

## **REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**21 OCTOBER 2009**

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

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#### **Summary**

The item advises the Committee of the current work programme and enables adjustments to be made in light of latest priorities, issues and circumstances. It gives Members the opportunity to shape and direct the Committee's activities over the year.

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

- 1.1 Under Chapter 4 – Rules, paragraph 22.1 (v) General terms of reference, each overview and scrutiny committee has the responsibility for setting its own work programme.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the existing work programme for the Committee.

#### **3. Agenda planning meeting**

- 3.1 Members will be aware that Overview and Scrutiny Committees hold agenda planning meetings on a regular basis. These give officers greater guidance on information Members wish them to provide when scrutinising an issue. An agenda planning meeting took place on Tuesday, 29 September 2009.

- 3.2 The Chairman was advised that the report due for this meeting on the Masterplan for Central Strood would be deferred for consideration until the next meeting, as the consultation process was not due to finish until 31 October 2009.
- 3.3 Officers also advised that an item due to be considered at this meeting on the Social Regeneration Strategy Review would not be reported as it had been brought forward for consideration by Cabinet to the meeting on 13 October 2009, in order to align it with the Regeneration Framework, Cultural Strategy and Housing Strategy. The reports would be separate but taken at the same meeting to demonstrate the robust links.
- 3.4 The Chairman agreed that an item on the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) would be added to the work programme for this meeting as it was a Policy Framework document and, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, overview and scrutiny should consider this report before it is submitted to the Cabinet.
- 3.5 The Chairman was reminded that at the last meeting, it was reported that an item on the Chatham World Heritage Management Action Plan was to be considered by Cabinet on 13 October, consequently Members agreed that this information would be sent via a Briefing Note to the committee before the Cabinet considered it.
- 3.6 Officers advised that the report had since been deferred until 15 December 2009 Cabinet meeting, so Members would now be able to consider it at the next meeting if they wished. The Chairman advised that this should be considered by the committee, in consideration with the number of items on the agenda for the following meeting playing a deciding factor in the decision.

#### Chatham World Heritage Management Action Plan

The Management Plan sets out how members of the Chatham World Heritage steering group and Partnership will help to preserve and promote the outstanding international significance of Chatham Dockyard and its defences. It forms part of the bid document for World Heritage Site status. Cabinet is asked to approve its policies and actions as a continued demonstration of support for Chatham's bid.

## **4 Future work programme**

### **4.1 Cabinet's Forward Plan**

There are four new items which have been added to the Forward Plan since the last meeting of this Committee, which are not already on the work programme or have already been considered and these are detailed below.

A new Forward Plan is due to be published after the despatch of this agenda but before the meeting and an addendum report will be circulated at the meeting with any further new items within the remit of this committee.

4.1.1 Gateway 4 Contract Review: Highways Maintenance Term Year 2 Extensions 3 November 2009

To consider a contract review which has been determined as high risk.

4.1.2 Gateway 3 Contract Award: Twydall Accessibility Project 15 December 2009

Approval to award the contract for the project.

4.1.3 Local Development Framework 15 December 2009

4.1.4 Waste Strategy Review 26 January 2010

A review of the waste strategy.

4.2 **Next in-depth review**

4.2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the next topic for in-depth review.

4.2.2 Members had previously indicated an intention to hold a task group to look at ways to commemorate the bicentenary of Charles Dickens birth in 2012. On initial investigation into this matter, officers reported to the Chairman that in 1869, a year before he died, Charles Dickens' wrote in his will that he wanted to be remembered for his work alone. No plaques, no statues, "no monument memorial or testimonial whatever" were to be allowed to commemorate his life. Officers are keen to recognise Dickens' connections to Medway in 2012 and consider that by commissioning a piece of public art inspired by the great man and/or his stories, this would not conflict with the statue/memorial issue that is mentioned above and this has been included in the Cultural Strategy.

4.2.3 The Chairman has expressed the view that the best way to take this forward is for interested Members of the committee to meet with relevant officers to put forward their views and suggestions. This will enable the committee to identify another topic related to key Council priorities for the next in-depth review.

4.2.4 As an in-depth review would involve evidence sessions and possibly external visits it would be best conducted on behalf of the committee by a small group of Members.

## **5 Legal and financial implications**

5.1 There are no financial or legal implications arising directly from this report.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 Members are requested to:

- (i) consider the Committee's current workload and identify items for inclusion in the work programme set out at appendix A;
- (ii) consider if they wish to receive any reports from the Cabinet's Forward Plan as pre-decision scrutiny;
- (iii) note that the report on the Masterplan for Central Strood has been deferred until 2 December 2009;
- (iv) consider whether to include a report on Chatham World Heritage Management Action Plan at the next meeting, or continue with it provided as a Briefing Note;
- (v) agree that a previously proposed task group to look at ways of commemorating Charles Dickens' bicentennial in 2012 should not go ahead but that interested Members of the committee should be invited to meet with officers to put forward their suggestions and ideas for a piece of public art;
- (vi) identify a topic for a future in-depth review.

## **Background papers**

None.

## **Lead officer contact**

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