

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

**5TH MARCH 2013  
7TH MARCH 2013  
12TH MARCH 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 development of a methodology for the quantification of Social Value.	Social Well-Being	Sub-Group looking at the Social Methodology will focus on three key areas; namely social, health and financial benefits of the Council's activities. Meeting of the Working Group being arranged.	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 April 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 considered by Working Group at their meeting on 23rd January 2013. Further work to refine both documents is being undertaken. Expected to go before the Panel and Cabinet at their June/July 2013 meetings.	Working Group.

Great Fen	To monitor the latest developments in respect of the Great Fen.	Environmental Well-Being	Site visits undertaken by the Panel in July 2010 and October 2012. A Socio-Economic Study has been completed and will be presented to the Panel at its March 2013 meeting.	Whole Panel.
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. A proposal for a programme of work to complete the Strategy is awaited from the consultant. Likely timescales to be advised in due course.	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	Study now completed by the Working Group. Members are satisfied that all issues raised have been incorporated within the Draft Local Plan.	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. Cllr Mrs Banerjee, as the Panel's appointed representative, will attend a	To be determined.

			Cambridgeshire Future Transport meeting on 27th March 2013 at the County Council.	
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 arranged. Chairman of the Panel to make contact with the Deputy Executive Leader to discuss progress with the pilot and how the Working Group might be involved in the review process. Outcome of liaison awaited.	Working Group
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.	Working Group

			Meetings have been held with representatives from Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. The Working Group has produced a report on its findings. Panel has received an update on the outcome of negotiations between Anglian Water and the County Council on drainage in Yaxley. This was delivered to the Panel at its January 2013 meeting and regular updates will continue to be provided.	
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 made available to the Working Group shortly.	Working Group.
Equality Framework for Local Government	To review the action plan arising from the Equality Framework for Local Government peer assessment.	Social Well-Being	Annual Equality Progress Report submitted to Panel in February 2013. The Working Group will continue to meet to monitor progress against the Action Plan.	Working Group

The Council's Emergency Planning Arrangements	To be acquainted with the Council's Emergency Planning arrangements to include the Council's use of sand bags.	Environmental Well-Being	Requested by the Panel following an update on the November and December 2012 floods. Report to be submitted to the Panel in March 2013.	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 considered the Council 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. The Delivery Plan is currently undergoing refinement by the Corporate Office.	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 was submitted to the Panel at its January 2013 meeting. The Voluntary Sector Working Group will meet in October and April each year to review progress of those	Whole Panel Study.

			organisations in receipt of grant funding.	
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. In January 2013, representatives of Speedwatch and Hilton Parish Council presented a proposal intended to reduce speeding within the village to the Panel. A written proposal will be submitted at a future meeting. Members also wish to discuss the matter further with the Head of Operations and the Executive Councillor for Environment.</p>	Working Group

<p>Local Plan 2036 – Provision of Social and Affordable Housing and Impact Upon Homelessness</p>	<p>To explore how the new Local Plan would help to address housing and homelessness needs within the District.</p>	<p>Social Well-Being</p>	<p>An outline of how the new Local Plan will help to address housing and homelessness needs within the District was delivered to the Panel. 6 monthly updates to be provided. Next update expected July 2013.</p>	<p>Whole Panel.</p>
<p>Green Waste and Energy Generation</p>	<p>To consider what opportunities the Council might have in terms of generating energy from green waste.</p>	<p>Environmental Well-Being</p>	<p>Scoping report on green waste and energy generation requested for submission to a future meeting. Head of Operations will be delivering a presentation to Executive Leaders Strategy Group at their meeting on 26th February with a view to bringing a report before the Panel thereafter. Report anticipated March/April 2013.</p>	<p>To be determined.</p>