

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

**7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2010**  
**7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2010**  
**9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2010**

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

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to allow Members of the Panel to review their programme of studies and to be informed 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 Council's service areas which have been identified as follows:-

**Social Well-Being**

Housing  
Community  
Leisure Centres  
Operations (part)  
Democratic and Central Services (part)  
People, Performance and Partnerships (part)

**Environmental Well-Being**

Environmental and Technical Services  
Planning Services  
Environmental Health  
Operations (part)

**Economic Well-Being**

Information Management  
Finance  
Customer Service and Call Centres  
Revenues  
Democratic and Central Services (part)  
Law, Property and Governance  
People, Performance and Partnerships (part)  
HQ/Accommodation

- 2.3 Details of ongoing studies are set out in the attached Appendix.

2.4 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
Car Parking at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital	To investigate the causes of public complaints regarding the provision of parking facilities at the Hospital.	Social Well-Being	Six month review of new pricing structure to be conducted with the Hospital in December.	Whole Panel Study
Visitor Development & Town Centre Vibrancy	To consider issues relating to Visitor Development & Town Centre Vibrancy.	Economic Well-Being	Further information requested on the cost of the tourism service and the benefits it brings to both the Council and to the District.	Whole Panel Study
Consultation Processes	To review the Council's current consultation processes with a view to determining whether the approach taken to consultation is suitable and consistent across the authority.	Social Well-Being	Panel has begun to scope this study. Report to be considered at Panel's December meeting. The Policy and Strategic Services Manager will be in attendance at the meeting.	Whole Panel Study
Gypsy & Traveller Welfare	To be determined pending receipt of background information on existing gypsy and traveller sites already established within the District.	Social Well-Being	Report requested for submission to a future meeting. Following consultation with the Chairman, agreed that the report would be deferred until further notice.	To be determined.

Health Implications of the Night Time Economy	To follow up the previous study undertaken by the former Overview and Scrutiny (Service Support)	Economic Well-Being	Further information requested with regards to the rate of alcohol-specific hospital admissions for under 18s and the availability of any available qualitative data on alcohol consumption in rural areas.  Alcohol Harm Reduction Co-ordinator asked to attend a future meeting to discuss the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.	Whole Panel Study
Planning Conservation	To consider & evaluate the role of the Council's Planning Conservation Team in the preservation of Huntingdonshire's built heritage with particular reference to conservation areas and listed buildings.	Environmental Well-Being	Working Group meetings held on 29 <sup>th</sup> July, 5 <sup>th</sup> August, 2 <sup>nd</sup> September, 7 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> October, 11 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2010.	Working Group.
Leisure Centre Financial Performance and Employment Structure	To review the overall financial performance and monitoring arrangements. To consider the current Employment Structure.	Economic Well-Being	Requested further information for submission to future meeting.	Whole Panel Study.
CCTV Provision within the District	To review the impact of the Council's proposal to cease the CCTV service with effect from April 2010.	Social Well-Being	The views of the Police and the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership have been sought on the impact of the Council's proposals. A report to this effect will be submitted to the Panel's	Whole Panel Study.

			December meeting.	
Proposals to replace EEDA with LEPs.	To establish the implications of these proposals.	Economic Well-Being	Presentation to be given to December meeting.	To be determined.
A14 improvements.	To review the implications to the local economy of the decision not to proceed with the A14 improvements.	Economic Well-Being	Report requested for submission to a future meeting,	To be determined,
The Use of Consultants	To review the criteria used in the appointment of consultants and assess the cost and value gained from using them.	Economic Well-Being	Working Group established. First meeting to be held on 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2010. Discussion to be conducted at Panel meeting with Head of Law, Property & Governance, Head of Planning Services and Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy & Transportation.	Working Group.
The Financial Implications of the Council's Future Housing Responsibilities.	To be determined.	Economic Well-Being	Councillor M F Shellens to discuss with Chairman the possible terms of the study.	To be determined.
Tree Strategy	To form a strategy in conjunction with the Tree Officers for the retention and planting of trees.	Environmental Well-Being	Working Group meetings on 5 <sup>th</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2010.	Working Group.

**POSSIBLE FUTURE STUDIES**

<p>The Employees Performance Development Review Process</p>	<p>To review the current process.</p>	<p>Economic Well-Being</p>	<p>Outcome of Officer Review to be reported to the Panel when this is concluded.  Work is expected to conclude in February 2011.</p>	<p>To be determined.</p>
<p>Land Use for Agricultural Purpose in the context of planning policies and its contribution to the local economy.</p>	<p>To review the lack of promotion and protection of land for this purpose.</p>	<p>Environmental Well-Being</p>	<p>Not being pursued as a study at the current time.</p>	<p>To be determined.</p>
<p>Rural Transport</p>	<p>To review the lack of transportation in rural areas.</p>	<p>Environmental Well-Being</p>	<p>Not being pursued as a study at the current time.</p>	<p>To be determined.</p>