council to react to new government grants and match fund these when appropriate.



ANNUAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINTS UPDATE

As per the Housing Ombudsman's new complaints code, Councils are now required to present annual complaint reports to their Overview and Scrutiny Committees for review. These reports contain information on the number of complaints submitted and those upheld by both Ombudsman bodies. An overview is also provided on the Council's own complaints processes, its accessibility and functionality, and the transformational work undertaken to better support residents across the District.

The following Cabinet Members and officers were in attendance:

- Director for Corporate Services
- Head of Customer Experience
- Complaints and Feedback Officer

Members asked questions on issues including:

- Frequency of communication with a complainant
- Hot spot areas for complaints, such as Housing and Planning
- Work undertaken to reduce the number of complaints received
- External audit mechanisms to review the Council's complaint handling procedures
- Involvement of officers across service areas in investigating complaints

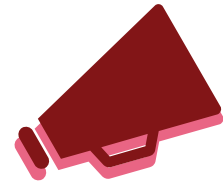
The following recommendations were made:

- 1.1. That the Committee receives an annual complaints performance report as per the new Housing Ombudsman complaint code.
- 1.2. That officers take on board the Committee's suggestions about additions to future reports including: clearer language, illustrative complaint handling maps, lessons learnt, and the number of unique complainants.
- 1.3. That the Committee supports the introduction of a vulnerable persons policy.
- 1.4. That the Committee conducts a further in-depth review into complaints received by Housing and Planning at a future meeting.
- 1.5. That the Head of Customer Experience explores introducing more training for officers to assist with investigating complaints.
- 1.6. That the Communications department explores using pre-communication as a means of potentially reducing the number of complaints.

CALL-INS AND COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR ACTION

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the home of the call-in function. Any decision taken by the Cabinet or by an officer under delegated powers is subject to the call-in procedure, apart from those decisions that are sufficiently urgent to the point where being called in would cause a significant impact.

Councillor Call for Action provides councillors with the opportunity to ask for discussions at scrutiny committees on issues where local problems have arisen and where other means of resolution have been exhausted. Any Councillor is entitled to enact the above functions.



In the 2024/25 municipal year, the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered 0 call-ins or councillor call for actions.

ACTION TRACKER

Since 2022, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has utilised an 'action tracker' to review progress made on the implementation of their recommendations. This action tracker

helps to demonstrate where the Committee has added value to a range of processes and service areas, and quantifies the impact that the Committee has successfully had on shaping the direction of the Council.

This action tracker is updated by the Lead Officer for Overview and Scrutiny and is presented monthly to the Committee for oversight and discussion.

TRAINING

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to assess their own training needs at the start of each municipal year, based on the work undertaken in the last 12 months and identifying any potential gaps in knowledge and skills. In 2024/5, Members identified that training on budgets and finance was most needed to conduct successful scrutiny on the Council's accounts.



In November, the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny provided bespoke finance training to Overview and Scrutiny members based on information detailed in the Council's own budget.

Report Authors

Cllr. James Caston

Chair of Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Alicia Norman

Lead Officer – Overview and Scrutiny
committees@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk



Mid Suffolk District Council
Endeavour House
Ipswich, IP1 2BX
www.midsuffolk.gov.uk