

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

Council	06 December 2018
Report Author	Cllr Glenn Coleman-Cooke, Chairman of the Executive, Policy & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel
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 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	
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 Executive 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 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>

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 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 13 November to review their work programme to consider the report on 'Crime Stats in Thanet'. Kent Police representatives made a presentation before the Panel and spoke about the initiatives they had taken working in collaboration with other agencies to reduce crime, particularly anti-social behaviour in the district.
- 2.2 They had also taken part in the national campaign against Knife Crime (Operation Sceptre). This operation included many different strands of activity, a key one being enforcement in the Night Time Economy but also included preventative work and engagement with young people. Members engaged the Police in debate on a number of points from the presentation and at the end of the discussion requested for a presentation on 'Police response times to emergency calls.'
- 2.3 The Panel was also consulted on the Housing Allocations Policy proposals as part of the public consultation on the new proposals. Although Members acknowledged that the proposals looked appropriate, they made an important intervention by requesting that the Key Worker list should include Care Support Workers. This recommendation will be considered by Cabinet on 15 January 2019.
- 2.4 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 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.
- 3.2 Members called in an Individual Cabinet Member decision on Digital Parking Pilot Project. The Panel felt that the information provided in the report accompanying the decision could have been more detailed.
- 3.3 The Executive acknowledged this point and indicated that the issue had since been resolved as the portfolio holder was given a briefing by officers. Additional information was provided to the Panel through the responses that were given by the Leader of Council who stood in for the portfolio holder.
- 3.4 At the end of the debate, the Panel did not take any further action, thereby making the decision implementable from that night.

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 Cabinet considered the Panel recommendation on 18 October and agreed to address concerns raised in the recommendations; should Cabinet decide to proceed and

agree to the marketing of the properties as part of the stage 1 of the disposals process.

4.3 **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.'

4.4 At the same meeting, Cabinet also considered and acknowledged the Panel recommendation. Since this issue is a policy framework matter, it would be finalised at Full Council on 06 December.

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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

Finance	Gary Whittaker, Interim Head of Financial & Procurement Services
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer