

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

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| Council          | <b>13 July 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 2017/18 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> |

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| <b>Equalities Act 2010 &amp; Public Sector Equality Duty</b> | <p>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 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> <p>Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</p> <p>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,</p> <p>Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</p> <p>Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</p> <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> |
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| <b>CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓</b> |   | <b>CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓</b> |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| A clean and welcoming Environment                  |   | Delivering value for money                     | ✓ |
| Promoting inward investment and job creation       |   | Supporting the Workforce                       |   |
| Supporting neighbourhoods                          | ✓ | 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 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 Council's scrutiny function.

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

- 2.1 The first meeting of the working party for 2017/18 has been arranged for 20 July 2017.

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

- 3.1 The working party met on 27 June to consider the following reports:
- EK Housing Q4 year-end performance reports;
  - EK Services Q4 year-end performance reports;
  - TDC Q4 year-end performance report.
- 3.2 Members gave positive feedback to the good TDC fourth quarter corporate performance, particularly the trend of improvement. The working party also noted the comments of officers present that the April/May performance in Q1 of this year showed a continued positive trend. The working party thanked the staff for the positive performance.
- 3.3 The working party received the EK Services performance report which was positive as it reflected good performance across the services provided. The working party was also advised that EK Services (in partnership with TDC, CCC and DDC) recently received a national award for their 'Behaviour Change' work at the Municipal Journal Awards.
- 3.4 Members were advised that East Kent Housing (EKH) had carried out inspections to check fire safety measures at the six tower blocks and completed new Fire Risk Assessments (FRA's) for these. EKH is continuing to work with TDC, DCLG and KFRS to respond to information requirements. EKH has additionally communicated with residents to provide reassurance about the safety of their homes and to remind them of evacuation plans in the event of a fire. Validation checks are to be carried out at the blocks to give added assurance and double check that they comply with current building regulations. KFRS has also inspected Arlington House and were satisfied that these were appropriate. TDC officers in private sector housing department were part of the joint inspection team. There were no issues of concern that were raised from that inspection.
- 3.5 Members may wish to note the good news stories generated by the performance reports highlighted above.

## **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.
- 4.2 The group will meet on 31 July. It is hoped that Members will finalise their review and draw up conclusions that they will report to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel meeting on 18 August.

## 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 have been attending Panel meetings to engage Members in discussion on items that fall within their specific portfolio areas.

## 7.0 OSP Recommendations to Cabinet - Implementation Monitoring

7.1 The Panel considered a petition on Parking Charges for 2017/18 that had been referred to the Panel Full Council and recommended that Cabinet reconsiders the decision made by Council and revert the parking charges to the 2016/17 levels.

7.2 The petition scheme requires that all Council referrals would need to go back to Full Council who may refer the issue further to another of its committee. In this instance the issue has been brought back to Full Council with a recommendation to it be referred to Cabinet. This issue is reported else on the Council agenda.

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

## Annex List

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| None | N/A |
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## Background Papers

| Title | Details of where to access copy |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| None  | N/A                             |

## Corporate Consultation

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|----------------|--|
| <b>Finance</b> | Ramesh Prashar, Head of Financial Services                       |
| <b>Legal</b>   | Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer |