

		AGENDA ITEM 8
		ES/31/10
Committee:	Executive Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	26 October 2010	
<u>FORWARD LOOK</u>		
Enquiries to:	Hannah Cleary, Governance Officer 01245 430526 hannah.cleary@essex.gov.uk	

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to set out the Committee's latest work programme for its consideration.

This document now includes the topics from the Central Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee that will be taken forward.

**Executive Scrutiny Committee:
Review Schedule 2009/2010 (provisional)**

(SD refers to the scoping document reference for the item)

Meeting	Topic	Approach	Current status
2010			
Ongoing	Transformation Programme (ES-SCR-003)	Full Committee to undertake scrutiny review.	<p>Councillor Candy and Nick Bell attended the 23 February meeting to discuss the scope and terms of reference for the future scrutiny review.</p> <p>The scoping document for the review was agreed by the Committee at their 23 March meeting.</p> <p>An information pack by Alex Corbett, Head of Transformation Intelligence was presented at the 27 April meeting and Councillor Finch, Cabinet Member for Finance and the Transformation Programme and Keir Lynch, Director of People and Transformation were in attendance.</p> <p>At the 29 June meeting, Graham Tombs, Executive Director of Commercial Services and Ricky Fuller, Assistant Director, Corporate, Commercial and Property Group attended and gave a presentation on the development of shared services.</p> <p>Andy Fairchild, Director of Customer Services also attended the 29 June meeting and gave a presentation about future customer interface arrangements and procurement of the new website.</p> <p>The Committee considered report ES/20/10 – a scoping document for a Task and Finish Group to consider the Governance, Communications and Contractual Partner elements of the Transformation Programme.</p> <p>Councillors Butland, Young and</p>

			<p>Pummell volunteered to become Members of the Group.</p> <p>Ricky Fuller, Assistant Director, Corporate, Commercial and Property Group attended the 7 September meeting and provided the Committee with the 'appetite survey' results and an update on the progress of the implementation of shared services. It was agreed that detailed savings figures and further progress would be brought to a future meeting.</p> <p>At the 26 October meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Fairchild, Director of Customer Services will be in attendance to provide an update on the new website development. • Progress update on the savings made to date by Keir Lynch, Director of People and Transformation <p>At the 30 November meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Louis, Cabinet Member for Major Projects and Commercial Services will be in attendance to provide an update on the new property strategy. <p>At the 25 January 2011 meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is envisaged that there will be a presentation on the new procurement strategies and initiatives that will deliver approximately half of the £300 million savings at this meeting. Full details will be available at the 30 November meeting.
30	Capita Resourcing		The final report was discussed with the Leader and Cabinet Member for

November			Finance and Change Management in June 2010. The Members of the Task and Finish Group, convened from the now disbanded Central Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee, have been invited to attend the 30 November meeting, where the Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme will be providing updates on the recommendations made to improve the Capita Resourcing service. The Committee will agree on the next steps for the monitoring of the review and agree if further consideration of the issues is required in the future.
30 November	Budget Setting for 2011/12 and the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review on Essex County Council		At the 7 September meeting, Councillor Finch, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme gave a presentation to the Committee, providing an overview of the budget setting for 2011/12. It was agreed that the Cabinet Member would return to the 30 November meeting to provide detailed budget information for 2011/12. In August 2010, the Council asked Essex residents to complete a financial survey detailing their spending priorities. The Cabinet Member is also hoping to share the results of these surveys with Committee at the 30 November meeting.
30 November	Reimbursement of percentage of Council Tax		At the 7 September meeting, Councillor Finch, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme attended and gave a presentation and provided an overview of the budget setting for 2011/12. Councillor Finch explained that if Local Authorities raise Council Tax by less than 2.5% in 2011/12 and possibly in 2012/13, Central Government has offered to reimburse the difference. Councillor Finch asked the Committee if it would assist with the analysis and consequences of accepting or rejecting

			this reimbursement. The Committee will undertake a review of the reimbursement at the 30 November meeting.
30 November	Risk Management and contracting arrangements referencing a Basildon school as a case study		At the 27 July meeting the Committee considered the 2010/11 First Quarter Outturn Report and asked for further information regarding an over-spend. Peter Geall, Head of Infrastructure Strategy, attended the 7 September meeting and provided a briefing paper. The Committee made a number of recommendations that will be presented in a scrutiny report at the 30 November meeting.
25 January 2011	Absence Management (ES-SCR-001)	Full Committee to undertake scrutiny review.	The Community Wellbeing and Older Persons Policy and Scrutiny Committee are undertaking a review into Absence Management for the relevant Directorate. The Executive Scrutiny Committee agreed to await the outcome of this scrutiny before continuing with their review. The final report of the scrutiny review was considered and agreed at the Community Wellbeing and Older Persons Policy and Scrutiny Committee on 11 November. A copy of this report will be presented at the 25 January 2011 meeting of the Executive Scrutiny Committee, along with absence figures for the entire Council to enable Members to agree if they wish to conduct any further work into this topic.
Proposed topics for future Scrutiny Review			
	Partnerships (ES-SCR-002)	Full Committee to undertake scrutiny	The draft scoping document was agreed at the 27 October 2009 meeting. It is envisaged that some of this work will be picked up as part of the scrutiny review into the Transformation

		review.	<p>Programme. The scoping document will be updated to include the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Enterprise Partnerships • Leaders Board • Local Strategic Partnerships • Essex Management Board
	<p>Customer Satisfaction, Complaints and Public Relations</p> <p>This topic, previously named Public Satisfaction Surveys, has been amalgamated with Complaints and Public Relations.</p>		<p>The Central Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee heard from Duncan Wood, Head of Public Engagement at their 21 December meeting. Richard Puleston, Assistant Chief Executive, Community, Planning and Regeneration, attended the 15 February meeting to provide the Committee with further information about the strategies the Council has in place to address the percentage of satisfied residents.</p> <p>The Executive Scrutiny Committee will continue the work already carried out into this topic and will focus on the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the satisfaction of customers with the services the Council provides is measured • The data gathering tools used by the Council and its partners • How the Council engages hard to reach groups • Internal/External complaints • Timescales and processes for dealing with complaints • Complaints considered by the s151 officer • Internal/External

			communications
	Member support, development and effectiveness		<p>The Executive Scrutiny Committee will take this topic forward in the future, with the main areas of focus as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member development Charter • Member effectiveness • Support for Members • Information and communication for and with Members
	<p>Coroners Service and Essex Legal Services</p> <p>These topics have been amalgamated.</p>		<p>The Central Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee received a presentation from Alex Hallam at the 19 October 2009 meeting about the Coroners Service.</p> <p>The Executive Scrutiny Committee will take this topic forward in the future.</p>
	Performance Management		<p>The Executive Scrutiny Committee takes an overview of the performance scorecard and referrals to other Policy and Scrutiny Committees. This future review will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the current arrangements drive performance improvement • How do other bodies consider their performance, such as other Local Authorities, NHS, public sector partners (SERCO) and private sector companies (Tesco) • The contents of performance reports that are considered by the Committee, and their continuing relevance • How the EssexWorks pledges are measured

	Human Resources		<p>The Central Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee considered the Essex People Strategy at the September 2009 meeting.</p> <p>The Executive Scrutiny Committee will take this topic forward in the future, along with consideration of the staff survey results and collection methods.</p>
--	-----------------	--	--

Standing Items

	Policy and Scrutiny Committee Scorecard Referrals	To review the periodic referrals from the EssexWorks Corporate Plan and LAA Scorecards.	Referrals are considered by the Committee at the next appropriate meeting.
	Quarterly Budget Reports	The Committee will receive quarterly financial reviews.	

Central Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee completed Scrutiny Reviews

January-February 2010	Essex Strategy Refresh (CS-SCR-003)	The Committee undertook a scrutiny review into the process for refreshing the Essex Strategy at their meeting on 25 January 2010.	The final report was agreed by the Committee at its February 2010 meeting.
15 March	Essex Registration Service (CS-SCR-001)	The Full Committee undertook a scrutiny review into this topic in late 2009.	The final report was agreed by the Committee at its March 2010 meeting.

19 April	Capital Receipts- Asset Management (CS-SCR-006)	The Committee heard from Roger Moore, Head of Estates, Valuation and Property Strategy at the 21 December meeting. Roger returned to give a presentation to the Committee on 15 February to provide the information requested by Members around the Council's property portfolio.	Report of the Committee's findings to be considered at the 19 April meeting. The final scrutiny review report was considered and agreed by the Executive Scrutiny Committee on 29 June 2010 (minute 31), with Councillor Louis, Cabinet Member for Major Projects and Commercial Services in attendance. A subsequent question was asked by the Committee and an answer presented at the 7 September meeting as item 7, report ES/16/10. Councillor Louis advised the Committee that a new property strategy was currently under development. Details of this strategy are due to be shared with the Committee at the 30 November meeting.
December 2009 – June 2010	Capita Resourcing (CS-SCR-002)	The interim report by the Task and Finish Group established to scrutinise this topic was considered by the Committee at their December	The final report will now be considered by the Executive Scrutiny Committee at the 30 November

		<p>2009 meeting.</p> <p>An evidence session took place on 15 January to hear from recently recruited employees and hiring managers.</p> <p>A further evidence session and meeting with Keir Lynch, Director of People and Transformation took place on 26 February.</p> <p>A final meeting to discuss the Groups findings with the Cabinet Members took place in June 2010.</p> <p>It was agreed that the original Members of the Task and Finish Group would be invited to attend this meeting to assist the Executive Scrutiny Committee in monitoring the recommendations.</p>	meeting.
July 2009	Flood and Water Management Bill Consultation Response	In July 2009, a joint committee was convened which contained Members from the Safer and Stronger, Economic Development and Environment and Central Services Policy & Scrutiny Committees to consider the Councils response to the Flood and Water Management Bill consultation. The joint Committee took evidence from a number of witnesses including the Environment Agency and the Essex Planning Officers Group and made 14 recommendations to the Cabinet Member.	The final report was considered in October 2009.

