

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 3 FEBRUARY 2015

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)</b>	<b>That the report be received.</b>

1.0 Background

1.1 Scrutiny meetings have been held recently as follows:

Joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees – 20 January 2015

2.0 Report

2.1 **Consolidated Budget Report and 2015/16 – 2017/18 Medium Term Financial Strategy (Agenda Item 9)**

A detailed and wide-ranging discussion took place and the joint meeting made a number of comments. The following is a summary of comments referred to the Executive:

- staffing resources within Building Control and Enforcement be reviewed in view of the fact that performance targets were not being met and of the potential increase in workload expected during 2015/16;

- the Council considers working in partnership with active community groups in relation to leaf clearance and in arranging special collection of leaves collected by those groups;
- some underspends in the Council's budget be used to set charges to a zero increase (with the exception of those which may need to be increased as a result of a statutory requirement);
- Scrutiny Committees in 2015/16 review Fees and Charges relevant to their specific areas in order to assess whether they are commercially viable and meet community needs;
- fees and charges for Hertford Theatre be afforded a level of flexibility in their box office pricing arrangements in order to take account of its varied programming and the use of the building by not-for-profit local groups; and
- capital funding (including the use of Section 106 monies and NHB), be used to improve current facilities and acquire land for new sporting facilities across the District and in particular, in Bishop's Stortford, including football pitches, a sports hall and the extension of Grange Paddocks swimming pool to allow users of the pool to train and compete at a regional and national level.

### 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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