

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL 2016/17

Extraordinary Overview & Scrutiny Panel

**02 March 2017**

Report Author

**Cllr D. Saunders, Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel**

Portfolio Holder

**Cllr Crow-Brown, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance**

Status

**For Recommendation**

Classification:

**Unrestricted**

Key Decision

**No**

Ward:

**Thanet Wide**

## **Executive Summary:**

The purpose of the report is to highlight some of the key activities and achievements of the Panel covering the 2016/17 municipal year.

## **Recommendation(s):**

Members are invited to discuss and recommend the report to Council.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Financial and Value for Money</b>	There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. The report provides a summary of the current work activities of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel which will form the basis of the annual report to Full Council.
<b>Legal</b>	There are no legal implications directly arising from this report. A presentation of the OSP Chairman's report to Full Council enables the Chairman to fulfil their duty as is required by the Council's Constitution.
<b>Corporate</b>	<p>There are no corporate risks associated with this report. The report enables discussion by Members at Full Council on the activities of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>The debate on the OSP Chairman's report contributes to open communication across the council. A strong scrutiny function contributes to an open democratic process for decision making and delivery of value for money services as council decisions are interrogated by Members before they are implemented. In instances where such decisions are interrogated after implementation, there will be lessons to learn for future policy development.</p>
<b>Equalities Act 2010 &amp; Public Sector Equality Duty</b>	Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do

	<p>not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</p> <p>Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy &amp; maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage &amp; civil partnership.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>No implications arise directly but the Council needs to retain a strong focus and understanding on issues of diversity amongst the local community and ensure service delivery matches these.</p> <p>It is important to be aware of the Council's responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and show evidence that due consideration had been given to the equalities impact that may be brought upon communities by the decisions made by Council.</p>	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.		Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,		Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it		Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	
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<b>CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓</b>	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	✓

<b>CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓</b>	
Delivering value for money	✓
Supporting the Workforce	
Promoting open communications	✓

## 1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Thanet District Council's Overview & Scrutiny Panel is entitled to make an annual report to the Annual Meeting of Council. This report summarises the key achievements of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel during 2016/17.
- 1.2 The Panel unanimously agreed at the beginning of the 2016/17 to disregard political proportionality when setting out the membership of the working parties/task & finish groups. Each of the sub-group membership was set at eight to have 3 UKIP, 2 Conservative, 1 Labour, 1 Democratic Independent Group and 1 Independent Group. Members established three working parties which were the Corporate Performance Review Working Party, Community Safety Partnership Working Party and Electoral Registration Process Review Task & Finish Group.
- 1.3 At the Panel's meeting in December 2016 it was agreed to stand down the Electoral Registration process Review Working Party and replace it with a Dreamland Working Group. It was also agreed that this group would use political proportionality and membership was set at seven to have 4 UKIP, 2 Conservative and 1 Labour.
- 1.4 During this municipal year, the Chairman of the Panel presented to Council four reports on the scrutiny activities being undertaken. The main focus of the reports came from the work activities of the Corporate Performance Working Party and Community Safety Working Party.

## **2.0 Community Safety Partnership Working Party**

- 2.1 The working party performed the statutory scrutiny function of the Community Safety Partnership on behalf of the Panel and reports back any recommendations for consideration to the main Panel.
- 2.2 Members received presentation on a number of issues including 'Sexual offence support in Thanet' from Acting DCI Max Davidson, supported by Chief Inspector Sharon Adley from Kent Police on 03 October 2016. In addition they also received a joint presentation from David Naylor and Jane Skeets (EK Rape Crisis Centre) and David Naylor (Victim Support) at the working party meeting on 12 December.
- 2.3 In response to the presentations Members made the following recommendations to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel that:
- a) Thanet District Council approach town councils in Thanet to request funding of £188 to finance one day per week, of EK Rape Crisis Centre counselling services if Thanet District Council will provide a room for the counselling sessions on a match funding basis;
  - b) Approaches are made to the 'Place To Be' to provide their free children services to schools in Thanet;
  - c) A letter be written to the PCC to raise concern about the changes to policing in the area and write a letter advising the PCC that approaches were being made to town councils in Thanet to support the EK Rape Crisis Centre and inquire if the Commissioner was willing to work with town councils in this effort.
- 2.4 As can be evidenced by above recommendations from the meeting, Members found the presentations useful. The above recommendations were referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel on 26 January 2017, who in turn agreed to forward these recommendations to Cabinet.
- 2.5 The working party also met on 06 February 2017 and received an informative presentation by the council officers on Anti-Social Behaviour tools and powers usage in Thanet. Members recommended that this presentation be shared with all other councillors through a Members Briefing session. This suggestion had been passed on to officers.

## **3.0 Corporate Performance Review Working Party**

- 3.1 The working party received performance reports at its meetings on 18 July, 23 August, 22 November and 16 February
- Quarterly Corporate Performance monitoring;
  - Quarterly East Kent Services Performance Monitoring;
  - Quarterly East Kent Housing Performance Monitoring;
- 3.2 Members expressed their satisfaction with the detail provided in the comments for the council's corporate performance report. The sub group was advised that the report format would be changed to provide more detail from shared service arrangements and the council's own performance information. This would be evidenced in future quarterly reports.
- 3.3 Members commended the new appointments facility at the Gateway that was set up by EK Services, where members of the public could request for an appointment

electronically. They also said that consideration should be made for the elderly population, many of whom may not be computer literate.

- 3.4 An initial draft of the management of corporate projects tool-kit was shared with Members and indications were made that once approved, officers would bring back the adopted tool-kit that the sub group would use in reviewing performance of the council's corporate projects, by reviewing a limited number of such projects.

#### **4.0 Dreamland Working Group**

- 4.1 This sub group was set up at the December Panel meeting and met for their first meeting on 02 February 2017. They agreed that they will use the framework of the report on 'Post Implementation Review of Dreamland Phase One - Lessons Learned' presented to the Panel by East Kent Audit Partnership, as the basis for the terms of reference and work programme for the sub group.

#### **5.0 New Scrutiny Arrangements**

- 5.1 The Panel unanimously agreed at its meeting on 13 December 2016 to implement revised scrutiny arrangements. The panel agreed to:

1. Adopt an approach for a work programme made up of:
  - I. Three Working Parties;
  - II. One Scrutiny Review;
  - III. Continued one off reports considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (including presentations from Cabinet Members);
2. Adopt the OSP Agenda Item Request Template
3. Adopt a system for prioritisation of scrutiny review projects that includes a scoring matrix
4. Adopt the use of Scrutiny Review Project Scoping Form

- 5.2 The new arrangements are still relatively new and as yet Democratic Services have yet to receive a request for a scrutiny review, however Democratic Services look forward to receiving requests in the new municipal year.

#### **6.0 Public Speaking Trial**

- 6.1 Full Council agreed at its meeting on 14 July 2016 to amend the council's constitution to allow a trial of public speaking at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel to take place. The trial period covered O&S meetings on 16 August, 25 October, 21 November, 13 December, 26 January and 14 February. Democratic Services are currently undertaking a review of the trial, the results of which will be reported to the April meeting of the panel.

#### **7.0 Watching Brief Issue: QEQM Hospital Services Review by East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust (EKHUFT)**

- 7.1 The Panel noted that the QEQM Hospital Cabinet Advisory Group met on 13 December and had drafted a response to the Health and Social Care Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) consultation which had been forwarded to EKHUFT by officers on behalf of council.

## 8.0 Call-In of Cabinet Decisions

8.1 There were no call-ins made by the Panel in this municipal year.

## 9.0 Cabinet Presentations at OSP Meetings

9.1 The Panel received a presentation from the Cabinet member for Regeneration and Enterprise Services at the Panel's meeting on 16 August 2016 entitled "key objectives for the Regeneration and Enterprise Services Portfolio regarding regeneration in the Thanet District".

Contact Officer:	Charles Hungwe, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Ext 7186
Reporting to:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager, Ext 7108

### Annex List

None	N/A
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### Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

### Corporate Consultation

<b>Finance</b>	Matt Sanham, Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Legal</b>	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer