

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Council	07 September 2017
Report Author	Cllr D. Saunders, Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Crow-Brown, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance
Status	For Information
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	Thanet Wide

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

Financial and Value for Money	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.
Legal	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.
Corporate	<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 & 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>

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> <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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CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓		CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓	
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 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. Kent Police have agreed to attend a meeting of the working party in September to lead on the discussion about crime statistics in the area. Additional topics for review by the working party will be identified during the course of 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 working party met on 27 June to consider the following reports will meet on 04 September to consider performance reports for the first quarter of the 2017/18 financial year.

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.

5.0 Scrutinising the Draft Local Plan

- 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.
- 5.2 The scrutiny process would be conducted through a sub group. The sub group will hold 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. This will offer Members an opportunity to make recommendations for to Cabinet and then Council.
- 5.3 At the August meeting, the Panel agreed the approach detailed above and set up the Local Plan Working Group made up of all members of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel. The working group will conduct the review through three workshops between end of

October and first week of November. The review would end with a formal Panel meeting in November where recommendations would be put forward to cabinet.

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.
- 6.3 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 There were no Cabinet Member presentations since the last Full Council meeting. The Leader of Council will be giving a presentation at the Panel meeting on 24 October. This will be 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.'

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. Full council further referred the petition to Cabinet who in turn considered the issue on 27 July.
- 8.2 The petition scheme requires that all Council referrals would need to go back to Full Council for information. This issue is reported else on the Council agenda.

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Annex List

None	N/A
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Ramesh Prashar, Head of Financial Services
Legal	Sophia Nartey, Interim Head of Legal Services & Deputy Monitoring Officer