

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

CORPORATE BUSINESS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17 MARCH 2015

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF CORPORATE BUSINESS SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report:

- To review and determine Corporate Business Scrutiny (CBS) Committee's future work programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS 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 detailed in this report be agreed (subject to confirmation by the new 2015/16 CBS Committee)

1.0 Background

1.1 Items previously required, identified or suggested for the CBS 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 Corporate Business 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 For the benefit of any new members who may be sitting on CBS for the first time, some space has been left in the work programme to allow time for member training and development (relevant to scrutiny role on CBS) to be included within the agenda.
- 3.3 The dates of some key reports, particularly those relating to budget setting and forward planning, are still subject to confirmation as they are part of a wider review. The dates that appear in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** reflect the current thinking.
- 3.4 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.

- 3.5 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 May 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

None.

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