

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Scrutiny</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>  <b>10</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>April 3 2012</b>	
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Scrutiny Committee 2011/12 Review and 2012/13 Plan</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Richard Auty</b>	Item for decision

### Summary

1. This report provides an overview of what the Scrutiny Committee has looked at during 2011/12 and the way forward for 2012/13.

### Recommendations

2. The Scrutiny Committee proposes and agrees six scrutiny reviews, with two reserves, for 2012/13.

### Financial Implications

3. None. There are no costs associated with the recommendations

### Background Papers

4. Minutes from Scrutiny Committee meetings 2011/12

### Impact

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

## Situation

5. During 2011/12, the Scrutiny Committee has received reports and presentations from a number of outside bodies including the East of England Ambulance Service, Essex Police, Saffron Walden Town Council and West Essex PCT. The subject areas covered were:
  - a. GP accessibility in growth areas
  - b. Bridge End Garden
  - c. Ambulance cover and emergency response times in rural areas
  - d. Forest Hall Park S106 update
  - e. GP provision and the future of the PCT
  - f. Police station closures
6. Scrutinising of the East of England Ambulance Service has helped to encourage joint working to publicise the benefit of knowing simple life saving skills. Particularly pertinent due to the rural nature of the district.
7. The committee has also scrutinised a number of internal services and service change proposals. These include
  - a. Day Centres (see 8 below)
  - b. Waste Strategy
  - c. Capital Financing
  - d. Payroll Service
  - e. Car Parking charges
  - f. 2012/13 General Fund Budget
  - g. 2012/13 HRA Budget
  - h. 2012/13 Capital Budget
  - i. Waste vehicles, workshop and depot
8. The previous Scrutiny Committee started a review into day centres within the district. The current committee has continued with the review and recognised that there was a need of shared support for day centre management committees. As a result of the review, training courses were developed and provided by officers and the management committees now feel more supported. A further report aimed at assisting the day centres is on this agenda prior to going to Cabinet on 5 April. It is intended that this will be the final report the Scrutiny Committee receives on the subject of day centres.

9. The municipal waste management strategy was scrutinised. The committee raised concerns regarding the withdrawal of the village green skip service in rural areas. The committee also asked various questions surrounding efficiencies which were taken onboard by the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services.
10. Pre-scrutiny of car parking charges saw alterations to the proposals prior to Cabinet's decision.
11. The allocation of the 2011/12 New Home Bonus money was the first ever Cabinet call-in. Through arranging and carrying out the special meeting, both officers and members learnt a considerable amount about the call-in process. At the end of the meeting, Members agreed that the decision made by Cabinet was sound.
12. To continue with the positive work of the Scrutiny Committee it is proposed for the coming year to set six scrutiny reviews and agree a forward work programme.
13. The following areas have been proposed as potentially suitable for review:
  - a. Highways and the Ranger service
  - b. Housing register
  - c. Rural deprivation
  - d. Drugs and young people
  - e. Review of the 2011/12 New Homes Bonus awards
  - f. Fire service
  - g. Airport fly parking
  - h. Homelessness (scoping document is included as a separate agenda item)
  - i. Whole Place Budgeting
14. Members are asked to propose any additional areas that they would wish to be brought to the Committee. Once all issues have been considered, members must agree their top six (plus two reserves) and to schedule them in order of priority for the forthcoming year.
15. Forward planning will enable any necessary investigation to be carried out in advance of the meeting. This will also enable key speakers to be arranged with plenty of notice.
16. Once the work plan has been agreed, a scoping document for each review will be produced and presented at the scrutiny meeting in advance of the full

report. The document outlines the areas to be covered and will enable Members to confirm it meets their expectations.

17. In addition to the scrutiny reviews there will also be other areas of planned work coming to the Committee. These are shown in Appendix One

## Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
It is not possible to schedule one or more of the chosen areas into the 2012/13 plan	1 – advanced warning should enable the area to be included	1 – The area would be deferred to 2013/14 and replaced with one of the reserve areas	Two reserve areas for review will be identified

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.

Appendix One

Date	8 May 2012	21 May 2012	12 June 2012	4 September 2012	16 October 2012	4 December 2012	7 February 2013	18 April 2013
Other areas of planned work	LDF proposed distribution strategy	LDF draft consultation document	Highways – Strategic Partnership (Paul Bird)	PCT – Establishment and provision of essential services  (Dr S Humphries, Adrian Marr, Alice Vye)	Bridge End Garden annual update report	Budget process	Budget	Police Station Closures – 1 year on (T/ACC Julia Wortley and Chief Superintendent Carl O'Malley)