

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 5 MARCH 2013

REPORT BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- This report details the comments and recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committees since the last meeting of the Executive and should be read in conjunction with reports of the Executive Members found elsewhere on the agenda.

<b><u>RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION:</u></b>
<b>(A) That the report be received.</b>

1.0 Background

1.1 Scrutiny meetings have been held recently as follows:

Joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees – 12 February 2013  
Environment Scrutiny Committee – 26 February 2013

2.0 Report

2.1 **Service Plans 2013/14**  
**(Agenda Item 6)**

Resolved that the Executive be informed that the joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees considered that the Service Plan activity for 2013/14 now submitted should be approved.

## 2.2 2012/13 Estimates and Future Targets (Agenda Item 7)

Resolved that the Executive be informed that (A) the Joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees have the following comments on the 2012/13 Estimates and Future Targets:

- the estimates and targets for 2012/13 be noted;
- in respect of NI181, additional resources be considered to ensure that that the future target for the processing of housing benefit claims and change events can be bought back to nearer 10 days;
- in respect of EHPI64, the outturn target of returning 10 vacant dwellings to occupation or demolition was not sufficiently ambitious and should be revised upwards through additional resources being considered for this area; and

(B) the recoding of national indicators (NIs) to East Herts Performance Indicators (EHPI) prefixes be agreed.

## 2.3 Recycling Options (Removing Cardboard from the Organic Waste Stream) (Agenda Item 9)

The Environment Scrutiny Committee considered the range of options and financial implications as set out in the report. The Committee appreciated the need to make changes to the organic waste stream collection and felt that the initial costs associated with adopting Option 5 would be worth it for the additional and improved recycling service it would then offer to residents. Members were aware of space limitations for some properties and were interested in the idea of an insert basket for separate collection of paper which could do away with the need to keep any recycling boxes. Members asked if Option 5 could be amended to offer the baskets as standard or as an option to residents subject to an amended schedule of costs being available.

The Committee resolved that the Executive be advised that, the suggestion that options and costs for providing an internal basket for paper be investigated and reported to the Executive, be supported.

2.4 **Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy**  
**(Agenda Item 10)**

The Environment Scrutiny Committee resolved that the Executive be advised that the Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, as now submitted, be supported for public consultation.

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**

None

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