

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22 APRIL 2008

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

12. WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09

WARD(S) AFFECTED:

'D' RECOMMENDATION - that this report be used as a basis for reviewing the current work programme and planning future scrutiny work of this committee.

1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 This report is intended to support the Community Scrutiny Committee in planning its work programme for 2008/09.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives

2.1 In monitoring the performance of the council's services and action plans, the Committee is monitoring the Council's achievement of all of its corporate objectives.

2.2 Any additional issues identified for scrutiny will relate to at least one of the Council's corporate objectives.

2.3 Effective use of the scrutiny process contributes to the Council's ability to meet two core objectives:

Fit for purpose, services fit for you

Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.

Leading the way, working together

Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.

3.0 Background

3.1 Items previously required, identified or suggested for the work programme are set out in Appendix 'A' (Pages 12.4 - 12.5).

3.2 At the first meeting of this Community Scrutiny Committee in January 2008, agreement was reached to establish a Health Engagement Panel. This Panel has met twice: once to approve the Public Health Strategy and Action Plan for East Herts and again at an 'open' meeting to hear from PAH, Harlow on their plans for Foundation status. They are proposing that the panel continue to meet 4 times a year to scrutinise local health issues and monitor partner actions on the provision of health care to residents in East Herts. The minutes from the Health Engagement Panel are considered elsewhere on the agenda.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 Potential topics for scrutiny are always invited from members of the public, the Executive and all Members.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 According to the Council's constitution, scrutiny committees are responsible for the setting of their own work programme in consultation with the Executive and in doing so they shall take into account wishes of Members on that committee who are not members of the largest political group on the Council.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 Any additional meetings and every task and finish group has resource needs linked to officer support activity and time for officers from the services to make the required input.

8.0 Human Resource Implications

8.1 none

9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 Matters which may benefit from scrutiny may be overlooked. The selection of inappropriate topics for review would risk inefficient use of resources. Where this involved partners, it could risk damaging the reputation of the council and relations with partners.

Background Papers

Summary attached as Appendix 'B' (Page 12.6)

Four principles of good public scrutiny published by CfPS (Centre for Public Scrutiny)

East Herts Council own current guidelines for selecting issues for review.

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