

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21 OCTOBER 2008

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

11. 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 the future scrutiny work of this committee

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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 or identified for the work programme are set out in Appendix 'A11' (Page 11.4).

3.2 The agenda items appearing on the work programme in Appendix 'A11' (Page 11.4) relating to service plans conform to the current Integrated Service Plan (ISP) timetable. Any changes to this timetable may impact on this scheduling.

### 4.0 Report

4.1 Following further work by the Performance Indicators task and finish group (under Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee) it has been agreed that in future, Healthcheck reports will now be presented to each scrutiny committee. These reports will give the most up-to-date data available covering the PIs relevant to the terms of reference to that committee. The first of these new style reports is elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

4.2 Some additional items for Community Scrutiny's consideration have been proposed by Councillor Nigel Clark. The three items are outlined below and the Committee are invited to consider: a) whether they wish scrutinise these matters and b) if so, when they would wish to do so. The items proposed are

- **A report on how the pools will operate under the new contract from January 2009.**
- **The outcome of the free swimming day on August 24th to coincide with the Olympics hand over.**
- **The arguments for and against offering free swimming for over 60s: particularly, the factors considered in coming to the decision to apply, how the scheme will operate, how the risk has been transferred to the new operator etc..**

4.3 The Committee already receives a standing Leisure Performance report. The report provided elsewhere on this agenda does include the outcome of the 24 August free swimming day. The Director of Customer and Community Services has also asked Sports and Leisure Management (SLM) to give a presentation to Council on 10 December 2008 to describe how they will run the leisure centres (including the pools) and other related services. He has also asked SLM to arrange visits for members to one of their existing contract sites to give members an idea of the "feel" of the quality services

they intend to provide.

5.0 Consultation

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

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 None arising from the recommendations of this report

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 None arising from the recommendations of this report

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 'B11' (Page 11.5)

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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