

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Council	<b>23 February 2017</b>
Report Author	<b>Cllr D. Saunders, Chairman of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b>
Portfolio Holder	<b>Cllr Crow-Brown, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance</b>
Status	<b>For Information</b>
Classification:	<b>Unrestricted</b>
Key Decision	<b>No</b>
Ward:	<b>Thanet Wide</b>

## Executive Summary:

The purpose of the report is to highlight some of the key activities that have planned for by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel during the course of this municipal year 2016/17 and progress to date regarding implementation of the Panel's work programme.

## Recommendation(s):

1. Members are invited to discuss and note the report.

## CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

<b>Financial and Value for Money</b>	There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. The report provides a briefing to Full Council about the current work activities of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel.
<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

	<p>between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do 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 At each ordinary Full Council meeting, the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel presents a report on the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel since the last Council meeting.
- 1.2 Such a report will be subject to comment or debate by Members. This is in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1 of Part 4 of the Thanet District Council Constitution.
- 1.3 The report will therefore provide the basis for debate by Members on on-going scrutiny activities and hopefully lead to sharing of views and ideas to enhance the scrutiny function at Thanet District Council.

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

- 2.1 Having received a presentation on 'Sexual offence support in Thanet' from Acting DCI Max Davidson, supported by Chief Inspector Sharon Adley from Kent Police on 03 October 2016. They then got another 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.

2.2 In response to the presentations Members made the proposals to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel who in turn agreed to forward the following recommendations that:

- i. 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;
- ii. Approaches are made to the 'Place To Be' to provide their free children services to schools in Thanet;
- iii. 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.

2.3 As can be evidenced by above recommendations from the meeting, Members found the presentations useful. The above recommendations were referred to the Panel on 26 January 2017, who in turn agreed to forward them to Cabinet.

2.4 The working party met again 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.

2.5 Members were further advised by officers that the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner had a budget of £500,000 for victims' specialist service that councils could apply for funding of local community safety initiatives. The deadline for the applications (whose upper limit award would be £35,000) was 03 March 2017. In response, Members asked officers to expedite an application for Thanet through the Executive. If successful, such funding could assist with paying for the counselling service initiatives discussed above.

2.6 It is worth noting that at the beginning of the municipal year, the working party agreed to review issues relating to the following topics:

1. Changes to antisocial behaviour legislation – public space protection orders;
2. Littering and dog fouling – enforcement and proportionality of enforcement.
3. Neighbourhood engagement meetings;
4. Rough Sleeping – issues around homelessness and antisocial behaviour.

It is from the above list that the sub group will move to the next topic for review.

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

3.1 The working received performance reports at its meeting on 22 November on the following:

- Q2 Corporate Performance monitoring report 2016/17;
- Q2 East Kent Services Performance Monitoring Report 2016/17;
- Q2 East Kent Housing Performance Monitoring Report 2016/17;
- Tool Kit for determining Council projects as major or non-major.

- 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 the next 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 Call-In of Cabinet Decisions**

- 5.1 There were no call-ins made by the Panel since the last Council meeting.

#### **6.0 Cabinet Presentations at OSP Meetings**

- 6.1 There were no Cabinet Member presentations since the last Full Council meeting. Instead appropriate Portfolio Holders for have been attending Panel meetings to engage Members in discussion on items that fall within their specific portfolio areas.

#### **7.0 Overview and Scrutiny Panel Recommendations to Cabinet Implementation Monitoring**

- 7.1 At the meeting on 25 January 2017, the Panel made recommendations as reported in section 2.0 of the report. These would be considered at a Cabinet meeting (hopefully) on 09 March 2017.

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**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Details of where to access copy</b>
None	N/A

**Corporate Consultation**

<b>Finance</b>	Matt Sanham, Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Legal</b>	Ciara Feeney, Head of Legal Services & Deputy Monitoring Officer