



MEETING : ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
VENUE : WAYTEMORE ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES, THE
CAUSEWAY, BISHOP'S STORTFORD
DATE : TUESDAY 15TH MARCH, 2011
TIME : 7.00 PM

PLEASE NOTE TIME AND VENUE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Councillor Diane Hollebon (Chairman).
Councillors W Ashley, Mrs M H Goldspink, P Grethe, G McAndrew,
M Newman, N C Poulton, A L Warman and B M Wrangles.

(Conservative Group Substitutes: Councillors R Beeching, A D Dodd
and G E Lawrence.
Liberal Democrat Group Substitutes: Councillor M Wood.
Independent Group Substitute: Vacancy.

*(Note: Substitution arrangements must be notified by the absent Member
to Democratic Services 24 hours before the meeting).*

CONTACT OFFICER: Peter Mannings
01279 502174
01279 502174 (8.45am – 5.00pm)
07702 083051 (5.00pm – 7.30pm)
only on day of meeting

PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

1. A Member with a personal interest in any business of the Council who attends a meeting of the Authority at which the business is considered must, with certain specified exemptions (see section 5 below), disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest prior to the commencement of it being considered or when the interest becomes apparent.
2. Members should decide whether or not they have a personal interest in any matter under discussion at a meeting. If a Member decides they have a personal interest then they must also consider whether that personal interest is also prejudicial.
3. A personal interest is either an interest, as prescribed, that you must register under relevant regulations or it is an interest that is not registrable but where the well-being or financial position of you, members of your family, or people with whom you have a close association, is likely to be affected by the business of the Council more than it would affect the majority of inhabitants of the ward(s) affected by the decision.
4. Members with personal interests, having declared the nature of that personal interest, can remain in the meeting, speak and vote on the matter unless the personal interest is also a prejudicial interest.
5. An exemption to declaring a personal interest applies when the interest arises solely from a Member's membership of or position of general control or management on:
 - any other body to which they have been appointed or nominated by the authority
 - any other body exercising functions of a public nature (e.g another local authority)

In these exceptional cases, provided a Member does not have a prejudicial interest, they only need to declare their interest if they speak. If a Member does not want to speak to the meeting, they may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.

6. A personal interest will also be a prejudicial interest in a matter if all of the following conditions are met:
 - the matter does not fall within one of the exempt categories of decisions
 - the matter affects your financial interests or relates to a licensing or regulatory matter
 - a member of the public, who knows the relevant facts, would reasonably think your personal interest is so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

7. Exempt categories of decisions are:
 - setting council tax
 - any ceremonial honour given to Members
 - an allowance, payment or indemnity for Members
 - statutory sick pay
 - school meals or school transport and travelling expenses: if you are a parent or guardian of a child in full-time education or you are a parent governor, unless it relates particularly to the school your child attends
 - housing; if you hold a tenancy or lease with the Council, as long as the matter does not relate to your particular tenancy or lease.

8. If you have a prejudicial interest in a matter being discussed at a meeting, you must declare that interest and its nature as soon as the interest becomes apparent to you.

9. If you have declared a personal and prejudicial interest, you must leave the room, unless members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter, by statutory right or otherwise. If that is the case, you can also attend the meeting for that purpose. However, you must immediately leave the room once you have finished or when the meeting decides that you have finished (if that is earlier). You cannot remain in the public gallery to observe proceedings.

AGENDA

8. Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/12 (Pages 5 - 10)

Provisional list of main scrutiny topics for 2011/12

NOTE:
An item will appear in next edition of LINK explaining what scrutiny is and asking for additional topics from residents.

PRIORITY LIST – workload within available resources			
Scrutiny Committee	Topic	Commentary/Notes	Corporate priority
For CBS in 2011/12	Review of the scrutiny of C3W:	Review required by Audit: prioritised by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT. Needs to be added to the schedule for post-July 2011- no date allocated yet.	<i>Fit for purpose, services fit for you</i> This priority focuses on delivering high quality customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.
For CBS in 2011/12 (and probably into 2012/13)	Shared Services – particularly look at the plans for services now being considered under shared agreements (ICT, HR, Facilities and Property services & Strategic Financial advice)	Agreed by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT and HoS. Bring report(s) to CBS committee agenda item when timing appropriate.	<i>Fit for purpose, services fit for you</i>

PRIORITY LIST – workload within available resources			
Scrutiny Committee	Topic	Commentary/Notes	Corporate priority
For Environment in 2011/12	Have we got what we wanted and expected from the new Planning Enforcement Policy timescales and use of Planning Contravention Notices?	Review already agreed to at the time of the original task and finish group report. Confirmed by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT and HoS. Already in the committee schedule for 13 Sept 2011	<i>Pride in East Herts</i> This priority focuses on improving standards of the built neighbourhood and environmental management in our towns and villages. <i>Shaping now, shaping the future</i> This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, ensuring sustainable, economic and social opportunities including effective development control and other measures.
For Environment in 2011/12	Children’s Playgrounds: To be covered within a Parks and Open Spaces strategy and action plan report	Agreed by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT and HoS. Already in the committee schedule for 13 Sept 2011	<i>Pride in East Herts</i>
For Environment in 2012/13	Review new refuse & recycling and street cleansing contract one year from commencement of contract.	Agreed by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT and HoS. Contract starts May 2011 – so full year could not be reviewed until 2012/13 civic year. Already earmarked 26 June 2012 committee meeting for this contract monitoring report.	<i>Fit for purpose, services fit for you ...and Pride in East Herts</i>

**AGENDA ITEM 8
ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER C**

PRIORITY LIST – workload within available resources			
Scrutiny Committee	Topic	Commentary/Notes	Corporate priority
For Community in 2011/12	Any appropriate specific topics arising from Community and Public Engagement task and finish group recommendations (going through CBS in March 2011) which require further development/review/member input.	Prioritised by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT. Identify dates as topic(s) identified.	<i>Leading the way, working together</i> This priority focuses on delivering responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.
For Community in 2011/12	Undertake one or more aspects of the wider review of Community Safety . This might cover the specific topics: PCSOs: funding for the future CCTV (community safety): looking at cost & effectiveness.	As discussed by The Leader at Joint Scrutiny (budget) meeting on 18 Jan 2011 – where he said “scrutiny will have a role to play in this review”. Prioritised by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT and HoS. Identify dates as wider review is scoped and planned.	<i>Promoting prosperity and well being; providing access and opportunities</i> This priority focuses on enhancing the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.
For Community in 2011/12	There will need to be some work undertaken on the implications of the Localism Bill .	Scrutiny Chairmen and CMT acknowledge importance and would like to prioritise when scrutiny role becomes clearer. Identify dates as topic(s) identified.	<i>Leading the way, working togetherand Promoting prosperity and well being; providing access and opportunities</i>

ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION AT LATER DATE : several could be impacted by Localism Bill, so do need to wait until these details are clearer some topics have only recently been decided by Council, so need longer to run before a review			
Economic Regeneration: <i>bring vitality back into decaying assets; focus on (old) industrial areas in the district.</i>	Members' relationship with Housing Associations and setting up positive channels of communication and getting things done for tenants: <i>Tenants would feel their problems were being taken seriously – and they would be.</i>	Debt: <i>In difficult times this is an increasing problem which the council takes seriously.</i>	Follow up on Section 106 monies: <i>To ensure the monies set aside for community benefit are not 'lost'. Residents get to see and benefit from the improvements/investment.</i>
Empty Homes & use of 'over the shop' residential accommodation – <i>could they be used to reduce the number of 'new builds' needed? Improved street scene and regeneration of town centres.</i>	Residential Social Landlords: 'new build' satisfaction of residents – how good is the new housing stock?	Community Transport	The adequacy of the Community Public Toilets Scheme: <i>Better provision of easily accessible, well signed and pleasant-to-use WCs for everyone in all our towns.</i>
Planning Pre-Application Process – <i>clarify and establish procedure to consider the role of ward councillors and the issue of confidentiality (wrt involvement of any other third parties).</i>	Special Needs Housing	Museums in East Herts	Review of Environmental Crime Policies - <i>in the service plan for 2011/12.</i>
Conservation Areas: <i>where are they and what are they achieving?</i>	Care for the elderly: <i>The fact the council consider scrutiny and tackling a local problem which is growing. How could it be done better?</i>	The 'Arts' in East Herts	Review of Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan – 2012/13.

**AGENDA ITEM 8
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Conservation of trees, woodland and urban trees: <i>Environmental, visual & leisure</i>	Homelessness: <i>Improving a struggling system. More people are likely to become homeless and showing if the system works.</i>	‘Age-proofing’ of (all EH) policies	LSP: <i>scrutiny of aspects of the partnership and of partners</i>
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For information:

Timing (some are provisional and tbc)	Topics (of interest to EH scrutiny committees) which are already on the schedule for HCC scrutiny and Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee
April 2011	Highways Maintenance (to assess the impact of maintenance strategies on highways condition).
Spring 2011	Youth Connexions (follow on)
Late Mar/early April 2011 UPDATE: this is now listed as 16 June	Mental health of returning military personnel and in particular TAs. UPDATE: now called MH of specialist groups
1 & 2 March 2011	Health and Wellbeing of Offenders
July 2011	Adoption of Roads
Summer 2011 UPDATE: now called Integrated Discharge	Intermediate Care (hospital discharge, step up and step down arrangements and including services to specific groups (e.g. dementia, MH users)
Autumn 2011	Flooding
UPDATE (new): 11 March 2011	Healthy Schools programme

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