
REVIEW OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2012/13

To: **Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 23 April 2013**

Main Portfolio Area: **All Portfolios**

By: **Glenn Back, Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All**

Summary: **This report reviews the Overview and Scrutiny Panel work programme for 2012/13.**

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This report allows Members to review the Overview and Scrutiny Panel work programme agreed at the meeting on 12 February 2013.
- 1.2 Some of the task and finish groups met in the period February to March 2013 as reflected in the brief updates in Table 1 in the report. Chairmen of the various groups may wish to provide additional verbal updates at the Panel meeting.
- 1.3 It should be noted regarding the work currently being undertaken by the Richborough Household Waste Recycling Centre Review Task & Finish Group; Kent County Council recently announced that they were now re-considering their earlier decision to close the Recycle Centre.
- 1.4 However it should be noted that at a meeting of the Group on 14 February 2013, Members recommended to the Panel the following:
 - That using the information and analysis undertaken by the Richborough Action Group, officers prepare a letter with recommendations for submission to Kent County Council.
- 1.5 Members of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) Working Party met on 26 February 2013 and received an officer progress report on the community safety plan for 2012/13 and priorities for 2013/14. They said that domestic violence was a key community safety priority for the Thanet and made the following recommendation:
 - An appointment be made of a Thanet District Council (TDC) Member to the Domestic Violence Forum (an Outside Body).
- 1.6 The Officer report to the CDRP Working Party advised that the term 'Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership' was no longer used in legislation. Members

then recommended that the Group be renamed the “Community Safety Partnership Working Party.”

- 1.7 Council officers confirmed with the Chairman of the Thanet Domestic Violence Forum that a TDC Member can represent the Council on the Forum.
- 1.8 On 7 August 2012, Members of the Panel requested that they receive the end of year report and Business Plan for the EK Spatial Development Company, which is attached as Annex 1 to this report, for noting. Members’ comments are therefore invited upon it.
- 1.9 The Electoral Registration Process Review Task & Finish Group met on 13 March 2013 and made the following recommendations to the Panel:
 - That the Electoral Registration Officer is informed that it is this Group’s recommendation that the Home Office funding for the implementation of IER should be ring fenced;
 - That Councillors inform Electoral Services of any known changes in circumstances in the electoral register.
- 1.10 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, Political Groups have submitted names of their members to serve on some the Panel’s working parties and the memberships of these groups has been updated as reflected in Table 1 of the report.

2.0 Notice of Request for Future Agenda Items

- 2.1 There have been requests from Members of the Panel to include the following proposed agenda items in the Work Programme Report for Members’ consideration:
 - a. To re-examine the Council’s assets disposal process;
 - b. To consider the information given to residents when informing them of planning applications;
 - c. Proposals for Health Scrutiny at District level, in relation to Health & Wellbeing Boards.
- 2.2 Additional background information for the proposed work plan items is provided in Annexes 2 to 5 to the report.

3.0 The Work Programme Table

3.1 The table is sub-divided in order to illustrate the suggested nature of the work involved:

- a) **Standing Working Party /Task & Finish Group** – a formal sub-committee which will report its findings back to the Panel for recommendation onto the executive. In 2012/13 these Groups were categorised as either High Priority or Low Priority work to enable appropriate allocation of Council resources.
- b) **Presentations** – these are presentations to the Panel that will allow the Panel to consider whether any further work should be undertaken and a specific item included in the Panel’s work programme.
- c) **Status to be determined** – possible additions to the work programme. The Panel will need to decide whether to undertake work on them, and if so, how that work will be organised.
- d) Note that the Panel decided at the beginning of 2012/13 to discontinue the category of “informal” scrutiny meetings.

Table 1 – Work Programme

Issue	Composition/ Members	Lead Officer	Comment	Status
High Priority Work for 2012/13				
Corporate Improvement and Budget Working Party Date of Establishment: 28.05.08	Cllr Binks - Chairman Cllr Campbell Cllr Grove Cllr W. Scobie Cllr Wise Cllr Worrow	Sarah Martin	The Group met on 18 March 2013 and considered the ‘budget implications of recent staff departures and expected changes to service performance’.	On going
East Kent Hospitals Clinical Strategy Review Task & Finish Group Date of Establishment 29.05.12	Cllr Harrison - Chairman Cllr Cohen Cllr Gibson Cllr E. Green Cllr I. Gregory Cllr King Cllr Wells Cllr Wright	Madeline Homer	The Group met on 20 November 2012. The Group is awaiting the publication of the consultation document and the start of process of the public consultation on a new Clinical Strategy to be conducted by the East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) Board.	On going
Electoral Registration Process Review Task & Finish Group Date of Establishment 10.01.12	Cllr Cohen - Chairman Cllr K. Dark Cllr Grove Cllr Harrison Cllr Hornus Cllr W. Scobie Cllr M. Tomlinson Cllr S. Tomlinson	Glenn Back	The Group met on 13 March 2013 and made recommendations highlighted elsewhere in this report.	Next meeting is being arranged.

Issue	Composition/ Members	Lead Officer	Comment	Status
Minnis Bay Day Centre Review Task & Finish Group Date of Establishment 17.07.12	Cllr Kay Dark- Chairman Cllr Bruce Cllr Cohen Cllr Coleman- Cooke Cllr King Cllr Matterface	Madeline Homer	The Group met on 4 March 2013 to consider the KCC response to a number of queries Members had raised. They agreed that officers draft another letter to KCC with additional queries and to include a request for the Group to visit the Minnis Bay Day Centre	On going
Shared Services Working Party Date of Establishment: 15.06.10	Cllr Hornus - Chairman Cllr Cohen Cllr Driver Cllr Moore Cllr D. Saunders Cllr Watkins	Karen Paton Matt Sanham	The Group met on 7 March 2013.	On going
Welfare Reform Review Task & Finish Group Date of Establishment 29.05.12	Cllr Campbell Cllr Gibson Cllr King Cllr Moores Cllr Sullivan Cllr Worrow	Madeline Homer	Officers are still awaiting further guidance from Government on approaches to implement the welfare reforms.	On going
Thanet Beaches Contamination Review Task & Finish Group Date of Establishment 17.07.12	Cllr Harrison - Chairman Cllr Campbell Cllr Hibbert Cllr King Cllr Marson Cllr D Saunders Cllr M Tomlinson	Mark Seed	The Group submitted its final report to the Panel on 20 December 2012 and those recommendations were adopted (with minor amendments) by Cabinet on 22 January 2013.	Completed.
Richborough Household Waste Recycling Centre Review Task & Finish Group Date of Establishment 20.12.12	Cllr Gibson- Chairman Cllr E. Green Cllr Gideon Cllr Marson Cllr King Cllr Worrow	Mark Seed	The Group met on 14 February 2013. They agreed that there was no need for the Group to meet again as they recommended that an officer drafts a letter to KCC expressing TDC's concerns regarding the decision to close the Richborough Waste & Recycling Centre.	On Going and no need to again.
Low Priority Work for 2012/13				

Issue	Composition/ Members	Lead Officer	Comment	Status
Airport Working Party Date of Establishment: 02.10.07	Cllr Gideon - Chairman Cllr Alexandrou Cllr Bruce Cllr Gibson Cllr Grove Cllr Harrison Cllr Marson Cllr Worrow	Madeline Homer	The Group last met on 26 September 2012. Another meeting that was scheduled for 19 February 2013 was postponed to a date still to be arranged.	On going
Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership Working Party Date of Establishment 01.10.09	Cllr Edwards - Chairman Cllr Cohen Cllr Coleman-Cooke Cllr E. Green Cllr Hibbert Cllr King Cllr M Tomlinson Cllr M. Roberts	Martyn Cassell	The Group met on 18 February 2013 to receive an update on the Community Safety Plan 2012/13 and Draft Community Safety Plan 2013/14. They then met again on 26 February 2013 to receive additional information on the two Plans. The recommendations from this Group are reported elsewhere on the agenda.	On going
Presentations				
12/13 Presentations by Portfolio Holders, Directors of Services and Corporate Services Managers	N/A	All Portfolio Holders, Directors of Services and Corporate Services Managers	Each meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel receives a presentation from a Cabinet Portfolio Holder and appropriate Director.	There was no Cabinet Member presentation arranged for this meeting.
12/13	All Working Parties / Task & Finish Groups	All Directors of Services and Corporate Services Managers	Each meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel receives verbal reports (informal reports) from members of working groups. The last meeting of the year would receive final reports from all on-going Groups	
Status to be determined				
Health Scrutiny in relation to Health & Wellbeing Board.	N/A	N/A	This issue is in relation to the soon to be established Wellbeing Boards.	Status to be determined.

Issue	Composition/ Members	Lead Officer	Comment	Status

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial

4.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

4.2 Legal

4.2.1 There are no legal issues arising directly from this report.

4.3 Corporate

4.3.1 The work programme should help to deliver effective scrutiny. An active Scrutiny programme is part of good governance and will, ultimately underpin the Council's use of resources assessment.

4.3.2 The Working Parties / Task and Finish Groups assist the work of scrutiny as they carry-out an in-depth study of any issue referred to the groups under their terms of reference.

4.4. Equalities

4.4.1 None 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.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 That Members note the report;

5.2 That Members note the membership of the Task & Finish Groups/Working Parties that now reflects recent changes in the composition of political Groups;

As regards the recommendations in relation to the work of the Richborough Household Waste Recycling Centre TFG:-

5.3 That in view of recent comments by KCC that they intend to review their decision and the recommendation from the Richborough Household Waste Recycling Centre TFG; Members consider either of the following options:

a. Forward to Cabinet an officer prepared letter with recommendations for submission to KCC, as referred in Section 1.4 to the report; and

Option 1

b. Decommission the Richborough Household Waste Recycling Centre Review Task & Finish Group;

Or

Option 2

- c. Maintain the task & finish group with a watching brief until KCC formally rescinds the decision to close the Richborough Recycling Centre;

In relation to recommendations of the CDRP Working Party:-

- 5.4 That Members recommend to Cabinet that the Domestic Violence Forum be added to the Thanet District Council list of executive appointed Outside Bodies and that a TDC Member be made a nominee to that Outside Body;
- 5.5 That the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership Working Party be renamed the Community Safety Partnership Working Party.

In relation to recommendations from the Electoral Registration Process Review TFG:-

- 5.6 That the Electoral Registration Officer is informed that it is the Panel's recommendation that the Home Office funding for the implementation of IER should be ring fenced;
- 5.7 That Councillors inform Electoral Services of any known changes in circumstances in the electoral register.

As regards the Members requests for future Panel Agenda Items:-

- 5.8 Members views are sought regarding the Member proposed future agenda items in Section 2.0 of the report.

6.0 Decision Making Process

- 6.1 Any decisions on the work programme can be taken by the Panel.

Contact Officer:	Charles Hungwe, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Ext: 7186
Reporting To:	Glenn Back, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, Ext 7187

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	None

Annex List

Annex 1	EK Spatial Development Company Directors' Report & Financial Statement – for the Year ended 31 March 2012
Annex 2	Notice of Request for A future OSP Agenda Item – Review TDC 's Asset Disposal Process
Annex 3	Notice of Request for A future OSP Agenda Item - Review Information/advice given to residents by TDC when processing planning applications
Annex 4	Notice of Request for A future OSP Agenda Item - Proposal for Health Scrutiny at District level
Annex 5	OSP Chairman's email to KCC – Health Scrutiny at District level

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Sarah Martin, Financial Services Manager
Legal	Harvey Patterson, Corporate & Regulatory Services Manager