

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2012

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

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Summary

This item advises Members of the current work programme and allows them to adjust it in the 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 guidance on information Members wish them to provide when scrutinising an issue. An agenda planning meeting was held on 12 June 2012.

3.2 The Chairman was advised that there were a number of proposed changes to the work programme as follows:

- dates had been confirmed for the relevant Portfolio Holders to be held to account
- an additional report for 28 June meeting on a bid by the waste services section to the DCLG weekly collection support fund
- an additional report on the Housing Strategy to be added to the work programme for 4 October meeting

- a report on the Housing Asset Management Strategy would be submitted to 16 August meeting and another report for the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan to be submitted to the meeting on 4 October
- reports on “The future provision of water in Medway” and “Fair access to credit” would be deferred until 16 August meeting (see paragraph 5.1 below).

3.3 The Chairman asked for an additional report to be added to the work programme updating the committee on the work of the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership as it had been a number of years since the committee had received an overview of the work carried out by the partnership, except by way of an annual Briefing Note. It was agreed to submit this to the meeting on 4 October 2012.

4. Future work programme

4.1 The Cabinet’s latest Forward Plan was published on 15 June 2012 with one new item within the remit of this committee since the last publication. All other items have been reported to the committee for decision as to whether to include them on the work programme as pre-decision scrutiny.

4.2 The additional item on the Forward Plan will set out the proposed governance arrangements for the Police and Crime Panel, subject to the Shadow Kent and Medway PCP concluding its deliberations on panel arrangements by then.

4.3 A further Member’s Item was received from Councillor Osborne after the pre-agenda meeting with regard to the Chatham Alcohol Control Zone. Councillor Osborne, together with the Chairman, agreed that this would be added to the work programme for consideration at the meeting on 16 August 2012.

4.4 At the last meeting of the committee, it was agreed that Members would receive a list of matters within the remit of this committee for Members’ future reference. This list is attached at Appendix 2.

5. Scrutiny Task Groups

5.1 Fair access to credit task group

The Task Group is examining and bringing forward recommendations on:

- the role the Council can play in supporting Medway residents affected by unaffordable credit and development of a clear policy;
- how the Council can lobby the Government to strengthen the rules governing the issue of lending licences and address the lack of affordable credit. A strategy to manage the supply and demand of high cost credit – focused on making the industry transparent and supporting affordable alternative such as credit unions;
- how the Council can promote financial literacy and affordable lending and debt counselling.

A series of meetings have now taken place with representatives from a number of organisations, including the Citizens Advice Bureau, Credit Unions, trade associations, a loan provider, the Youth Parliament and officers from various sections of the Council. This has been supported by additional written submissions from a number of organisations and individuals working within the remit of this review.

In order to conclude the review, further evidence meetings followed by meetings to develop the group's findings and recommendations, will be scheduled for June/July. The Task Group will then be able to report its findings to the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 August 2012 and the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 August 2012.

5.2 Supported accommodation task group

As the Fair Access to Credit task group draws to a close, officers are seeking agreement to appoint the membership of the forthcoming task group on supported accommodation, which was agreed at Business Support on 20 September 2011.

In view of the cross-cutting nature of this subject and the timescales for influencing priorities for the future commissioning of housing-related support, it is suggested that a short-life task group is convened to feed its evidence and findings into a special themed meeting of this committee.

The task group would normally be convened with five Members on the basis of 3 Conservatives, 1 Labour and 1 Liberal Democrat Membership, although the committee might wish to consider the size of this task group given the cross-cutting nature of the review and advise officers accordingly.

6. Financial and legal implications

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

7. Recommendations

7.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (a) note the current work programme, including the amendments and additions detailed in the report;
- (b) identify items for inclusion in the work programme, including possible items from the Cabinet Forward Plan;
- (c) agree the formation of a five Member short-life task group on the basis of 3:1:1 to report to a special themed meeting of this committee, to meet the timescales for influencing the priorities for future commissioning of housing related support.

Background papers

None.

Lead officer contact

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Work Programme
Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Policy framework documents: Community Safety Plan, Local Transport Plan and plans and other strategies which together comprise the Development Plan

Item	Work type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale
Annual scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership	Holding to account	Neil Howlett, Community Safety Partnership Manager	Annual scrutiny of the work of the Community Safety Partnership.	28 June 2012
DCLG weekly collection support fund	Service information	Sarah Dagwell, Head of Waste Services	To consider a report setting out the details of a bid to government aiming to increase recycling rates in Medway	28 June 2012
End of year performance report 2011/2012	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Anna-Marie Lawrence-Lovell, Performance Manager	To consider the end of year Council Plan monitoring for 2011/2012.	28 June 2012
Using the River Medway to its full potential	Service information	Tricia Palmer, Assistant Director, Organisational Services	This report follows a referral from the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 June 2011	28 June 2012
Council Plan monitoring 2012/2013 – quarter 1	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Anna-Marie Lawrence-Lovell, Performance Manager	To consider the quarter one Council Plan monitoring report for 2012/2013	16 August 2012
Member's Item: Chatham Alcohol Control Zone	Community Issues	Tim England, Head of Safer Communities	To consider the matter set out by Councillor Osborne	16 August 2012
Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services	Holding to account		The Portfolio Holder will be invited to give a presentation on work carried out, in his portfolio in the remit of this committee, and answer any questions	16 August 2012
Report from the in-depth task group on "fair access to credit"	Policy development	Anthony Law, Democratic Services Officer	To consider the report from the task group (which will also be reported to the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	16 August 2012

Item	Work type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale
Review of Housing Asset Management Strategy	Policy development	Marc Blowers, Head of Housing Management and Matt Gough, Housing Strategy Manager	Housing services have been transferred to the remit of this committee from 1 April 2012. This report is outstanding from the previous committee's work programme	16 August 2012
Review of "The future provision of water in Medway"	Policy development	Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration Community and Culture	To review the recommendations to Southern Water and investigate where the Council now stands with regards to future development in Medway	16 August 2012
Developer Contributions Guide	Pre-decision scrutiny	Jill King, S106 Officer	This is an opportunity for the committee to consider and comment on the document prior to submission to Cabinet.	4 October 2012
HRA Business Plan	Policy development	Marc Blowers, Head of Housing Management and Matt Gough, Housing Strategy Manager	Housing services have been transferred to the remit of this committee from 1 April 2012. This report is outstanding from the previous committee's work programme	4 October 2012
Housing Strategy	Policy development	Matt Gough, Housing Strategy Manager	To consider an update of this strategy document	4 October 2012
Portfolio Holder for Strategic Development and Economic Growth	Holding to account		The Portfolio Holder will be invited to give a presentation on work carried out, in her portfolio in the remit of this committee, and answer any questions	4 October 2012
Update on the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership	Service information	Tony Van Vegel, Director of South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership	This report will update the committee on the work of the Building Control Partnership	4 October 2012

Item	Work type	Responsible officer	Objectives	Timescale
Council Plan monitoring 2012/2013 – quarter 2	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Anna-Marie Lawrence-Lovell, Performance Manager	To consider the quarter two Council Plan monitoring report for 2012/2013	13 December 2012
Annual review of waste contracts: Year 2	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Sarah Dagwell, Head of Waste Services	To review the second year's performance for each of the waste contracts	13 December 2012
Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services	Holding to account		The Portfolio Holder will be invited to give a presentation on work carried out, in his portfolio in the remit of this committee, and answer any questions	13 December 2012
Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Customer Contact	Holding to account		The Portfolio Holder will be invited to give a presentation on work carried out, in his portfolio in the remit of this committee, and answer any questions	31 January 2013
Council Plan monitoring 2012/2013 – quarter 3	Scrutiny of performance/budget	Anna-Marie Lawrence-Lovell, Performance Manager	To consider the quarter three Council Plan monitoring report for 2012/2013	11 April 2013
Annual review from the Housing Scrutiny Panel	Holding to account	Marc Blowers, Head of Housing Management	The Chairman of the panel is invited to attend to provide a review of the panel's work during the past year	11 April 2013
The Leader of the Council	Holding to account		The Leader of the Council will be invited to give a presentation on work carried out, in his portfolio in the remit of this committee, and answer any questions	11 April 2013
Breakdown of planned maintenance programme for housing services	Service information	Marc Blowers, Head of Housing Management	Housing services have been transferred to the remit of this committee from 1 April 2012. This report is outstanding from the previous committee's work programme	To be confirmed

(Annual reports and reviews considered by this committee are the Community Safety Plan, Scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership, Annual Review of the Waste Contracts and annual review of the Housing Scrutiny Panel. The annual South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership Business Plan is circulated via a Briefing Note prior to consideration by the Cabinet).

Future meeting dates:

2012: 28 June, 16 August, 4 October and 13 December

2013: 31 January and 11 April 2013

Work completed in 2012/13:

Appendix 2

Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To fulfil all the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to regeneration, community and culture, and in particular (but not limited to):

- (i) all of the functions and duties of the Council insofar as they relate to environmental health, including street cleansing, recycling and refuse collection and air quality management and pollution control;
- (ii) strategic planning;
- (iii) community safety;
- (iv) the wardens' service;
- (v) travellers;
- (vi) CCTV and enforcement;
- (vii) emergency planning;
- (viii) landscape, urban design and conservation;
- (ix) all of the functions and duties of the Council in relation to development and building control;
- (x) the preparation, implementation and maintenance of traffic management and highway schemes and initiatives;
- (xi) matters in relation to LA 21;
- (xii) in particular to fulfil the overview and scrutiny role in relation to the development of the Council's air quality action plan, development plan, food law enforcement service plan, local transport plan and waste strategy;
- (xiii) the development of the Council's rural strategy;
- (xiv) the regeneration of communities in the area and the physical regeneration of the area including being the scrutiny Committee for matters within the remit of the Medway Renaissance Partnership;
- (xv) the provision and management of community services and participation;
- (xvi) economic development and social regeneration including to fulfil the overview and scrutiny role in relation to the development of the Council's economic development strategy;

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- (xvii) the management of events and heritage attractions;
- (xviii) the development and promotion of tourism;
- (xix) the development of the Council's cultural strategy;
- (xx) the provision and management of castles, museums, art galleries, theatre, archives and local history activities, leisure centres, swimming pools and other like facilities;
- (xxi) leisure, arts, sport and recreational activities to enhance the quality of life for local people;
- (xxii) the provision and management of trees, parks, grounds and other like facilities;
- (xxiii) all of the functions of the Council in relation to European matters;
- (xxiv) social inclusion, community development and neighbourhood renewal and the Council's specific initiatives to promote them;
- (xxv) scrutiny of work areas within the remit of the Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture;
- (xxvi) scrutiny of the work of the Community Safety Partnership and the partners who comprise it, insofar as their activities relate to the partnership itself and to consider crime and disorder CCfAs (in accordance with the guidance and procedures on the CCfA as set out in section 23 of the Overview and Scrutiny rules);
- (xxvii) the review and scrutiny of flood and coastal erosion risk management functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010;
- (xxviii) the provision and management of libraries;
- (xxix) the operational management of the Council's housing stock;
- (xxx) the development of partnerships with external organisations to meet housing need and regenerate unsatisfactory housing;
- (xxxi) the improvement of private sector housing;
- (xxxii) grants and loans to owner occupiers, tenants, landlords and/or developers;
- (xxxiii) homelessness and rehousing;
- (xxxiv) special needs housing;
- (xxxv) housing strategy.