

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

Finance, Budget & Performance
Scrutiny Panel

24 January 2019

Report Author

Committee Services Manager

Portfolio Holder

**Councillor Ashbee, Cabinet Member for Corporate
Governance & Coastal Development**

Status

For Decision

Classification:

Unrestricted

Key Decision

No

Ward:

Thanet Wide

Executive Summary:

This report updates panel members on the work of the panel and sets out possible activities of the Finance, Budget & Performance Scrutiny Panel for 2018/19.

Recommendations:

Members are requested to comment and thereafter note the report.

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	<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, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation,</p>

	<p>gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.</p> <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> <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>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>	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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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 review and amend the work programme for the 2018/19 municipal year agreed at the meeting on 20 November 2018.
- 1.2 Table 1 in Annex 1, highlights some of the key agenda items for future Finance, Budget & Performance Scrutiny Panel meetings for 2018/19. The items are sourced from the Forward Plan and previous requests from Members.

2.0 Cabinet Presentations at Panel Meetings

- 2.1 The Panel agreed to combine this issue together with the Council Budget item to be discussed elsewhere on the agenda.

3.0 Fees and Charges 2019/20

- 3.1 At the November meeting the Panel considered the proposed fees and charges for 2019/20 and made the following recommendations:
1. To consider removing the fee for cremation services of children under the age of seven years;
 2. To review the costs for cremation services for all age groups, having considered similar charges in other districts;
 3. To review the licensing fee charges in order to determine whether it was appropriate that there was no increases in licensing fees across the board;

4. To consider whether it was appropriate to set up an all party cabinet advisory group to look at future fees and charges.

3.2 Cabinet then considered Panel recommendations at an extraordinary meeting on 06 December with the following outcome that Cabinet agreed to recommend the following to Council:

1. The removal of the fee for cremation services of children under the age of seventeen years;
2. The creation of an all party cabinet advisory group to look at fees and charges applicable from April 2020.

4.0 Council Budget proposals for 2019/20

4.1 The Panel would be considering the cabinet proposals for the 2019/20 Council budget and this issue is reported in more detail elsewhere on the agenda.

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Annex List

Annex 1	Finance, Budget & Performance draft Work Programme for 2018/19
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Matt Sanham, Financial Services Manager
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer