

## **REVIEW OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2017/18**

Overview and Scrutiny Panel **15 August 2017**

Report Author	<b>Senior Democratic Services Officer</b>
Portfolio Holder	<b>Councillor Crow-Brown, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance</b>
Status	<b>For Decision</b>
Classification:	<b>Unrestricted</b>
Key Decision	<b>No</b>
Ward:	<b>Thanet Wide</b>

### **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 2017/18 and suggests a time limited work stream on reviewing proposals in the draft Local Plan.

### **Recommendation(s):**

Members are also requested to agree the following:

1. Note the report;
2. Establish a Local Plan Working Group or;
3. That the Overview & Scrutiny Panel be the Local Plan Working Group;
4. That if Members have opted to set up a new sub group with a limited Panel membership, then either:
  - a) Establish membership to the sub group taking into account political proportionality or;
  - b) Unanimously disregard political proportionality;
  - c) The membership size;
5. The terms of reference which are 'to review the proposed draft Local Plan and make recommendations to the Panel;
6. To work to the indicative timetable set out in Annex 4 to the report.

The Panel is also asked to consider the recommendation from the Community Safety Partnership Working Party that:

7. A request be forwarded to the executive that a presentation be made at a Members Briefing session on 'Council services to the homeless in Thanet.'

<b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>									
<b>Financial and Value for Money</b>	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.								
<b>Legal</b>	There are no legal issues arising directly from this report.								
<b>Corporate</b>	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.								
<b>Equality 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> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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> </tbody> </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.	✓								

<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 This report allows Members to review the Overview and Scrutiny Panel work programme agreed at the Annual Panel meeting on 23 May 2017. The Panel reconstituted the Community Safety Partnership Working Party, Corporate Performance Review Working Party and Dreamland Working Group. This report provides an update of the work programme since the May.

- 1.2 Chairmen and members of the working parties could provide additional comments during the debate of this item at the Panel meeting.
- 1.3 Table 1 in Annex 1, highlights some of the key agenda items for future Overview & Scrutiny Panel meetings for 2017/18. The items are sourced from the Forward Plan, Table 2 shares brief progress comments for each sub group are in subsequent.
- 1.4 Annex 2 provides information on the current scrutiny reviews. Currently there are no scrutiny reviews being conducted by the Panel. 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 20 July and agreed to review two topics; Crime Statistics in Thanet and topical Operational Services issues including parking enforcement (at schools) and fly tipping in the district. Additional topics will be identified during the year.
- 2.2 Members also recommended to the Panel that a request be forwarded to the executive that a presentation be made at a Members Briefing session on 'Council services to the homeless in Thanet.'

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

- 3.1 The sub group met on the 27 June 2017 and received Quarter 4 performance reports, from TDC, East Kent Services and East Kent Housing. Members gave positive feedback to the good TDC fourth quarter corporate performance, particularly the trend of improvement. They also noted officer comments that the April/May performance in Q1 of this year showed a continued positive trend and thanked the staff for the positive performance.
- 3.2 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. Members commended the EK Services performance report which reflected good performance across the services provided.
- 3.3 East Kent Housing reported good performance with the capital programme expenditure having increased, which demonstrated increased work activity. They had centralised the complaints procedure and were currently recruiting a complaints officer to manage the new system. 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.
- 3.4 EKH is continuing to work with TDC, Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG) and Kent Fire & Rescue Services (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.
- 3.5 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.

#### **4.0 Dreamland Working Group**

- 4.1 The sub group met for its fourth and last meeting on 31 July and received a presentation on the Dreamland Project, the historical facts regarding the works undertaken from the initial construction, architectural designs used and current refurbishment works and costs involved.
- 4.2 Members were also briefed of the current progress regarding Phase 2 of the project which would see the Council identifying potential operator(s) for the restaurant, café and bars.
- 4.3 Members concluded that some important lessons had been learnt about project management and were satisfied despite the challenges, that Phase 1 had been successfully carried out and laid a good foundation for Phase 2. The lessons learnt would be used to successfully manage Dreamland Phase 2.
- 4.4 The Working Group made the following summary:
  - a. Lessons have been learnt in Phase 1 to inform the implementation of Dreamland Phase 2 project;
  - b. Phase 1 has turned to be successful, with some initial challenges;
  - c. Phase 2 Work is being completed under budget;
  - d. Combined private and public sectors big investment in Phase 1 has made a difference to the successful completion of the project;
  - e. New project management system has made a difference to the management of the project;
  - f. Officers and the meeting chair will draft a summary of learning points and action points to share with the Panel.
- 4.5 It is therefore recommended that the Panel de-commissions the Dreamland Working Group and identify other work streams, most notably a review of the draft Local Plan.

#### **5.0 Reviewing the Draft Local Plan – pre decision scrutiny**

- 5.1 The Council is currently working on a draft local Plan that will be formally published early in 2018. It is hoped that once Cabinet has formally resolved to recommend the draft Plan document to Council for Publication, the Overview & Scrutiny Panel will have an opportunity to conduct a pre-decision scrutiny on the proposals in the Plan.

##### **Establish a Working Group**

- 5.2 The scrutiny process could be conducted through a sub group. The sub group would go through a series of briefings/workshops facilitated by officers in the Planning Department. This approach would enable Members to study the proposals in the draft Local Plan in more depth at a strategic point in the decision making process as this will offer them an opportunity to make recommendations for consideration by the Panel leading onward submission to Cabinet and then Council.
- 5.3 It is therefore proposed that the Panel considers adopting the approach being proposed in the report that includes setting up a sub group and working through a schedule of workshop sessions leading up to recommendations being presented to the November Panel meeting as shown in Annex 4 to the report. This approach tries to reflect the views expressed by the Panel when last considering the draft local plan in 21 November 2016.
- 5.4 However this proposal is based on the assumption that the Dreamland Working Group would have concluded its work and presented its views to the Panel on 15 August. This

proviso is so that the scrutiny work load is kept within manageable proportions bearing in mind resource limitations.

### **OSP as the Working Group**

- 5.5 As an alternative to setting up a new and separate sub group with a limited number of Panel members, the Panel could agree that the entire Overview & Scrutiny Panel becomes the Local Plan Working Group. This enables participation in the more in-depth review of the draft Local Plan by all members of the Panel.

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

- 6.1 The Panel called-in a key officer decision on the 'Closure of the Ramsgate District Office' and the issue was considered at an extraordinary meeting on 26 July.
- 6.2 Although Members did not suggest any changes to the actual decision made they requested that mitigatory measures be put in place in order to manage the adverse effects the decision might have on some residents. The Director of East Kent Services, (the decision maker) agreed to take some measures highlighted in the extraordinary Panel minutes in the link provided here: [Extraordinary OSP Minutes](#).

### **7.0 Cabinet Presentations at OSP Meetings**

- 7.1 The Panel Chairman requested for Member contributions to ideas for topics that could be suggested to Cabinet Members for presentations at future Panel meetings. One such proposal was for the Leader of Council to give an update on the proposals for the East Kent Merger and the implications arising from the decision by Cabinet not to pursuing that initiative further as a result of similar decision being made by the neighbouring local authorities.
- 7.2 The Leader agreed in principle to be in attendance at the Panel meeting on 24 October to engage the Panel in discussion on the following topic:
- 'Since the proposals for an East Kent Merger have now ended, what plans does TDC have to address future budgetary concerns?'

### **8.0 OSP Recommendations to Cabinet - Implementation Monitoring**

- 8.1 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 and look for savings from other service areas to fund that decision.
- 8.2 The petition was reported back to Full Council on 13 July as is required by the petition scheme. Full Council referred the issue to Cabinet who in turn acknowledged the petition and the OSP recommendations.
- 8.3 On 27 July Cabinet re-iterated its decision made at an extraordinary meeting on 18 July to introduce a new residents' only parking voucher scheme which would see charges for daily parking reduced to £2.50 (if bought as single tickets) and £2.00 if one bought a £40.00 booklet of voucher tickets.
- 8.4 The new scheme would start at the end of July 2017 and would run until end of October and in subsequent years, would continuously run from April to October. This final Cabinet decision will be reported back to Full Council for information.

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Reporting to:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager, Ext: 57208

### 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
Annex 4	TDC Indicative Timetable for adopting the draft Local Plan

### Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

### Corporate Consultation

<b>Finance</b>	Ramesh Prashar, Head of Financial Services
<b>Legal</b>	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance