

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

Council	<b>11 October 2018</b>
Report Author	<b>Cllr Lynda Piper, Chairman of the Finance, Budget &amp; Performance 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 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**

<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 Finance 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 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>

<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.
- 1.4 This report follows on from the one presented at Full Council on 06 September.

## **2.0 Current Scrutiny Activities**

- 2.1 The Panel has not met since the Full Council meeting in September.
- 2.2 The Panel would continue to work to the work programme set out at the July meeting. It is worth noting that the meeting on 30 August Members debated the presentation style of the performance report and came up with the following recommendations for Cabinet to consider:
  1. That the "Count of enterprises in Thanet" indicator should be amended to a 'Count of enterprises across Kent.' This was because the level of retention (under the business rates retention scheme) was dependent on the how Thanet District Council performed against other councils participating in the scheme in attracting business enterprises to operate in the district.
  2. That Cabinet introduces performance targets for the issues highlighted in 'Grey' in the report, if it was not possible to so, a report be brought back to the Panel advising why the proposal could not be implemented.
- 2.3 Cabinet's response was as follows:
  1. That with regards to recommendation 1 from the Finance Scrutiny Panel: Cabinet confirmed that future performance reports would identify a comparison of enterprises within Kent;
  2. That with regards to recommendation 2 from the Finance Scrutiny Panel: Cabinet agreed to explore how best to report the contextual indicators which currently do not have a target (i.e. those represented as grey in the Cabinet report) in order to understand whether new performance measures can be introduced in future.
- 2.4 Members also received an officer report on Electoral Voter Registration - 2017/18 Canvass (ahead of next May Local Government Elections). The report showed encouraging voter registration with the current response rate at 70.34%. In 2017/18 the registration response was 88.01%.
- 2.5 In response to the report, Members suggested that some wording be added as a footnote to the council tax letters reminding residents of the requirement to register to vote. Officers agreed to investigate that suggestion.
- 2.6 During the course of the year the Panel would receive reports on Proposed Council Fees and Charges for 2019/20 and Budget 2019/20 & Medium Term Financial Plan 2019-23.

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

### **3.0 Cabinet Presentations at Panel Meetings**

3.1 Members requested for a presentation on the 'financial and operational performance of the Ramsgate Port and Harbour' and this was scheduled to take place at the 23 October Panel.

### **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**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Details of where to access copy</b>
None	N/A

### **Corporate Consultation**

<b>Finance</b>	Ramesh Prashar, Head of Financial and Procurement Services
<b>Legal</b>	Sophia Nartey, Interim Head of Legal Services