

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 6 MARCH 2012

REPORT BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report details the comments and recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committees since the last meeting of the Executive and should be read in conjunction with reports of the Executive Members found elsewhere on the agenda.

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION:</u>
(A) That the report be received.

1.0 Background

1.1 Scrutiny meetings have been held recently as follows:

Joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees – 14 February 2012

2.0 Report

2.1 **Service Plans 2012/13**
(Agenda Item 6)

The joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees agreed that the Executive be informed that (A) the Service Plan activity for 2011/12 now submitted should be approved;

(B) the outcomes detailed in the Service Plans should be more measurable;

(C) opportunities should be explored for a joint approach to litter clearance activities in the vicinity of fast food outlets;

and

(D) Officers should explore cooperative and partnership approaches to timely litter and leaf clearance across the District.

2.2 **Residents Survey 2011** **(Agenda Item 7)**

The joint meeting agreed that the Executive be informed that the Joint Scrutiny Committees had the following comments:

(A) the ORS Residents Survey Report be noted;

(B) the following priority areas for further investigation by Officers be approved:

- the Government's ideas in relation to the provision of decent and suitable affordable housing;
- whether the choice based lettings scheme should be amended so there was a greater emphasis on the awarding of points on a more local basis than the District level;
- the provision of more activities for teenagers to address issues of teenagers congregating and causing anti-social behaviour;
- reiterating that there should be no move back to weekly refuse collections and more work should be undertaken to improve the situation regarding increasing recycling facilities for flats;
- addressing the high level of dissatisfaction of residents in respect of complaints and the time taken for the Authority to respond;
- whether more could be done to address residents' views that the Authority should do more to engage with residents and publicise the Council's activities; and

(C) Officers be requested to develop an action plan in response to the priorities identified by the Joint Scrutiny Committees.

2.3 2011/12 Estimates and Future Targets (Agenda Item 8)

The joint meeting agreed that the Executive be informed that the Joint Scrutiny Committees have the following comments:

- (A) the estimates for 2011/12 be noted;
- (B) the data quality spot checks detailed in paragraph 6.3 of the report now submitted, be noted;
- (C) the targets detailed in paragraphs 5.1 – 5.3 of the report submitted to either improve, reduce or retain performance, be approved; and
- (D) the Unit Cost indicators detailed in paragraph 7.1 of the report submitted should not be included in the list of PI estimates and targets.

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

None

Contact Members: Councillor D Andrews, Chairman, Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee.
Councillor Mrs D L E Hollebon, Chairman, Environment Scrutiny Committee.
Councillor G McAndrew, Chairman, Community Scrutiny Committee.

Contact Officer: Jeff Hughes – Head of Democratic and Legal Support Services, Extn: 2170.

Report Authors: Martin Ibrahim - Democratic Services Team Leader,
Marian Langley – Scrutiny Officer

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives (<i>delete as appropriate</i>):	This report seeks to summarise scrutiny activities, which in general terms, support all of the Council's objectives.
Consultation:	This report assists the wider consultation process in reporting issues arising from scrutiny to the Executive.
Legal:	The Constitution requires issues arising from Scrutiny to be reported to the Executive.
Financial:	None
Human Resource:	None
Risk Management:	None