

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

**4TH DECEMBER 2012  
6TH DECEMBER 2012  
11TH DECEMBER 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.

**Contact Officers: Miss H Ali, Democratic Services Officer  
01480 388006**

**Mrs J Walker, Democratic Services Assistant  
01480 387049**

**Mrs C Bulman, Democratic Services Officer  
01480 388234**

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012. Agreed to split into two sub groups to investigate each area.</p> <p>Meeting of the Sub-Group looking at the ‘Social Methodology’ held on 23rd August 2012.</p> <p>It has been agreed that the review of the business model will be put on hold, pending the completion of the Business Plan for the Service. The Business Plan will be considered by the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) in January.</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>The 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.
Land Use for Agricultural Purposes 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	The final report of the Working Group was considered at the Panel's November meeting. The report's recommendations have been endorsed by the Head of Planning and Housing Strategy.	Working Group.
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 in due course.	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	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.  Meetings have been held with representatives from	Working Group

			<p>Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. The Working Group has produced a report on its findings but is awaiting the outcome of negotiations between Anglian Water and the County Council on drainage in Yaxley.</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	<p>Working Group has formed two sub groups to consider:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the financial cost of the service; and</li> <li>b) the operation of the service</li> </ul> <p>The Working Group met on 14<sup>th</sup> November. A summary of their findings is currently being compiled.</p>	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 with the Council's Urban Design, Trees and Landscape Team Leader.	Working Group.
Economic Development	To be determined.	Economic Well-Being	The findings from the Local Economic Assessment were presented to the Panel	Whole Panel.

			<p>in November.</p> <p>The Panel will consider the new Local Economy Strategy at a meeting in the Spring.</p>	
Corporate Plan	To assist the Corporate Office with the development of a new Corporate Plan.	All O&S Panels	Meeting of the Working Group held on 12th November 2012. Agreed that a bi-monthly programme of meetings be arranged with a view to calling Executive Members to account on their respective activities contained within the Delivery Plan.	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.
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	<p>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.</p> <p>The Panel expressed its support for the use of wheelie bin stickers to convey messages with community benefits, such as speed restrictions. Contact will be made with Hilton Parish Council to determine the outcome of the Speedwatch pilot initiative undertaken there.</p>	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.	First meeting held on 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2012. The Group discussed various aspects of general approaches to borrowing and have asked for a report on a number of matters relating to the Council's borrowing. A further meeting will be held when this information is available.	Working Group.

Budget Savings	To identify possible Budgetary Savings	Economic Well-Being	An Informal Meeting of the Panel will be held on Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2012.  Members have been asked to submit suggestions by email in advance.	Whole Panel
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