

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

CORPORATE BUSINESS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24 NOVEMBER 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.

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION: That	
(A)	The work programme detailed in this report be agreed.

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 Report

2.1 The draft agenda for the remaining 2015/16 meetings of Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee and the first half of 2016/17 is shown in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**. The timing of some items shown may have to change depending on availability of essential data (eg from central government).

2.2 Members received a report on the 'Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016/17' on 14 July 2015 and agreed to support a continuation of the current scheme (Minute 151). Since then the major preceptors (the County Council and the Police) have affirmed their agreement to that version and accordingly there is no change to the proposals recommended by CBS in July. Therefore there is no need to bring the report back to CBS and it will now proceed to the Executive on 1 December 2015.

- 2.3 At the request of the CBS Chairman, the report on 'The 4 year Corporate Strategic Plan 2016/17 – 2019/20' has been dropped from the agenda of this meeting as the document was not ready for scrutiny.
- 2.4 Members will recall that this year officers have developed a new, integrated finance and business planning process to support the development of a new corporate plan. This process has enabled joint discussion and alignment of the formal budget setting process with the setting of service priorities.
- 2.5 In October, as part of the new process, there was a member engagement workshop held to discuss additional or reduced investment options. The outcomes from this exercise are still being worked through and further discussions are continuing with the Executive, Directors and new Chief Executive.
- 2.6 Once the funding position for East Herts is known (government announcements are due December 2015/January 2016) the council will be in a better position to finalise its priorities and which additional or reduced investment options should be pursued. It will be at this stage in the process that the council will be able to confirm its corporate plan for the next four years and therefore it is proposed that the final version be considered by Joint Scrutiny Committee on 10 February 2016.
- 2.7 Members are asked whether there is any additional scrutiny topic they wish to put forward for inclusion on any future CBS agenda.
- 2.8 Members are also 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.
- 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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