

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

1ST FEBRUARY 2011
8TH FEBRUARY 2011
10TH FEBRUARY 2011

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
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	Working Group appointed to review the Council's guidance on consultation methodology and evaluate examples of previous consultations. Second meeting of the Working Group held on 18 th January 2011.	Working Group
Gypsy & Traveller Welfare	To examine existing gypsy and traveller sites in the District with a view to informing any future Planning policy on sites.	Social Well-Being	Report requested for submission to a future meeting. Following consultation with the Chairman, agreed that the study would only proceed if there is a Planning policy requirement.	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).	Social Well-Being	Social Well-Being Panel to consider whether to incorporate this study into their work programme. Further information to be submitted to a future Panel meeting.	To be determined.

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 th July, 5 th August, 2 nd September, 7 th and 22 nd October, 11 th and 18 th November, 6 th December, 21 st December 2010 and 5 th January 2011.	Working Group.
Leisure Centre Financial Performance and Employment Structure	To review the overall financial performance and monitoring arrangements. To consider the current / future business structure.	Economic Well-Being	Agreed to establish a joint working group with Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being).	Working Group
Cambridgeshire Local Investment Plan	To review the implications of the Investment Plan upon local housing, to include the potential shortfalls in the delivery of affordable housing within the District, identify what housing is due to come forward and to include reference to the underlying links between housing and planning.	Social Well-Being	Report to be considered at Panel's April 2011 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 2012.	Social Well-Being	Considered at Panel's January meeting. To be considered further under the Budget and MTP item at the Economic Well-Being Panel's meeting in February 2011.	Whole Panel Study.

Proposals to replace EEDA with LEPs.	To establish the implications of these proposals.	Economic Well-Being	Presentation given to December meeting. Update requested for future meeting.	Whole Panel Study.
Voluntary Sector	To be determined.	Social Well-Being	Request made by the Voluntary Sector to raise this item at a future Panel meeting. The matter was debated at the Council meeting in December 2010. The Chief Executive of the Hunts Forum of Voluntary Organisation will be addressing the Panel at its February 2011 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	Members decided that they want to engage local MPs in a co-ordinated approach to lobbying the Government with a view to achieving the Council's aim of upgrading the A14 in a more cost effective way than previously planned.	Whole Panel Study.
Customer Service Centres	To review the impact of the Council's proposals to close the facilities at Ramsey, Yaxley, St Ives and St Neots.	Social Well-Being	Considered at Panel's January meeting. To be considered further under the Budget and MTP item at the Economic Well-Being Panel's meeting in February 2011.	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	Further meeting to be arranged when additional information has been obtained.	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 th and 24 th November 2010. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in January 2011.	Working Group.
Rural Crime	To be determined.	Social Well-Being Panel to nominate representative to participate in any future joint work as and when required.	Meeting of Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 13 th December 2010.	Joint Authority Working Group.

POSSIBLE FUTURE STUDIES

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