

# EXECUTIVE, POLICY & COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL 2018/19

Council	<b>28 March 2019</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 were planned for and achievements made by the Executive Scrutiny Panel during the course of the 2018/19 municipal year.

## **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 and achievements made by the Executive Scrutiny Panel.
<b>Legal</b>	There are no legal implications directly arising from this report. A presentation of the Panel Chairman's annual 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 The Executive Scrutiny Panel is entitled to make an annual report to Full Council at the end of each municipal year. This report summarises the key achievements of the Panel during 2018/19.

- 1.2 During this municipal year, the Panel Chairman presented three reports to Council on the review activities that were carried out by the Panel. These activities were carried out in line with the Panel's terms of reference reflected in Annex 1 to the report.
- 1.3 The first approach was for the Panel to request cabinet member presentations on topical issues and engaging the executive in debate on issues considered topical to the current work of the Council. On some of those occasions the discussion would end up in the Scrutiny Panel forwarding suggestions to cabinet members for further consideration.
- 1.4 The second approach was that the Panel identified review topics from the Forward Plan and requested an officer report and presentation at meetings. The cabinet member responsible for the policy area would be in attendance to respond to queries from the Members and offer policy direction.
- 1.5 The third aspect of the work of the Panel was consideration of issues that were referred to it in instances where Cabinet sought input from the Panel before making either a final decisions on such matters or making recommendations to Full Council.
- 1.6 The last approach was the Panel exercising its call-in function in order to seek clarification and or offer advice on cabinet or individual cabinet member decisions before they were implemented. This report would therefore provide the basis for debate by Members on the Panel's annual activities and hopefully lead to sharing of views and ideas to enhance the Council's scrutiny function.

## **Main Issues reviewed by the Executive Scrutiny Panel**

### **2.0 Cabinet Member Presentations at Panel Meetings**

- 2.1 There was one presentation where the Panel engaged the Deputy Leader and Portfolio holder for Operational Services, during his presentation on the "effective is the delivery of Operational Services to residents that are not regularly reported on." The presentation focused on the following areas of the Service:

Crematorium and cemeteries;  
Commercial Waste;  
Environmental Education;  
Playgrounds;  
Workshops & Fleet Management;  
CCTV;  
Coastal Development;  
Parking.

- 2.3 One of the highlights of the presentation was the fact that the Commercial Trade Waste Service had been introduced in July 2018. This service had managed to cover its costs and was generating income that was expected to be about £130k at the end of the year. It had 122 new customers signed up and over 170 tonnes of waste had been collected since July 2018, with a four day weekly collection schedule. This was a good news story for the Council.
- 2.4 The Panel was further advised that the Council operated more than 75 main street cameras, more than 70 car park and stairwells cameras, 30 tower block cameras and

6 re-deployable mobile and covert cameras. The Service had provided 259 evidential videos for the Courts in 2018, 391 reviews by the Police in 2018. They had located numerous vulnerable and missing youths. This was some good work by the Service.

- 2.5 It was also reported that the civil enforcement team had issued over 20,000 PCNs between April and December last year. They received 492 abandoned vehicles cases and had removed 63 abandoned vehicles in 2018. They conducted 275 individual school safety enforcement visits last year and also introduced a new TDC Enforcement Twitter account through which the public could report enforcement matters directly to the department. Although faced with significant challenges, officers were tackling them well.

## **Key Issues from the Forward Plan reviews by the Panel**

### **3.0 Review of the Anti-Social Behaviour Public Spaces Protection Order**

- 3.1 In July 2018, the Panel requested to review the impact of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) after a six months implementation period. The PSPO which gave discretion and flexibility to officers to exercise enforcement where the specified conduct was causing harassment, alarm and distress detrimental to the locality, was introduced in four wards in Margate (Margate Central and Cliftonville West) and Ramsgate (Central Harbour and Eastcliff). The Order would be operational for three years and provided restrictions of the following activities:

- Anti-Social group congregation of two or more persons when causing ASB and;
- Misuse of public spaces (when asked not to do so);
- Using foul or abusive language;
- Excreting bodily fluids.

- 3.2 It was concluded by the Panel that because the implementation had a slow start, it would be more helpful if a further review could be done after twelve months.

### **4.0 Asset Strategy - Thanet Museums**

- 4.1 The Panel requested for an officer report on proposals for an asset strategy regarding Thanet Museums. Members commented on the options available to Council and officer recommendations that were to be considered by Cabinet at a later meeting to determine the future of the following museums:

Dickens House, Broadstairs;  
Margate Museum, Margate;  
Tudor House, Margate;  
Old Town Hall, Margate.

- 4.2 Before making a decision on the assets, Cabinet was requested to consider the following courses of action:

1. Fully investigate the full legalities and history of the buildings;

2. 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.
- 4.3 Cabinet in turn considered the Panel recommendation 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.

### **Key Issues referred to the Executive Scrutiny Panel by Cabinet/Council**

#### **5.0 Draft Local Plan**

5.1 The Panel was consulted by Cabinet on the proposed draft Local Plan as is required by the Council constitution and made important intervention that shaped the recommendations that were forwarded to Full Council. A summary of the main planning areas where the Panel intervened are as detailed below:

- i. That housing development being proposed in the Local Plan be phased to be implemented towards the end of the Plan period;
- ii. That the committee report at paragraph 2.11 and the draft Local Plan text be amended to indicate that if a DCO or CPO process has not been agreed within two years that the status of the site be reviewed.

5.2 Thereafter Council (in addition to all other recommendations relating to the draft Local Plan), adopted the following recommendations from Cabinet:

- i. The housing supply phasing in the draft Plan and other relevant references in the (plan) document to show an amended phasing (of housing development); and
- ii. "In the event that a DCO or CPO process is not accepted or granted, or does not proceed, the Council will need to consider the best use for this site, in the next Local Plan review after a minimum of two years."

5.3 This was a significant contribution by the Panel and is evidence of the collegiate working relationship between the Panel and Cabinet.

5.4 For Members reference, the work programme for the Panel for 2018/19 is attached as Annex 2 to the report.

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

6.1 Only one executive decision was called-in. This was an individual cabinet member decision on Digital Parking Pilot Project. The Panel took the view that the information used to make the decision was limited. Once additional information was provided through a question and answer session, no further action was required.

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## Annex List

Annex 1	Executive Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference for 2018/19
Annex 2	Executive, Policy & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2018/19

## Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

## Corporate Consultation

<b>Finance</b>	Matthew Sanham, Interim Head of Financial Services
<b>Legal</b>	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer