

<b>AGENDA ITEM 7</b>	
<b>EDE/10/11</b>	
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Economic Development and Environment Policy &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>17 March 2011</b>
<b>FORWARD LOOK</b>	
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The purpose of this report is to consider the Committee's latest work programme as set out at Appendix A, together with the following updates:

- **Scrutiny Report on the exercise of planning control on the use of inert waste for recreational development**

The Task and Finish Group that was set up to undertake this scrutiny review has produced a report for the Committee's consideration at its next meeting on 12 May.

- **Essex Legacy from 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games**

At its first meeting on 24 February the Task and Finish Group gave some initial consideration to the response it has received from the Cabinet Member for Education and the 2012 Games to the lines of questioning that were identified in the original Scrutiny Report to monitor the pursuit of a legacy from 2012 Games. As part of its consideration the Group has accepted an invitation from the Cabinet Member to visit the Hadleigh Olympic Mountain Bike Venue, and the Basildon Sporting Village, which will be an opportunity to investigate how those venues will contribute to an Essex Legacy from the Games.

It is intended that the visit will take place in May after the Basildon Sporting Village has opened, and an invitation will be extended to all Committee members to take part.

- **Corporate Carbon Reduction**

The first meeting of this Group is scheduled to take place prior to this Committee meeting.

- **Renewable Energy**

The Committee has already accumulated some evidence on the generation of renewable energy, which is set out in a series of evidence sheets for instance on shore and offshore wind power, and nuclear power. Based upon this early work, the Committee agreed that the original scoping document should be revised in the light of experience with a view to clarifying how the review could be taken forward with clearer objectives (Minute 18/ April 2010). However, the development of the revised scoping document has been delayed due to other intervening priorities identified for consideration by the Committee. It is notable that one of the priorities that the Committee has decided to take forward in the meantime is the Corporate Carbon Reduction scrutiny review.

At full Council in October 2010 (Minute 69) it was resolved that:

‘Council notes the announcement in July by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change that he is overturning the ban on councils selling renewable energy which will allow councils to sell energy to the National Grid. This creates the potential for councils across the country to produce their own renewable energy, e.g. wind turbines, solar panels on council buildings, bio-mass, to cut their power bills, reduce carbon emissions and raise much needed revenue at a time when they face significant financial pressures.

Council further notes that the Economic Development and Environment Policy Scrutiny Committee is undertaking a review of the effectiveness of the County Council’s current carbon reduction and energy efficiency agenda. This review is in the context of the potential financial penalties that may be incurred if it fails to reach carbon reduction targets.

Council believes, as a community leader, it has a responsibility to take a lead on developing and implementing policies for reducing energy consumption, costs, carbon and other emissions.

Council therefore resolves to: continue to review the opportunities for generating green energy including solid recovered fuel as part of the Task and Finish Group established by the Economic Development and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee. To report back to Cabinet following that review having evaluated what green energy options could be actively pursued based on a sound financial business case.’

In view of the work already identified to be taken forward in the Forward Look and discussion between the Chairman and Vice Chairmen, it was felt that the Task and Finish Group would take forward the review proposed by full Council once it has concluded its work on the Corporate Carbon scrutiny review.

- **Statutory Undertakers**

A draft scrutiny report setting out the evidence collected by the Committee so far will be circulated to Members' in due course.

- **Park and Ride Schemes**

A scoping document for this review was submitted to the Committee's last meeting, and it was agreed that the following two issues be added to the issues to be addressed in that review:

- To consider the availability of car parking in Chelmsford.
- To consider what work has been undertaken with retail businesses in Chelmsford in terms of identifying if there are any marketing incentives to promote the Park and Ride Scheme.

Members are encouraged to identify beforehand any specific questions that they may wish to raise at the Committee's next meeting in May when this review will be launched.

- **Civil Parking Enforcement**

At the Committee's last meeting this topic was identified as a potential scrutiny review. It is proposed that following on from its next scheduled meeting on 12 May, arrangements will be made for the Committee to consider informally how to take forward some projects over the coming months, including Civil Parking Enforcement. It should be noted that the Executive Scrutiny Committee has already undertaken some consideration on this topic as part of its review of the overall Transformation Programme and Shared Services.

- **Credit Unions, and Debt Advice and Citizens Advice Bureau**

These issues have been identified by Councillor Kendall. However, they are issues that fall within the remit of the Safer and Stronger Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee and will be referred to that Committee accordingly.

- **Other matters**

Other matters that will be investigated in due course for inclusion in the Forward Look include:

- Changes in the Civic Amenity Service
- Community Infrastructure Levy

## **ACTION REQUIRED BY THE COMMITTEE:**

**The Committee is requested to consider as appropriate the information set out above.**

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**Economic Development and Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee:  
Forward Look for 2011 (as at 4 March 2011)**

Meeting	Topic	Approach	Current status
<b>2011</b> <i>(Where dates are identified they refer to scheduled meetings of the Committee. (EDE-SCR-??) refers to the scoping document reference for the item)</i>			
24 February	Banking on Essex (EDE-SCR-23)	Review outcomes of scrutiny report : Scoping document - Minute 66/ December 2010	No further action.
	Post Offices (EDE-SCR-24)	Review of initiative Scoping document Minute 66/ December 2010	No further action.
	Call in on the withdrawal of Park and Ride Saturday operation	This decision has been referred to the Committee following an informal meeting	No further action.
	Call in on Epping Forest Permitted Parking	This decision was called in, but following an informal meeting the matter has been resolved.	No further action.
17 March	Highways Service Transformation (EDE-SCR-25)	Scoping document to be considered by Committee at February meeting.	
	Automatic Vehicle Location (EDE-SCR-26)	Scoping document to be considered by Committee at February meeting.	
	Local Transport Plan	Joint Task and Finish Group with Safer and Stronger Communities PS Committee	Report on outcomes of Group's consideration

17 March	Corporate CO2 Reduction (EDE-SCR-21)	Task and Finish Group being led by Cllr McEwen Scoping document to be considered by Committee at February meeting	Cabinet Member to address the Group at its first meeting
May	Essex Legacy from 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (EDE-SCR-04)	Task and Finish Group to undertake review of the outcomes of original Scrutiny Report. (Minute 20/ April 2009)	Site visit for full Committee to be arranged
12 May	Park and Ride Scheme (EDE-SCR-27)	Scoping document to be considered by Committee at February meeting.	
	Use of Inert Waste for Recreational Development (EDE-SCR-07)	Task & Finish Group	Final draft scrutiny report to be considered for approval by the Committee
TBC	Relationship with Statutory Undertakers in the way works are undertaken in the highway. (EDE-SCR-16)	Full Committee gathering evidence for review.	Report on initial findings (timing to be confirmed)
Scheduled Committee Activity Days: 2011: 16 June, 21 July, 22 September, 20 October, 17 November, and 15 December..			
<i>To be scheduled in due course</i>	<i>Generation of Energy (EDE-SCR-17)</i>	<i>Evidence gathered as part of original review, and new scoping document to be drafted that will include reference to Council decision.</i>	<i>The review will be undertaken by Task and Finish Group once Corporate Carbon Reduction review completed.</i>

<b>Task and Finish Groups</b>			
Active	Use of Inert Waste For Recreational Development (EDE-SCR-07)	Scoping document endorsed by the Committee September 2009 (Minute 44)	Final Scrutiny Report being submitted to the Committee's meeting in March
Active	Essex Legacy from 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (EDE-SCR-04)	Scrutiny Review completed. Principle of monitoring approach agreed April 2010	Ongoing
Active	Corporate CO <sub>2</sub> Reduction and Energy Efficiency (EDE-SCR-21)	Agreed at Committee meeting on 23 September Scoping document to be considered by Committee in February	First meeting 17 March
Active	Local Transport Plan	Joint Group with Safer and Stronger Communities PSC.	Final report to Committees March meetings

<b>Completed Reviews Awaiting Monitoring</b>			
September 2010	Essex Legacy from 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (EDE-SCR-04)	Scrutiny Review completed Monitor outcomes of original Scrutiny Report - September 2010	Ongoing to be undertaken by Task and Finish Group
Autumn 2010/ April 2011	Winter Service Review	Following a presentation to the Committee, Members wished to receive an update on the 2010/2011 winter service in the Autumn 2010, and April 2011.	Minute 36/July 2010 Requires scoping document

