

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL – 13 MAY 2009

REPORT BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

11. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

'D' RECOMMENDATION: that the Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee Chairmen be received.

1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 This is a cover report to introduce the annual report for 2008/09 of the scrutiny committees.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Objectives

2.1 An effective scrutiny function contributes to the process that ensures the Council is meeting all of its corporate objectives. It also contributes to the Council's ongoing aim to embrace best practice.

3.0 Report

3.1 The Annual Report of 2008/09 (attached as Appendix 'A11', pages 33 - 63) summarises the activities of all scrutiny committees during the past year, details the outcome of the evaluation workshops and sets out some of the ideas for the coming year.

3.2 At the time of submitting this draft for Council's consideration, the Executive was still to make a decision on the refurbishment plans for Grange Paddocks and Hartham leisure facilities. This decision is now expected to be made at a special meeting on 5 May 2009 and the final line on page 10 of the annual report can be updated after that date.

3.3 The report is written for many audiences: those Members involved in scrutiny, those who might wish to be, and Members of the Executive, to whom the scrutiny committees act as a critical friend.

3.4 It is also hoped that partners, community groups and residents who have contributed to our scrutiny process during the year will appreciate that their contributions are valued by Members.

3.5 Once agreed by the Council, the report will be updated as mentioned in paragraph 3.2 above, published on the Council's website and notification of its 'e-location' will be passed to partner organisations in the Local Strategic Partnership.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 The Annual Report has been drafted following consultation with all Members involved in Scrutiny.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The Council's constitution states in Part 2 at paragraph 6.3 (d) that -
"Scrutiny committees must report annually to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate."

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 The cost of circulating the report to Members can be met within existing budgets.

6.2 Greater use will be made of signposting interested parties and partners to the Council's website to access the Annual Report which will minimise use of material resources, distribution costs and gain potential CO₂ efficiencies from on-line provision.

7.0 Human Resource Implications

7.1 None.

8.0 Risk Management Implications

8.1 None.

Background papers

None

Contact Members: **Councillor Colin Woodward**, Chairman,
Community Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Jim Ranger, Chairman, Corporate
Business Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Will Quince, Chairman, Environment
Scrutiny Committee

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