

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 15 NOVEMBER 2011

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

6. 2011/12 SERVICE PLANS – SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND EXCEPTIONS REPORT

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report provides a summary of progress against 2011/12 Service Plan actions relevant to Environment Scrutiny Committee and details an action that requires a revised completion date at Essential Reference Paper “B”.

| <u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION:</u> that | |
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| (A) | The summary of progress against 2011/12 Service Plan actions be received and the Executive be advised of any recommendations; and |
| (B) | The actions requiring a revised completion date be noted. |

1.0 Background

1.1 The 2011/12 Service Plans were scrutinised by the joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees held on 15 February 2011 and approved by the Executive at its meeting on 8 March 2011. This report covers the period 1 April to 30 September 2011 for the following services:

- Environmental Services
- Planning and Building Control.

2.0 Report

2.1 In total, there are 29 actions in the 2011/12 Service Plans relevant to Environment Scrutiny Committee, of which:

28% (8) have already been achieved

69% (20) are on target

3% (1) has had its completion date revised.

2.2 An overview of the achievements by Corporate Priority can be summarised as follows:-

Promoting prosperity and well being; providing access and opportunities. *Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.*

2 actions have been achieved

3 actions are on target

The achievements were:

- A detailed report on the Parks and Open Spaces Development Plan progress over the last five years was submitted to Environment Scrutiny Committee on 6 September 2011. In addition to the many improvements to open spaces over the period of the plan, it noted that the Service had attracted £627,000 in external funding bids and Section 106 contributions of approximately £250,000 in capital funding and £73,000 toward future revenue maintenance costs.
- A Range of activities including “Love Parks” week, encouraging awareness and use of open spaces at Southern Country Park and 'Meet the Animals' events at Pishiobury Park and Red White and Blue Open Space were well attended. A public consultation event at Vantorts (Sawbridgeworth) was used to inform the redesign of the open space. The Council hosted this year’s Sele Farm Community Action Day at The Ridgeway Open Space (Hertford).

Fit for purpose, services fit for you. *Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.*

5 actions have been achieved

6 actions are on target

1 action has had its completion date revised (detailed in **Essential Reference Paper “B”**).

The achievements were:

- The frequency of Play Area Inspections was reviewed and reduced on less well used sites, largely achieving the savings detailed in the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- A Corporate Car Share Scheme has been developed to support the move of staff from Bishop’s Stortford to Wallfields.
- The seasonal leaf clearance programme will cease from autumn 2012, except in identified roads at higher risk of flooding, in order to meet Medium Term Financial Plan targets.
- Plastic, can and glass banks were withdrawn from May 2011 in order to achieve Medium Term Financial Plan targets.
- New textile banks services were implemented from May 2011 – it is currently predicted that this will generate additional income of £24,000 in the current financial year, contributing to Medium Term Financial Plan targets.

Pride in East Herts. *Improve standards of the neighbourhood and environmental management in our towns and villages.*

1 action has been achieved

7 actions are on target

The achievement was:

- Mixed plastics collections were implemented from 9 May 2011 – recycling of cans and plastics is up despite a national falling trend in the amount of waste residents produce due to the economic climate.

Shaping now, shaping the future. *Safeguard and enhance our unique mix of rural and urban communities, ensuring sustainable, economic and social opportunities including the continuation of effective development control and other measures.*

3 actions are on target

Leading the way, working together. *Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.*

1 action is on target.

2.3 **Essential Reference Paper “B” (Pages xxx)** details a 2011/12 Service Plan action that has had its completion date revised. Full progress comments on all 2011/12 Service Plan actions can be accessed by referring to the Council’s performance management system, Covalent (www.covalentcpm.com/eastherts).

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

2011/12 Service Plans report to joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees on 15 February 2011.

2011/12 Service Plans report to the Executive on 8 March 2011.

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ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

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| <p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives (delete as appropriate):</p> | <p>Promoting prosperity and well-being; providing access and opportunities <i>Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.</i></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>Pride in East Herts <i>Improving standards of the built neighbourhood and environmental management in our towns and villages.</i></p> <p>Shaping now, shaping the future <i>Safeguard and enhance our unique mix of rural and urban communities, ensuring sustainable, economic and social opportunities including the continuation of effective development control and other measures.</i></p> <p>Leading the way, working together <i>Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.</i></p> |
| <p>Consultation:</p> | <p>There are no specific consultation implications arising directly from this report.</p> |
| <p>Legal:</p> | <p>There are no specific legal implications arising directly from this report.</p> |
| <p>Financial:</p> | <p>There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.</p> |
| <p>Human Resource:</p> | <p>There are no specific human resource implications arising directly from this report.</p> |
| <p>Risk Management:</p> | <p>There is a generic risk management implication arising from this report, in terms of not completing the actions from Service Plans would be likely to result in not achieving the Corporate Priorities and Objectives.</p> |