

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS
(SOCIAL WELL-BEING)
(ECONOMIC WELL-BEING)
(ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING)**

**4 JUNE 2013
6 JUNE 2013
11 JUNE 2013**

**WORK PLAN STUDIES
(Report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of studies being undertaken by the other Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

2. STUDIES

- 2.1 The Council has a duty to improve the social, environmental and economic well-being of the District. This gives the Overview and Scrutiny Panels a wide remit to examine any issues that affect the District by conducting in-depth studies.
- 2.2 Studies are allocated according to the Overview and Scrutiny remits. Details of ongoing studies being undertaken by the two other Panels are set out in the attached Appendix.
- 2.3 Members are reminded that if they have a specific interest in any study area which is not being considered by their Panel there are opportunities for involvement in all the studies being undertaken.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Panel is requested to note the progress of the studies selected.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Minutes and Reports from previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

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ONGOING STUDIES

STUDY	OBJECTIVES	PANEL	STATUS	TYPE
Social Value	To consider the development of a methodology for the quantification of Social Value.	Social Well-Being	Working Group will focus on three key areas; namely social, health and financial benefits of the Council's activities. Officers have been tasked with attaching financial values to these benefits.	Working Group
CCTV Provision within the District	To review the impact of the Council's proposal to cease the CCTV service with effect from April 2012.	Social Well-Being	A report on changes to the CCTV service in 2012/13 will be submitted to the Panel in July 2013.	Whole Panel Study.
Consultation Processes	To assist the Corporate Team with its review of the Council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy.	Social Well-Being	Strategy and Guidance being updated by the Corporate Office to incorporate comments suggested by the Working Group. Draft considered by Working Group in January 2013. Further work to refine both documents is being undertaken. Expected to be presented to the Panel and Cabinet at their September 2013 meetings.	Working Group.
Review of Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire	To undertake a review of the Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire.	Social Well-Being	Cabinet agreed to hold a pilot in the Norman Cross County Division. Panel requested to undertake a	Working Group

			review of the pilot during its 12 months of operation. Pilot meeting held on 7th November 2012. Informal discussion held with various Members and the Leader/Deputy Executive Leader prior to Council in April 2013. Matter is still under discussion.	
District Council Support Services	To review the services provided by the District Councils Document Centre to form a view on its efficiency and cost effectiveness.	Economic Well-Being	The final report was submitted to the Cabinet Meeting in March 2013. The Cabinet has asked the Managing Director, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Resources and the Panel's Document Centre Champion, to consider the Group's recommendations. The Panel has requested a report on progress in six months.	Working Group
Equality Framework for Local Government	To review the action plan arising from the Equality Framework for Local Government peer assessment.	Social Well-Being	Annual Equality Progress Report submitted to Panel in February 2013. The Working Group will continue to meet to monitor progress against the Action Plan.	Working Group
Economic Development	To be determined.	Economic Well-Being	The findings from the Local Economic Assessment were presented to the Panel	Whole Panel.

			in November. The Huntingdonshire Economic Growth Plan 2013 to 2023 will be considered by the Panel in July 2013.	
Corporate Plan	To assist the Corporate Office with the development of a new Corporate Plan.	All O&S Panels	Executive Leader's Strategy Group considered the Council Delivery Plan on 14th January 2013 with a view to taking responsibility for the actions contained therein. A programme of bi-monthly meetings of the Working Group will be arranged over the course of the next year with a view to holding Executive Members to account. The Delivery Plan is currently undergoing refinement by the Corporate Office. A meeting of the Working Group will be held on 13th June 2013.	Working Group
Delivery of Advisory Services Across the District	To consider the social implications of the announcement made by the Huntingdonshire CAB to go into voluntary liquidisation and to monitor the performance of the	Social Well-Being	Executive Leader provided an update to the Panel in October, November and December 2012. A report on interim arrangements for Jan-Mar 2013 and grant aid awards for 2013/14 was	Working Group.

	voluntary organisations awarded grant aid by the Council in 2013-2015.		submitted to the Panel at its January 2013 meeting. Voluntary Sector Working Group met in March to consider concerns raised at the February 2013 meeting of Council. Working Group will meet with each voluntary organisation in July 2013 to review their progress with a further meeting to be arranged 6 months thereafter. Annual Report on organisations supported by grants through Service Level Agreements to be presented to Panel in November 2013.	
Hinchingbrooke Hospital	To monitor Circle Healthcare's progress and plans for Hinchingbrooke Hospital.	Social Well-Being	Representatives of Circle and Hinchingbrooke Hospital attended Panel's March 2013 meeting to deliver an update on the Hospital's progress and plans for the future. Representatives will return in a year's time to provide a further update. Joint Working Group established with the County Council's Cambridgeshire Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and	Whole Panel

			Scrutiny Committee to monitor the financial and operational performance of the Hospital. 6 monthly reports on the performance of the Hospital will be provided by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group. Next report to be delivered to the Panel in July 2013.	
Council Borrowing	Agreed to establish a Working Group to develop an understanding of the District Council's approach to borrowing.	Economic Well-Being	The Panel's report was considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 18 April 2013. The Cabinet has endorsed the view that there should be a limit for borrowing costs of 15% of net revenue spending, which can only be exceeded with the approval of full Council. With regard to the Panel's recommendation that a narrower definition of capital expenditure should be used for funding from borrowing and that the remainder should be funded from revenue, the Cabinet has agreed to reconsider this	Working Group

			issue when a balanced budget has been achieved.	
Housing Benefit Changes and the Potential Impact Upon Huntingdonshire	To monitor the effect of Government changes to the Housing Benefit System arising from the Welfare Reform Act.	Social Well-Being	Quarterly reports presented to the Panel. Members of the Economic Well-Being Panel will be invited to attend. Next report expected in July 2013.	Whole Panel
Budget Savings	To identify possible Budgetary Savings	Economic Well-Being	The Panel's report was submitted to the Cabinet Meeting on 18th April 2013. In response, the Cabinet has:- ▪ requested the Employment Panel to review the use of consultants and agency staff; ▪ referred the issue of training to the Member Development Working Group; ▪ agreed to convene an informal meeting of Executive Councillors, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) and the Managing Director to discuss	Whole Panel

			shared services, the Council's electoral arrangements and improved procurement.	
Local Plan 2036 – Provision of Social and Affordable Housing and Impact Upon Homelessness	To explore how the new Local Plan would help to address housing and homelessness needs within the District.	Social Well-Being	An outline of how the new Local Plan will help to address housing and homelessness needs within the District was delivered to the Panel. Regular updates to be provided. Next update expected September 2013.	Whole Panel.
Customer Services Strategy	To contribute to the production of the new Customer Services and Channel Migration Strategy.	Economic Well-Being	Meetings of the Working Group have been held on 13 th February, 26 th March and 21 st May 2013 with the Executive Councillor. Representatives of the Working Group have also visited the Customer Services Centre at Newport. Officers will now undertake further work and the Group will reconvene once a draft proposal has been developed prior to its consideration by Overview & Scrutiny and the Cabinet.	Working Group
Disabled Facilities Grants	To review the level of expenditure on Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)	Social Well-Being	Concerns raised by Members over the level of expenditure on DFGs. Panel agreed to include this within their work	Whole Panel.

			programme. Update to be delivered to Panel in June 2013 during consideration of the Annual Home Agency Shared Service Review report.	
Update on Redesign of Mental Health Services	To receive an update on the redesign of mental health services.	Social Well-Being	Representatives of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (C&P CCG) to attend the Panel's September 2013 meeting.	Whole Panel.