

Provisional list of main scrutiny topics for 2011/12

**NOTE:**  
an item will appear in next edition of LINK explaining what scrutiny is and asking for additional topics from residents.

PRIORITY LIST – workload within available resources			
Scrutiny Committee	Topic	Commentary/Notes	Corporate priority
For CBS in 2011/12	<b>Review of the scrutiny of C3W:</b>	Review required by Audit: prioritised by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT.  Needs to be added to the schedule for post-July 2011- no date allocated yet.	<i>Fit for purpose, services fit for you</i> This priority focuses on delivering high quality customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.
For CBS in 2011/12 (and probably into 2012/13)	<b>Shared Services</b> – particularly look at the plans for services now being considered under shared agreements (ICT, HR, Facilities and Property services & Strategic Financial advice)	Agreed by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT and HoS.  Bring report(s) to CBS committee agenda item when timing appropriate.	<i>Fit for purpose, services fit for you</i>

<b>PRIORITY LIST – workload within available resources</b>			
<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Commentary/Notes</b>	<b>Corporate priority</b>
For Environment in 2011/12	<b>Have we got what we wanted and expected from the new Planning Enforcement Policy timescales and use of Planning Contravention Notices?</b>	Review already agreed to at the time of the original task and finish group report. Confirmed by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT and HoS.  Already in the committee schedule for 13 Sept 2011	<i><b>Pride in East Herts</b></i> This priority focuses on improving standards of the built neighbourhood and environmental management in our towns and villages. <i><b>Shaping now, shaping the future</b></i> This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, ensuring sustainable, economic and social opportunities including effective development control and other measures.
For Environment in 2011/12	<b>Children’s Playgrounds:</b> To be covered within a Parks and Open Spaces strategy and action plan report	Agreed by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT and HoS.  Already in the committee schedule for 13 Sept 2011	<i><b>Pride in East Herts</b></i>
For Environment in <b>2012/13</b>	Review <b>new refuse &amp; recycling and street cleansing contract</b> one year from commencement of contract.	Agreed by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT and HoS.  Contract starts May 2011 – so full year could not be reviewed until 2012/13 civic year. Already earmarked 26 June 2012 committee meeting for this contract monitoring report.	<i><b>Fit for purpose, services fit for you ...and</b></i> <i><b>Pride in East Herts</b></i>

<b>PRIORITY LIST – workload within available resources</b>			
<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Commentary/Notes</b>	<b>Corporate priority</b>
For Community in 2011/12	Any appropriate specific topics arising from <b>Community and Public Engagement</b> task and finish group recommendations (going through CBS in March 2011) which require further development/review/member input.	Prioritised by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT.  Identify dates as topic(s) identified.	<b><i>Leading the way, working together</i></b> This priority focuses on delivering responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.
For Community in 2011/12	Undertake one or more aspects of the wider review of <b>Community Safety</b> . This might cover the specific topics: <b>PCSOs: funding for the future</b> <b>CCTV (community safety): looking at cost &amp; effectiveness.</b>	As discussed by The Leader at Joint Scrutiny (budget) meeting on 18 Jan 2011 – where he said “scrutiny will have a role to play in this review”. Prioritised by Scrutiny Chairmen and supported by CMT and HoS.  Identify dates as wider review is scoped and planned.	<b><i>Promoting prosperity and well being; providing access and opportunities</i></b> This priority focuses on enhancing the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.
For Community in 2011/12	There will need to be some work undertaken on the implications of the <b>Localism Bill</b> .	Scrutiny Chairmen and CMT acknowledge importance and would like to prioritise when scrutiny role becomes clearer.  Identify dates as topic(s) identified.	<b><i>Leading the way, working together .....and Promoting prosperity and well being; providing access and opportunities</i></b>

<b>ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION AT LATER DATE :</b> <b>several could be impacted by Localism Bill, so do need to wait until these details are clearer</b> <b>some topics have only recently been decided by Council, so need longer to run before a review</b>			
<b>Economic Regeneration:</b> <i>bring vitality back into decaying assets; focus on (old) industrial areas in the district.</i>	Members' relationship with <b>Housing Associations</b> and setting up positive channels of communication and getting things done for tenants: <i>Tenants would feel their problems were being taken seriously – and they would be.</i>	<b>Debt:</b> <i>In difficult times this is an increasing problem which the council takes seriously.</i>	<b>Follow up on Section 106 monies:</b> <i>To ensure the monies set aside for community benefit are not 'lost'. Residents get to see and benefit from the improvements/investment.</i>
<b>Empty Homes &amp; use of 'over the shop' residential accommodation</b> – <i>could they be used to reduce the number of 'new builds' needed? Improved street scene and regeneration of town centres.</i>	<b>Residential Social Landlords:</b> 'new build' satisfaction of residents – how good is the new housing stock?	<b>Community Transport</b>	The adequacy of the <b>Community Public Toilets Scheme:</b> <i>Better provision of easily accessible, well signed and pleasant-to-use WCs for everyone in all our towns.</i>
<b>Planning Pre-Application Process</b> – <i>clarify and establish procedure to consider the role of ward councillors and the issue of confidentiality (wrt involvement of any other third parties).</i>	<b>Special Needs Housing</b>	<b>Museums in East Herts</b>	<b>Review of Environmental Crime Policies</b> - <i>in the service plan for 2011/12.</i>
<b>Conservation Areas:</b> <i>where are they and what are they achieving?</i>	<b>Care for the elderly:</b> <i>The fact the council consider scrutiny and tackling a local problem which is growing. How could it be done better?</i>	<b>The 'Arts' in East Herts</b>	<b>Review of Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan – 2012/13.</b>

<p><b>Conservation of trees, woodland and urban trees:</b> <i>Environmental, visual &amp; leisure</i></p>	<p><b>Homelessness:</b> <i>Improving a struggling system. More people are likely to become homeless and showing if the system works.</i></p>	<p><b>'Age-proofing' of (all EH) policies</b></p>	<p><b>LSP:</b> <i>scrutiny of aspects of the partnership and of partners</i></p>
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**For information:**

<p><b>Timing (some are provisional and tbc)</b></p>	<p><b>Topics (of interest to EH scrutiny committees) which are already on the schedule for HCC scrutiny and Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee</b></p>
<p>April 2011</p>	<p>Highways Maintenance (to assess the impact of maintenance strategies on highways condition).</p>
<p>Spring 2011</p>	<p>Youth Connexions (follow on)</p>
<p>Late Mar/early April 2011 <b>UPDATE: this is now listed as 16 June</b></p>	<p>Mental health of returning military personnel and in particular TAs. <b>UPDATE: now called MH of specialist groups</b></p>
<p>1 &amp; 2 March 2011</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing of Offenders</p>
<p>July 2011</p>	<p>Adoption of Roads</p>
<p>Summer 2011 <b>UPDATE: now called Integrated Discharge</b></p>	<p>Intermediate Care (hospital discharge, step up and step down arrangements and including services to specific groups (eg dementia, MH users)</p>
<p>Autumn 2011</p>	<p>Flooding</p>
<p><b>UPDATE (new): 11 March 2011</b></p>	<p><b>Healthy Schools programme</b></p>