

**REMIT AND WORK PROGRAMME
(Report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny that were introduced following the comprehensive review of the Council's democratic structure have been in place for a year. However, minor changes have been made to Executive Councillors' responsibilities for the current Municipal Year. The Panel will be advised of these through this report. There also will be an opportunity for the Panel to review its current programme of studies and to devise a work programme for the forthcoming year.

2. WORK PROGRAMME

(a) Internal Scrutiny

- 2.1 Responsibility for the Council's services is divided between Executive Members. These, in turn, are distributed between the three Overview and Scrutiny Panels. It has not been possible to set out how this distribution has altered in the short time since Executive Members' responsibilities were determined. A breakdown of the allocation of Council services to the Panels will be circulated separately.

(b) External Studies

- 2.2 The Council has a duty to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the District and this is reflected in the structure of overview and scrutiny. It gives the Panel a wide remit to examine any issues that affect the District by conducting in-depth studies. A number of such studies have been completed in the past, such as the investigation into hospital car parking.

(c) Study Programme

- 2.3 At the first meeting in the Municipal calendar, it is usual for the Overview and Scrutiny Panels to give detailed consideration to a programme of studies that they intend to undertake in the course of the year. Members are requested to consider whether any studies or investigations of single issues within their remit might usefully be undertaken. These might be topical or contentious matters, for example, it could be an issue that has arisen in the course of a Member's contact with constituents.
- 2.4 Performance data, which is regularly submitted to the Panel, and the Decision Digest, also can be used to identify study areas. The latest performance report appears elsewhere on the Agenda.
- 2.5 At each meeting the Panel's discuss a progress report their programme of studies. The Social Well-Being Panel's current programme is reproduced at Appendix A.

(d) Study Methodology

- 2.6 The Panels have adopted a study methodology to guide their work. A report template giving details of the scope of this methodology appears at Appendix B. It will be seen that there is considerable flexibility in the way studies may be conducted. It is also important to note that the Panels have a budget with which to pursue their study aims, for example, by obtaining expert opinion on a particular issue.
- 2.7 A number of working groups already exist to undertake some of these studies. It has been the practice for the membership of working groups to continue to the completion of studies and it is suggested that this principle should continue.

(e) Completed Studies

- 2.8 Since the establishment of Overview and Scrutiny Panels in June 2000, a number of studies have been completed. These are listed below:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Orders
- Vandalism
- Cemetery Administration
- Arts Provision in Huntingdonshire and Major Events Promoted by the Council
- Registered Social Landlord Rent Levels
- Bus Stations/Bus Services
- Bus Shelters
- Bus Information/Publicity
- Flooding
- Post Office Network and Services
- Fly Posting
- Fly Tipping
- Trees and Hedgerows
- Emergency Planning
- Sun Beds in Leisure Centres
- The Council's Charging Policy
- Tourism
- Market Services
- Best Value Review on Access to Services
- Council's Budget and Expenditure
- Member Development
- Street Naming and Numbering
- Levels of Affordable Housing on Land Sold By The Council
- Procedural Arrangements for Development Control
- Local Procurement
- St Ives (Environmental Improvements Schemes)
- County Council Highway Standards
- Consumption of Alcohol in Public Places
- Safer Routes to Schools
- Rent Levels at Paines Mill Foyer, St Neots
- West Huntingdon Rural Transport Study
- Benefit Fraud
- Service Provision for the Elderly
- Health and Safety Management
- Member Involvement and Consultation Procedures in the Local Plan Process
- Substance Misuse in Huntingdonshire
- Play Equipment
- Abandoned Vehicles
- Services for Young People
- The Big Gig
- Biodiversity
- Council's Complaints Procedure
- The Budget and Medium Term Plan
- Rural Economy and Services
- District Council's Twinning Links
- Hear By Right
- Dentistry Services
- Promoting Better Health in Older People Through Physical

- Town Centre Initiatives
- Cycling in Huntingdonshire
- District Council's Travel Plan
- Electronic Communication
- Youth Forum
- Social consequences of alcohol abuse
- Section 106 process
- The Provision of Play Facilities
- Activity
- Small Scale Environmental Improvements
- State of the District Engagement Events
- Grant Aid
- Leisure facilities for older people
- Development Management Processes

3. SCRUTINISING STRATEGIC / PARTNERSHIP WORK

3.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 Act introduced a requirement for the Council to scrutinise the strategic partnership and other partnership working. The thematic groups under the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership have been aligned to the terms of reference of the scrutiny panels. The Social Well-Being Panel will be responsible for the Children and Young People, Health and Well-Being and Inclusive, Safe and Cohesive Communities thematic groups of the Strategic Partnership. The Panel has begun this work by scrutinising the last of these thematic groups. Although some initial training has already been provided on the Strategic Partnership, the Panel has decided to defer further consideration of the precise way this work will be undertaken until after training by the Centre for Public Scrutiny on this subject has taken place on 3rd June 2010.

3.2 The Panel's remit also contains reference to the Council's corporate priorities and goals as they appear in the Corporate Plan. Specifically, this means that the Panel will be responsible for scrutinising the Housing that Meets Individuals' Needs, Safe, Vibrant and Inclusive Communities and Healthy Living aims of the Council's corporate plan 'Growing Success'. As has been said, a report monitoring progress against each of these aims appears elsewhere on the Agenda. Finally, the Panel will have the task of scrutinising the Safer and Stronger Communities priority of the Countywide Sustainable Community Strategy (Cambridgeshire's Vision).

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel is

RECOMMENDED

- a. to note the contents of the report;
- b. to review the existing programme of studies; and
- c. to consider the addition of new subject areas to the programme of studies.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Previous reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

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