

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Council	12 October 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	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.	✓	
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.		
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.		

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 28 September 2017 and received an update report from Kent Police on crime in the district. 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.
- 2.2 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 4th September and received quarterly reports from East Kent Services, East Kent Housing and Thanet District Council. Officers reported largely good performance in the first quarter for 2017/18.
- 3.2 With regards to the TDC report, Members acknowledged the good work being done by the mechanical sweepers. 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 Dreamland Working Group

- 4.1 The sub group concluded its work and would be submitted a report to the Panel on 24 October.

5.0 OSP Local Plan Working Group

- 5.1 The Panel will be reviewing the proposals in the draft Local Plan on the following dates, after which recommendations will be forwarded to Cabinet for onward submission to Council:
- 31 October;
 - 02 November;
 - 07 November.

6.0 Call-In of Cabinet Decisions

6.1 There were no call-ins in the period under review.

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 There were no recommendations submitted to Cabinet in the period under review.

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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	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance