

		<b>AGENDA ITEM 7</b>
		<b>EDE/04/11</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Economic Development and Environment Policy &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>24 February 2011</b>	
<b>POST OFFICE INITIATIVE</b> (Minute 66/ December 2010)		
<b>Enquiries to:</b>	<b>Christine Sharland, Governance Officer</b> 01245 430450 <b>christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk</b>	

In December 2010 (Minute 66) the Committee agreed the scoping document attached at Appendix A to take forward a scrutiny review on the Council's Post Office initiative. The objective is 'To consider the Council's Post Office Initiative in terms of its original objectives, and the lessons that may be learned in the way that similar projects may be taken forward in the future.'

In line with the Committee's wishes Councillor Peter Martin, the Leader of the Council, has been invited to this meeting to advise upon the Post Office Initiative, and to answer Members' questions.

A briefing paper prepared on behalf of the Leader by Jane Gardner, Area Co-Ordinator for East Essex Partnership Delivery, and Graham Simmons, Community Enterprise Manager, which will be circulated under separate cover and published when received. The paper addresses the issues that are identified in the scoping document.

**Action required by the Committee:**

**To consider the information submitted by the Leader of the Council.**

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## Policy and Scrutiny and Scoping Document

<b>Committee</b>	Economic Development and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Post Office Initiative</b>	Ref: EDE-SCR-24
<b>Objective</b>	To consider the Council's Post Office Initiative in terms of its original objectives, and the lessons that may be learned in the way that similar projects may be taken forward in the future.	
<b>Reasons for undertaking review</b>	At the request of Councillor Kendall this review on the Council's Post Office Initiative was added to the Committee's Forward Look at its meeting in November 2010 (Minute 61), so that Members may improve their understanding of the project , and how it is evolving in practice.	
<b>Method</b>	Full Committee	
<b>Membership</b>	Full Committee	
<b>Issues to be addressed</b>	<p>What is the Council's Post Office Initiative, and what were its original objectives?</p> <p>How has it been implemented in practice?</p> <p>What are the financial implications of the initiative? How much has it cost to set up, and what are the ongoing costs? Has the initiative yielded value for money?</p> <p>What has been learned about the advantages and disadvantages of the way that the initiative has been set up?</p> <p>What proposals are there in terms of the future of the scheme? How might it be developed?</p>	
<b>Sources of Evidence and witnesses</b>	<p>Councillor Peter Martin, Leader of the Council</p> <p>Steve Lee-Foster, Senior Regeneration Programme Officer</p>	

<b>Work Programme</b>	The Leader of the Council has been invited to the Committee's meeting on 24 February 2011 to give a progress report.		
<b>Indicators of Success</b>			
<b>Meeting the CfPS Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Critical Friend Challenge to Executive</i></li> <li>• <i>Reflect Public voice and concerns</i></li> <li>• <i>Own the scrutiny process</i></li> <li>• <i>Impact on service delivery</i></li> </ul>	<p>The Post Office initiative has attracted a lot of publicity to the Council, and the Committee will provide critical friend challenge to the Executive on the way that it moves forward.</p> <p>The Committee will reflect the public voice and concerns in performing its scrutiny role.</p>		
<b>Diversity and Equality</b> <i>Diversity and Equality issues are to be considered and addressed.</i>	If any of the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies are identified during the course of the review, they will be taken into account as appropriate.		
<b>Date agreed by Committee</b>			
<b>Future Action</b>			
<b>Governance Officer</b>	Christine Sharland	<b>Committee Officer</b>	Ian Myers
<b>Service Lead Officer(s)</b>	Jane Gardner, Area Co-Ordinator for East Essex Partnership Delivery  Graham Simmons, Community Enterprise Manager		