

ENVIRONMENT AND LIVING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –WORK PROGRAMME 2014-2015

Date of meeting	Item	Scrutiny Indicator *	Requested by	Purpose of Review (Responsible Officer / Member)	Expected Outcome	Relevant Cabinet Member
12/2/2014	Call-In: Jonathan Page Play Centre	1	Committee (call-in)	Scrutiny of Cabinet decision of 17/12/2013 (Lesley Davies)	OUTCOME: Referred back to Cabinet with reasons	Cabinet Member for Leisure
25/3/2014	Community Safety Partnership Plan	2, 4, 5	Committee	(Kay Aitken)	OUTCOME: Scrutiny comments reported to Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Community Matters
25/3/2014	Drug and Alcohol Action Management	5	Committee	(Kay Aitken)	Work being done in the Vale was noted.	Cabinet Member for Community Matters
11/6/2014	Proposed Scheme of Additional Licensing (HMOs)	4	Committee	(Martyn Chuter)	Comments on proposed policy to be reported to Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Environment and Health
1. 11/6/2014 2. 5/11/2014 3. Feb / Mar 2015	DM Policies (Feedback / Update)	4	Committee	(Andy Kirkham)	Identify future involvement of scrutiny re. DM policies	Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning

* Scrutiny Indicator Key

1: Holding to account	2: Performance management	3: Policy review	4: Policy development	5: External scrutiny
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22/09/2014	Community Centres	1, 4	Committee	(Caroline Wheller)		Cabinet Member for Leisure
22/09/2014	Review of Statement of Licensing Policy (draft consultation document)	3	Committee	(Peter Seal)		Cabinet Member for Environment and Health
22/9/2014	Public Health update / District contribution to public health agenda	2, 5	Committee	(Stephanie Moffat)		Cabinet Member for Community Matters
22/9/2014	Food Service Plan	3	Committee	(Richard Hiscock)		Cabinet Member for Environment and Health
22/9/2014	Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel (update)	2	Committee	(Kay Aitken)		Cabinet Member for Community Matters
22/9/2014	Flooding update	1, 2, 3	Committee	TBC		
22/9/2014 or 5/11/2014	Bucks Joint Waste Strategy	3	Committee	Jon McGinty / Henry Allmand		Cabinet Member for Environment and Health

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5/11/2014	Future of affordable housing provision in the Vale / Council as a housing developer!	4	Committee	(Will Rysdale)		
5/11/2014	Changing need of the aging population / provision of facilities for young people	2, 3	Committee	(TBC)		
9/12/2014	Thames Valley Police update		Committee	(Kay Aitken)		
9/12/2014	VAHT annual performance review	1, 2	Committee	(Will Rysdale)		
9/12/2014	Green Deal – update	3	Committee	(Alan Asbury)		
TBC	Landlord and tenants: provision of debt advice	3	Councillors Vick and Cashman	(Will Rysdale)		

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11/2/2015 and 25/3/2015 meetings	1. Bernwood Project update 2. Biodiversity Service Update 3. Parks and Open Spaces – management, recent work & accreditations 4. New Waste streams (services, income)			(Lyndsay Elliot) (Andy Wilkins) (Gareth Bird) (Jon McGinty)		

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Extract from Council meeting held on 14 May 2014 (Minute 12)

(a) Landlords and Tenants

The following had been submitted by Councillor Vick. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Cashman:-

“Housing landlords have an interest in keeping good financial relations with their tenants, but they do not normally provide debt or homelessness advice. Debt and homelessness advice is available from AVDC, but the time period between a tenant first experiencing a financial problem, and when they make contact with us, often allows a debt to grow.

Falling just a few months behind with rent payments, through illness, unemployment, or failing to manage budgets successfully, can quickly result in a large debt and a loss of good faith between landlord and tenant. It is AVDC in many cases, who then has to attempt to unravel the problem, advising on budget failings, and sometimes having to offer emergency housing.

The consequences for the tenants and often their young families, is that unnecessary turmoil, worry, upheaval, and sometimes sudden relocation often occur.

This evidently will have significant adverse consequences for the individual families involved, in terms of finances, mental health, relationships, education and transportation.

What strategies has the District Council in place to intervene with support at an early stage in such situations?

How aware are landlords and tenants of this support, the direct payment options, and what is being done to publicise it more widely?

This Council therefore resolves to:-

- (1) Investigate what improvements can be made to the process of getting debt and homelessness advice to tenants as early as possible in Aylesbury Vale.
- (2) Engage with the public and landlords and any relevant others in Aylesbury Vale, to inform, advise and guide better understanding and implementation, of best practice in getting debt and homelessness advice to tenants as early as possible.
- (3) Consider, having provided early information about debt and homelessness, how AVDC can persuade those experiencing initial problems, to engage with AVDC as early as possible”.

It was thereupon proposed by Councillor Mrs Pearce and seconded by Councillor Poll:-

“That consideration of the Notice of Motion be added to the work programme of the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee with a view to a report being brought back to Cabinet in due course on any changes considered necessary to address any gaps in the current arrangements for providing housing tenants with debt advice”.

Upon being put to the meeting, the amendment was declared to be **CARRIED**. The amendment was then put to the meeting as the substantive motion and declared to be **CARRIED**.

WORK PROGRAMME 2013

Date of meeting	Item	Scrutiny Indicator *	Requested by	Purpose of Review (Responsible Officer / Member)	Expected Outcome	Relevant Cabinet Member
12/6/2013	County Health agenda	5	Committee	To look at the work of the healthy communities partnership, what role AVDC will likely have, and what contribution this Committee can make to overall health aims?	Comments to Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Environment and Health
12/6/2013, 18/9/2013	Vale of Aylesbury Plan – Development Management policies	4	Cabinet Member	To identify the involvement scrutiny wish to have in the preparation of DM policies (Andy Kirkham)	To make recommendations to the Cabinet Member and Officers	Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning
12/6/2013, 18/9/2013, 6/11/2013	Research group reports	1, 4	Committee	Subject to agreement on 13/2/2013, to receive report(s) of Research Groups for discussion & consideration of any recommendation(s)		
18/9/2013	Audit of leisure facilities	2	Committee	To review facilities (commercial and Council) for needs / growth and gaps in provision (Lesley Davies)	To identify issues that might benefit from future scrutiny / Member involvement	Cabinet Member for Leisure

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18/9/2013	Farming and wildlife	3	Committee	Review – subject to agreement of ‘scoping’ form (Lesley Davies)	To identify issues that might benefit from future scrutiny / Member involvement	Cabinet Member for Leisure
6/11/2013	Cycling and Pedestrian safety	2, 3	Committee	Review of cycle lanes in/out of Aylesbury & across the rest of the District, (could also look to include the issues of signage, street furniture and street marking identified by the Committee)		Cabinet Member for Planning, Design and Conservation
6/11/2013	Draft Housing and Homelessness Strategy	3	Cabinet	To comment on the new policy prior to it being submitted to Cabinet and Council	To make recommendations to the Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Community Matters.
6/11/2013	AVDC Community cohesion and Integration Strategy	2	Committee	To look at the Strategy (adapting our Diversity Strategy), finding ways to improve communication specifically with regard to crime and democratic involvement		Cabinet Member for Community Matters
16/12/2013	Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust	1, 2	Committee	Review of performance against the Housing Stock Transfer agreement promises	To make recommendations to VAHT and the Cabinet Member.	Cabinet Member for Community Matters
16/12/2013	Thames Valley Police	1, 2	Committee	Review latest re. crime and disorder & community safety		Cabinet Member for Community Matters

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