

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS

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

**3RD JANUARY 2012
5TH JANUARY 2012
10TH JANUARY 2012**

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members 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.
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 non-residents of the District a higher rate to use the Council's leisure centres.	Economic Well-Being and Social Well-Being	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. Meetings of the Working Group held on 3 rd March,	Joint Working Group

			28 th April, 23 rd June, 1 st September, 7 th November and 8 th December 2011.		
			Report to be submitted to January Panel meetings. Further meeting to be held in due course to discuss the future strategic direction of the service.		
Cambridgeshire Investment Plan	Local	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 January 2012 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	Further report expected in March/April 2012.	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	Working Group's conclusions endorsed by the Panel in December 2011. Further report to be considered by Panel in January 2012.	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	<p>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.</p> <p>Department for Transport is currently undertaking a consultation on the programme of improvements – A14 Challenge. Closing date for comments is the end of January 2012.</p>	Whole Panel Study.
Review of Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire	To undertake a review of the Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire.	Social Well-Being	Update on meeting of the Working Group to be delivered to Panel in January. Further meeting of Working Group to be held in the New Year with the Police Huntingdonshire Area Commander.	Working Group
Housing Benefit Changes and the potential impact on Huntingdonshire.	To consider the emerging issue of homelessness arising as a result of changes to the Housing Benefit system.	Social Well-Being	Background report considered by Panel at their December meeting. Report to be considered at the January meeting of the Economic Well-Being Panel.	To be determined.
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	<p>First meeting of working group held on 15th December 2011.</p> <p>Working Group has formed two sub groups to consider:-</p>	Working Group

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the financial cost of the service; and b) the operation of the service <p>Background meetings currently being arranged for January 2012.</p>	
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FUTURE STUDIES

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.
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