

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 4 th September. Additional information requested by the Cabinet. Consideration of the matter will be given at the Panel's October meeting.
Process and Procedures involved with the adoption of roads and sewers.	Service Delivery	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 Grant Aid and the Effectiveness of Grant Schemes.	Service Delivery	Investigative work complete. Final meeting to be arranged in October to draw together issues arising from the study.
Disability Access	Service Delivery	Meeting of the Working Group arranged for 9 th October. Completion of study anticipated by the end of 2008.
Section 106	Service Support	Next meeting to be held on 7 th October 2008. Update to be provided to October Panel meeting.

Great Fen Project	Service Support	Presentation to be made to Panel's November meeting.
Social Consequences of Alcohol Abuse	Service Support	Research being undertaken. First meeting to be held on 14 th October 2008. Update to be provided to October Panel meeting.
Maximising Council Income	Service Support	First meeting to be held on 1 st December following the completion to two internal audits on Income Generation and Discretionary Service Charges.
Affordable Housing	Service Delivery	Scoping Report to be considered at a future 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 raised at a future 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
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- 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
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.