

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

Overview & Scrutiny Panel	<b>27 August 2019</b>
Report Author	<b>Senior Democratic Services Officer</b>
Status	<b>For Decision</b>
Classification:	<b>Unrestricted</b>
Key Decision	<b>No</b>
Ward:	<b>Thanet Wide</b>

### 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

<b>Financial and Value for Money</b>	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.
<b>Legal</b>	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.
<b>Corporate</b>	<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>
<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 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>

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 has been given to the equalities impact that may be brought upon communities by the decisions made by Council.	

<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 This report allows the Panel to review and amend the work programme for the 2019/20 municipal year agreed at the meeting on 18 July 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 Of the topics that were identified by Members at the May meeting, the following ones are due for consideration at forthcoming meetings:

1. Corporate Statement 2020/23 (27 August 2019);
2. Review proposals for the fees and Charges (22 October 2019);
3. 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;
4. Service review of Operational Services (a date was still to be confirmed).

2.2 The Panel further agreed to add Councillor Bailey to the Scrutiny Review Group whose membership would now be as follows:

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

2.3 The Chairman of the review group gave an update report and made the following points:

- In 2018, the district had experienced 46-55 traveller incursions compared to 2-3 in 2016;
- The local communities were concerned mostly with the human waste left behind after such visits;
- The review group was going to receive additional information from officers regarding the legal costs incurred by the council to date in the various attempts to manage the incursions;
- The travellers representatives will be invited to attend the next meeting of the review group;
- The third meeting would be for Members to visit the temporary sites where travellers had set up the unauthorised encampments;
- A written report of the review findings will be presented to the October Panel meeting.

2.4 There would be a report back to the Panel on 22 October. The sub group was required to provide progress updates at each Panel meeting, as part of the review of the work programme.

2.5 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 At the July meeting, the Panel considered a report on the "Adoption of a new Housing Assistance Policy" and recommended to Cabinet that Council writes to Kent County Council requesting that "KCC KCC ring fenced the £405k (Top sliced/payment to KCC projected for 2019/20) for use by Thanet residents". Cabinet agreed to forward the request to KCC.

### **4.0 Call-in of Cabinet Decision on the 'proposal for the disposal of the Dreamland Freehold'**

4.1 On 01 August, Cabinet made a decision on the Dreamland that "Subject to agreement of external funders regarding the removal of ongoing grant obligations upon the council, and subject to legal advice, to dispose of Dreamland to Sands Heritage Ltd including the boundary as indicated in Annex 1, all rides listed in Annex 2 and the intellectual property rights of Dreamland."

- 4.2 The Panel Chairman called-in the Cabinet decision, which was then considered at an extraordinary Panel meeting on 15 August. At that meeting, Members sought clarification and assurances on some of issues relating to the Cabinet decision.
- 4.3 The Leader of Council provided those assurances where appropriate, after which the Panel adopted recommendations for consideration by Cabinet. These will be detailed out in the next work programme report.

## 5.0 Options

- 5.1 Members are asked to comment and note the report.
- 5.2 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