

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 12 JUNE 2012

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

WARD(S) AFFECTED: *none*

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To review and determine the Community Scrutiny Committee's future work programme

<p><u>RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION:</u> that the work programme detailed in this report be agreed</p>

1.0 Background

1.1 Items previously required, identified or suggested for the Community Scrutiny work programme are set out in **Essential Reference Paper B**.

2.0 Report

2.1 An article explaining the role of scrutiny and inviting suggestions from residents was published in the spring 2012 'council tax' edition of LINK magazine. No new topics for scrutiny have been received from the public to date.

2.2 New suggestions for Community Scrutiny arising from the Members' scrutiny planning workshop and from the feedback/consultation paperwork are listed below. Members are invited to consider the topics and indicate whether they wish to confirm them as part of the 2012/13 work programme and suggest a preferred date (subject to availability of any relevant officer/resources).

2.3 Table of topics

Topic/issue	Why/outcome	Priority/comment
Review of our taxi licensing process and procedures – for Comm Scrutiny <i>(People)</i>	Contribute to the Community Safety message ‘safe in East Herts’ following recent press stories	High – has support of Executive member, Corporate Management Team and Head of Service. Request for a Task & Finish group asap
Keeping a focus on the “Ageing Well” theme <i>(People)</i>	Demographic pressures (publication of census results later this year)	High - but also integrate into all reviews and reports (and include within equalities impact assessments)
Topics raised at planning session		
Member interest in: Impact of Housing Benefit capping (for Community Scrutiny)	Concern re impact on quality of family life, the potential for an increase in homelessness and social deprivation in district	Raised in Housing Strategy report at Community Scrutiny (especially impact on under 35s) – already asked for more details in 2012/13. Also need to keep option to review Council Tax Benefit proposals – (and later consider the wider issue/impact of Universal Credit being phased in between October 2013 and October 2017).

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 Member: Cllr Graham McAndrew – Chairman Community
Scrutiny Committee
graham.mcandrew@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Jeff Hughes – Head of Democratic and Legal
Support Services
Extn 2170
jeff.hughes@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author: Marian Langley – Scrutiny Officer
marian.langley@eastherts.gov.uk