

**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 28<sup>th</sup> 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> <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. Members of the Social Well-Being Panel will be invited to attend.</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	The Panel has requested a presentation on developments relating to the A14 for all Members of the Council at an appropriate time. An update will be presented to the full	Whole Panel Study.

			<p>Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012.</p> <p>Updates on recent developments to continue to be provided by email.</p>	
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.
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	Working Group

			<p>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>	
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 has now been compiled.</p>	Working Group
Design Principles for Future Developments	To examine issues that have arisen at Loves Farm, St Neots and to	Environmental Well-Being	The Working Group has produced a report detailing its findings to date. The	Working Group.

	make recommendations to inform future developments.		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 early February 2013.	
Economic Development	To be determined.	Economic Well-Being	<p>The findings from the Local Economic Assessment were presented to the Panel in November.</p> <p>The Panel will consider the new Local Economy Strategy at a meeting in the Spring.</p>	Whole Panel.
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
Fraud Prevention	To consider the implications from forthcoming changes to	Economic Well-Being	The Corporate Governance Panel has agreed to establish a Working Group	To be determined.

	the Housing Benefits system.		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.	
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. 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

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 was held on 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2012 and a report will be prepared for the Panel's Informal Meeting in late January.	Working Group.
Budget Savings	To identify possible Budgetary Savings	Economic Well-Being	An Informal Meeting of the Panel was held on Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2012. A number of recommendations were subsequently presented to the Executive Leaders Strategy Group.	Whole Panel
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.
The Capital Budget	To examine the Council's Capital Budget.	Economic Well-Being	An Informal Meeting has been arranged for 30 <sup>th</sup> January.	Whole Panel.