

COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
UPDATE AND WORK PROGRAMME 2003/4

Agenda Item No.

12

14 OCTOBER 2003

Recommendations made to Cabinet/Executive Member/Chief Officer at the last meeting:

1. *“That the Executive Member press the Government to extend the training for civil emergencies to Emergency Planning Officers and increase the funding available and request LGA support on this issue.”*

Response

The Executive Member has written to the LGA. The LGA’s response will be forwarded to Members when received.

Update on petitions presented to the last meeting:

None

UPDATE ON PREVIOUS SCRUTINY ITEMS

	ITEM	C'TTEE DATE	EFFECTS OF SCRUTINY	STATUS* (see endnote)
1	Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) Accommodation	4/07/01	This item has been the subject of written and oral updates at each scrutiny committee. Members have been appraised of progress on the developing options for the service, including costs of new accommodation. There is an update report on this agenda.	Monitoring
2	Best Value Review of Coroners – Implementation Monitoring Sheet	30/10/01	The Scrutiny follows on from a Best Value Review of the Service. The completion of the review was on time and to budget. Since then there has been ongoing monitoring of the recommendations of the review as the service develops and grows. A report updating Members on matters arising from the Fundamental review and the Shipman report is on this agenda.	Monitoring
3	Fire & Rescue Service Equal Opportunities Recruitment Targets	30/10/01	Superseded by report on 29 October 2002. A review of recruitment standards and targets is anticipated as part of modernisation agenda. Reported to this meeting.	Ongoing investigation
4	Civil Funerals	12/03/02	The scrutiny of this service is still ongoing. At the meeting on 11 March 2003 the Committee requested a further report in 12 months time.	Monitoring
5	Fire & Rescue Service Initiatives with Young People	12/03/02	The Committee agreed to establish a short life topic group to deal with this subject. Due to the industrial action the commencement of this work was postponed. Membership of this group has been agreed as Peter Ruffles, Peter Channell, Moyra O'Neill, John Usher, Derek Hills (CSF Member), Lorna Kercher, Sue Jones, Sherma Batson, Stephen Giles-Medhurst (sub Jane Hobday). The first meeting will be held shortly.	Ongoing investigation

			The Topic Group has been further delayed by the requirement to respond to a number of national initiatives. It has been recommended that it is appropriate for this work to be included in the Integrated Risk Management Plan which the authority is required to produce by 31 October 2003.	
6	Installation of Sprinklers in New Developments	12/03/02	<p>The Committee agreed to establish a short life topic group to deal with this subject.</p> <p>The Topic Group has met on two occasions and at its last meeting agreed that its work was now complete and requested the Chief Fire Officer to produce a report back to the committee at its January meeting.</p>	Ongoing investigation
7	Public Access to Information Technology (ICT) in Libraries	11/06/02	<p>The committee decided that a future meeting should receive a progress report, on ICT issues, especially Internet access and connection speeds. A future meeting would also scrutinise disabled access to libraries with particular reference to the blind and partially sighted.</p> <p>A report on ICT issues went to the meeting in June 2003 and a report scrutinising disabled access is on the agenda for this meeting. The Committee have requested that a further report on ICT issues comes to a future meeting.</p>	Monitoring Awaiting action
8	Partnership Ceremonies	29/10/02	The scrutiny of this proposed service is ongoing. It is a controversial service. Members have requested further information be obtained about the service from authorities currently offering it before a report comes back to the committee.	Awaiting action
9	Fire & Rescue Service Update on Performance Targets for the Recruitment and Retention of Women	29/10/02	<p>The Committee has asked for an update to the October 2003 meeting. A costed proposal for the Women's Access Course has been requested from North Herts College and approaches have been made to other colleges in Hertfordshire.</p> <p>A report is on the agenda for this meeting.</p>	Monitoring

	and People from Ethnic Minority Backgrounds and a Profile on the Non-Uniformed Workforce			
10	Fireworks	14/01/03	At the meeting in January 2003 a topic group was established that has now met on two occasions. Members of this topic group are Bryan Hammond, Peter Ruffles, John Usher, Michael Colne and Reg Smith. Over 150 written responses have been received from members of the public following press releases across the county. A visit was arranged to a local supplier – Fantastic Fireworks and at their last meeting on 16 May 2003 the group heard from a cross section of people who came in person to offer their views. General themes that have emerged clearly from the responses received are that fireworks are a nuisance, creating noise pollution and distress and that a curfew and legislation should be introduced to curb their use. The group met again on 4 July 2003 and the final report is on the agenda for this meeting	Ongoing investigation
11	Report of the Responding to Emergencies Topic Group	11/03/03	The Committee asked that a report be submitted in a year's time outlining the progress of recruiting flood wardens and the readiness of Parish Councils to respond to flooding emergencies.	Monitoring
12	Police Community Support Officers	10/06/03	The Committee felt that more information was needed about this scheme and requested a seminar be organised for members of the committee and the Crime Reduction Panel to introduce the scheme fully at a time that would allow sufficient detail to be given. <i>This seminar took place on 6th October 2003.</i> The Committee further asked for a report to the next meeting in October 2003 that would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore the data and criteria that would be used to evaluate the 	Work outside scrutiny Monitoring

			<p>scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree the information that would be presented to the Committee to enable them to take a view on success <p>Reported to this meeting.</p>	
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* Status definitions:

- **Ongoing Investigation** – The scrutiny committee has commissioned work, which could be from a topic group, officers, consultants or other parties which is not yet complete but will report to the main committee in the future.
- **Work outside scrutiny** – an item which has been raised by the scrutiny committee where work is being taken forward through another mechanism in response to the item being raised by scrutiny– a panel, external body or officer mechanism for example.
- **Monitoring** – Items which the scrutiny committee has scrutinised in the past where it has asked for occasional or regular updates. This update could be a planned report, in which case the dates should be given, or monitoring through the update report. Items where there is work outside scrutiny can also be monitoring items.
- **Awaiting Action** – Items the committee wishes to scrutinise or review where the timing is unclear due to awaiting events or the outcome of other investigations. E.g. government guidance

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

	ITEM	C'TTE DATE	SCRUTINY FOCUS
1	Community Services Resource Budget	13/01/04	To receive details of the proposed resource budget for Community Services.
2	Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies (HALS) Accommodation	13/01/04	This report will update Members on the progress of the accommodation situation.
3	Fire & Rescue Service - Integrated Risk Management Plan	13/01/04	This report will update Members on the Integrated Risk Management Plan.
1	Responding to Emergencies	16/03/04	This report will update Members on the progress of recruiting flood wardens and the readiness of Parish Councils to respond to flooding emergencies.
2	Civil Funerals	16/03/04	As requested by the Committee at the meeting in March 2003 this report will provide an update on the progress of the Civil Funerals service.
3	Coroners Service	16/03/04	As requested by the Committee at the meeting in March 2003 this report will update Members on the progress of the new arrangements for the Coroners Service.
4	Update on Public Access to Information Communication Technology (ICT) in Libraries	16/03/04	As requested by the Committee at the meeting in June 2003 this report will update Members on the development of Community Information's ICT strategy for libraries
1	Library Best Value Review	15/06/04	As requested by the Committee at the meeting in June 2003 this report will update Members on the ongoing work of the Library Service following the Best Value Review.

Note: Each meeting will also have a Budget Monitor, Traffic Light Monitor, and Scrutiny Update & Work Programme reports