

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 28 FEBRUARY 2012

REPORT BY: CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

WARD(S) AFFECTED: none

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report is intended to support the Community Scrutiny Committee in reviewing and planning its future work programme.

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

2.0 Report

2.1 New topics will be added onto the draft agendas for 2012/13 following consultation with members in spring 2012 (17 and 24 April) as part of the scrutiny evaluation/planning workshops.

2.2 No new topics for scrutiny have been received from the public. An article explaining the role of scrutiny and inviting suggestions from residents has already been prepared for the spring 2012 'council tax' edition of LINK magazine.

- 2.3 The draft work programme and any new topic suggestions will all be subject to confirmation by the Community Scrutiny committee appointed for 2012/13 at their first meeting in the new civic year.
- 2.4 To support members in their consideration of housing related matters, in the reading of committee reports and in discussions with officers/partners a quick reference guide has been compiled of the frequently used abbreviations and acronyms. **Essential Reference Paper C** will be attached to the back of scrutiny work programme agenda and updated as new terminology appears and comes into common usage. Please let the Scrutiny Officer know of any items you think should be added to list.
- 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'** which follows.

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.

Contact Member: Cllr Graham McAndrew, Chairman: Community Scrutiny Committee

Contact Officer: Lorna Georgiou, Performance and Improvement Co-ordinator and acting manager – Extn 2244

Report Author: Marian Langley, Scrutiny Officer – Extn 1612

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>