

Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme 2013-14

	TOPIC	LEAD OFFICER	TIMESCALE	MEMBERSHIP	REPORTS TO
1.	Overview and Scrutiny Charter	Mark Horan, Policy and Partnerships Officer	Commenced Summer 2013	Davies Gurney Poole Rogers Webb	Services and Resources
2.	Review of Changes to the Welfare System	Andrew Palmer, Head of Housing and Planning Services	Commenced Autumn 2013	Batsford Corello Davies Howard Sinden Webb	Resources
3.	Bathing Water Quality	Virginia Gilbert, Head of Amenities, Resorts and Leisure	Commenced Summer 2013	Cooke Howard Poole Rogers Scott Sinden	Services

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME IDEAS

The following ideas/suggestions have come from a variety of areas within the organisation. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees may add to or amend these as they see appropriate throughout the year. However, the final decision on scrutiny reviews rests with the relevant committee.

Suggestion	Reason	Proposer	Source	Reporting Committee
Review of Highway Maintenance Standards	The Highway Maintenance elements of the Highways Agency Agreement between HBC and ESCC transferred back to ESCC in 2010 /11 and the Highway Inspectors and other staff previously employed by HBC transferred to ESCC. ESCC subsequently reorganised their highway maintenance arrangements replacing Highway Inspectors with a significantly reduced number of Highway Stewards and placing greater reliance on the contractor, May Gurney, to inspect and repair potholes and other highway defects. There has been increasing concern expressed by the public, HBC officers and local Members regarding the noticeable increase in numbers of potholes in the town, the delays in repairing these and the poor standard of repair carried out when they are.	Richard Homewood	E mail May 2012	Services

	<p>This is an issue which will become a focus for complaint and whilst we can direct people to ESCC when they complain it inevitably HBC that are blamed for failing to keep the roads and footways maintained. Members may therefore consider this a relevant subject for a scrutiny review. The review could look at the current arrangements and standards compared with those delivered under the previous arrangements and ask ESCC to outline the thinking behind the new arrangements and how effective they have been against the targets.</p>			
<p>Review of the Council's Procurement Process</p>	<p>Councillor Davies submitted that a review could measure "to what extent is HBC procurement a) promoting local enterprise and employment b) guaranteeing apprenticeships c) providing opportunities for economically vulnerable groups d) paying the living wage? Are there examples of good practice from within and outside HBC that can be used to inform future policy?"</p>	<p>Cllr Davies</p>	<p>E mail June 2012</p>	<p>Resources</p>
<p>Review of the Council's Privatised Contracts</p>	<p>Councillor Davies submitted "the review should investigate, where services are currently outsourced by HBC, examples of other councils who have successfully</p>	<p>Cllr Davies</p>	<p>E mail June 2012</p>	<p>Resources</p>

	<p>returned these to being in-sourced. Such a review should extend to consider future practice and the benefits of returning public services in-house with regard to: improved efficiency and reduced costs; the ability to integrate range of services; enhanced flexibility; minimised risk; regaining control; reducing cost and time spent managing contracts; boosting local engagement and accountability; greater staff motivation and improved service quality; maintaining expertise and capacity. Exploring how a rigorous process can be implemented whereby in-house options are fully factored in when recommendations are made to Councillors”</p>			
<p>To Consider the Effectiveness of the Landlord Licensing Scheme</p>	<p>Councillor Poole proposed a review “to evaluate the extent to which it* (*the Landlord Licensing Scheme) has established a Hastings minimum standard for rented private accommodation and has provided protection for responsible landlords within the private rented market for accommodation. Possibly to also cover how the proposed Hastings Borough Council letting agency will be complementary to and support the licensing scheme and responsible landlords who operate within the Borough”.</p>	<p>Councillor Poole, by e-mail</p>	<p>June 2013</p>	<p>Services</p>

Review of Multi-Agency Tasking Teams and Local Strategic Partnerships	Councillor Davies submitted a review to "assess the present impact of Multi-Agency Tasking Teams working in conjunction with Local Strategic Partnerships in ensuring effective join-up between future plans and investment that is community led and the planning and delivery of services and community strategy objectives. Objectives outlined in 2009 by a cross party working group which included supporting the council's priorities for improving conditions for those in the worst 10% of IMD i.e. narrowing the gap. The review should therefore seek to evaluate whether these objectives are being effectively delivered through the evolving structures of MATT working with the existing framework of LSP".	Councillor Davies, by email	June 2013	Resources
Grounds Maintenance	Councillor Scott expressed some concerns regarding the infrequency of grass cutting in some areas. A review could evaluate the services provided under contract, possibly drawing on the findings of an earlier Scrutiny Review of Grounds Maintenance Specification. The review could also look at the grounds maintenance works carried out by other organisations, including East Sussex County Council.	Councillor Scott	June 2013	Services
Highways Department	At their meeting in July, Scrutiny Steering	Scrutiny Steering Group	July 2013	Services

at East Sussex County Council	Group suggested a review of the Highways maintenance structure at ESCC, to better understand how Highways maintenance is delivered and to ensure that any Highways enquiries are referred to the most appropriate contact.			
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