

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

**6th SEPTEMBER 2011
8th SEPTEMBER 2011
13th SEPTEMBER 2011**

**WORK PLAN STUDIES
(Report by the Head of Legal and Democratic 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

Environmental and Community Health
Housing
One Leisure
Legal and Democratic Services (part)
People, Performance and Partnerships (part)

Environmental Well-Being

Operations
Environmental Management
Planning Services

Economic Well-Being

Information Management
Financial Services
Customer Services
Legal and Democratic Services (part)
People, Performance and Partnerships (part)

- 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. This study is on hold until circumstances change.	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	Final report submitted to the Cabinet in June 2011. The Managing Director (Resources) to undertake investigations as to how the current process can be improved and to report to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) and Executive Councillors on the outcomes.	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	Social Well-Being	Social Well-Being Panel to consider whether to incorporate this study into	To be determined.

	Scrutiny (Service Support).		their work programme. Further information to be submitted to a future Panel meeting.	
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 and Social Well-Being	<p>Meetings of the Working Group held on 3rd March, 28th April, 23rd June and 1st September 2011.</p> <p>Interim report submitted to Cabinet on 23rd June 2011. Cabinet requested the Executive Councillor for Organisational Development to review the Council's IT costs, including the basis upon which the IT network service is re-charged to users.</p>	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 October 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.	Environmental Well-Being and Social Well-Being	Members received an update at their July meeting. Further information is expected in the Autumn.	Whole Panel Study.

Voluntary Sector	To seek alternative ways of supporting the Voluntary Sector from 2013/14 onwards.	Social Well-Being	Working Group meeting held on 23 rd August 2011 with the District Council's Community Health Manager. Site visits to be undertaken in September.	Working Group
A14 improvements.	To review the implications to the local economy of the decision not to proceed with the A14 improvements.	Economic Well-Being	Agreed to invite a representative of the Highways Agency to a future meeting to discuss their plans in the event of an interruption to traffic flow.	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	Working Group met on 27 July 2011. Draft Tree Strategy circulated to officers for comment. Councillor Davies to report to meeting.	Working Group.
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	Scoping report to be submitted to a meeting in the Autumn.	To be determined.
Rural Transport	To review the provision of transportation in rural areas.	Environmental Well-Being	Transport for Cambridgeshire report received in July 2011. Comments conveyed to Cabinet.	To be determined.
Rural Crime	To be determined.	Social Well-Being Panel	Under consideration by the County Council's Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee.	Joint Authority Working Group.

Review of Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire	To undertake a review of the Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire.	Social Well-Being	Suggested by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 19 th May 2011. Background report to be considered by Panel in September.	To be determined.
Homelessness	To consider the emerging issue of homelessness and the Council's capacity to deal with the matter.	Social Well-Being	Background report to be submitted to a future Panel meeting.	To be determined.
Maintenance of Water Courses	To receive a presentation on the maintenance arrangements in place for Water Courses within the District.	Environmental Well-Being	Presentation to be delivered at a future meeting.	To be determined.
Waste Collection and Recycling Policies	To investigate the Council's waste collection and recycling policies.	Environmental Well-Being	Scoping report to be submitted to a future meeting.	To be determined.
District Council Support Services	To review the District Council's support services.	Economic Well-Being	Scoping report to be submitted to a future meeting in the Autumn.	To be determined.
Development of the Alconbury Airfield site.	To consider the implications for the local economy from the establishment of a local enterprise zone on the former Alconbury Airfield site.	Economic Well-Being	To be determined.	To be determined.

POSSIBLE FUTURE STUDIES

<p>The Employees Performance Development Review Process</p>	<p>To review the current process.</p>	<p>Economic Well-Being</p>	<p>Amendments to the Performance Related Pay System are being considered as part of the current years pay negotiations and the consultation on pay structure.</p>	<p>To be determined.</p>
<p>Housing Register</p>	<p>To review the availability of larger houses for letting the Council's housing register.</p>	<p>Social Well-Being</p>	<p>To consider a request by the Economic Well-Being Panel to investigate this issue.</p>	<p>To be determined.</p>
<p>Business Rates</p>	<p>To consider the implications to the Authority from changes to Business Rates.</p>	<p>Economic Well-Being</p>	<p>Report to be prepared when further information is available.</p>	<p>To be determined.</p>