

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 6 JULY 2011

REPORT BY CHAIRMEN OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This cover report is to introduce the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2010/11 on behalf of the Chairmen of Scrutiny Committees for that year.

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION:</u>	
(A)	that the Annual Report on the work of the East Herts scrutiny committees (and Health Engagement Panel) during 2010/11 be received.

1.0 Background

1.1 An Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report is prepared each year and presented to council by the scrutiny chairmen. Reports from previous years can be accessed through the council's website <http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/scrutinyannualreport>

2.0 Report

2.1 The Annual Report for 2010/11 (attached as **Essential Reference Paper B**) summarises the activities of all scrutiny committees during the past year, details the outcome of the evaluation workshops and sets out some of the plans for the coming year.

2.2 The report is written for many audiences: those Members involved in scrutiny, those who might wish to be, and Members of the Executive (to whom the scrutiny committees act as a critical friend).

- 2.3 It is also hoped that partners, community groups and residents who have contributed to our scrutiny process during the year will appreciate that their contributions are valued by Members.
- 2.4 Once agreed by Council, the report will be published on the Council's website and notification of its 'e-location' will be passed to partner organisations in the Local Strategic Partnership.
- 2.5 As last year, the Annual Report will also be uploaded into the library section of the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) website.
<http://www.cfps.org.uk/scrutiny-exchange/library/annual-report/>
- 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

Minutes of all scrutiny committee meetings held during the 2010/11 civic year. These minutes are available on the council's website at

<http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=3481>

Contact Members:

Councillor Colin Woodward, Chairman 2010/11, Community Scrutiny

Councillor David Andrews, Chairman 2010/11, Corporate Business Scrutiny

Councillor Diane Hollebon, Chairman 2010/11, Environment Scrutiny

Contact Officer: Lois Prior, Head of Strategic Direction and Communications Manager – Extn 1688

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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 issues identified for scrutiny will relate to at least one of the Council's corporate objectives.</p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p>The Annual Report has been drafted following consultation with all scrutiny Chairmen and the Chairman of the Health Engagement Panel.</p> <p>All members of scrutiny committees and HEP have had the opportunity to contribute to the evaluation of the year's work.</p> <p>The Executive and Directors have also been given the opportunity to comment on 2010/11 scrutiny activity.</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>The Council's constitution states in Part 2 at paragraph 6.3 (d) that - "Scrutiny committees must report annually to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate."</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>The cost of circulating the report to Members can be met within existing budgets.</p> <p>Greater use will be made of signposting interested parties and partners to the Council's website to access the Annual Report which will minimise use of material resources, distribution costs and gain potential CO₂ efficiencies from on-line provision.</p>

Human Resource:	none
Risk Management:	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.