

ESTABLISHING THE FINANCE, BUDGET & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2018/19

Finance, Budget & Performance
Scrutiny Panel

17 July 2018

Report Author

Senior Democratic Services Officer

Portfolio Holder

Councillor Savage, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance & Coastal Development

Status

For Decision

Classification:

Unrestricted

Key Decision

No

Ward:

Thanet Wide

Executive Summary:

This report sets out possible activities of the Finance, Budget & Performance Scrutiny Panel for 2018/19 and asks the Panel to determine the priority areas of work for the new municipal year.

Recommendations:

1. With reference to Annex 1 to the report, Members are requested to agree the Panel's work programme for 2018/19.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report but elements of the suggested work programme may have financial and resource implications.
Legal	There are no legal issues arising directly from this report. However a robust scrutiny function that is set up in a positive critical friend environment effective decision making and policy development.
Corporate	<p>The work programme should help to deliver effective policy decision making by scrutinising executive decisions before, and at times after, implementation.</p> <p>The sub-committees assist the work of scrutiny as they would carry-out an in-depth study of any issue referred to the groups under their terms of reference. An active Scrutiny programme is part of good governance.</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.								
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <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></td> </tr> </table>	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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	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.								
	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)✓	
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 paper allows the Panel to establish and agree the work programme for 2018/19. In scoping out its work, the Panel may wish to consider any outstanding work from 2017/18.
- 1.2 In 2017/18, the Panel's work programme was undertaken through two working parties, namely the Community Safety Working Party and Corporate Performance Review Working Party.
- 1.3 Almost all the work programme activities were carried out through Council officer and on occasion external agency officer presentations. This was in addition to standing officer support at the working party meetings to provide technical advice to Members during debate.

2.0 Terms of reference of the Finance, Budget & Performance Scrutiny Panel

- 2.1 At Annual Council this May, Council agreed a new approach to the scrutiny function and established two scrutiny panels. One of the panels would focus on monitoring the budget and corporate performance of the council as well as shared arrangements while the other would lead scrutiny reviews on policy development, community safety matters and call-ins. Both Panels met towards the end of May and made comments and suggestions regarding their draft terms of reference.

2.2 The Finance Scrutiny Panel referred a proposal regarding the 'call-in' function to the Constitutional Review Working Party. However after some debate, the proposal was not adopted by the working party.

2.3 The purpose of this report is to assist the Finance, Budget & Performance Scrutiny Panel to consider and agree a work programme based on the terms of reference.

3.0 Setting up the Work Programme for 2018/19

3.1 Changes to the Council's scrutiny function now means that the work programme for this Panel for 2018/19 is now restricted to the draft terms of reference, as highlighted in Annex 1 to the report. It is hoped that the constitutional changes to reflect the new scrutiny function will be agreed by Council in time for the Panel meeting in July.

3.2 The new Panel is expected to conduct all its business without recourse to setting up sub groups. This is because Democratic Services would be unable to resource additional work streams.

3.3 Members may wish to note that in previous years and up to 2017/18, a working party of the main Overview & Scrutiny Panel received and considered corporate performance reports from the council, East Kent Housing and East Kent Services at quarterly intervals (or thereabout).

3.4 The new Panel may wish to take a view on how it will structure its work to take into consideration how it will progress this area of focus. However it is worth noting that moving forward (as from 2018/19), corporate performance reports for East Kent Services and East Kent Housing will be incorporated into the Thanet District Council performance report to be presented by a senior officer from the council.

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Annex List

Annex 1	Finance, Budget & Performance draft Work Programme for 2018/19
Annex 2	Finance, Budget & Performance Scrutiny Panel terms of reference

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