

Report to Council

Date of meeting: 05 November 2013

**Subject: Overview and Scrutiny report to Council –
November 2013**

Contact for further information: Councillor R Morgan



Recommendation:

That the Overview and Scrutiny progress report from October 2013 to the present be noted.

Report

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 15 October 2013

1. At our meeting on Tuesday, 15 October we received a presentation from Stephanie Chambers, the Citizen Advice Bureau District Manager for Epping Forest and Janet Woods, the Chair of the Epping Forest District CAB, regarding the current situation on their search for new premises; their funding problems; how the new welfare reforms were affecting residents and organisations; their work at Limes Farms and any problems encountered; the North South divide in the district and their thoughts on the impact on services in the future if the CAB has to close locally.
2. Councillors usefully used the time after the presentation to quiz the representatives on various aspects of their service in the District; however a lot of the hard facts and figures were not readily available as they were moving on to a new computer system that was being introduced by the national CAB service. Hopefully when they are fully integrated into the new system they could produce statistics to help them and us to fully understand their current situation.
3. Finally, we considered the Cabinet Agenda for 21 October. Councillor Murray commented, in relation to agenda item 13 about Civic Offices – Committee Room Tables, that he was not convinced that the Council should be spending £10k on new tables in the present financial situation and wondered how this could be justified.