

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 11 JUNE 2013

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

WARD(S) AFFECTED: *none*

Purpose/Summary of Report

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

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION:

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION:</u>	
(A)	the work programme shown in this report be agreed

1.0 Background

1.1 Items previously required, identified or suggested for the Environment 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 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 Environment Scrutiny arising from the Members' scrutiny planning workshop and from the feedback/consultation paperwork are listed below. Members of the 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 relevant legislation or availability of any relevant officer/resources).

2.3 Table of topics (relevant to Environment Scrutiny)

Topic/issue	Why/outcome	Priority/comment
Policy development on Grass Verge and Footpath Parking – for Env Scrutiny <i>(Place)</i>	This would pick up an issue touched on (but not undertaken) by the previous T&F group “Parking and Transport Strategy 2012-2022” which reported to Env Scrutiny in March 2012. Members on that original group felt it was an important issue and requested scrutiny look at it in more detail at a later date.	High – need to gather evidence to judge whether situation (across district or in targeted locations) warrants expenditure to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public interest • Safety/access • Visual amenity • Env damage
Review of our Environmental Crime policies – for Env Scrutiny and Comm Scrutiny as a joint review <i>(Place & People)</i>	Significant changes to legislation expected. Introduced in the Queen’s Speech on 8 May 2013, with an initial expectation of receiving Royal Assent by the end of the parliamentary session in spring 2014.	High – but hold later in year and only when legislation/guidelines are finalised and clear (T&F group late 2013/14 possibly running into 2014/15)
Issues of interest raised at recent workshop – but not necessarily expressed as a scrutiny topic in themselves		
Fuel Poverty	Make people aware of usage. How can reduce cost	Climate Change action plan identifies relevant projects – report coming to Env Scrutiny meeting.
Recycling		Major changes to the service coming in from Nov 2013.

		Members will be informed of plans for the introduction at Env Scrutiny in June and Sept 2013. Implementation report scheduled for Feb 2014, with fuller analysis later in year.
Future development ie planning		Sessions scheduled into 2013/14 Member Dev Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction and updates for DMC members • Training for non-DMC members • Training before DMC x 4 • District 'tour' of sites • District Plan – results of public consultation and next steps • District plan – detailed policies

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

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