

COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

UPDATE AND WORK PROGRAMME 2004/5

Agenda Item No.

11

2 NOVEMBER 2004

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO CABINET/EXECUTIVE MEMBER/CHIEF OFFICER AT THE LAST MEETING:

1. TOURISM ACTIVITY IN HERTFORDSHIRE – Minute 1.4(c)

The Committee recommended that the Director of Community Information and the County Cultural Officer prepare a business case for the Executive Member to take to Cabinet examining whether there is sufficient evidence to allow an adjustment in the balance of time between culture and tourism or whether the County Council could invest more resources in this activity.

Response:

“A paper will be circulated to all Members of the Committee, and the possibility of increasing resources has been part of next years budget process. Members will be aware that the conclusion of that process has some way to go.”

2. UPDATE ON THE LIBRARY SERVICE BEST VALUE REVIEW – Minute 2.2(d)

The Committee requested that the Director of Community Information consider using any savings from vacancies during 2004/2005 to bring forward some of the initiatives that are currently not being implemented until savings from the single staffing of libraries has been realised.

Response:

“Following the decision of the Resources Scrutiny Committee earlier this year, an update on the Best Value Implementation Plan is contained elsewhere on this agenda. Many points from that plan have been achieved or under way.”

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.	Police Community Support Officers	10/06/03	The Committee received an update report at the March 2004 meeting, a further report in June 2004 which contained details of performance indicators and requested the outcomes of the MORI survey be reported to this meeting. Unfortunately this information was not available at time of printing, however a verbal update will be given if this information has become available.	Monitoring
2.	Effectiveness of the Council's Input into Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships	22/10/03	<p>The Committee agreed to establish a five Member Topic Group (3:2) to undertake scrutiny of the effectiveness of the Crime and Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships(CDRPs) in Hertfordshire and seek clarification of the various group names used in the local partnership structure.</p> <p>The most recent meeting was held on 16 September 2004 where further discussion was held on structures, funding arrangements for the CDRPs and related consultation arrangements. A further meeting is planned for November and thereafter the group will be confident to present its findings & recommendations.</p>	Investigation
3.	ENJOY! Cultural strategy	22/10/03	The Committee has requested an annual report on the achievements of the strategy and a progress report is on the agenda for this meeting.	Monitoring
4.	Integrated Risk Management Plan Topic Group	13/01/04	<p>The Committee agreed to establish a five Member Topic Group (3:2) to undertake issues involved in and arising from the Integrated Risk Management Plan.</p> <p>Following a recommendation by this Committee, the third meeting of this Group was held on 1 July 2004 and it was agreed to widen the remit to include:</p>	Investigation

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Review of Phase 2 of the IRMP consultation ▪ Encouragement of young people and the community to engage in fire safety initiatives ▪ Local performance indicators <p>Two members from the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee were invited to the fourth meeting of the group on 3 September 2004 to contribute to debate on the engagement of young people and the community in fire safety initiatives.</p> <p>An update report is on the agenda for this meeting.</p>	
5.	Single Staffing in Libraries	22/03/04	<p>After consideration of a report on the single staffing of libraries, which was due for implementation in named libraries on 1 April, the Committee agreed to scrutinise this matter after a reasonable period of implementation. To enable effective scrutiny, it was agreed the report should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comparison with the experiences of Hertfordshire's comparative authorities in their move to single staffing; • How, and how effectively, health and safety issues have been addressed; • Any changes in the usage, effectiveness or efficiency of libraries which have moved to single staffing; • Any difficulties identified with individual libraries related to local circumstances, and; • The views of library users and staff. 	Awaiting Action
6.	Schools Library Service	22/03/04	<p>At their meeting in June 2004 the Committee agreed that a scoping report would come to this meeting on the Schools Library Service/Homework Clubs to ascertain if further scrutiny was required.</p>	Investigation

			The Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 13 October 2004 considered a similar report and it was agreed there was no need for scrutiny of this issue at present. However the Director of Community Information was asked to inform Members if the pattern of buyback of the library service by schools began to deteriorate in the future.	
7.	Engaging Friends of the Library Service	22/03/04	At their meeting in June 2004 the Committee agreed that this item would be referred to the Libraries Panel for their consideration and reported back to this meeting.	Investigation
8.	Tourism Activity in Hertfordshire	15/06/04	<p>After consideration of a report on tourism activity in Hertfordshire, the Committee recommended that the Director of Community Information and the County Cultural Officer prepare a business case for the Executive Member to take to Cabinet examining whether there is sufficient evidence to allow an adjustment in the balance of time between culture and tourism or whether the County Council could invest more resources in this activity.</p> <p>The Committee further requested that the business case be circulated for consideration at this meeting.</p>	Investigation
9.	Update on the Library Service Best Value Review	15/06/04	<p>At their meeting in June 2004 the Committee received a report that outlined the progress made on each of the Best Value Review Recommendations approved by Cabinet in June 2004.</p> <p>Members requested that they be kept informed when any of the initiatives identified in the Best Value Review had been implemented.</p>	Work Outside Scrutiny
10.	Annual Report on Complaints/ Compliments	15/06/04	At their meeting in June 2004 the Committee received a report that outlined the type and number of complaints made, and compliments received, for the services that report to this Committee for the period January – December 2003 inclusive.	Monitoring

			The Committee requested that this report be the subject of an annual agenda item.	
11.	Community Safety in Hertfordshire	15/06/04	At their meeting in June 2004 the Committee agreed that a scoping report would come to this meeting to ascertain if further scrutiny of this issue is required.	Investigation

* Status definitions:

- **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 Proposed Resource Budget 2005/6 – 2008/9	Jan 2005	To consider the Community Services proposed resource budget 2005/06 – 2008/09.
2.	Civil Contingencies	Jan 2005	To receive a report that considers the likely impact of the Civil Contingency Bill on Hertfordshire County Council and its partner organisations within HESMIC.
3.	Annual Report on Complaints/Compliments	Jun 2005	To receive a report detailing the type and number of complaints made, and compliments received, for the services that report to this Committee for the period January – December 2004 inclusive.
4.	Single Staffing in Libraries	?	To scrutinise the effectiveness of the move to single staffing in named libraries, as requested by the Committee in March 2004.
5.	Schools Library Service	?	At their meeting in June 2004 the Committee agreed that a scoping report would come to this meeting on the Schools Library Service/Homework Clubs to ascertain if further scrutiny was required.
6.	Community Safety in Hertfordshire	?	At their meeting in June 2004 the Committee agreed that a scoping report would come to this meeting.

Possible additional items:

A	Animal Health and Welfare	?	The Council's animal health responsibilities
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Note: Each meeting will also have a Budget Monitor, Traffic Light Monitor (except January), and Scrutiny Update & Work Programme reports