

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 25 January 2011

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11 AND 2011/12

WARD(S) AFFECTED: none

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report is intended to support the Community Scrutiny Committee in reviewing and planning its work programme for 2010/11 and 2011/12.

<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 attached to the report now submitted.

2.0 Report

2.1 There will be a verbal update on the opening of the Hertford Theatre made through Chairman's announcements at the start of this committee meeting. The written report, with a more detailed initial analysis of the launch, will now be brought to the scrutiny committee meeting on 29 March 2011.

2.2 A further report on Hertford Theatre is scheduled for later in the year (26 July 2011) when audited financial data and a more

detailed analysis will be available covering the period from the re-opening to the end of the financial year.

- 2.3 Members are reminded that the second of the two Joint Scrutiny sessions is scheduled for 15 February 2011. The outline agenda for that is included in Essential Reference Paper B attached.
- 2.4 There are two decisions to be made concerning the agenda for 26 July 2011.
- 2.5 Members may wish to consider whether the main Housing Associations and the East Herts Citizens' Advice Service (CAB) should continue to report in person on an annual basis to this committee.
- 2.6 There is a scrutiny topic planning workshop scheduled for Thursday 3 February 2011 and Members may wish to delay making any decision on the topic for the Crime and Disorder review until all the suggestions can be collated and summarised. The list can be reported to this committee at the 29 March 2011 meeting for further consideration.
- 2.7 All scrutiny workshops planned are shown below:

SCRUTINY ACTIVITY – as agreed by Scrutiny Chairmen		
27 Jan 2011 Council Chamber	5:30 – 6:30	Skills Development (1) – Questioning for Scrutiny
	6:30 – 7:30	Scrutiny Evaluation Workshop and setting objectives for 2011/12
3 Feb 2011 Council Chamber	5:30 – 6:30	Skills Development (2) – Assessing the quality of evidence
	6:30 – 7:30	Scrutiny Topic Planning 2011/12

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

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.

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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>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>