

**ENVIRONMENT AND LIVING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To set the provisional future work programme for the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee for the next 12-18 months.

**2 Recommendations/for decision**

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- (i) Consider the issues raised at the planning event and agree whether or not the 14 areas highlighted should be prioritised for inclusion within the future work programme.
  - (ii) Agree the structure of the scoping document (Appendix 2) to be used in the future to define how identified issues will be scrutinised.
  - (iii) Agree the process by which the scoping document for each prioritised agenda item should be completed.
  - (iv) Delegate authority to the Director and the Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer, in consultation with the Chairman to prepare a work programme after taking account of items (i), (ii) and (iii) above.

**3 Executive summary**

- 3.1 The newly formed Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee held its first meeting on 19 September 2012.
- 3.2 A work programme planning event was held on 25 October 2012 at which Scrutiny Committee Members were asked to identify issues that were within the Committee's terms of reference and would be suitable to look at as either a single report to the whole Committee or as a more "in-depth" review over a number of meetings.
- 3.3 During an interactive planning session, 62 issues were identified, 14 of which were highlighted for inclusion onto the future work programme. Issues were suggested under the following themes which were drawn from the Committee's terms of reference:-
- Environment (sustainability)
  - Land Use / Transportation (AVDC policy re. physical development)
  - Licensing
  - Planning and Design services
  - Flood risk and associated plans
  - Parks / Open spaces
  - Housing
  - Environmental Health
  - Crime and Disorder / Community Safety
  - Leisure
- 3.4 Information on the 62 issues suggested against each of the ten themes and the 14 highlighted ones are detailed at Appendix 1.
- 3.5 Members were able to refer to a prioritisation guide (a copy is attached at Appendix 4), to assess whether the issues put forward were strategic, added

value to the work of the Council, or impacted on section(s) of the community. Appendix 1 also indicated which issues Members believed were of a greater priority to be included onto the future work programme.

- 3.6 Once Members have agreed the items to include onto their future work programme, further work will be required to scope the issues that the Committee wishes to look at, the outcomes that Members might wish to achieve and how the issue will be scrutinised i.e. whole Committee, task and finish group or some other method. A draft scoping document is attached at Appendix 2.

#### **4 Resource implications**

- 4.1 Members will no doubt bear in mind that the Work Programme needs to be manageable both from the Committee's perspective and resourcing work by Officers including representatives of partner organisations.

#### **5 Response to Key Aims and Objectives**

- 5.1 The work of overview and scrutiny, particularly on making recommendations on matters which affect the area or its residents all support the key aims and objectives that Aylesbury Vale District Council is striving to achieve.

Contact Officer

Background Documents

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Work programmes of former Environment Scrutiny  
Committee, Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee

19 September 2012

Theme	Priority
<p><b>Environment (sustainability)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Farming and wildlife</b></li> <li>• Branding Vale goods from farms (E &amp; Bus Dev Scrutiny Committee?)</li> <li>• Shops sourcing from the Vale e.g. Costa, supermarkets (EBD SC?)</li> <li>• <b>AVDC to be the business providing: loft insulation, solar PV, solar hot water, heat pumps (poss)</b> (large scale discounts – mass community involvement if AVDC is driving, <u>trust</u> of AVDC)</li> <li>• <b>Strategies for energy saving (how much energy are we using?)</b></li> </ul>	<p>√ √</p> <p>√ √ √ √</p> <p>√</p>
<p><b>Land Use / Transportation (AVDC policy re. physical development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GP35 (how applied to structures e.g. wind turbines)</b></li> <li>• <b>Gypsy and Traveller sites?</b></li> <li>• South East Plan?</li> <li>• More public car parks, where possible</li> <li>• A422</li> <li>• A421</li> <li>• A43</li> <li>• Improving Chiltern rail line to London</li> <li>• East West rail</li> </ul>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p>
<p><b>Licensing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taxis – regulations</li> <li>• Stricter regulation of <u>events</u>, parties, pubs etc – same for noise issues</li> <li>• Taxis, where can they park?</li> <li>• Coach parks – so they don't clog up the roads when waiting for passengers to return after events – i.e. theatre, coach trips, drop-offs</li> <li>• County needs to supply clearer signage for taxi rank parking (dragging their heels)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Planning and Design services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Better conservation area street furniture and signage</b></li> <li>• <b>Examining the potential for a local list of buildings not 'listable' but of historic / local interest (looking into the potential for community involvement to identify such a list)</b></li> <li>• <b>Look at present provision for Town and Parish Council planning training. How effective is this? (training for Clerks)</b></li> <li>• How can the provision for buildings at risk be better supported?</li> <li>• How can planning support pubs and small businesses in rural communities – local ownership guide?</li> <li>• Design plans across the Vale</li> <li>• <b>Review enforcement in the Vale (strengths and weaknesses)</b></li> <li>• Strong and swift enforcement without exceptions</li> </ul>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√ √ √</p>
<p><b>Flood risk and associated plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buckingham Plan review</li> <li>• Flood plain policy and building</li> </ul>	

Theme	Priority
<p><b>Parks / Open Spaces</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross Vale policy</li> <li>• More closed play spaces – no dogs</li> <li>• Commercial opportunities? e.g. café, Bedgrove Park, Fairford Leys</li> <li>• Woods and hedge rows</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising environmental building standards for new</li> <li>• Bringing existing stock up to specification</li> <li>• Funding growth in AVDC area by AVDC becoming (again) a mortgage lender to be better than the banks</li> <li>• <b>AVDC being the developer (full spectrum of housing)</b></li> <li>• Encourage better/individual houses and encourage building of bungalows or stop bungalows being turned into houses</li> <li>• Local housing needs – lead policy</li> <li>• Lose of affordable housing numbers</li> <li>• <b>Bucks Home Choice</b></li> <li>• Local Plan Housing needs to keep local people in the community</li> <li>• Examine options for adjusting Council tax on empty/second homes and encouraging occupation of empty properties</li> <li>• Reviewing the impact of changes to Council tax benefits and the impact of universal credit</li> <li>• Affordability – how VAP delivers year on year strategies to increase affordable housing numbers</li> </ul>	<p>√ √</p> <p>√</p>
<p><b>Environmental Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS changes</li> <li>• Benefits</li> <li>• <b>County Health agenda</b></li> <li>• More control, i.e. policing etc on people or businesses who ignore regulations regarding noise, bonfires, signage on roads, health and safety</li> </ul> <p>Not EH but: scrutinising the Council’s communication strategy, how it interacts with the public</p>	<p>√</p>
<p><b>Crime and Disorder / Community Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pedestrian safety</li> <li>• <b>Cycling safety (cycle lanes in/out of Aylesbury)</b></li> <li>• <b>Community Cohesion Strategy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adapting our Diversity Strategy</li> <li>○ Finding ways to improve communication specifically with regard to crime and democratic involvement</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Proper speeding enforcement via networked speed camera systems for ‘average calculations, it cannot be circumvented</li> <li>• Fund equipment to assist Police, cameras, speedwatch</li> <li>• Work on cross agency working so Police, Social Services, Health, Schooling etc jointly deal with less fortunate families</li> <li>• Youth policy and youth involvement</li> </ul>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p>

Theme	Priority
<p><b>Leisure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Audit of facilities (Commercial and Council) for needs/growth and gaps in provision</b></li> <li>• Balancing facilities – if an area takes housing it should have the leisure facilities</li> <li>• Provide improved leisure facilities (across Vale)</li> <li>• Get people exercising as part of daily activity rather than a separate activity</li> <li>• Assess impact of new Social Care legislation (input also from Bucks CC)</li> <li>• Help and give more support to existing sports clubs, community groups, centres</li> </ul>	√

## Review topic – outline scope of issue

<b>Purpose of the review</b>	
<b>Review membership</b>	
<b>Background</b>	1-2 short paragraphs of the background, leading up to the Scrutiny Committee wishing to review this issue
<b>Key questions for the review to ask</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ?</li> <li>• ?</li> <li>• ?</li> <li>• ?</li> </ul>
<b>Resources</b>	Both in terms of Officer time, Member time, and of witnesses / public who might be asked to participate in the review
<b>Out of scope</b>	What the review IS NOT looking at, although this might be of interest.
<b>Anticipated outcomes</b>	What are Members hoping to achieve during the review (it might also be helpful to identify the people to whom any recommendations might be presented.
<b>Outline timetable</b>	Of meeting dates and Officers / witnesses that the review would like to speak to, or evidence that Members would like to consider

**ENVIRONMENT AND LIVING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME**

**Appendix 3**

<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Scrutiny Indicator *</b>	<b>Requested by</b>	<b>Purpose of Review (Responsible Officer / Member)</b>	<b>Expected Outcome</b>	<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>
20/11/2012	London Luton Airport	5	Committee	To assist the Council in responding to the current consultation process (Richard Hiscock)	Views reported to the Cabinet Member, for consideration in AVDC's response to the consultation	Cabinet Member for Environment and Health
20/11/2012	Bucks Home Choice	3	Committee	To comment on the review of the current policy (Roy Brooks)	To make recommendations to the Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Community Matters
12/12/2012	Vale of Aylesbury Plan (infrastructure)	4	Committee	To look at infrastructure work being carried out as part of the VAP. (Andy Kirkham)	To make recommendations to the Cabinet Member.	Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning
13/2/2013	No items identified as yet					
26/3/2013	No items identified as yet					
12/06/2013	No items identified as yet					
18/09/2013	No items identified as yet					
06/11/2013	No items identified as yet					
16/12/2013	No items identified as yet					

\* Scrutiny Indicator Key

<b>1: Holding to account</b>	<b>2: Performance management</b>	<b>3: Policy review</b>	<b>4: Policy development</b>	<b>5: External scrutiny</b>
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# WORK PROGRAMME PRIORITISATION GUIDE

Appendix 4

