

REVIEW OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016/17

Overview and Scrutiny Panel **26 January 2017**

Report Author **Senior Democratic Services Officer**

Portfolio Holder **Councillor Crow-Brown, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance**

Status **For Decision**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Key Decision **No**

Ward: **Thanet Wide**

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to update Panel Members on the progress regarding the work of the Panel, most of which is undertaken through three working parties. This report reviews the work programme for 2016/17.

Recommendation(s):

1. Members are requested to note the report;
2. Members are also requested to forward to Cabinet the following recommendations from the Community Safety Partnership Working Party (*with finance officer suggested amendments in track changes*):
 - a) Thanet District Council *will* 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.

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CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However, if Cabinet agree any other recommendations other than those mentioned within the body of this report there could be financial implications for the council in that any further commitment for Thanet District Council to provide funding will require the identification of a suitable funding source.
Legal	There are no legal issues arising directly from this report.

Corporate	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.								
Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	<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 & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.</p> <table border="1"> <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="text-align: center;">✓</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 style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </table> <p>There no equity and equalities issues arising directly from this report 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. It should also be noted that a review to be conducted by one of the working parties focuses on protecting vulnerable individuals of the local community from violence.</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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Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	✓								

CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	✓

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

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This report allows Members to review the Overview and Scrutiny Panel work programme agreed at the Annual Panel meeting on 24 May 2016. The Panel reconstituted the Community Safety Partnership Working Party, Corporate Performance Review Working Party and Electoral Registration Process Review Working Party. This is an update of the work programme since the previous meeting held on 13 December 2016.
- 1.2 Table 1 in Annex 1, highlights some of the key agenda items for future Overview & Scrutiny Panel meetings for 2016/17. The items are sourced from the Forward Plan, Table 2 shares brief progress comments for each sub group are in subsequent.

1.3 Annex 2 provides information on the current scrutiny reviews Chairmen and other members of the working parties could provide additional comments during the debate of this item at the Panel meeting.

1.4 Annex 3 reflects the current priority table for proposed scrutiny review topics.

2.0 Community Safety Partnership Working Party

2.1 The working party met on 12 December and received the second of a two part presentation on Victim support facilities in Thanet and the second presentation was from Victim Support and East Kent Rape Crisis Centre. In conclusion to the presentations, Members agreed a set of recommendations to forward to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

2.2 The Panel is therefore being asked to consider the following recommendations that were agreed by the working party that:

“1. Thanet District Council approach town councils in Thanet to provide funding for £188 one day per week, EK Rape Crisis Centre counselling services if Thanet District Council would provide a room for the counselling sessions.

2. Approaches are made to the 'Place To Be' to provide their free children services to schools in Thanet.

3. A letter be written to the Police Crime Commissioner (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 It is important to note that £188 of funding is needed on a weekly basis and therefore the total needed is near to £10,000 per annum.

3.0 Corporate Performance Review Working Party

3.1 Members met on 22 November and received performance reports for the second quarter of the year. In response to a report on the management of corporate projects tool kit that was being developed by council, Members agreed that once the tool kit was in place, the working party would identify a limited number of corporate projects to review.

3.2 The meeting was advised by East Kent Services that an appointments facility had been recently been launched at the Gateway and initial feedback shows a high level of customer satisfaction. Members commended the new appointments facility and requested that consideration be given to the elderly population, many of whom may not be computer literate.

3.3 It was also reported that the take up of Universal Credit (UC) in Thanet had been slow. The programme would be moving to full roll out stage in 2017, which effectively starts to deliver the six benefits to all sections of the population, many of whom are currently not being dealt with by UC.

4.0 Dreamland Working Group

4.1 The Panel set up the Dreamland Working in response to the report that was presented to the Members on 13 December 2016.

4.2 The sub group will have their first meeting on 02 February to draft terms of reference and agree a work programme which hopefully will be guided by realistic deadlines for completing the review work.

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Annex List

Annex 1	Sub group activities and key agenda items updates
Annex 2	Current scrutiny reviews
Annex 3	Priority Table for proposed scrutiny reviews

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Nicola Walker, Technical Finance Manager
Legal	Ciara Feeney, Head of Legal Services & Deputy Monitoring Officer