

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 23 FEBRUARY 2016

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY

EVALUATION OF SCRUTINY 2015/16 AND WORK PROGRAMME  
PLANNING FOR 2016/17

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WARD(S) AFFECTED: *none*

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To review 2015/16 and determine Environment Scrutiny Committee's future work programme

**RECOMMENDATION FOR ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**That:**

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| <b>(A)</b> | the comments given as part of the evaluation exercise be collated and used to frame the draft 2015/16 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report; and |
| <b>(B)</b> | the work programme shown in this report be agreed  |

1.0 Background

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

2.0 Evaluation

2.1 During last year's scrutiny evaluation process, Members identified a number of areas of practice where they wanted to improve and these were included in the 2015/16 Action Plan. This document is included here as **Essential Reference Paper "C"**.

2.2 Reflecting back on the past year, Members are asked to:

- comment on progress against these actions
- describe specific examples of successful practice from the work of this scrutiny committee

- identify any challenges or barriers which they have met during this time.
- 2.3 Members are asked to recommend which (if any) of the actions should be carried forward to the 2016/17 Scrutiny Action Plan and what ideas they have to do scrutiny differently so it has more impact within the council and community.
- 2.4 As part of the wider evaluation discussion, Members are asked to identify what they are most pleased to have achieved through scrutiny during the past year and what has been the most interesting or useful thing they have learned during the year.
- 2.5 Evaluation feedback from all the scrutiny committees will be collated and used to frame the draft 2015/16 Overview and Scrutiny annual report. This draft will be reviewed and approved by the scrutiny chairmen and presented to Council on 27 July 2016.
- 2.6 Any suggestions on how the function of scrutiny might be changed or improved will be considered by the new (2016/17) scrutiny chairmen and officers at their first meeting of the new civic year.
- 3.0 Work Programme Planning
- 3.1 A draft work programme for 2016/17 meetings of Environment Scrutiny Committee is shown in **Essential Reference Paper “B”** (subject to confirmation). The timing of some items shown may have to change if they are dependent on publication of guidance or data from an external source (eg from central government).
- 3.2 Members are asked whether there is any additional topic they wish to put forward for consideration by scrutiny in 2016/17 (subject to confirmation by new committee at their first meeting in June 2016).
- 3.3 Members are asked whether they wish to extend an invitation to one or more of the Executive/portfolio holders to attend a particular meeting or for a specific agenda item listed in the draft work programme.
- 3.5 In suggesting topics, Members should have in mind the council’s draft vision and corporate priorities 2016/17 – 2019/20 (shown below and subject to confirmation and ratification) and be able to identify what tangible outcome(s) and benefits they would want to achieve through undertaking this piece of work. Members are

cautioned to avoid topics where the council does not have any influence.

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| <b>Vision – To preserve the unique character of East Herts and ensure it remains one of the best places to live and work</b> |   |
| <b>Priority and outcomes we want to see:</b>   |   |
| <b>Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities</b>  | Residents living active and healthy lives   |
|  | Support for our vulnerable families and individuals   |
|  | Communities engaged in local issues   |
| <b>Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people’s lives</b>  | Attractive places   |
|  | Future development best meets the need of the district and its residents                          |
| <b>Priority 3 – Enable a flourishing local economy</b>   | Support for our businesses and the local economy  |
|  | Vibrant town centres  |
|  | Working with others, to have achieved the right infrastructure for our businesses and communities |

3.6 **Once agreed**, more detailed information on the Council’s new Corporate Strategic Plan will be posted on line at <http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=11547> and details of the vision and priorities will be found at <http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=11550>

#### 4.0 Implications/Consultations

4.1 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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