

Environment Scrutiny Committee work programme (provisional) 2012/13

meeting	date	topic	Contact officer/lead	Next Exec
NEXT	CIVIC YEAR			
2012/13 Meeting 2/4	11 Sept 2012 Report deadline 29 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GREEN DEAL – presentation (What is it and how can EH residents benefit?) • Scope and Interim T&F report on Grounds' Maintenance contact (parks, open spaces and highways) • Healthcheck through to June 2012 • Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be confirmed • Head of Environmental Services • Lead Officer - Performance • Scrutiny Officer 	9 Oct 2012 6 Nov 2012
2012/13 Meeting 3/4	13 Nov 2012 Report deadline 31 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and Open Spaces Strategy - 2012 onwards • Final T&F report on review of Grounds' Maintenance contract (parks, open spaces and highways) • Service Plans monitoring Apr 2012 – Sept 2012 (Environment only) • Healthcheck through to Sept 2012 • Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Environmental Services • Head of Environmental Services • Lead Officer – Corporate Planning • Lead Officer - Performance • Scrutiny Officer 	tbc
Member consultation	During Nov/Dec 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013/14 Proposed Service Options 		
JOINT SCRUTINY	15 Jan 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013/14 Budget items 		
JOINT SCRUTINY	12 Feb 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013/14 Service Plans • 2012/13 Estimates and Future targets 		

**Scrutiny work programme
Essential Reference Paper B**

2012/13 Meeting 4/4	26 Feb 2013 Report deadline 13 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC • TBC • Healthcheck through to Jan 2013 • Work Programme 2013/14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X • X • Lead Officer - Performance • Scrutiny Officer 	5 March 2013

TBC: Env Crimes T&F was deferred as central government announced further changes to anti-social behaviour legislation which would impact on graffiti, dog fouling, fly tipping etc. Need to wait until outcome clearer.

The four principles of good public scrutiny:

- *provides 'critical friend' challenge to executive policy-makers and decision-makers*
- *enables the voice and concerns of the public and its communities*
- *is carried out by 'independent-minded governors' who lead and own the scrutiny role*
- *drives improvement in public services*

Currently within East Herts Council, the criteria for selecting issues:

For the Scrutiny Committee to select an issue to review, it must meet all of the following criteria:

- Of local, and preferably current, concern
- Linked to the council's corporate objectives
- Capable of being influenced by this committee
- Of manageable scope – focused rather than too wide ranging
- Of sufficient scope to warrant a scrutiny review – not something that can be easily fixed by meeting with the service provider
- Not being scrutinised elsewhere (eg another Scrutiny Committee)

At the last scrutiny evaluation there was a feeling, in the light of the current economic climate and limited resources, that there should also be some consideration given to

- areas where significant costs might be incurred or could be saved
- minimising the level of risk associated with the topic/issue
- the length of time since the topic was last reviewed.