

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15 MARCH 2016

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY

EVALUATION OF SCRUTINY 2015/16 AND WORK PROGRAMME PLANNING FOR 2016/17

WARD(S) AFFECTED: *none*

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To review 2015/16 and determine Community Scrutiny Committee's future work programme

RECOMMENDATION COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

That:

(A)	The comments given as part of the evaluation exercise be collated and used to frame the draft 2015/16 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report
(B)	The work programme shown in this report be agreed.

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 2015/16 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 these actions
- 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 2016/17 Scrutiny Action Plan and what ideas they have to do scrutiny differently so it has more impact within the council and community.
- 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 will be collated and used to frame the draft 2015/16 Overview and Scrutiny annual report. This draft will be reviewed and approved by the scrutiny chairmen and presented to Council on 27 July 2016.
- 2.6 Any suggestions on how the function of scrutiny might be changed or improved will be considered by the new (2016/17) 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 2016/17 meetings of Environment 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 There has been one new request to bring a report to Community Scrutiny on 28 June 2016 in respect of the Active East Herts (AEH) delivery plan. This programme will be delivered by AEH and members will be asked to scrutinise and satisfy themselves that the delivery plan is adequately aligned to the council's new corporate policies and fits with the new Forever Active East Herts Sport England funded project.
- 3.3 Members will also be asked to consider the plan in the context of our local demographics (in respect of an ageing population) and whether the approach outlined in the AEH delivery plan will engage with the inactive/sedentary 50-75 year target age group. Scrutiny might also highlight potential gaps in the plan which can then be explored by officers and AEH.

- 3.4 Members are asked whether there is any additional topic they wish to put forward for consideration by scrutiny in 2016/17 (subject to confirmation by new committee at their first meeting in June 2016).
- 3.5 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 In suggesting topics, Members should have in mind the council’s draft vision and corporate priorities 2016/17 – 2019/20 (shown below and subject to confirmation and ratification) and be able to identify what tangible outcome(s) and benefits they would want to achieve through undertaking this piece of work. Members are cautioned to avoid topics where the council does not have any influence.

Vision – To preserve the unique character of East Herts and ensure it remains one of the best places to live and work	
Priority and outcomes we want to see:	
Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities	Residents living active and healthy lives
	Support for our vulnerable families and individuals
	Communities engaged in local issues
Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people’s lives	Attractive places
	Future development best meets the need of the district and its residents
Priority 3 – Enable a flourishing local economy	Support for our businesses and the local economy
	Vibrant town centres
	Working with others, to have achieved the right infrastructure for our businesses and communities

- 3.6 **Once agreed**, more detailed information on the Council’s new Corporate Strategic Plan will be posted on line at

<http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=11547> and details of the vision and priorities will be found at <http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=11550>

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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