

FINANCE, BUDGET & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Council	06 September 2018
Report Author	Cllr Lynda Piper, Chairman of the Finance, Budget & Performance Scrutiny Panel
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Ashbee, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance & Coastal Development
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 Finance Scrutiny Panel during the course of this 2018/19 municipal year 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 Finance Scrutiny Panel.
Legal	There are no legal implications directly arising from this report. A presentation of the Panel 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 Finance Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>The debate on the Panel 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>

Equality 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)✓	
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 At each ordinary Full Council meeting, the Chairman of the each Overview and Scrutiny Panel presents a report on the work undertaken by the Panel since the last Council meeting.
- 1.2 Such a report would be subject to comment or debate by Members. This was in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1 of Part 4 of the Council Constitution.

1.3 The report would 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.

1.4 This is the first such report being presented to Council under new scrutiny arrangements that have seen the establishment of the Finance, Budget & Performance Scrutiny Panel and the Executive, Policy & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel.

2.0 Current Scrutiny Activities

2.1 The Finance Scrutiny Panel established its work programme at the meeting on 17 July. The main activities were established around receiving and commenting on quarterly corporate performance reports to be presented as a combined report for the Council, East Kent Services and East Kent Housing.

2.2 Members for this Panel agreed to continue to engage Cabinet Members through Cabinet Member presentations at Panel meetings. This of course would be dependent on the availability of the portfolio holders.

2.3 The current work programme for the Panel for 2018/19 is attached as Annex 1 to the Council report. This schedule was subject to amendments during the course of the year as Members added more items for reviewing.

2.4 During the course of the year the Panel would receive reports on Proposed Council Fees and Charges for 2019/20, Electoral Voter Registration - 2017/18 Canvass (ahead of next May Local Government Elections) and Budget 2019/20 & Medium Term Financial Plan 2019-23.

3.0 Cabinet Presentations at Panel Meetings

3.1 The Panel requested for a presentation on the 'financial and operational performance of the Ramsgate Port and Harbour.'

4.0 Panel Recommendations to Cabinet - Implementation Monitoring

4.1 There were no presentations made to cabinet that were either awaiting final decision or implementation.

Contact Officer:	Charles Hungwe, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Ext 7186
Reporting to:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager, Ext 7108

Annex List

Annex 1	Finance, Budget & Performance Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2018/19
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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 & Monitoring Officer