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.

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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	Working Group met on 28 th February 2012. Agreed to split into two sub groups to investigate each area. Meeting of the Sub-Group looking at the 'Social Methodology' held on 23rd August 2012. 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 & Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) in January.	Joint Working Group
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	A report on changes to the CCTV service in 2012/13 will be submitted to the Panel in February 2013.	Whole Panel Study.
A14 improvements.	To review the implications to the local economy of the decision not to proceed with the A14 improvements.	Economic Well-Being	The Panel has requested a presentation on developments relating to the A14 for all Members of the Council at an appropriate time.	Whole Panel Study.

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			Updates on recent developments to continue to be provided by email.	
Consultation Processes	To assist the Corporate Team with its review of the Council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy.	Social Well-Being	Strategy and Guidance being updated by the Corporate Office to incorporate comments suggested by the Working Group. First draft expected to be made available to the Working Group mid-December. Meeting being arranged.	Working Group.
Review of Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire	To undertake a review of the Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire.	Social Well-Being	Cabinet agreed to hold a pilot in the Norman Cross County Division. Panel requested to undertake a review of the pilot during its 12 months of operation. Pilot meeting held on 7th November 2012.	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 has formed two sub groups to consider:- a) the financial cost of the service; and b) the operation of the service The Working Group met on 14th November. A summary of their findings is currently	Working Group

			being compiled.	
Equality Framework for Local Government	To review the action plan arising from the Equality Framework for Local Government peer assessment.	Social Well-Being	Working Group met on 29th August 2012 to review the Action Plan. Councillor Mrs P A Jordan to attend the Equality Framework Steering Group. Action Plan revised since the Working Group last met – a copy has been circulated around to the Working Group for information purposes.	Working Group
Economic Development	To be determined.	Economic Well-Being	The findings from the Local Economic Assessment were presented to the Panel in November. The Panel will consider the new Local Economy Strategy at a meeting in the Spring.	Whole Panel.
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.
Huntingdonshire Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	To consider the social implications of the announcement made by the Huntingdonshire CAB to go into voluntary liquidisation.	Social Well-Being	Executive Leader provided an update to the Panel in October and November 2012. Further update on recent developments will be provided in December. Mr M Mealing, Chairman of the CAB will also be present at the meeting.	Whole Panel Study.
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.
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 th 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 th November 2012.	Whole Panel
			Members have been asked to submit suggestions by email in advance.	