

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

**4 JUNE 2013
6 JUNE 2013
11 JUNE 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
Social Value	To consider the development of a methodology for the quantification of Social Value.	Social Well-Being	Working Group will focus on three key areas; namely social, health and financial benefits of the Council's activities. Officers have been tasked with attaching financial values to these benefits.	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 July 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 in January 2013. Further work to refine both documents is being undertaken. Expected to be presented to the Panel and Cabinet at their September 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 was	Whole Panel.

			presented to the Panel at its March 2013 meeting. Further updates will continue to be provided to the Panel at appropriate times. Site visit to be held in September 2013.	
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.
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, attended a Cambridgeshire Future Transport meeting on 27th March 2013 and reported upon its outcome at the Panel's April 2013 meeting.	To be determined.

<p>Review of Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire</p>	<p>To undertake a review of the Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire.</p>	<p>Social Well-Being</p>	<p>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. Informal discussion held with various Members and the Leader/Deputy Executive Leader prior to Council in April 2013. Matter is still under discussion.</p>	<p>Working Group</p>
<p>Maintenance of Water Courses</p>	<p>To receive a presentation on the maintenance arrangements in place for Water Courses within the District.</p>	<p>Environmental Well-Being</p>	<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. Panel has received an update on the outcome of negotiations between</p>	<p>Working Group</p>

			Anglian Water and the County Council on drainage in Yaxley. This was delivered to the Panel at its January 2013 meeting and a further update has been requested for July 2013.	
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 in due course.	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
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

			<p>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.</p> <p>An initial meeting of the Working Group will be held on 13th June.</p>	
<p>Delivery of Advisory Services Across the District</p>	<p>To consider the social implications of the announcement made by the Huntingdonshire CAB to go into voluntary liquidisation and to monitor the performance of the voluntary organisations awarded grant aid by the Council in 2013-2015.</p>	<p>Social Well-Being</p>	<p>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. Voluntary Sector Working Group met in March to consider concerns raised at the February 2013 meeting of Council. Working Group will meet with each voluntary organisation in July 2013 to review their progress with a further meeting to be arranged 6 months thereafter.</p> <p>Annual Report on organisations supported by grants through Service</p>	<p>Working Group.</p>

			Level Agreements to be presented to Panel in November 2013.	
Hinchingbrooke Hospital	To monitor Circle Healthcare's progress and plans for Hinchingbrooke Hospital.	Social Well-Being	<p>Representatives of Circle and Hinchingbrooke Hospital attended Panel's March 2013 meeting to deliver an update on the Hospital's progress and plans for the future. Representatives will return in a year's time to provide a further update.</p> <p>Joint Working Group established with the County Council's Cambridgeshire Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to monitor the financial and operational performance of the Hospital.</p> <p>6 monthly reports on the performance of the Hospital will be provided by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group. Next report to be delivered to the Panel in July 2013.</p>	Whole Panel

<p>Waste Collection</p>	<p>To identify options for improving the Council's waste collection and recycling arrangements and for enhancing public satisfaction with the service.</p>	<p>Environmental Well-Being</p>	<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. An update was delivered in April 2013. A further report on the Whole Waste System Approach will be delivered in October 2013.</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 was submitted to the Panel at its meeting in April 2013. The proposal was endorsed by the Panel and the Executive Councillor for Environment.</p>	<p>Working Group</p>
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Housing Benefit Changes and the Potential Impact Upon Huntingdonshire	To monitor the effect of Government changes to the Housing Benefit System arising from the Welfare Reform Act.	Social Well-Being	Quarterly reports presented to the Panel. Members of the Economic Well-Being Panel will be invited to attend. Next report expected in July 2013.	Whole Panel
Local Plan 2036 – Provision of Social and Affordable Housing and Impact Upon Homelessness	To explore how the new Local Plan would help to address housing and homelessness needs within the District.	Social Well-Being	An outline of how the new Local Plan will help to address housing and homelessness needs within the District was delivered to the Panel. Regular updates to be provided. Next update expected September 2013.	Whole Panel.
Disabled Facilities Grants	To review the level of expenditure on Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)	Social Well-Being	Concerns raised by Members over the level of expenditure on DFGs. Panel agreed to include this within their work programme. Update to be delivered to Panel in June 2013 during consideration of the Annual Home Agency Shared Service Review report.	Whole Panel.
Grounds Maintenance - Service Standards	To review the Council's expenditure on grounds maintenance.	Environmental Well-Being	Matter raised at the O&S Joint Chairmen's Briefing as an area for the Panel to review. Panel agreed at its March 2013 meeting that they will include this within their work programme. A report is due to be	Whole Panel.

			submitted by the Head of Operations to the Panel at its June 2013 meeting.	
Update on Redesign of Mental Health Services	To receive an update on the redesign of mental health services.	Social Well-Being	Representatives of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (C&P CCG) to attend the Panel's September 2013 meeting.	Whole Panel.