

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Council	11 July 2019
Report Author	CLlr Campbell, Chairman of the Overview & 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 Overview & Scrutiny Panel during the course of this 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 Overview & 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 Finance 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: (f the Duti) 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) oy 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 Overview and Scrutiny Panel presents a progress update report on the activities of the Panel since the last Council meeting.

1.2 Such a report would be subject to comment or debate by Members. This is in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1 of Part 4 of the Council Constitution.

1.3 This report updates Council on the work of the Panel since the last Council meeting and allows for discussion of the work undertaken, therefore strengthening the Council's scrutiny function.

1.4 This report follows on from the one presented at Full Council on 28 March.

2.0 Current Scrutiny Activities, including Cabinet Member Presentations

2.1 The Panel met once since the last report to Council and the main purpose of the meeting was to establish its work programme for the year.

2.2 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.

2.3 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 (date still to be confirmed by the Panel).

2.4 The Panel further agreed to conduct a scrutiny review of the issue regarding "Travellers in Thanet." A five member task and finish 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.

2.5 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.

2.6 The rest of the work programme for 2019/20 is detailed in Annex 1 to the Council report. This schedule is subject to amendments during the course of the year as Members may add more items for reviewing.

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.

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Annex List

Annex 1	Overview & Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 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