

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 DECEMBER 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, 10 November 2009.
- 3.2 The Vice Chairman (standing in for the Chairman) was advised that the Leader of the Council had requested that a number of forthcoming road projects should be reported to the Committee for consideration prior to decision by the Cabinet. The Vice-Chairman agreed that one

report, encompassing all the projects, should be added to the agenda for this meeting and Members will consider the 'Quality Public Transport Corridors Project' report earlier at agenda item 5(F).

- 3.3 Officers also advised that an item due to be considered at this meeting on 'Traffic flow in Chatham town centre' relating to changes to traffic signal timings in Chatham associated with the road schemes would be brought back to the Committee for re-consideration, as the traffic light timings had been changed a number of times depending on the traffic flows and the other works in the area. Officers could inform Members of what had taken place but the information would be out of date by the time the information was considered.
- 3.4 In January 2010, work will start at Union Street and the signal timings and priorities will be changed again during the course of that work and officers will continually respond to events and changing traffic patterns throughout the works. Given this and the continually changing nature of the works and traffic, it was considered that a report to Members would not be up to date or informative.
- 3.5 Officers contacted Councillor Tony Goulden, who originally raised this matter, and he indicated that the report should also include details of the affect the new road system was having on the retail trade in Chatham. He stated that there was anecdotal evidence that there had been a detrimental effect on retail activity. Officers response to this is that any evidence would take some time to source and could not be compiled in time for a report to this meeting. The overall masterplan still included changes to Best Street, High Street and the Gun Wharf area which would all have an effect on the road system. If Members requested that this is progressed further, officers could take a retail survey to the Chatham Town Centre Forum in order to try and identify whether any downturn in trade was due to the global economic problems or more specifically to the new road system.

4 Future work programme

4.1 Cabinet's Forward Plan

There are six 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.

4.1.1 Gateway 1 Options Appraisal: Stoke Crossing 15 December 2009

To seek approval to commence the procurement process for the provision of the new Stoke crossing (A228).

There is insufficient time for the Committee to consider this matter.

4.1.2 Medway Economic Development Strategy 15 December 2009

This report requests approval for the Strategy 2009-2012.

There is insufficient time for the Committee to consider this matter.

4.1.3 Employment Land Study 5 January 2010

There is insufficient time for the Committee to consider this matter.

4.1.4 Local Transport Plan 9 March 2010

This report will seek approval to progress the Local Transport Plan (LTP).

4.1.5 Gun Wharf Area Masterplan 30 March 2010

This report will propose the adoption of the Gun Wharf area masterplan as a supplementary planning document. This will follow a six week statutory programme of consultation with the local community and local businesses.

4.1.6 High Street and Best Street Area Masterplan 30 March 2010

This report will propose the adoption of the Gun Wharf area masterplan as a supplementary planning document. This will follow a six week statutory programme of consultation with the local community and local businesses.

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 consider the Committee's current workload and identify items for inclusion in the work programme set out at appendix A.

Background papers

None.

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