

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

**8 JANUARY 2013
10 JANUARY 2013
15 JANUARY 2013**

**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 will focus on three key areas; namely social, health and financial benefits of the Council's activities.</p> | 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. |
| 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. Draft to be considered by Working Group at their meeting on 23rd January 2013. | Working Group. |

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| Tree Strategy | To form a strategy in conjunction with the Tree Officers for the retention and planting of trees. | Environmental Well-Being | Work is yet to commence on the Draft Tree Strategy. Owing to resource constraints within the Planning Department alternative ways of finalising the Tree Strategy are being considered. | 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 Cabinet. | 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. |
| 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. Further informal meeting to be held in January 2013. | Working Group |

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| Maintenance of Water Courses | To receive a presentation on the maintenance arrangements in place for Water Courses within the District. | Environmental Well-Being | <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 but is awaiting the outcome of negotiations between Anglian Water and the County Council on drainage in Yaxley.</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. This is expected to be available in early February 2013. | Working Group. |

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| Equality Framework for Local Government | To review the action plan arising from the Equality Framework for Local Government peer assessment. | Social Well-Being | Action Plan has been revised since the Working Group last met. Will be subject to review by the Working Group at their meeting on 23rd January 2013. | Working Group |
| Corporate Plan | To assist the Corporate Office with the development of a new Corporate Plan. | All O&S Panels | Executive Leader's Strategy Group to consider the Delivery Plan on 14th January 2013 with a view to taking responsibility for the actions contained therein. A programme of bi-monthly meetings of the Working Group will be arranged over the course of the next year with a view to holding Executive Members to account. | Working Group |
| Delivery of Advisory Services Across the District | 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, November and December 2012. A report on interim arrangements for Jan-Mar 2013 and grant aid awards for 2013/14 will be submitted to the Panel at its January 2013 meeting. | Whole Panel Study. |

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| 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. Cllr I C Bates will make contact with Hilton Parish Council to determine the outcome of the Speedwatch pilot initiative undertaken in the village.</p> | Working Group |
| Green Waste and Energy Generation | To consider what opportunities the Council might have in terms of generating energy from green waste. | Environmental Well-Being | Scoping report on green waste and energy generation requested for submission to a future meeting. Request submitted to the Head of Environmental Management. | To be determined. |