

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 25 JUNE 2013

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

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION: That:

- a) that the work programme detailed in this report be agreed; and
- b) two Members from this committee be identified to work with officers to review the relevance of the Performance Indicators

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 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 Community 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 and availability of any relevant officer/resources).

2.3 Table of topics (relevant to Community Scrutiny)

Topic/issue	Why/outcome	Priority/comment
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)
Keeping a focus on the “Ageing Well” theme <i>(People)</i>	Demographic pressures and council’s expressed commitment as part of the wider Health and Wellbeing agenda	(high) but continue to integrate into <i>all</i> reviews and reports No suggestion of having a T&F group.
Issues of interest raised at recent workshop – but not necessarily expressed as a scrutiny topic in themselves		
Review of markets	Increase footfall in towns. Improve availability of goods - local & otherwise	This topic was reviewed by T&F group in detail in 2009/10 – reporting to Comm Scrutiny April 2010. All actions on that plan have now been completed.
Farmers/General market provision	Develop economic position for residents + businesses etc. overall improvement of good local service provision – promote towns and villages in E Herts area	Query: What might be the benefit of repeating this topic? Overlap: CBS is already scheduled to

		receive a report on what we are currently doing to support economic development at their next meeting on 2 July 2013.
Reduce anti-social behaviour and fear of crime	Ask residents – what is your experience?	<p>Already working with partners on this. New Police and Crime Commissioner due to attend Community Scrutiny to discuss his priorities and plans.</p> <p>Query: re-issue invitation to PCC to attend a Community Scrutiny meeting? If so: which meeting, given the draft agenda and work plan as shown in Essential Reference Paper B?</p>
Increase community engagement	How can improve value - make each contact count	Continuing programme of member development including Action Learning Sets

2.4 **Performance Indicators:** The Executive on 4 June 2013 requested the three scrutiny committees review the relevance of their performance indicators. The request was made following the presentation of the 2012/13 Outturn report. The Executive were keen for the scrutiny committees to assess the usefulness of their performance indicators and determine if any new measures need to be introduced to help support the delivery of the council's priorities.

- 2.5 Officers propose that a short review is held during summer and early autumn so that findings and recommendations can be discussed at each scrutiny meeting scheduled in November 2013.
- 2.6 It is suggested that each committee selects two representatives to work with the Performance Team on this piece of work. One representative could be the vice chairman and the other, an interested member.
- 2.7 Each committee will focus on the performance indicators relevant to their terms of reference, with the overall corporate position being presented to all members in February 2014 at the Joint Scrutiny meeting.
- 2.8 Any recommendations from this review will be discussed by the Executive on 4 March 2014 and if approved will be applied from 2014/15 onwards.
- 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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