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## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL**

To: **Council – 31 March 2016**

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

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Thanet Wide**

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**Summary:** **The purpose of the report is to highlight some of the key activities that have been planned for by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel during the course of this municipal year 2015/16 and progress to date regarding implementation of the Panel's work programme.**

### **For Information**

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#### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 Members agreed at the Full Council meeting on 2 October 2014 that 'at each of its ordinary meetings, Council will receive a written report introduced by the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel since the last Council meeting. Such a report will be subject to comment or debate in the usual way.'
- 1.2 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 The sub-group has not met since the last Full Council meeting on 25 February.

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

- 3.1 The sub-group has not met since the last Full Council meeting on 25 February. However Members may wish to note that Council went through another Peer Review on 25-26 February, which basically was a follow-up on the original Peer review that was carried out about two years ago. It is hoped that the sub-group will receive the results of the peer challenge, through an officer report back.
- 3.2 I am aware that councillors and staff were involved in the review process as they took part in Member and staff focus groups separately. I am hopeful that the results will show progress towards improved Council performance on all the key issues highlighted in the review.

- 3.4 I suggest that a report back to Members on the outcome of the review could be done through a Members Forum presentation, once the report is ready for sharing with Members and staff.

#### **4.0 Electoral Registration Process Review Task & Finish Group**

- 4.1 The task and finish group will be meeting on 11 April 2016. It is hoped that Members will get feedback from officers regarding the request that Council put forward to the Cabinet Office for continued funding of the Individual Electoral Registration (IER) process to improve voter registration, given the uncertainties around the future of the annual canvass process.

#### **5.0 Call-In of Cabinet Decisions**

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

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

- 6.1 Acting on the request of Panel Members, I have invited Councillor Stummer-Schmertzing, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise Development to the next Panel meeting on 26 April 2016 to make a presentation on the following topic:

‘The key objectives for the Regeneration and Enterprise Services Portfolio regarding Regeneration in Thanet District.’

- 6.2 Unfortunately I was advised that although Councillor Stummer-Schmertzing was happy to attend, the invitation came at an inopportune time because Cabinet was in the process of drafting a new Economic Development Strategy for the district.
- 6.3 I do hope that once Cabinet is ready to share the contents of the proposed Strategy, the portfolio holder will present it to the Panel and engage Members in debate on the details in relation to the executive’s vision for economic development for Thanet. This discussion could be arranged for the early part of new municipal year.

#### **7.0 Corporate Implications**

##### **7.1 Financial and VAT**

- 7.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

##### **7.2 Legal**

- 7.2.1 There are no significant legal implications arising directly 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.

##### **7.3 Equity and Equalities**

- 7.3.1 There are no equity and equalities implications arising directly from this report.

## 8.0 Recommendation

8.1 Members are invited to discuss and note the report.

## 9.0 Decision Making Process

9.1 The Council Constitution allows the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel to present a report at each scheduled Council meeting for Members' information.

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 Undertaken

Finance	Matt Sanham, Financial Services Manager
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance