

Review of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel Work Programme for 2023-24

Overview & Scrutiny Panel Panel 20 July 2023

Report Author Committee Service Manager

Status For Decision

Classification: Unrestricted

Key Decision No

Ward: Thanet Wide

Executive Summary:

This report summarises activities of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel for 2023/24 and asks the Members to comment, make suggestions and note the OSP work programme.

Recommendation(s):

Members are being asked to agree the Overview & Scrutiny Panel work programme for 2023/24.

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.

Risk Management

There are risks arising directly from this report.

Corporate

The work programme should help to deliver effective policy decision making by scrutinising executive decisions before, and at times after, implementation.

The working parties assist with 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 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, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

This report relates to the following aim of the equality duty: -

1. To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
2. To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
3. To 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 was 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.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report relates to Communities.

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This report allows the Panel to review the work programme for the period 2023/24. The work programme helps provide a framework for reporting progress regarding the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and would also provide officers with a reference point for planning appropriate levels of support for the Panel.
- 1.2 The current statutory guidance for 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, Members 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. Members could also consider including in the work programme matters they would like to investigate on any matter that they feel affects the welfare of the local communities.

2.0 SETTING OUT A NEW WORK PROGRAMME

Scrutiny Review Topics

- 2.1 The previous Panel agreed on an approach for identifying scrutiny topics. This approach uses a matrix to score and prioritise topics to be scrutinised by the Panel as part of the work programme for the current year. If the list is not progressed through in the current year, any remaining topics would then be carried over into the following municipal year.
- 2.2 These review topics would normally be progressed through review projects carried out by a working party set by the Panel. However in other instances Members may choose to commission a one-off officer report which would address the issues raised by Members.
- 2.3 At the Panel meeting on 30 May 2023, Members put forward a number of topics as detailed in the minutes. Members were asked to provide additional information on all the topics that they suggested. An agenda item request form was sent out to all members of the Panel seeking justification for those proposed topics. Eleven forms were received from seven Members.
- 2.4 Democratic Services used the matrix to score the topics which ended up identifying seven topics that would be progressed through scrutiny reviews and four topics that would be progressed as one-off officer reports, as detailed below. The Chair and Vice Chair reviewed the results of the scoring process.
- a. Scrutiny Review Project Topics
 - i. [Planning Enforcement Review.pdf](#)
 - ii. [Fly tipping and abandoned vehicles .pdf](#)
 - iii. [Review of Protocols and Procedures for Emergency Decisions.pdf](#)
 - iv. [Health & wellbeing.pdf](#)
 - v. [Impact of tourism.pdf](#)
 - vi. [Grant funding review.pdf](#)
 - vii. [Cost of living crisis.pdf](#)
 - b. Scrutiny topics one-off reports
 - i. [Review of Section 106 Management.pdf](#)
 - ii. [Broken Waste Bin Review.pdf](#)
 - iii. [Update on externally funded regeneration projects.pdf](#)

iv. [Review of governance and performance of on-street parking income.pdf](#)

2.5 Annex 1 is the work programme and Annex 2 is the scoring matrix table. Annex 3 is the table that reflects the distribution of the OSP work programme.

Cabinet Presentations at OSP Meetings

2.6 Members requested the following cabinet member presentations:

- Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy and Transformation to present on the Vision for Council for the next four years - 20 July 2023;
- Future Cabinet Member Presentations: Each Cabinet Member would be invited to present on the key reviews currently taking place in their respective portfolio areas once those reviews have been completed.

2.7 The Panel also requested a presentation by the Manston Airport site representative Mr Freudmann. Democratic Services were in the process of sending out the invitation to Mr Freudmann.

2.8 Members could also identify subject items for presentation from the Forward Plan or any emerging topical issues which may have a significant public interest, where the Panel may feel that their contributions would enhance the decision making process.

2.9 Annex 3 shows the distribution mix of the Panel's work programme which highlights pre decision and post decision scrutiny work as well as cabinet member presentations and the work programming activities.

3.0 Options

3.1 Members are being asked to agree the work programme as detailed in Annex 1 and Annex 2, (drawn up from the scrutiny topics that were forwarded by Members at the previous meeting).

3.2 Members may opt to make changes to the work programme particularly the scrutiny topics in annex 2 to the report.

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Annex List

Annex 1: OSP Work Programme for 2023/24

Annex 2: Scrutiny Scoring Matrix Table for 2023/24

Annex 3 : OSP Pre and Post Decision Scrutiny for 2023/24

Background Papers

None

Corporate Consultation

Finance: Chris Blundell (Director of Corporate Services - Section 151)

Legal: Sameera Khan (Interim Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer)