

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

Overview & Scrutiny Panel	18 July 2019
Report Author	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	Thanet Wide

Executive Summary:

This report sets out a framework for activities of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel for 2019/20 and asks the Panel to review the work programme.

Recommendations:

1. Members' comments are sought and Members are requested to 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 which would need to be managed within existing resources, or alternatively compensating savings found.
Legal	The role of scrutiny is set out in section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000. The council must also have regard to the statutory guidance on Overview and Scrutiny from the ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government when exercising its functions.
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>
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 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.

	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.	
	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.	
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.		
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.		

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 report allows the Panel to review and amend the work programme for the 2019/20 municipal year agreed at the meeting on 28 May 2019.

1.2 It is worth noting that the newly issued statutory guidance of the scrutiny function says, effective overview and scrutiny should:

- Provide constructive 'critical friend' challenge;
- Amplify the voices and concerns of the public;
- Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role; and
- Drive improvement in public services

1.3 With this in mind Member may wish to ensure that the Panel work programme for the year provides opportunities for critical but constructive challenge to the Executive, articulate any concerns about matters that are the business of the council and strive for improved service delivery by the Council and other public agencies working in Thanet.

2.0 Cabinet Presentations at OSP Meetings for 2019/20

2.1 Members identified a number of topics for discussion between portfolio holders and the Overview & Scrutiny Panel. These are highlighted in the work programme attached as

Annex 1 to this report. Although the wording is still generic, wide ranging and unwieldy, the specific topics will be fine tuned near the meeting times to make the discussion much more manageable.

2.1 The topics include the following:

1. Review the development work going on and the future of the Ramsgate Port (18 July 2019);
2. Service review of Operational Services (29 August 2019);
3. Review proposals for the fees and Charges (22 October 2019);
4. Service review of the Corporate Governance and Coastal Development service area (19 November 2019). This date will need to be rearranged to accommodate officer/Member availability.

2.2 The Panel further agreed to conduct a scrutiny review of the issue regarding "Travellers in Thanet." A five member Scrutiny Review group was set up to conduct the in-depth study and membership would be as follows:

Councillor Albon;
Councillor Roper;
Councillor L. Piper;
Councillor Tomlinson;
Councillor Yates.

2.3 The Scrutiny Review Group would report back to the Panel within four months of being established. The sub group would be required to provide progress updates at each Panel meeting, as part of the review of the work programme.

2.4 The rest of the work programme for 2019/20 is detailed in Annex 1 to the committee report.

3.0 Panel Recommendations to Cabinet - Implementation Monitoring

3.1 In 2018/19 the Panel recommended that Cabinet sets up a cross party working group to inform the decision regarding the proposals for fees and charges for 2020/21.

3.2 Cabinet considered the recommendations at an extraordinary meeting on 06 December 2018 and on 13 June 2019, Cabinet agreed a seven member cabinet advisory group made up of the following representation:

3 Conservative;
2 Labour;
1 Green;
1 Thanet Independent.

4.0 Options

4.1 Members are asked to comment and note the report.

4.2 Members can review the current work programme and make changes depending on the collective agreement by the Panel.

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Annex List

Annex 1	Overview & Scrutiny Panel Work Programme for 2019/20
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Chris Blundell, Head of Financial Services
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer