

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - 20 FEBRUARY 2018

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

WARD(S) AFFECTED: *none*

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To review and determine Overview and Scrutiny (OS) Committee's future work programme

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION:</u>	
(A)	the work programme shown in this report be agreed

1.0 Background

1.1 Items previously required, identified or suggested for the OS work programme are set out in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

1.2 Scrutiny committees have the power of influence and are entitled to review and scrutinise the decisions and functions of the Council and the Executive. The Committee serves as a 'critical friend' and can make recommendations to the Executive.

2.0 Report

2.1 The draft agenda for 2018 meetings of OS Committee 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) and officers.

- 2.2 A work planning workshop was held on the 12th July 2017 and Members suggested the following topics, among others, for potential inclusion: review of existing health and wellbeing strategy with emphasis on ‘prevention’ approach to save money and improve outcomes, impact of the night time economy on health and emergency services, stress testing of the emergency planning process, effective communications, and business engagement/economic development. In May/June 2018 a planning workshop will be held for the Committee to provide their input into the 2018/19 work programme.
- 2.3 Scrutiny Officers will liaise with lead officers on how to best address each topic. Some topics, such as the effective communications item, require a Scrutiny Proposal Form (**Essential Reference Paper ‘C’**) to be completed by Members in order to provide officers with sufficient information to ensure their specific questions are addressed.
- 2.4 Members are asked whether there are any additional topics they wish to propose for consideration by Scrutiny. Suggestions can be made at the meeting or by completing a Scrutiny Proposal Form and submitting to the Scrutiny Officer.
- 2.5 Members agreed to extend an invitation to the following Executive Members to provide an overview on their portfolio, followed by questions from the Committee at the following meetings:

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Executive Member</u>
20 February 2018	Cllr Jones, Economic Development
17 April 2018	Cllr Haysey, Leader of the Council

2.6 Members are asked whether there is any training relevant to scrutiny or to the function and remit of the OS Committee which they wish to suggest.

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

Contact Member: OS Scrutiny Committee Chairman: Cllr Mike Allen
mike.allen@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Alison Stuart, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author: Fiona Corcoran, Scrutiny Officer, ext 1459
fiona.corcoran@eastherts.gov.uk