OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
(SERVICE SUPPORT) **9th SEPTEMBER 2008**

WORK PLAN: STUDIES
(Report by the Head of Administration)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to allow Members of the Panel to review their programme of studies.

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 current Executive responsibilities. These were advised in agreement with the Panel Chairmen with effect from September 2008.

Service Delivery:

Customer Services &
Information Technology
Leisure
Housing & Public Health
Operational & Countryside Services

Service Support:

Finance & Environment
Resources & Policy
Planning Strategy /Transportation
Special Advisor to the Cabinet

2.3 Ongoing studies have been allocated between the Panels accordingly -

STUDY	PANEL	STATUS
Cleaning Regimes in Town Centres	Service Delivery	Concluding report to be considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 4th September.
Processes and Procedures involved with the adoption of roads and sewers.	Service Delivery	Meeting held on 24th July – investigations ongoing. Information being sought from the County Council and Anglian Water.
Traffic Enforcement	Service Delivery	Awaiting report following decision by AJC.
The Processes Involved in Applying for Community Development Grant Aid and the Effectiveness of Grant Schemes.	Service Delivery	Investigative work complete. Final meeting to be arranged in September / October to draw together issues arising from the study.
Disability Access	Service Delivery	Working Group appointed to conclude the study. Meeting to be arranged in late September / early October.

State of the District Consultation	Service Delivery	Report presented to Cabinet. Information sought on financial implications and a clearer link to be established to the Council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy. Further report to be submitted to Cabinet, on wider issues affecting community engagement at their meeting on 4th September 2008.
Parish Charter for Huntingdonshire	Service Support	Final Report considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 17th July 2008. Head of Administration to report on outcome.
Section 106	Service Support	Meetings held on 21st July and 28th August. Update to be provided to September Panel meeting.
Great Fen Project	Service Support	Presentation to be made to Panel's November meeting.
Affordable Housing	Service Delivery	Scoping report to considered at October meeting.
Impact of New A14 in terms of air quality and noise pollution	Service Delivery	Preliminary advice received from the District Council's Environmental and Community Health Services Division. Matter to be discussed at the Service Delivery Panel's September meeting.

2.4 The Service Support Panel have also identified the following as possible future studies:-

Review of the incentives of the Council's Travel Plan.	Service Support
Implications of the 2003 Licensing Act on the Night time Economy.	Service Support

2.5 The Service Delivery Panel have also identified the following as possible future studies:-

Joint working between the three tiers of local government and the implications of the white paper	Service Delivery
Role and effectiveness of the East of England Regional Assembly.	Service Delivery
Support for vulnerable people	Service Delivery
The Council's Plans in terms of Tourism and Sports Infrastructure in preparation for the 2012 Olympics.	Service Delivery

3. RECOMMENDATION

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

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