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

1ST NOVEMBER 2011 3RD NOVEMBER 2011 8TH NOVEMBER 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 Overview and Scrutiny remits. Details of ongoing studies being undertaken by the two other Panels are set out in the attached Appendix.
- 2.3 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. Noted that Tourism activity is not currently being undertaken. Study is on hold until circumstances change. | Whole Panel Study |
| 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 | Report to be considered at Panel's November 2011 meeting. | Whole Panel Study |

| Leisure Centre Financial Performance and Employment Structure | To review the overall financial performance and monitoring arrangements. To consider the current / future business structure. To consider whether an increase in income might be made by charging nonresidents of the District a higher rate to use the Council's leisure centres. | Economic Well-Being and Social Well-Being | Meetings of the Working Group held on 3 rd March, 28 th April, 23 rd June and 1 st September 2011. Expected to conclude in the new year. Further meeting to be held on 7 th November 2011. Interim report submitted to Cabinet on 23 rd 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. | 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 due to be presented to Panel in January 2012. | 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 | Report to be considered at Panel's November 2011 meeting. | Whole Panel Study. |

| Voluntary Sector | To seek alternative ways of supporting the Voluntary Sector from 2013/14 onwards and to assess the social value of the services that they provide within the District. | Social Well-Being | The Working Group's final report to be considered at Panel's November 2011 meeting. | 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. |
| Review of Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire | To undertake a review of the Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire. | Social Well-Being | Views of the County and District Members, Town and Parish Councils and Partners will be reported to the Panel in November. | Working Group |
| Homelessness | To consider the emerging issue of homelessness arising as a result of changes to the Housing Benefit system. | Social Well-Being | Background report to be submitted to a future Panel meeting. | To be determined. |
| District Council Support Services | To review the District Council's support services. | Economic Well-Being | Preliminary information to be submitted to the November Panel meeting. | 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 | Presentation to be given to November Panel meeting. | To be determined. |

POSSIBLE FUTURE STUDIES

| The Employees Performance Development Review Process | To review the current process. | Economic Well-Being | Amendments to the Performance Related Pay System are being considered as part of the current years pay negotiations and the consultation on pay structure. | To be determined. |
|--|---|---------------------|--|-------------------|
| Business Rates | To consider the implications to the Authority from changes to Business Rates. | Economic Well-Being | Report to be prepared when further information is available. | To be determined. |