

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16 SEPTEMBER 2008

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

9. WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09

WARD(S) AFFECTED:

'D' RECOMMENDATION - that this report be used as a basis for reviewing the current work programme and planning future scrutiny work of this Committee

1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 This report is intended to support the Environment Scrutiny Committee in planning its work programme for 2008/09.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives

2.1 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.

2.2 Any additional issues identified for scrutiny will relate to at least one of the Council's corporate objectives.

2.3 Effective use of the scrutiny process contributes to the Council's ability to meet two core objectives:

Fit for purpose, services fit for you

Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.

Leading the way, working together

Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Items previously required, identified or suggested for the work programme are set out in Appendix A.
- 3.2 The Climate Change task and finish group, under the Chairmanship of Cllr Peek, continues to meet in parallel with the two groups of officers (Strategy Development and Operations/Implementation). The next meeting of the task and finish group is scheduled for 9:30am Monday 22 September 2008.
- 3.3 An interim report from the Climate Change task and finish group appears separately on the agenda for this meeting.
- 3.4 The full Corporate Health Check for 2008/09 Quarter 1 was scrutinised by Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee which met on 26 August 2008. The report was made available to this committee's chairman and vice chairman on 18 August to allow them to scrutinise the performance indicators relevant to Environment Scrutiny terms of reference. No items were identified for exceptional reporting to the full committee.
- 3.5 The Corporate Health Check data is available on-line through the CBS committee papers of the 26 August meeting at:
<http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=7239>
- 3.6 The agenda items appearing on the work programme in Appendix A on page 37 relating to service options, budget scrutiny and service plans conform to the current Integrated Service Plan (ISP) timetable. Any changes to this timetable may impact on this scheduling.

4.0 Work Programme

- 4.1 This follows as Appendix A on page 37.

5.0 Consultation

- 5.1 Potential topics for scrutiny are always invited from members of the public, the Executive and all Members.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 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.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 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.

8.0 Human Resource Implications

8.1 None.

9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 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.

Background Papers:

Four principles of good public scrutiny published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS).

East Herts Council own current guidelines for selecting issues for review. Summary of the above attached as Appendix B on page 38.

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