

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26 OCTOBER 2010

REPORT BY: CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

WARD(S) AFFECTED: none

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report is intended to support the Community Scrutiny Committee in reviewing and planning its work programme for 2010/11.

RECOMMENDATION FOR : COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
(A)	that the work programme shown in this report be reviewed and agreed, and
(B)	that the scrutiny officer be asked to make any changes, additions or arrangements as might be discussed in the meeting.

1.0 Background

1.1 Items previously required, identified or suggested for the work programme are set out in Essential Reference Paper B attached to the report now submitted.

2.0 Report

2.1 Following scrutiny recommendations (at Corporate Business Scrutiny on 11 May 2010) and the subsequent decision by the Executive to proceed with the development of Hertford Theatre, a new item has been added to this committee's agenda for 25 January 2011. This will report on the launch and opening of the venue and give initial results from the first pantomime season for members to scrutinise.

- 2.2 A further report on Hertford Theatre is scheduled for later in the year (26 July 2011) when audited financial data and a more detailed analysis will be available covering the period from the re-opening to the end of the financial year.
- 2.3 In line with members' wishes as expressed during the Joint Scrutiny meeting on 1 June 2010, an LSP (Local Strategic Partnership) item has been added to the March 2011 agenda for this scrutiny committee. The report on "Review of the LSP's delivery of the local Sustainable Communities Strategy" will look at the effectiveness and role of the LSP, the setting of local priorities and will update members on the progress of the funded projects (designed to meet those priorities).
- 2.4 Members are reminded that details regarding the 2011/12 budget consultation will appear in the Members' Information Bulletin over the coming weeks. Members are requested to look out for these and follow the instructions and guidance published there. This approach to the scrutiny process allows the full range of opinions across the council to be captured and your individual views to be recorded against each budget proposal.
- 2.5 Members are also reminded that there are two Joint Scrutiny sessions scheduled during the current 2010/11 civic year. The dates and outline agendas are included in Essential Reference Paper B.
- 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' attached to the report now submitted.

Background Papers

Four principles of good public scrutiny published by CfPS (Centre for Public Scrutiny) [click here for link to CfPS external site](#)

East Herts Council own current guidelines for selecting issues for review. A summary of this information is printed at the back of Essential Reference Paper B.

Contact Member: Cllr Colin Woodward, Chairman: Community Scrutiny
Committee

Contact Officer: Ceri Pettit, Head of Strategic Direction and Performance
Manager – Extn 2240

Report Author: Marian Langley, Scrutiny Officer – Extn 1612

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives</p>	<p>Effective use of the scrutiny process contributes to the Council's ability to meet two core objectives:</p> <p>Fit for purpose, services fit for you <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i></p> <p>Leading the way, working together <i>Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.</i></p> <p>In monitoring the performance of the council's services and action plans, the Committee is monitoring the Council's achievement of all of its corporate objectives.</p> <p>Any additional issues identified for scrutiny will relate to at least one of the Council's corporate objectives.</p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p>Potential topics for scrutiny are always invited from members of the public, the Executive and all Members.</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>According to the Council's constitution, the scrutiny committees are responsible for the setting of their own work programme in consultation with the Executive and in doing so they shall take into account wishes of members on that committee who are not members of the largest political group on the Council.</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>Any additional meetings and every task and finish group has resource needs linked to officer support activity and time for officers from the services to make the required input.</p>
<p>Human Resource:</p>	<p>none</p>
<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>Matters which may benefit from scrutiny may be overlooked. The selection of inappropriate topics for review would risk inefficient use of resources. Where this involved partners, it could risk damaging the reputation of the council and relations with partners.</p>