

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 10 MARCH 2015

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY

EVALUATION OF SCRUTINY 2014/15 AND WORK PROGRAMME
PLANNING FOR 2015/16

WARD(S) AFFECTED: *none*

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To review 2014/15 and determine Community Scrutiny Committee's future work programme

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION:

That

(A)	The comments given as part of the evaluation exercise are collated and used to frame the draft 2014/15 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report; and
(B)	the work programme shown in this report be agreed (subject to confirmation by the new 2015/16 committee)

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 Evaluation

2.1 During last year's scrutiny evaluation process, Members identified a number of areas of practice where they wanted to improve and these were included in the 2014/15 Action Plan. This document is included here as **Essential Reference Paper C**.

2.2 Reflecting back on the past year, Members are asked to:

- comment on progress against this action plan

- describe specific examples of successful practice from the work of this scrutiny committee
 - identify any challenges or barriers which they have met during this time.
- 2.3 Members are asked to recommend which, (if any) of the actions should be carried forward to the 2015/16 Action Plan and what additions or changes might be needed to strengthen the role of scrutiny in the coming year.
- 2.4 As part of the wider evaluation discussion, Members are asked to identify what they are most pleased to have achieved through scrutiny during the past year and what has been the most interesting or useful thing they have learned during the year.
- 2.5 Evaluation feedback from all the scrutiny committees and the Health and Wellbeing Panel will be collated and used to frame the draft 2014/15 Overview and Scrutiny annual report. This draft will be reviewed and approved by the scrutiny chairmen and presented to Council on 29 July 2015.
- 2.6 Any suggestions on how the function of scrutiny might be changed or improved will be considered by the new (2015/16) scrutiny chairmen and officers at their first meeting of the new civic year.
- 3.0 Work Programme Planning
- 3.1 A draft work programme for 2015/16 meetings of Community Scrutiny Committee is shown in **Essential Reference Paper B** (subject to confirmation). The timing of some items shown may have to change if they are dependent on publication of guidance or data from an external source (eg from central government).
- 3.2 Members are asked whether they wish to extend an invitation to one or more of the Executive/portfolio holders to attend a particular meeting or for a specific agenda item listed in the draft work programme.
- 3.3 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”.

- 3.4 No qualifying item is scheduled as yet for 2015/16 however time and space is available at either the November 2015 or March 2016 meeting of this committee for a qualifying topic to be included on the agenda (as identified and agreed by Members).
- 3.5 Members are asked whether there is any additional topic they wish to put forward for consideration by scrutiny in 2015/16 (subject to confirmation by the new committee at their first meeting in June 2015).
- 3.6 In suggesting topics, Members should have in mind the council’s agreed corporate priorities for the coming year (shown below) and be able to identify what tangible outcome(s) and benefits they would want to achieve through undertaking this piece of work.

PEOPLE: fair and accessible services for those that use them and opportunities for everyone to contribute
This priority focuses on enhancing the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.
PLACE: safe and clean
This priority focuses on the standard of the built environment and our neighbourhoods and ensuring our towns and villages are safe and clean.
PROSPERITY: improving the economic and social opportunities available to our communities
This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, promoting sustainable, economic and social opportunities.

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:

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