Report to Overview & Scrutiny Review Task & Finish Panel

Date of meeting: 20 May 2013

Subject: OS Review & Further Consultation

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Committee Secretary: A. Hendry (01992 564246)

SCRUTINY Epping Forest District Council

Recommendations:

- (1) Subject to the addition of any decisions made at this meeting, to consider the schedule of decisions in principle made so far on the OS Review; and
- (2) To consider how further consultation on those matters is to be undertaken.

Report:

Introduction

- 1. Although the review has not yet been concluded, it may be useful for the Panel to take stock of the decisions in principle which have been made at previous meetings,. These are not worded as formal recommendations as yet but merely points of agreement but may be useful in carrying out further consultation.
- 2. The Appendix to this report shows these agreements. To these will be added those items which are to be dealt with at this meeting.

Further Consultation

- 3. The Panel has raised the question of further consultation previously but no firm decisions have been made on this. The Panel should consider whether prior consultation should take place before a full report is put forward to the Council as this approach may give more chance of gaining feedback before the formal stage.
- 4. As to whom should be consulted, the Panel may like to review:
- (a) All Councillors;
- (b) political groups;
- (c) independent members
- (d) the Leader/Cabinet
- (e) Management Board
- (f) external partners/ the public.
- 5. Could members also consider how consultation is to be carried out:
- (a) written material/e mail;
- (b) informal meetings;
- (c) website.

6. The Panel needs to consider methods which will ensure that the best feedback achieved.

Timescale

7. The next Council meeting to a final report could be submitted is 30 July 2013, precede by the OS Committee on 16 July 2013. This gives an opportunity for consultation but, in reality, this is still quite a demanding timetable particularly as the Panel needs to review the results before finalizing its report.