

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

<u>SCRUTINY REVIEWS</u>					
	TOPIC	LEAD OFFICER	TIMESCALE	MEMBERSHIP	REPORTS TO
1.	Hastings Castle	Kevin Boorman, Head of Marketing and Communications	Reported to Quarter 3 Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Services	Rogers Sinden Webb Wilson	Services
2.	Is Hastings making the most of being a University Town?	Monica Adams-Acton, Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy	Reports to Quarter 4 Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Services	Howard Rogers Sinden Turner Waite Webb	Services
3.	Review of Partnership Working	Mark Horan, Policy and Partnerships Officer	Reported to Quarter 3 Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Resources	Cartwright Davies Howard Pragnell Turner Webb Wilson	Resources

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
White Rock Theatre	Councillor Westley submitted, "the White Rock Theatre costs the Council an extortionate amount of money and something which really does need, in my opinion, further investigation."	Cllr Westley	Annual O&S Joint Committee 2011	Services
Review of Highway Maintenance Standards	<p>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.</p> <p>This is an issue which will become a focus for complaint and whilst we can direct people to ESCC when they complain it</p>	Richard Homewood	E mail May 2012	Services

	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.			
Review ESCC Public Realm Policy	Councillors scrutinise the new Public Realm policy that ESCC is drafting for adoption around September. This would encompass paving, street lighting and other County highways assets and their treatment of conservation areas where non-standard, usually 'heritage', paving and lighting occur. ESCC plan to consult on the policy in September.	Virginia Gilbert	E mail May 2012	Services
Review of the Council's Procurement Process	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?"	Cllr Davies	E mail June 2012	Resources
Review of the Council's Privatised Contracts	Councillor Davies submitted "the review should investigate, where services are currently outsourced by HBC, examples of other councils who have successfully returned these to being in-sourced. Such a review should extend to consider future	Cllr Davies	E mail June 2012	Resources

	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”			
Review of Changes to the Welfare System	Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee unanimously supported a Review of Changes to the Welfare System at their meeting on 21 st February 2013. Members noted that “...if the review is taken up as part of the 2013/14 Work Programme, it could examine the impact of the welfare changes on residents, the Council and the local economy. The review could also draw on the findings of a report by Nick Hopkins on the welfare changes, which the Council had commissioned as part of its anti poverty strategy, and an earlier Scrutiny Review of the Payment of Housing Benefits”.	Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Resources	February 2013	Resources
Review of Contact Centre Arrangements	Councillors Cartwright and Webb noted that the Contact Centre had a significant effect on service delivery across the Council. Members of the Scrutiny Steering Group would be asked to consider this topic in more detail at their meeting in May.	Councillors Cartwright and Webb	March 2013	Resources
Is Hastings making the most of being a	The draft final report of the Scrutiny Review: Is Hastings making the most of	Scrutiny Review: Is Hastings making the most	June 2013	Services

University Town?	<p>being a University Town? (subject to approval by Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Services and Cabinet) included the following recommendation;</p> <p>“Undertake a further limited Scrutiny exercise to engage with business support organisations and local businesses, to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) explore measures to increase the availability of work placements for university students and graduates b) more fully understand the impact of the university on business prosperity and growth, and c) identify measures to increase awareness of the business benefits of links with the university” 	of being a University Town?		
Working Group for an Overview & Scrutiny Charter	The Scrutiny Steering Group suggested forming a Working Group to formulate an Overview and Scrutiny Charter. The Charter will set out the objectives and remit of Overview and Scrutiny, together with examples of associated methodology and best practice.	Scrutiny Steering Group	May 2013	Services & Resources
Bathing Water Quality	CMG strongly advise that a scrutiny review consider the impact of the forthcoming changes in bathing water quality monitoring on the town as a consequence of the 2015 EU Bathing water regulations. It is anticipated that Hastings will not meet the new standard and that a Scrutiny Review may want to consider the associated repercussions.	Corporate Management Group	May 2013	Services

COMMITMENTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

The following commitments have arisen from the 2012/13 Work Programme, and will be brought forward as part of the 2013/14 Programme;

Action	Reason	Proposer	Source	Reporting Committee
Follow Up Meeting of the Scrutiny Review of Hastings Castle Future Management Options	The review team agreed to reconvene in October 2013 to review the 'Hastings Adventure Ticket', which had included Hastings Castle and the West Hill Lift, as well as visitor numbers to the Castle over the summer season.	Scrutiny Review of Hastings Castle Future Management Options	February 2013	Services
Meeting with Stagecoach, following the Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working	Councillors Webb and Pragnell agreed to meet with Jeremy Cooper of Stagecoach to discuss a number of issues which had been raised at an evidence gathering meeting as part of this review.	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working	February 2013	Resources