

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

Overview and Scrutiny Panel **24 October 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 2017/18 and suggests a time limited work stream on reviewing proposals in the draft Local Plan.

**Recommendation(s):**

Members are requested to comment and thereafter note the report.

**CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

<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>	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.  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.

	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.	✓
	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.	

<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 Panel meeting on 15 August 2017. The Panel's current work programme is made up of the Community Safety Partnership Working Party, Corporate Performance Review Working Party and OSP Local Plan Working Group. This report provides an update of the work programme since the previous meeting.
- 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 Members met on 28 September 2017 and received a report from Kent Police on 'Crime Stats in Thanet'. It was explained to Members by the Police that a comparison of crime statistics for 2016 and 2017 would be difficult because there have been changes to how crime is being reported using new format. Instead the Police report focussed on key crime issues that were affecting the district.
- 2.2 The main focus for this report was on youth crime in Margate and Ramsgate and what the Police were doing to address this problem. Local communities were concerned by youth congregating at some areas, particularly food outlets in Ramsgate and causing a public nuisance.

2.3 The Police advised the meeting that they were using a number of tools that included dispersal orders, home visits and acceptable behaviour orders to tackle the problem. In response to the announcement of Inspector Mark Pearson's retirement, Members thanked him for the work he did for Thanet, with the Margate Task Force.

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

3.1 The sub group met on the 4<sup>th</sup> September and received Quarter 1 performance reports, from TDC, East Kent Services and East Kent Housing. The reports showed largely good performance trends.

3.2 Members noted the introduction of mechanical sweepers for street cleansing that had markedly improved street cleaning. They challenged officers to ensure improved cleaning of pavements and other areas in the district where on street parking may hinder the cleaning exercise. Members also challenged detritus statistics which they felt required officer attention. They also commended officers for the decrease in staff sickness figures per employee.

3.3 The working party agreed that most of the indicators for East Kent Services were good with some slippage in processing of benefits and call waiting times. Officers indicated that the new benefits system that was recently introduced and the parliamentary and local government elections contributed to an unusually high call volume. This statistics would improve in the coming quarter. Members agreed that the explanations given were adequate.

3.4 Members sought explanations regarding the underspent budget for the East Kent Housing capital programme. Officers advised that they had been working on a housing stock condition survey which confirmed that the assumptions for the budget built were off the mark as they were higher than was needed and some adjustments downwards would have to be made during the course of the year.

3.5 EKH were working on putting in place mitigatory measures to ensure that there were no disruption on tenancy for residents which may be caused by the impact of the universal credit.

### **4.0 Report on Dreamland Working Group**

4.1 The sub group was discontinued as it had completed its assignment. A report on the work done would be presented as a separate item elsewhere on the Panel agenda.

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

5.1 The Panel set up a working group made up of the entire membership of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel to review the proposals for the draft Local Plan. Three meetings have been arranged for the following dates:

Tuesday, 31 October 2017;  
Thursday, 02 November 2017;  
Tuesday, 07 November 2017.

5.2 To give structure to the review process, Members agreed to hold workshops sessions at which the following topics would be discussed following an officer presentation at each session:

- Contextual information to the draft local plan and Housing;
- Employment & Economy;

- Infrastructure provision & Environmental Policy.

5.5 Members will submit key questions to officers at least a week before each workshop session. This would give officers some lead time to prepare appropriate responses in time for each briefing session. To conclude the review, the working group would then present their recommendations to the 21 November Panel meeting.

## 6.0 Call-In of Cabinet Decisions

6.1 There were no valid call-ins made since the last meeting of the Panel.

## 7.0 Cabinet Presentations at OSP Meetings

7.1 The Panel would receive a presentation by the Leader of Council on 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 This is reported elsewhere on the agenda where the Leader of Council is responding to the question '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 There were no recommendations made by the Panel to Cabinet since the last meeting.

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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

## 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