

		AGENDA ITEM 8
		PSEG/34/16
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	24 November 2016	
WORK PROGRAMME		
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This report provides an update on the Committee's work programme.

➤ **Meeting 15 December**

The December meeting is scheduled three weeks from today. Although it was hoped that some update reports might be available for a formal meeting, a formal agenda is likely to be limited. As the date has been in Members' diaries for some time, it presents an opportunity for the Committee to meet and contribute to the formal review of the Council's scrutiny function that is underway particularly as there is a full programme of work for the January meeting.

The Scrutiny Board has agreed that the review of Scrutiny should go ahead as soon as possible in view of ongoing changes in the Council's organisational structure as well as the forthcoming County Council elections in May 2017. It will review the effectiveness of the Council's existing scrutiny arrangements in order to ensure that they are able to make the fullest possible contribution to the Council's governance and to determine what (if any) changes, in the current scrutiny arrangements, should be considered.

➤ **Meeting January**

- **Change of date of January meeting**

Originally 19 January 2017 was scheduled as a committee activity day. However, items that are planned for the Committee's consideration now fall within Councillor Bentley's portfolio for Economic Growth, Infrastructure, and Partnerships, and he has prior commitments on that date so would be unable to attend.

Consequently it is proposed that the date of the January meeting be changed to Tuesday 17 January 2017.

- **Third Party Responsibilities and Flood Enforcement Scrutiny Report**

The Cabinet Members' detailed response to recommendations 2 and 3 arising from this Scrutiny Report was submitted to the Committee on 22 September 2016 (Minute 6). However, there was no consideration at that meeting as it was agreed that the Cabinet Members should be invited to a future meeting to answer any further questions that the Committee might want to ask. Consequently invitations will be sent to Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, and Councillor Johnson, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to attend the January meeting. However, Committee Members are encouraged to refer to the original scrutiny report and to submit in advance any questions that they may wish to ask those Cabinet Members so that steps can be taken to ensure that information is available on the day.

For your ease of reference the Scrutiny Report may be accessed via the following link: [Third Party Responsibilities and Flood Enforcement in Essex](#)

Recommendation 4 from the Scrutiny Report reads as follows:

'That the Cabinet be requested to provide the Committee with a briefing paper in Spring 2016 that explains how the County Council itself co-ordinates its own activities in order to identify and address overall infrastructure needs in Essex including flood risk management and preventative measures associated with new development. The Committee will provide a scoping document setting out the key questions that it will ask the Cabinet to address.'

In response to this recommendation Councillor Kevin Bentley, as Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Infrastructure and Partnerships, will be attending the January meeting to address the Committee on the proposed Growth Infrastructure Framework (GIF).

With reference to recommendation 5, arrangements are also being made for the Committee to receive a briefing around IT and Communications support in raising public awareness about the Council's services, and flood management in particular.

- **Scrutiny Report: We can work it out: the case for a locally determined employment, skills, careers advice and welfare to work system in Essex**

In October 2016 (Minute 7) the Committee received the Cabinet Member's written response to the recommendations arising from this Scrutiny Report. However, the Committee deferred consideration of the item until such time as the Cabinet Member could be present to answer Members' questions.

It is confirmed that the Chairman has written on behalf of the Committee to various Government Departments, and other interested parties as proposed by the Committee in October.

There will be a report back to the Committee in the New Year.

Action required by the Committee:

To note the contents of this report and arrangements underway for future meetings, and

agree the change of date for the January meeting from Thursday 19th to Tuesday 17th January 2017.
