EAST HERTS COUNCIL

CORPORATE BUSINESS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 28 MAY 2013

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF CORPORATE BUSINESS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

Purpose/Summary of Report:

To review and determine Corporate Business Scrutiny (CBS)
 Committee's future work programme.

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION: That		
(A)	The work programme detailed in this report be agreed.	

- 1.0 <u>Background</u>
- 1.1 Items previously required, identified or suggested for the CBS 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 2013 'council tax' edition of LINK magazine. No new topics for scrutiny have been received from the public to date.
- 2.2 New suggestions for CBS arising from the Members' scrutiny planning workshop and from the feedback/consultation paperwork are listed below. Members of CBS committee are invited to consider the topics and indicate whether they wish to confirm them as part of the 2013/14 work programme and suggest a preferred date (subject to availability of any relevant officer/resources).
- 2.3 Table of topics (CBS relevant)

Topic/issue	Why/outcome	Priority/comment	
Use of our asset base (Prosperity)	Consideration of what we want to get out of our assets – investment, service provision or community use. Point also raised by the Leader in his recent staff briefings on new approaches in local government and the need to 'do things differently'.	High – but need to scope carefully to understand what areas scrutiny can have influence over (and so bring added value) and what it can not.	
Webcasting and all recently introduced forms of social media (tweeting etc)	Is any of this having a positive effect on the Council?	This could involve:	
Issues of interest raised at recent workshop – but not necessarily expressed as a scrutiny topic in themselves			
Promote seedbed centres Invest in Innovation Centre Back office city functions to relocate	Employment and prosperity Value for money. Find partners	Potentially all these could feed into the suggested 'Use of asset base' scrutiny topic indicated above.	
Faster broadband for rural areas Transport for ageing population and hospital journeys Why can't we have	Act as enabler. Act as influencer and enabler. Model on lines of	Potentially all these could be combined under a broad heading of 'Support for rural areas' – but scope would need to focus this scrutiny activity	
a travelling post office?	the mobile library – address social/rural isolation	quite clear or it could easily become too broad .	

Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper** 'A'.

Background Papers

None.

<u>Contact Member:</u> Councillor D Andrews – Chairman of Corporate

Business Scrutiny Committee. david.andrews@eastherts.gov.uk

<u>Contact Officer:</u> Jeff Hughes – Head of Democratic and Legal

Support Services, Extn 2170. jeff.hughes@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author: Marian Langley – Scrutiny Officer, Extn: 1612.

marian.langley@eastherts.gov.uk