

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24 JUNE 2014

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

WARD(S) AFFECTED: *none*

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To review and determine Community Scrutiny Committee’s future work programme

**RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION:**

**That:**

<b>(A)</b>	the work programme shown in this report be agreed
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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”**.

1.2 To support members in their consideration of housing related matters, in the reading of committee reports and in discussions with officers/partners a quick reference guide has been compiled of the frequently used abbreviations and acronyms. **Essential Reference Paper “C”** is attached to this report and will be updated as new terminology appears and comes into common usage. Please let the Scrutiny Officer know of any terms you think should be corrected or added to the list.

2.0 Report

2.1 The draft agenda for 2014/15 meetings of Community Scrutiny Committee is shown in **Essential Reference Paper “B”**. Members are asked whether they wish to extend an invitation to one or more of the Executive members to attend a particular meeting or for a specific agenda item.

- 2.2 Within the terms of the Police and Justice Act 2006, Community Scrutiny is designated the crime and disorder committee for this authority. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, states that *“a crime and disorder committee shall meet to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions as the committee considers appropriate but no less than once in every twelve month period”*.
- 2.3 No qualifying item is scheduled as yet for 2014/15 however; the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act gained Royal Assent in March 2014. Once the impact and implications of the Act’s provisions on current East Herts policies have been fully assessed there may be the need for a review on aspects linked to Anti-Social Behaviour. If the committee agrees, Lead Officers will bring a briefing to Members on this matter (particularly the new power of ‘Community Trigger’) to a future meeting
- 2.4 Ideas for scrutiny review were suggested through the scrutiny evaluation and topic planning exercise at the end of the last civic year. Two ideas submitted fell within the remit of this committee:
- 2.5 **Taxi Marshalling** (safer night time economy/streets, is it needed elsewhere?). Service advises that this activity has never been paid for by East Herts. It was originally funded through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Hertfordshire County Council (HCC). CSP has since withdrawn and funding is now with Hertford Town Council and HCC.
- 2.6 East Herts could advise any other Town Council looking to enter into negotiation with HCC and would support any application for external bids (eg to the Police and Crime Commissioner’s fund) – however, Service does not recommend this as a topic for the district to take on.
- 2.7 **Markets.** This topic was extensively reviewed under a scrutiny Task and Finish Group in 2010. That review supplemented local evidence with detailed support and advice from the two industry lead bodies (NABMA and FARMA). The recommended revised policy went on to be agreed by the Executive and everything on the action plan was put in place and completed on schedule by 2013. The original full report can be seen on the East Herts website at <http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/CeListDocuments.aspx?CommitteeId=116&MeetingId=1457&DF=27%2f07%2f2010&Ver=2>

- 2.8 Since then, the Localism Act 2011 introduced a right for Town and Parish Councils to submit an expression of interest in taking over the provision of a service on behalf of the Council. This is known as 'Community Right to Challenge'. Just such a formal expression of interest has been made regarding the running of the markets held in Bishop's Stortford managed by East Herts Council.
- 2.9 East Herts Council has accepted the expression of interest and we now need to go through a statutory procurement process. This means inviting tenders to run the Bishop's Stortford Markets and this will be underway at the end of June 2014.
- 2.10 Therefore, East Herts Council is in the middle of a tender process to manage markets in Bishop's Stortford where anyone may bid to provide the service. Clearly, it is not appropriate for East Herts Council to do anything which interferes with the tendering process.
- 2.11 For 2014/15 there are two new quarterly Performance Indicators designed to report on on-going Market activity. Both of them will appear within the Community Scrutiny Healthcheck report (once quarterly figures are available) giving this committee the opportunity to monitor the 'health' of the Markets throughout the year.
- EH PI 11.1 – rental income from traders covering
    - Hertford Saturday
    - Bishop's Stortford Saturday
    - Bishop's Stortford Thursday
    - Ware Tuesday
    - Individual pitch hires in the towns on non-market days
  - EH PI 11.2 – number of producers at Hertford Farmers' Market
- 2.12 It is advised that this topic is not scrutinised at this time
- a) to avoid any issues with the procurement process
  - b) to allow for collection of data under the new Performance Indicators
  - c) to be clearer about the future 'landscape' regarding market operations in the district which might arise following the outcome of the 'Community Right to Challenge'.

### 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:

Task and Finish Group Report: Markets in East Herts  
(Community Scrutiny Committee 27 July 2010: agenda item 8)

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