

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

**1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2011  
8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011  
10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 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**

<b>STUDY</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>PANEL</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
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. Further meetings of the Working Group to be held in February and March.	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 proceed once Government guidance has been issued on future provision requirements.	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	Final Report of the Working Group considered by Panel at its February meeting.	Working Group.
Leisure Centre Financial Performance and Employment Structure	<p>To review the overall financial performance and monitoring arrangements. To consider the current / future business structure.</p> <p>To consider whether an increase in income might be made by charging non-residents of the District a higher rate to use the Council's leisure centres</p>	Economic Well-Being	Agreed to establish a joint working group with Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being). First meeting to be held on Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2011.	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. Members have requested for an update on negotiations with Partners on the future of the service from 2012/13 onwards.	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	Chief Executive of the Hunts Forum of Voluntary Organisations addressed Panel at its February meeting. Consideration on the way forward to be given at Panel's March 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	Final report currently being compiled.	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.

A14 improvements.	To review the implications to the local economy of the decision not to proceed with the A14 improvements.	Economic Well-Being	<p>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.</p> <p>The Panel has been acquainted with steps that are being taken to pursue this matter with the Government. The Panel will receive updates on progress.</p>	Whole Panel Study.
Tree Strategy	To form a strategy in conjunction with the Tree Officers for the retention and planting of trees.	Environmental Well-Being	<p>Working Group meetings on 5<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010.</p> <p>The next meeting was scheduled to be held in January 2011.</p>	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 <sup>th</sup> 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.