

ESTABLISHING THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2019/20

Overview & Scrutiny Panel	28 May 2019
Report Author	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Pugh, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance & Coastal Development
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	Thanet Wide

Executive Summary:

This report sets out a framework for possible activities of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel for 2019/20 and asks the Panel to determine the priority areas of work for the new municipal year.

Recommendations:

1. With reference to Annex 2 of the report, Members are requested to agree the Panel's work programme for 2019/20.

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 which would need to be managed within existing resources, or alternatively compensating savings found.
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	The work programme should help to deliver effective policy decision making by scrutinising executive decisions before, and at times after, implementation. 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.
Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	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

	<p>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> <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 newly established Overview & Scrutiny Panel to establish and agree the work programme for 2019/20. In scoping out its work, the Panel may wish to consider any outstanding work from 2018/19.
- 1.2 In 2018/19, the Council's scrutiny function was for the first time managed by two scrutiny panels (the Finance, Budget & Corporate Performance and Executive, Policy Development & Community Safety Scrutiny Panels).
- 1.3 At Annual Council on 16 May, Members agreed to go back to a single scrutiny committee for 2019/20. The new Panel could assign some of its activities on the new work programme to sub groups.

2.0 Terms of reference of the Overview Scrutiny Panel and setting up the work programme for 2019/20

- 2.1 The terms of reference that were previously assigned to two scrutiny panels were now combined into one set for the new Panel as detailed in Annex 1 to the report. Members

would therefore be minded to take note of these terms of reference when agreeing the work programme for 2019/20.

- 2.2 The Panel will now be able to conduct some of its business through setting up time limited-sub groups. These sub groups could be established for the purposes of scrutinising a single issue and complete their work by providing a report back of findings to the Panel. This work would be time limited for completion, characteristically in a few months.
- 2.3 The other approach could be to set up a limited number of working parties to consider ongoing scrutiny issues identified by the Panel at this first meeting of the year. The activities of these working parties could be timed to last until the end of the municipal year. In setting up these working parties, Members would need to be mindful of the resource limitations.
- 2.4 Two of the key functions of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel included scrutinising the performance of Council functions (ie. delivery of services to residents) through reviewing the quarterly corporate performance report and the performance of the community safety partnership.
- 2.5 The Panel could request one off reports on items on the Forward Plan to review and make recommendations to Cabinet and or Council before final decisions were made on those issues.
- 2.6 Members could agree to conduct in-depth scrutiny reviews. This approach is resource intensive and the Panel would need to get the balance right between in-depth reviews and other scrutiny activities.

3.0 Options

- 3.1 Making reference to Annex 2, Members would need to agree activities to include in the work programme for 2019/20. This could include agreeing the sub groups to conduct some of the work on behalf of the Panel.
- 3.2 In agreeing the work programme, Members could decide to conduct scrutiny work through the Panel. However the limitation to this approach would be that the scheduled committee meetings were limited to nine for the municipal year.

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Annex List

Annex 1	Scrutiny Panel terms of reference
Annex 2	Draft Work Programme for 2019/20

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Matthew Sanham, Financial Services MAnager
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance