

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee

REPORT NUMBER

E2

COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING 19 April 2005

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE

1. **SUMMARY**

In accordance with the Constitution, the Committee must report annually to Council on its work during the last year and make recommendations for future work programmes and if appropriate, amended working methods.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee's Annual Report for 2004/05 be noted.
- 2.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee's work plan for 2005/06 be approved.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There have been no financial implications to date other than the costs of officer time and normal allowances for Members that are included in the budget.
- 3.2 Any development of the work of in depth scrutiny, including items such as the payment of out of pocket expenses for expert and other witnesses can be accommodated within existing budgets for 2005/06. The position for future years will be addressed through the Service and Financial Planning Process.

4. **KEY INFORMATION**

4.1 **WORK IN 2004/05**

Appendix 1 comprises a table which outlines the Committee's main areas of work in 2004/05. The majority of items included in the Committee's original work plan have been progressed by the Committee and the following is a brief summary of its other main achievements:

Best Value Review of Cultural Services

The Committee considered the report of the Cultural Services Best Value Team in August and discussed its recommendations in detail. They made recommendations to Strategy on: the future of Hadleigh swimming pool; an increase in Babergh's contribution to the funding of dual use sports centres; the Kingfisher Leisure Centre, Sudbury and Hadleigh Swimming Pool to be managed through a not-for-profit company; arts development to be seen as a priority; and a review of the current grant aid schemes.

Review of Car Parking

The Car Parking Study Group submitted several progress reports and its final report made a number of recommendations to Strategy, the main one being that consideration be given to the introduction of charges for long term parking in certain areas. The issues on charging for car parking were resolved at a Council meeting on 4 February when it was agreed to keep funding car parks via Council Tax.

Youth Strategy

Another successful Youth Conference was held in October 2004. Two main issues “Things to do” and “Transport” were highlighted, and initiatives and actions for each issue have been identified for further consideration.

Service and Financial Planning Review

A considerable amount of work was undertaken by the Service and Financial Planning Member Group and Committees to ensure that draft budgets reflect the Council priorities and approved policies. A joint meeting of the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees was held to consider the Budget Framework.

By identifying savings and generating income over half a million pounds was redirected to provide support to Dual Use Centres, investigations into contaminated land, help and advice to village shops and post offices and financing initiatives to tackle crime and disorder.

4.2 WORK PLAN FOR 2005/06

Appendix 2 sets out a list of items of work that Members and Officers have identified for consideration by the Committee during 2005/06, as approved by the Committee and updated as appropriate. The Committee proposes to continue to give high priority in 2005/06 to items relating to the Youth Strategy, Service and Financial Planning and Performance Management.

In addition, the Committee has called for a report on the programme for street cleansing, not only in the towns but also in the rural parts of the District.

5. **APPENDICES AND BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

- (a) Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee: Resume of Work in 2004/05
- (b) Appendix 2 – Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee: Proposed Work Plan for 2005/06

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE

RESUME OF WORK IN 2004/05

The items marked with an asterisk identify matters set out in the Committee's original work plan for 2004/05.

WORK TOPIC		ACTION BY COMMITTEE	
		DATE	ACTION
1	MAJOR PROJECTS		
A	Future of Council Housing*	29.11.04	Considered a progress report from the Housing Stock Options Appraisal Steering Group.
B	Review of Car Parking	13.07.04	Considered a progress report from the Car Parking Study Group.*
		24.08.04	Considered an update on the work of the Car Parking Study Group.
		04.10.04	Considered a report on the findings of the Car Parking Study Group and made recommendations to Strategy and Council.*
C	Best Value Review of Leisure and Cultural Services	24.08.04	Considered a report of the Cultural Services Best Value Team and made recommendations to Strategy and Council concerning: a swimming pool for Hadleigh; funding of dual use sports centres; the future management of leisure centres and Hadleigh swimming pool; open space; arts development; and grants.*
D	Service and Financial Planning and Review	24.08.04	Considered a report by the Service and Financial Planning Member Working Group and made recommendations to Strategy and Council.
		29.11.04	Considered a report by the Service and Financial Planning Member Working Group and agreed to hold a joint meeting with Overview & Scrutiny (Stewardship).*
		14.12.04	Considered a report on policy and budget framework (jointly with O & S (S)) and made detailed recommendations to Strategy.
		08.02.05	Scrutinized the budget for 2005/06 and made recommendations to Strategy.*

	WORK TOPIC	ACTION BY COMMITTEE	
		DATE	ACTION
2	COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT		
A	Decent Homes Standard	25.05.04	Considered initial assessment for the Decent Homes Standard diagnostic.*
B	Balancing Housing Markets	25.05.04	Considered initial assessment for the Balancing Housing Markets diagnostic*.
C	Public Space Diagnostic: the Physical Environment	25.05.04	Considered latest position regarding physical environment elements of the Public Space diagnostic.*
D	Public Space Diagnostic: Community Safety and Engaging Young People	25.05.04	Considered latest position regarding the Community Safety and Young People elements of the Public Space diagnostic.*
3	PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT		
A	2003/04 Planning User Satisfaction Survey	25.05.04	Considered results of a Customer Satisfaction Survey on Planning.*
B	2003/04 General User Satisfaction Survey	25.05.04	Considered results of a General User Satisfaction Survey and referred certain issues to relevant Member Groups.
C	Scrutiny of the Glemsford Skateboard Park Project	13.07.04	Considered a report by the Scrutiny Panel.*
D	2003/04 Tenants' Satisfaction Survey	13.07.04	Considered results of Tenants' Satisfaction Survey.*
E	2003/04 Service Plans – final position	24.08.04	Considered the final position for Service Plans monitored by the Committee.*
F	Best Value Performance Indicators and Service Plans	24.08.04 29.11.04 08.02.05	Quarterly monitoring.*
G	Cornard Lock	04.10.04	Considered a report and made recommendation to Strategy about the payment of a grant to the River Stour Trust.
H	Twin Bin Scheme	04.10.04	Considered final report of the Twin Bin Implementation Scrutiny Working Group and made recommendations to Strategy on the continuation of the Twin Bin Scheme.
I	2004/04 National Performance Indicator Comparisons	05.04.05	Considered the Council's performance in relation to Audit Commission's figures for English Authorities 2003/04.*
4	YOUTH STRATEGY		
		25.05.04	Appointed representatives to serve on Joint Member Working Group.
		13.07.04	Received an update on the work of the Joint Member Working Group.
		24.08.04	Considered progress report from the Joint Member Working Group.

	WORK TOPIC	ACTION BY COMMITTEE	
		DATE	ACTION
		29.11.04	Considered a report about the Youth Conference held on 15.10.04
5	OTHER TOPICS		
A	Homelessness Strategy	29.11.04	Considered revisions to the Homelessness Strategy and made recommendations to Strategy Committee.
B	The Quay Theatre, Sudbury	29.11.04	Considered a progress report and made recommendations to Strategy on funding.
C	Estate maintenance work	29.11.04	Set up a Member Group to review policy and procedures relating to estate maintenance work
D	Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour	08.02.05	Made recommendations to Strategy on the implementation of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.
E	Air Quality	05.04.05	Received an annual progress report in accordance with the Environment Act 1995.
F	Reports from representatives on outside bodies	04.10.04 05.04.05	Received reports from representatives on the Babergh East Local Strategic Partnership Board, the Western Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership Board, the Central Suffolk Primary Care Trust Board and the Haven Gateway Partnership.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE**PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR 2005/06**

TOPIC		COMMITTEE DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
Major Project Items	Youth Strategy action plan	12 July 2005	Tim Mutum
	Service and financial planning – budget scrutiny	8 February 2006	Geoff Kistner
	Review of Grants	To be determined	Tim Mutum
Performance Management	Final Performance on Service Plans 2004/05	24 May 2005	Andrew Hunkin
	Best Value Review Programme	24 May 2005	Andrew Hunkin
	Progress report on Quay Theatre	7 February or 28 March 2006	Tim Mutum
	Performance Management	23 August 2005	Andrew Hunkin
	Service Standards	29 November 2005	Andrew Hunkin/Dawn Williams
	Performance Management	29 November 2005	Andrew Hunkin
	Performance Management	7 February 2006	Andrew Hunkin
	National Performance Indicator Comparisons	28 March 2006	Andrew Hunkin
Other Items	Review of Overview and Scrutiny role and approach	24 May 2005	Head of Legal and Administrative Services
	Annual report of Development Committee	24 May 2005	Richard Watson
	Report of Member Group on estate maintenance work	24 May 2005	Ryan Jones
	Conservation – Priorities and Resources for the Future, and Update	24 May 2005	Neil Greig
	Babergh's Housing Strategy and HRA business plan	23 August 2005	Chris Foti
	Housing Panel's review of homelessness strategy	23 August 2005	Chris Foti
	Review of Council's lettings policy	4 October 2005	Chris Foti
	Reports from representatives on outside bodies	4 October 2005	Various Members

TOPIC		COMMITTEE DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
	Annual monitoring of Anti-Social Behaviour initiatives	28 March 2006	Tim Mutum
	Reports from representatives on outside bodies	28 March 2006	Various Members
	Atkins Fulford Planning Appeal	To be determined.	Richard Watson

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