

# EXECUTIVE, POLICY & COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Council	<b>11 October 2018</b>
Report Author	<b>Cllr Glenn Coleman-Cooke, Chairman of the Executive, Policy &amp; Community Safety Scrutiny Panel</b>
Status	<b>For Information</b>
Classification:	<b>Unrestricted</b>
Key Decision	<b>No</b>
Ward:	<b>Thanet Wide</b>

## Executive Summary:

The purpose of the report is to highlight some of the key activities that have been planned for by the Executive 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

<b>Financial and Value for Money</b>	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 Executive Scrutiny Panel.
<b>Legal</b>	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.
<b>Corporate</b>	<p>There are no corporate risks associated with this report. The report enables discussion by Members at Full Council on the activities of the Executive 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>

<b>Equality Act 2010 &amp; Public Sector Equality Duty</b>	<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 &amp; maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage &amp; 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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<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 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 ongoing scrutiny activities and hopefully lead to sharing of views and ideas to enhance the Council's scrutiny function.

## **2.0 Current Scrutiny Activities**

2.1 The Executive Scrutiny Panel met on 27 September to review their work programme. They discussed the report on the Museums (Asset Management). Members raised a number of points for Cabinet to consider before making a final decision on the future of the properties.

2.2 Key among those points was the need to consider the community value in some of the properties to be disposed. Cabinet was encouraged to consider employing an expert who could explore the option for setting up a joint venture with an established museum to run the local museums. Members also asked Cabinet to pursue the possibility of accessing the £50k bequeathed to Dickens House Museum in order to use the funds for the maintenance of the museum.

2.3 Members also engage the Cabinet Member for Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods in discussing the 'Food Law Service Plan and Enforcement Policy' at the same meeting. As this is a policy framework issue, The Panel made formal recommendations to Cabinet for Cabinet to consider before they also recommend the Policy to Full Council.

2.4 Whilst they recommended the policy to Cabinet/Council, the Panel also proposed that Cabinet considered identifying additional funding for staff training and ensuring that the staff complement in the environmental and enforcement team was sufficient to deliver the highly needed statutory food inspection service in the district.

2.5 Although the Panel had planned to discuss the 'Crime Statistics in Thanet' report from the Community Safety Partnership, they would now get the report at the 13 November meeting.

2.6 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.

## **3.0 Call-in of Executive decisions**

3.1 Under the new scrutiny arrangements, the Executive Scrutiny Panel is responsible for all call-ins of executive decisions. At the time of producing this report, there were no call-ins that had been made the Panel.

## **4.0 Panel Recommendations to Cabinet - Implementation Monitoring**

4.1 **Asset Management – Thanet Museums report:** The Panel requested Cabinet to 'Establish when the £50k funds bequeathed to Dickens House would be made available to be used for the maintenance of the Museum and whether TDC had the right to dispose of the building.'

4.2 **Food Law Service Plan and Enforcement Policy report:** Whilst recommending the policy for adoption by Council, the Panel also proposed that ‘Cabinet identified funding for staff training and additional staffing in order to effectively deliver the highly needed statutory service.’

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### Annex List

Annex 1	Executive, Policy & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2018/19
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### Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

### Corporate Consultation

<b>Finance</b>	Ramesh Prashar, Head of Financial & Procurement Services
<b>Legal</b>	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer