

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8 JUNE 2010

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE

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8. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

WARD(S) AFFECTED: None.

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

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

<b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b>	
<b>(A)</b>	that the work programme detailed shown in this report be reviewed and agreed;
<b>(B)</b>	The scrutiny officer be asked to make any changes, additions or arrangements as might be discussed in the meeting; and
<b>(C)</b>	Members identify aspect(s) of the budget from the MTFP and Capital Programme which they wish to discuss in more detail at a future meeting of this Committee.

1.0 Background

1.1 Items previously required, identified or suggested for the work programme are set out in **Essential Reference Paper B**.

1.2 At the joint meeting of scrutiny last week (1 June 2010), Members had the opportunity to discuss:

- 2009/10 Out-turns and Targets.
- Service Plans October 2009 – March 2010 monitoring report.

## 2.0 Report

2.1 The Medium Term Financial Plan and proposed savings are already set out for the next 4 years. Essential Reference Paper C is an extract from the MTFP with forward items under Environment Scrutiny remit tagged in green.

2.2 The 2011/12 Capital Programme proposals are also already published. Essential Reference Paper D is an extract from this document with forward items under Environment Scrutiny remit tagged in green.

2.3 Members are asked to choose from the MTFP and Capital Programme some specific issues (which fall under their remit) to review in more detail at a future meeting of this committee. Members are asked to focus on 2011/12 financial year at this time.

2.4 After the close of accounts for the 2009/10 financial year, officers will have the opportunity to set out.

- Services which are performing considerably over or under target.
- Services which are significantly over or under spent on budget.

Once this data is available, members will have another chance to identify further budgetary issue(s) to scrutinise at a later meeting.

2.5 Following the CBS meeting on 11 May 2010, an additional item has been added to the work programme of this committee. A report setting out the business case for the Hertford Theatre (Castle Hall) Hydro project should be available for the meeting on 14 September 2010 – however this is still dependent on the new government clarifying its position on funding for projects of this type including rates for “Feed-In Tariffs”.

## 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

Report to CBS on 11 May 2010 "Investment Proposals for Castle Hall"  
[http://80.168.51.108/media/pdf/5/6/Item\\_6 - Investment Proposals for Castle Hall.pdf](http://80.168.51.108/media/pdf/5/6/Item_6_-_Investment_Proposals_for_Castle_Hall.pdf)

Four principles of good public scrutiny published by CfPS (Centre for Public Scrutiny) summarized in Essential Reference paper B or [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><b>Fit for purpose, services fit for you</b>  <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i></p> <p><b>Leading the way, working together</b>  <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>