

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15 SEPTEMBER 2009

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

'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 2009/10.

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 2009/10 work programme were agreed at Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting on 16 June 2009. These agenda items are listed in Appendix A on pages 12.4 - 12.5.

3.2 Members of all scrutiny committees are invited to attend Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee for two key meetings at the start of 2010, linked to service planning and budget setting. These are also listed in Appendix A on pages 12.4 - 12.5 to give members advance notice of these dates.

4.0 Report

4.1 Since the last meeting of this committee, there have been no requests for new items to be added to any future agenda. The only change is to schedule the draft 'Transport Strategy for East Herts' to come back to committee in March 2010 after it has been out to public consultation.

4.2 There has been a continuing delay in central Government releasing the raw and weighted data from the Place Survey and this has had a significant impact on the timetable for the analysis phase. ORS (the company commissioned to undertake the analysis) now expects to get the East Herts report to us in September. At the time of writing this report, only the headline figures are currently available and these were included in the Healthcheck report at the August Corporate Business Scrutiny meeting. The full Place Survey report has been moved to the agenda of 6 October 2009 meeting of Corporate Business Scrutiny (CBS) committee.

4.3 The **Place Survey** report will be of interest to all scrutiny members as sections of the data represent some of the (bi)annual performance indicators which fall under the remit of other committees. An invitation is extended to all members to attend **CBS meeting on 6 October 2009** to get a full picture of the survey findings and review these figures in context.

4.4 Members may wish to note that a report giving the outcome and results of the **Residents' Survey** will be reported to **CBS on 17 November 2009**. All Members are invited to attend.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 Potential topics for scrutiny are always invited from members of the public, LSP partners, 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 CfPS (Centre for Public Scrutiny)

East Herts Council own current guidelines for selecting issues for review. Summary of the above attached as Appendix B on page 12.6.

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