

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS**

**(ECONOMIC WELL-BEING)  
(ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING)  
(SOCIAL WELL-BEING)**

**1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2011  
5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2011  
6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 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**

<b>STUDY</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>PANEL</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
<p>Visitor Development &amp; Town Centre Vibrancy</p>	<p>To consider issues relating to Visitor Development &amp; Town Centre Vibrancy.</p>	<p>Economic Well-Being</p>	<p>Further information requested on the cost of the tourism service and the benefits it brings to both the Council and to the District.</p> <p>Noted that Tourism activity is not currently being undertaken. Study is on hold until circumstances change.</p>	<p>Whole Panel Study</p>
<p>Leisure Centre Financial Performance and Employment Structure</p>	<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>	<p>Economic Well-Being and Social Well-Being</p>	<p>Interim report submitted to Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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> <p>Meetings of the Working Group held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011.</p> <p>Further meeting to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Final report to be submitted to January Panel meetings.</p>	<p>Joint Working Group</p>

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 reported to September meeting and Strategy will be presented to the Panel in due course.	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 future meeting.	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. Final report expected shortly.	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 given to October meeting. SUDs report due in January 2012.	To be determined.

Waste Collection and Recycling Policies	To investigate the Council's waste collection and recycling policies.	Environmental Well-Being	Working Group met in October. Policies being prepared by Eric Kendall to be presented to the Working Group for comment prior to submission to the Panel.	Working Group
District Council Support Services	To review the services provided by the District Councils Document Centre to form a view on its efficiency and cost effectiveness.	Economic Well-Being	Working Group established. First meeting to be held on 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2011.	Working Group

#### FUTURE STUDIES

Design Principles for Future Developments	To be determined.	Environmental Well-Being	Working Group to be established in January 2012. Councillors Curtis, Godfrey, Harlock appointed.	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.