

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 9 DECEMBER 2013

REPORT BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- This report details the comments and recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committees since the last meeting of the Executive and should be read in conjunction with reports of the Executive Members found elsewhere on the agenda.

<b><u>RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION:</u></b>
<b>(A) That the report be received.</b>

1.0 Background

1.1 Scrutiny meetings have been held recently as follows:

Environment Scrutiny Committee – 12 November 2013

Community Scrutiny Committee – 19 November 2013

Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee – 26 November 2013

2.0 Report

2.1 **Council Tax Support Scheme 2014/15**  
**(Agenda Item 7)**

Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee supported the current scheme being continued for 2014/15.

3.0 Other Issues

3.1 Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee considered a report on **Webcasting** and in valuing the openness and transparency

afforded by the Webcasting facility, considered the current arrangements to be acceptable and had no desire to extend the arrangements beyond the current status quo.

- 3.2 Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee also considered a report on the **East Herts Improvement Plan Monitoring** and, in respect of Action 26 (Hold an Open Day in the Planning Department to raise members; awareness of the planning process), the Committee noted that although the Open Day did not take place, eight other training events linked to planning had taken place this civic year with more than 121 attendees. The Committee further noted that five other events were scheduled to be held before the end of the civic year. The Committee wished to advise the Executive that Members supported the inclusion of these events in the evidence for the progress report.
- 3.3 In respect of a report on the **Quarterly Healthcheck**, the Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee expressed concern with the capital underspend on Social Housing Schemes and asked that the variance be spent promptly for the benefit of residents.
- 3.4 Community Scrutiny received the first six-month report on the implementation of the adopted **East Herts Housing Register Policy** as requested by the Executive at its meeting on 5 March 2013 (Minute Ref 629).
- 3.5 At its November meeting, Community Scrutiny Members felt there had been too few cases so far on which to make any evidenced based recommendations for change. Community Scrutiny therefore, recommended that the salary threshold for qualification to the Housing Register be held at £48,000 and the Village Connection Policy should remain as detailed in the adopted Housing Register and Allocations Policy.

#### 4.0 Implications/Consultations

- 4.1 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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