

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

**2ND OCTOBER 2012
4TH OCTOBER 2012
9TH OCTOBER 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
Leisure Centre Financial Performance and Employment Structure	To consider the future business model for "One Leisure" and the development of a methodology for the quantification of Social Value.	Economic Well-Being and Social Well-Being	<p>Working Group met on 28th February 2012. Agreed to split into two sub groups to investigate each area.</p> <p>Sub-Group looking at the 'Social Methodology' met on 2nd August 2012. Research being undertaken by Officers at the moment.</p> <p>The whole Working Group will receive the Business Plan prior to its submission to the Panel and the Cabinet.</p>	Joint 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>Panel has requested a presentation on developments relating to the A14 for all Members of the Council at an appropriate time.</p> <p>Updates on recent developments to continue to be provided by email.</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	The draft tree strategy is being prepared - it should be ready for consultation by the end of 2012.	Working Group.

<p>Land Use for Agricultural Purposes in the Context of Planning Policies and its Contribution to the Local Economy.</p>	<p>To review the lack of promotion and protection of land for this purpose.</p>	<p>Environmental Well-Being</p>	<p>An interim report has been produced to meet the deadlines for the Local Plan production. The Working Group will go on to examine the Council's procedure for dealing with applications where agriculture is a feature of the proposals.</p>	<p>Working Group.</p>
<p>Rural Transport</p>	<p>To review the provision of transportation in rural areas.</p>	<p>Environmental Well-Being</p>	<p>Transport for Cambridgeshire report received in July 2011. Comments conveyed to Cabinet. Final report expected in due course.</p>	<p>To be determined.</p>
<p>Maintenance of Water Courses</p>	<p>To receive a presentation on the maintenance arrangements in place for Water Courses within the District.</p>	<p>Environmental Well-Being</p>	<p>Following consideration of the St Neots Surface Water Management Plan and discussions on widespread drainage problems within the District, a working group was convened to engage with Anglian Water in order to establish their general powers, responsibilities and the limitations on its ability to prevent flooding.</p> <p>Meetings have been held with representatives from Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. The Working Group has produced a report on its findings.</p>	<p>Working Group</p>

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 has formed two sub groups to consider:- a) the financial cost of the service; and b) the operation of the service Final report awaited.	Working Group
Design Principles for Future Developments	To examine issues that have arisen at Loves Farm, St Neots and to make recommendations to inform future developments.	Environmental Well-Being	The Working Group has produced a report detailing its findings to date. The Working Group will now focus on detailed aspects of the design guide.	Working Group.
Economic Development	To be determined.	Economic Well-Being	The Local Economy Strategy is scheduled for completion at the end of the year. Work is currently taking place to develop a robust evidence base for the new Strategy. As part of this process all members will be given the opportunity to participate in the consultation on the initial report and the Economic Development Manager will attend the November meeting.	To be determined.

Corporate Plan	To assist the Corporate Office with the development of a new Corporate Plan.	All O&S Panels	Meetings held on 1st and 28th August 2012. Draft Council Delivery Plan submitted to Executive Leaders Strategy Group on 10th September 2012.	Working Group
Fraud Prevention	To consider the implications from forthcoming changes to the Housing Benefits system.	Economic Well-Being	The Corporate Governance Panel have agreed to establish a working group to consider fraud risks, current and future approaches and single fraud issues. Their report will be considered by the Panel at their meeting in January.	To be determined.
Supporting People Back to Work	To be determined.	Economic Well-Being	Corporate Team Manager to attend October Panel Meeting to talk about the work of the Corporate Office. This will include information on Supporting People Back to Work.	To be determined.
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	To consider the implications of planning social housing requirements on Community Infrastructure Levy income and the housing waiting list.	Economic Well-Being	Managing Director (Communities, Partnerships & Projects) to discuss with Councillor M F Shellens directly.	To be determined.

Waste Collection	To identify options for improving the Council's waste collection and recycling arrangements and for enhancing public satisfaction with the service.	Environmental Well-Being	The Working Group has decided to focus on how best to engage with residents as to what should be placed in which bin. The Group may go on to study waste collection procedures in more detail, this is dependent on the work of RECAP.	Working Group
Council Reserves	<p>Agreed to establish a working group to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ identify the combination of co-incident risks against which the Council wishes to insure by having reserves; ❖ benchmark the Council's level of reserves against other appropriate Authorities. 	Economic Well-Being	Meeting held on Tuesday 4 th September 2012. Report to be submitted to Panel's October meeting.	Working Group
Council Borrowing	Agreed to establish a working group to develop an understanding of the District Council's approach to borrowing.	Economic Well-Being.	Arrangements currently being made for first meeting.	Working Group.