

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27 JULY 2010

REPORT BY: CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

WARD(S) AFFECTED: none

Purpose/Summary of Report

This report is intended to support the Community Scrutiny Committee in reviewing and planning its work programme for 2010/11.

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR : Community Scrutiny Committee</u>	
(A)	that the work programme shown in this report be reviewed and agreed, and
(B)	that the scrutiny officer be asked to make any changes, additions or arrangements as might be discussed in the meeting.

1.0 Background

1.1 The calling of the General Election for May 2010 lead to the cancellation of the last meeting of this committee as it fell within the 'purdah' period. To accommodate report items from that meeting, the 2010/11 meeting agendas for this committee have been updated and the new version is attached here as Essential Reference Paper attached to the report.

2.0 Report

2.1 At the last meeting of this committee on 26 January 2010, members identified 'Designated Public Places Orders' (DPPOs) as the topic they wanted to scrutinise under their 'Crime and Disorder' remit. This topic was scheduled for the current meeting but had to be moved to make way for the urgent budget

discussion. Officers suggest that this topic could be included within the Community Safety report scheduled for 26 October 2010.

- 2.2 Following scrutiny recommendations (at Corporate Business Scrutiny on 11 May 2010) and the subsequent decision by the Executive to proceed with the development of Hertford Theatre, a new item has been added to this committee's agenda for 25 January 2011. This will report on the launch and opening of the venue and give initial results from the first pantomime season for members to scrutinise.
- 2.3 A further report on Hertford Theatre is scheduled for later in the year (26 July 2011) when a more detailed analysis and audited financial data will be available covering the period from the re-opening to the end of the financial year.
- 2.4 At the meeting of this committee on 26 January 2010, members expressed a wish to receive an update on how the Community Meals service was being delivered following the transfer of this service from East Herts (through WRVS) to Hertfordshire County Council (through their social enterprise partnership HCM). Members wanted specifically to hear about performance statistics and customer service feedback.
- 2.5 The first year of the new contract with the new provider ends on 01 August 2010. Members are asked to confirm if they wish to receive a report on this (subject to the availability of HCM representative) at the scrutiny meeting on 26 October 2010 - and whether any changes should be made to that meeting agenda to accommodate this topic.
- 2.6 In line with members' wishes as expressed during the Joint Scrutiny meeting on 1 June 2010, an LSP (Local Strategic Partnership) item has been added to the March 2011 agenda for this scrutiny committee. The report on "Review of the LSP's delivery of the local Sustainable Communities Strategy" will look at the effectiveness and role of the LSP, the setting of local priorities and will update members on the progress of the funded projects (designed to meet those priorities).
- 2.7 Members are reminded that there are two Joint Scrutiny sessions scheduled during the 2010/11 civic year. The dates and outline agendas are shown in Essential Reference Paper B.

- 2.8 During January and February 2010 members were involved in scrutiny evaluation and planning workshops. As part of this process a number of topics were put forward as potential areas for more detailed scrutiny through task and finish groups. The topic which had the broadest support, fits in with the council's key objectives and is very topical and timely to review during 2010/11 falls under the remit of Community Scrutiny Committee.

“Public Engagement and Consultation”: *review and explore approaches to improve engagement with all areas of the community (including younger people) and support development of constructive channels for future consultations.*

- 2.9 Community Scrutiny Committee are asked to convene a task and finish group to take on this challenging and important review.
- 2.10 A draft scoping document is attached here as Essential Reference Paper C to initiate discussion on the potential range of work which might be undertaken by the group over the coming months.
- 2.11 If agreed by this committee, the group would be asked to report back to Community Scrutiny on 29 March 2011.
- 3.0 Implications/Consultations
- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within Essential Reference Paper A.

Background Papers

Four principles of good public scrutiny published by CfPS (Centre for Public Scrutiny) [click here for link to CfPS external site](#)

East Herts Council own current guidelines for selecting issues for review. A summary of this information is printed at the back of Essential Reference Paper B.

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ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives</p>	<p>Effective use of the scrutiny process contributes to the Council's ability to meet two core objectives:</p> <p>Fit for purpose, services fit for you <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i></p> <p>Leading the way, working together <i>Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Any additional issues identified for scrutiny will relate to at least one of the Council's corporate objectives.</p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p>Potential topics for scrutiny are always invited from members of the public, the Executive and all Members.</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>According to the Council's constitution, the 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.</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Human Resource:</p>	<p>none</p>
<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>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.</p>

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Community Scrutiny Committee work programme 2010/11

meeting	date	topic	Contact officer/lead	Next Exec
THIS	CIVIC YEAR			
2 in 10/11	26 Oct 2010 Report deadline 13 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from Health Engagement Panel • East Herts Homelessness and Homeless Prevention action plan – annual monitoring report • Community Safety: report on progress towards outcomes & actions on the 3 year plan (to include a section on DPPOs) • Equality Scheme – update on improved outcomes for council service users • Service Plans Apr 2010 – Sept 2010 monitoring (Community only) • Healthcheck through to Aug 2010 • Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of Panel • Claire Bennett • Brian Simmonds/Lizzie Clarke • Mekhola Ray/Marianne • Ceri Pettit/Dave Cooper • Lorna Georgiou/Karl • Marian Langley 	9 Nov 2010 11 Jan 2011
JOINT SCRUTINY	18 Jan 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011/12 Budget items 		
3 in 10/11	25 Jan 2011 Report deadline 12 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from Health Engagement Panel • Leisure Contract – year 2 • Update on Hertford Theatre launch and overview of first ‘Panto’ season. • East Herts Housing Strategy 2008-2011 – annual monitoring of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of Panel • Invite SLM • Will O’Neill with Rhys, Emma & Eoin • Claire Bennett 	8 Feb 2011 8 March 2011

		<p>progress on action plan and ideas for new one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcheck through to Nov 2010 • Work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorna Georgiou/Karl • Marian Langley 	
JOINT SCRUTINY	15 Feb 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011/12 Service Plans • 2010/11 Estimates and Future targets 		
4 in 10/11	<p>29 Mar 2011</p> <p>Report deadline 16 March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from Health Engagement Panel • Review of the LSP's delivery of the local Sustainable Communities Strategy • Healthcheck through to Feb 2011 • Work programme 2011/12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of Panel • Will O'Neil/Mekhola Ray (George Robertson) • Lorna Georgiou/Karl • Marian Langley 	<p>5 April 2011</p> <p>24 May 2011</p> <p>5 July 2011</p>

The four principles of good public scrutiny: from Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS)

- *provides ‘critical friend’ challenge to executive policy-makers and decision-makers*
- *enables the voice and concerns of the public and its communities*
- *is carried out by ‘independent-minded governors’ who lead and own the scrutiny role*
- *drives improvement in public services*

Currently within East Herts Council, the criteria for selecting issues:

For the Scrutiny Committee to select an issue to review, it must meet all of the following criteria:

- Of local, and preferably current, concern
- Linked to the council’s corporate objectives
- Capable of being influenced by this committee
- Of manageable scope – focused rather than too wide ranging
- Of sufficient scope to warrant a scrutiny review – not something that can be easily fixed by meeting with the service provider
- Not being scrutinised elsewhere (eg another Scrutiny Committee)

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Scoping considerations for Scrutiny Committees.

What is the purpose of the review – what would it achieve?

“Public Engagement and Consultation”: *review and explore approaches to improve engagement with all areas of the community (including younger people) and support development of constructive channels for future consultations.*

How would you judge if it were successful?
What outcomes are members most keen to see?
What would be the best outcome(s) for residents?

What would be the distinct stages and timing of the review?

Ask Community Scrutiny to commission task and finish group on 27 July 2010
Get nominations from group leaders and finalise membership during August 2010
Task and finish group meet during Autumn/Winter 2010
(If required) a short interim report could come to Community Scrutiny on 25 Jan 2011
Task and finish group complete their work and finalise recommendations Spring 2011
Final report brought back to Community Scrutiny on 29 March 2011

Next Executive = 5 April 2011
Annual Council = 18 May 2011

How could our residents (and partners) be involved?

<p>Documents/evidence/research <i>What?</i> Performance Indicators covering this topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Indicator 4 (NI4) % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality <p><i>Why?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to understand the context, legislative background and the current situation • Make the best use of data and intelligence available • Best practice examples from elsewhere 	<p>Questions to be asked</p>
<p>Site visits <i>Where?</i></p> <p><i>Why?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get an insight into various meeting dynamics and methods • Discern good practice 	<p>Questions to be asked</p>
<p>Support required from officers <i>Who/What?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mekhola Ray (Community Projects Team Leader) • Will O'Neill (Head of Community & Cultural Services) • Lorna Georgiou (Performance Improvement Co-ordinator) • Marian Langlely (Scrutiny Officer) • Members of Community Projects team, Communications Team as appropriate 	<p>Questions to be asked</p>

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