

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2003 AT 10.30 A.M.**

Agenda Item No.

5

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2003

Report of the County Secretary

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1. Purpose of the report

To confirm the work programme that was agreed by Members at the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 15 October 2002.

2. Summary

This report details those items that will form the work programme for this Scrutiny Committee for 2003 but will not preclude Members raising other issues over the course of the year as they arise.

3. Conclusion

The Committee is asked to note the items included on the work programme for further scrutiny.

Background information referred to by the author whilst compiling this report:

Previous reports to Environment Scrutiny Committee
Minutes from the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 15 October 2002

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2003

21 JANUARY 2003

1. SERAS - Airports

To review the Government's SERAS consultation process and content (*this has since been postponed at the agreement of the Chairman and Vice Chairman*)

2. Grass Cutting Standards and Performance (Mike Younghusband)

To examine the degree of enhancement to highway grass cutting standards which each District contributes, and the manner in which contract responsibility for highway and amenity grass cutting is currently handled, together with the relative financial implications arising.

Comparisons will be drawn between the approach adopted by Three Rivers and other District Councils.

3. Biodiversity

To review the County Council's progress in implementing its agreed actions contained in the Hertfordshire Biodiversity Plan.

4. Budget 2003/2004

18 MARCH 2003

1. Fly Tipping and Dumping

To review work with Districts aimed at addressing the problems of litter, abandoned cars, fly tipping, disposal of unwanted fridges.

2. Street Lighting (Mike Younghusband)

1) Work with member reference group (Topic Group) in order to develop comprehensive Design Guide to assist Developers and County designers to produce lighting schemes which minimise the impact of light pollution on the environment.

2) Review the current policies underpinning the street lighting service in Hertfordshire. In particular, to consider the appropriateness of current design standards and the need to upgrade/remove current installations to provide appropriate levels of service.

3. North Herts Highways Partnership

To review the North Herts Highway Partnership in particular to examine the extent to which they have developed arrangements to provide an effective balance between strategic and local service delivery.

17 JUNE 2003

1. Town Centre Improvements

To conduct a joint review with North Herts DC to examine the long-term impact of the comprehensive enhancement of Hitchin Town Centre. The review will examine the implementation in terms of disturbance and impact on local businesses and their ongoing viability as a result of the changes. The review will also examine provision of long term maintenance and the way in which split responsibilities for highway and environmental maintenance are handled.

2. Best Value Reviews undertaken during the coming year

To receive and comment upon the Improvement Plan proposed following the BVR of Planning and Transport Policy.

3. Thameslink 2000

To review the progress of this project, including the actions of the Strategic Rail Authority in failing to bring forward the project within an acceptable timescale.

4. Environmental Management System (EMS)

To review progress on the introduction of Environmental Management System (ISO 14001).

5. Restoration of Minerals and Waste Sites

To consider examples of best practice and whether there are lessons to be learnt for inclusion in the County Council's two new Local Plans.

21 OCTOBER 2003

1. TravelWise

To provide an update on Travelwise, following previous scrutiny.

2. Scrutiny of new Highways Contract (operational performance only - effectiveness of delivery and outcomes)

To review the evolution of joint Highway working with Districts. Examples would be drawn from the variety of different arrangements with District Councils to examine the extent to which these have developed to provide an effective balance between strategic and local service delivery.

3. Performance Indicators

To receive and comment upon the Improvement Plan proposed following the BVR of Planning and Transport Policy.