
Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being)

Report of the meeting held on 13th October 2009

Matters for Information

17. THE PLACE SURVEY

Together with the Economic and Social Well-being Panels, the Panel has received a presentation on the findings of the Place Survey, a statutory exercise that is undertaken by all authorities every two years. The survey has replaced the Best Value User Satisfaction Survey which local authorities previously were required to undertake and has been designed to capture local people's views, experiences and perceptions about the area that they live in.

The survey was sent to 3,000 randomly selected households in Huntingdonshire and 1,177 completed questionnaires were returned.

The Panel was pleased to note that the performance of the majority of local indicators exceeded both the county and national averages. As the survey did not allow explanations for people's responses, focus groups are being established in order to identify what action needs to be taken to improve residents' perception of the District's performance against the indicators.

The Panel has asked for the results to be broken down to ward level in relation to both activities for teenagers and public transport which were identified by respondents as those aspects most in need of improvement in the District. Members have also asked for the results at ward level for NI4 - the percentage of people who agreed they can influence decisions in their locality. The Policy and Strategic Services Manager will be supplying this information to the Panel at a future meeting.

18. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

The Panel has endorsed a scheme of co-option to each of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels. A programme of publicity is being undertaken to generate expressions of interest from members of the public and the Head of Democratic and Central Services has been authorised to convene a politically balanced panel of Members to comprise an appointments panel who will make recommendations on the recruitment of the two independent persons to each Panel.

19. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 - FORWARD PLAN

The Panel has been acquainted with details of the forward plan of forthcoming decisions prepared by the Leader of the Council.

20. WORKPLAN STUDIES

The Panel has been advised of progress made to date on its programme of studies. Members will be considering possible topics for future studies at their next meeting.

21. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING) - PROGRESS

The Panel has been advised of progress on issues that had been previously discussed. With regard to the problems of flooding at St Audrey's Lane in St Ives, the Panel has been invited to raise questions for consideration by Anglian Water, who have indicated that they are no longer prepared to attend a meeting of the Panel in person on this subject.

22. SCRUTINY

The Panel has considered the latest edition of the Decision Digest and discussed the matters contained therein.

P M D Godfrey
Chairman