

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 15 NOVEMBER 2011

CHAIRMAN OF ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

WARD(S) AFFECTED: None

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- This report is intended to support the Environment Scrutiny Committee in reviewing and planning its work programme for 2011/12.

<b><u>RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION:</u></b> that	
<b>(A)</b>	The work programme detailed in this report be reviewed and agreed; and
<b>(B)</b>	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**.

2.0 Report

2.1 **Essential Reference Paper B** shows the detail of agenda items for the remaining 2011/12 committee meetings.

2.2 New topics will be added onto the draft agendas for 2012/13 following consultation with members in spring 2012 as part of the scrutiny evaluation/planning workshops.

2.3 No new topics for scrutiny have been received from the public. An article explaining the role of scrutiny and inviting suggestions from residents will appear in the spring 2012 'council tax' edition of LINK magazine.

### 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'** which follows.

#### Background Papers

Four principles of good public scrutiny published by CfPS (Centre for Public Scrutiny) summarized in Essential Reference Paper B or

[click here for link to CfPS external site](#)

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

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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><b>Fit for purpose, services fit for you</b>  <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i></p> <p><b>Leading the way, working together</b>  <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>