

COUNCIL

22 JANUARY 2015

REPORT ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

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Summary

This report provides a summary of the work of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees since the last report to Council on 16 October 2014 and provides details of the following meetings:

- Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7 October 2014
- Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 4 December 2014
- Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 December 2014
- Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 11 December 2014
- Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 18 December 2014

1. Policy and Budget Framework

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution provides for the activities of Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committees to be reported to Council meetings. The following is a high level summary of business conducted. For further detail please refer to the minutes of each Committee which are published on the Council's website using the weblinks under each section.

2. Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 7 October 2014

2.1 <http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=2949&Ver=4>

2.1.1 Report title Attendance of the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance

Outcome:

The Committee:

- (a) noted that the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance would provide a response to the question regarding the timescale of realising the potential income generation of £360,000 from the installation of the solar panels.
- (b) thanked the Deputy Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Finance for his attendance at the meeting and the answers he had provided.

2.1.2 Report title Update of Joint Venture with Medway NORSE Quarter 2 2014/15

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report and agreed that:

- (a) the Committee's appreciation be forwarded to Medway Norse staff for the Open Day at the Pier Approach Road depot;
- (b) Councillors be supplied with a direct contact number for Medway Norse; and
- (c) the Managing Director of Quadron investigate the need for better co-ordination between the grass cutting and litter picking contracts and to report any improvements put in place to the Committee.

2.1.3 **Report title** **New Rent Setting Policy 2015**

Outcome:

- (a) The Committee recommended Cabinet to agree that:
 - (i) Where properties are let to new households with a yearly earned/salaried taxable income of £60,000 or more, the rent payable will be based on “affordable” rents from April 2015;
 - (ii) To agree that from April 2015 bedrooms will only be counted as bedrooms if they are not on the ground floor of a property, with the exception of these properties listed in Appendix A of the report; and
 - (iii) Discretion be applied to those households who receive compensation or a one off redundancy payment which exceeds £60,000.
- (b) The Committee requested that further investigation be undertaken regarding the adoption of a principle whereby internally sub-divided rooms will not be counted as additional bedrooms having regard to the original room layout of the property and that a report on the findings be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 28 October 2014. The Cabinet agreed the following:

- a)** where properties are let to new households with a yearly taxable income of £60,000 or more, the rent payable will be based on “affordable” rents from April 2015.
- b)** from April 2015 bedrooms will only be counted as bedrooms if they are not on the ground floor of a property, with the exception of the properties listed in Appendix A to the report.
- c)** discretion be applied to those households who receive compensation or a one off redundancy payment which exceed £60,000.
- d)** social housing rents for existing stock with rent increases in 2015/2016 based on the social housing rent formula of CPI + 1%.
- e)** social housing rents for newly built or acquired Council Housing with rent increases in 2015/2016 based on the social housing rent formula of CPI + 1%.
- f)** to continue to move properties to formula rent when void.
- g)** the retained 1-4-1 Right to Buy receipts, and any future retained receipts within the timescale for the new homebuilding project to be used to part fund the Housing Revenue Account new build programme.

The Cabinet also noted the proposals that the Chief Executive (using urgency powers (in place of referring this matter to Full Council)) should set the rent for 13 new building properties on various former Council owned HRA garage sites across Medway and arrange for this to be subsequently reported to Full Council – see report entitled Use of Urgency Powers elsewhere on this agenda.

2.1.4 **Report title** **Annual Review of Risk Management Strategy and Six Monthly Review of the Council’s Corporate Business Risk Register**

Outcome:

The Committee noted:

- (a) the Risk Management Strategy, as set out in Appendix A to the report;
- (b) the Management Team’s recommendations on amendments to the Council’s Risk Register as detailed in section 3 of the report;
- (c) the progress on the three medium priority recommendations from the Risk Management Audit 2013/2014 as detailed at paragraph 3.3 of the report; and
- (d) that the Risk Management Strategy and the revised Risk Register will be submitted to Cabinet on 28 October 2014 for final approval.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 28 October 2014. The Cabinet approved the Risk Management Strategy, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

The Cabinet approved the amendments to the Council’s Risk Register, as detailed in section 3 of the report.

The Cabinet noted the progress on the three medium priority recommendations from the Risk Management Audit 2013/2014, as detailed at 3.3 of the report.

2.1.5 **Report title** **Council Plan 2014/15 Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring**

Outcome:

- (a) The Committee noted quarter 1 2014/15 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2013 – 2015.
- (b) That the Briefing Note previously requested by the Committee on migration of homeless people into Medway and support for the street homeless should include an update on the homelessness assessment centre in Southampton, which it was believed may have now closed and the outcome of research undertaken in the context of future year projections on homelessness which demonstrated that Medway compares well in relation to the rest of Kent.
- (c) That a Briefing Note be provided to the Committee on the likely impact of a proposed reduction in Homelessness Prevention expenditure on levels of homelessness.
- (d) That the relevant extract from the Welfare Reform Task Group on the impact of Housing Benefit cessation on the homeless register be circulated to Committee members.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 2 September 2014. The Cabinet noted quarter one 2014/2015 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2013/2015 and agreed, where required, to continue to work with officers to identify any areas for remedial action to build on current achievements.

2.1.6 **Report title** **Capital Budget 2014/15 Monitoring – Round 1**

Outcome:

The Committee:

- (a) noted the spending forecasts summarised at Table 1 of the report and the following virements, in accordance with the Council's delegated financial limits:
- the transfer £212,000 from the Basic Need Programme to fund the forecast overspends against the Wainscott Primary and Napier Primary schemes;
 - the transfer of £451,000 from the Basic Need Programme to the Academies Programme to part fund the cost of asbestos removal;
 - the transfer £165,000 from the Basic Needs Programme (funded from the Targeted Basic Needs Grant) to fund the overspend on the New Horizons project.
- (b) noted the recommendation to Council that the following additions to the capital programme, both of which are to be funded through virements from the Adult Social Care Transformation budget:
- the transfer £400,000 from Adult Social Care Transformation to fund the Smarter Working @ Gun Wharf project;
 - the transfer £120,000 from Adult Social Care Transformation to fund the construction of additional provision on the Old Vicarage site
- (c) agreed that information be provided to Councillor Juby with regard to the £35,000 overspend in relation to Napier Primary project.

Outcome of Cabinet/Council discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 30 September 2014. The Cabinet noted the spending forecasts summarised at Table 1 and agreed the following virements, in accordance with the Council's delegated financial limits:

- Transfer £202,000 from the Basic Need Programme to fund the forecast overspends against the Wainscott Primary and Napier Primary schemes;
- Transfer £451,000 from the Basic Need Programme to the Academies Programme to part fund the cost of asbestos removal;
- Transfer £165,000 from the Basic Needs Programme (funded from the Targeted Basic Needs Grant) to fund the overspend on the New Horizons project.

In addition, the Cabinet recommended to Council the following additions to the capital programme, both of which are to be funded through virements from the Adult Social Care Transformation budget:

- Transfer £400,000 from Adult Social Care Transformation to fund the Smarter Working @ Gun Wharf project;
- Transfer £120,000 from Adult Social Care Transformation to fund the construction of additional provision on the Old Vicarage site

These schemes were subsequently approved by Council on 16 October 2014.

2.1.7 Report title Revenue Budget 2014/15 Monitoring – Round 1

Outcome:

The Committee noted the forecast outturn position and proposed management actions following round 1 of quarterly revenue monitoring for 2014/15.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by Cabinet on 30 September 2014. The Cabinet noted the forecast position from the first round of 2014/15 revenue monitoring and instructed Directors to come forward with further proposals for management action to reduce the potential deficit.

2.1.8 Report title Medium Term Financial Plan 2014/15

Outcome:

The Committee noted:

- (a) the underlying aims of the Medium Term Financial Plan; and
- (b) the forecast level of overall funding outlined in Section 4; spending priorities in Section 5 and the consequent funding shortfall identified in Table 3.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by Cabinet on 30 September 2014. The Cabinet endorsed the underlying aims of the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Cabinet noted the forecast level of overall funding outlined in Section 4 of the report, spending priorities in Section 5 of the report and the consequent funding shortfall identified in Table 3 of the report.

The Cabinet agreed to instruct Portfolio Holders and Directors to identify savings and efficiencies to achieve a balanced budget for 2015/16 and beyond.

2.1.9 Report title Work Programme

Outcome:

The Committee noted:

- (a) the additions to the Committee's Work Programme; and
- (b) the work programmes of all overview and scrutiny committees (set out in Appendix 2 of the report).

3. Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 4 December 2014

3.1 <http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MIId=2950&Ver=4>

3.1.1 Report title Holding to Account of the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Customer Contact

Outcome:

The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Customer Contact for his attendance at the meeting and the answers he had provided.

3.1.2 Report title Housing Strategy Annual Review

Outcome:

The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the Draft Housing Strategy 2015/2018 and endorsed it, with its views as set out above, prior to its submission to Cabinet for adoption subject to:

- (i) Clarification of Medway's affordable housing requirement.
- (ii) Clarification of the information regarding the number of benefit claimants moving into the area.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 16 December 2014. The Cabinet approved the Draft Housing Strategy 2015-2018, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, to make any necessary minor changes prior to publishing the strategy.

These decisions were subsequently called in by six Members of the Council and the matter will be considered by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 February 2015.

3.1.3 Report title Homelessness

Outcome:

The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the report and requested:

- (i) A briefing note to provide full details of the Medway Scheme to provide supported accommodation for homeless households.
- (ii) A site visit be arranged for Members to visit Medway Scheme to provide supported accommodation for homeless households.

3.1.4 Report title Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report 2014/15 – Quarter 2

Outcome:

The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted quarter 2 performance against the key measures of success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2013/15.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 2 December 2014. The Cabinet noted Quarter 2 2014/15 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2013/15 and agreed to make improvements as necessary to build on current achievements and deliver remedial action where required.

3.1.5 Report title Draft Capital and Revenue Budgets 2015/16

Outcome:

The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the draft capital and revenue budget for 2014/15 and agreed to forward the programme to individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion:

The outcome of these discussions will be reported to Cabinet on 10 February 2015, with final budget proposals being submitted to Council on 26 February 2015.

3.1.6 Report title Petitions

Outcome:

The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the summary of the response to the petition provided by the Assistant Director, Legal and Corporate Services and the action proposed by the Licensing and Safety Committee in response to the petition and Council resolution.

3.1.7 Report title Work Programme

Outcome:

The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed:

- a) the additions to the Committee's Work Programme; and
- b) the work programmes of all overview and scrutiny committees (set out in Appendix 2 of the report).

4. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 9 December 2014

4.1 <http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=378&MId=2978&Ver=4>

4.1.1 Report title Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Educational Improvement

Outcome:

The Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder for her attendance.

4.1.2 Report title Provisional Test and Examination Results for 2014

Outcome:

The committee noted the report.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

The School Improvement Strategy (which formed part of the report to this Committee) was considered by the Cabinet on 13 January 2015. The Cabinet approved the School Improvement Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

4.1.3 Report title Outcome of Consultation for the Proposed Prescribed Alterations at Rivermead Special School

Outcome:

The committee recommended the Cabinet to progress the proposals relating to Rivermead Special School to the Statutory Representation stage.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 13 January 2015. The Cabinet noted the responses to the informal consultation together with the advice and analysis from officers and the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Cabinet instructed the Director of Children and Adults Services to commence the period of statutory representation for the proposals for the expansion and addition of a site, as set out in section 11.2 of the report, when statutory notices and full proposals will be published.

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Children and Adults Services, in consultation with Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Lead Member), to determine whether to approve the proposals at the end of the statutory consultation period if no objections are received. However, if any objections are received during that time then a report will be prepared and presented to Cabinet for determination.

4.1.4 Report Youth Justice Plan (Policy Framework)

Outcome:

The committee recommended the Cabinet and Full Council to approve the Youth Justice Plan re-draft 2014-16.

Outcome of Cabinet/Council discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 16 December 2014. The Cabinet noted the views of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and recommended approval of the Medway Youth Justice Plan, as set out at Appendix A to the report, to Full Council. Given the approval of this Plan is a matter for Council, a report is set out elsewhere on this agenda.

4.1.5 Report title Capital and Revenue Budget 2015/16

Outcome:

The committee noted the report and the draft capital and revenue budgets for 2015/16.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion:

The outcome of these discussions will be reported to Cabinet on 10 February 2015, with final budget proposals being submitted to Council on 26 February 2015.

4.1.6 Report title Council Plan Monitoring - Quarter 2

Outcome:

The committee noted the report and requested that a report on permanency options for children that are looked after be brought to the March 2015 meeting of this committee.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 2 December 2014. The Cabinet noted Quarter 2 2014/15 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2013/15 and agreed to make improvements as necessary to build on current achievements and deliver remedial action where required.

4.1.7 Report title Work Programme

Outcome:

The Committee:

- (1) agreed the work programme at Appendix 1, subject to the items listed as 'date to be determined' being added to the meeting scheduled for 25 March 2015;
- (2) noted that no nominations for the two Parent Governor representative vacancies were received and that the recruitment process would therefore be repeated in six months time;
- (3) agreed that a submission for the CQC inspection of the Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust be prepared by the Assistant Director, Partnership Commissioning, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons.

5. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 11 December 2014

5.1 <http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=2997&Ver=4>

5.1.1 Report title Medway Maritime Hospital - CQC Inspection

Outcome:

The Committee:

- a) agreed to write to the appropriate body* to ask why funding for the redevelopment of the Emergency Department had not yet been released and seeking urgent action to enable this to happen; and
- b) agreed to place on record their thanks to the representatives from the Trust for attending and answering members' questions.

(Note: This letter was not required as the Medway Clinical Commissioning Group has since confirmed the necessary funding has now been released).

5.1.2 Report title Petition on Health and Lifestyle Trainers (HALT) Service

Outcome:

The Committee noted the expiry of the HALT Health and Lifestyle Trainers Service Contract with the Sunlight Development Trust on 30 November 2014 and that a decision as to whether to de-commission or re-procure the service will be taken as part of the 2015-16 budget process.

5.1.3 Report title Review of Progress in Relation to The Medway Adult Mental Health Social Work Team and Objectives

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item until its next meeting.

5.1.4 Report title Acute Mental Health Inpatient Bed Review Update

Outcome:

The Committee agreed:

- a) to note the report and to request that future update reports should provide a breakdown between use of out of area beds for clinical reasons as compared with their use due to a shortage of beds in Medway; and
- b) to recommend the Cabinet, under the item later on the agenda relating to 2015/16 revenue and capital budgets, to reinstate 2 WTE posts in the Mental Health Social Work Team.

5.1.5 **Report title** **Annual Public Health Report of the Director of Public Health 2013/14**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the Annual Public Health Report 2013/14 and the audit of progress against the recommendations in the Annual Public Health Report 2012/13 and thanked Dr Barnett and her team for their work in producing the report.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 13 January 2015. The Cabinet noted the Annual Public Health Report 2013/2014 and the audit of progress against the recommendations in the Annual Public Health 2012/2013.

5.1.6 **Report title** **Six Month Update on Health Inequalities Task Group Review**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the progress made against the recommendations from the Review and that further updates on health inequalities would be included in the annual report from the Health and Wellbeing Board.

5.1.7 **Report title** **Capital and Revenue Budget 2015/2016**

Outcome:

- (a) The Committee noted the draft capital and revenue budget for 2015/16, proposed by Cabinet on 2 December 2014;
- (b) The Committee recommended the Cabinet to reinstate 2 WTE vacant administrative posts in the Mental Health Social work Team thereby bringing the establishment back to 3 WTE; and
- (c) The Committee placed on record its thanks to the Chief Finance Officer and Head of Finance Strategy for their work on 2015/16 budget preparations.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion:

The outcome of these discussions will be reported to Cabinet on 10 February 2015, with final budget proposals being submitted to Council on 26 February 2015.

5.1.8 **Report title** **Council Plan - 2014/2015 Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring**

Outcome:

The Committee noted the Quarter 2 -2014/15 performance against the key measures of success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan

2013-15.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 2 December 2014. The Cabinet noted Quarter 2 2014/15 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2013/15 and agreed to make improvements as necessary to build on current achievements and deliver remedial action where required.

5.1.9 **Report title** **Work Programme**

Outcome:

- (a) The Committee agreed the addition of reports on a Dynamic Purchasing System, Dementia Strategy and the new approach to CQC Inspection of GPs to the agenda for the Committee meeting on 27 January 2015;
- (b) The Committee agreed an Annual Report on Care Homes should be presented each September; and
- (c) The Committee agreed to submit comments to the CQC ahead of its inspection of KMPT on 16 March 2015 and to delegate authority to submit a commentary, based on evidence available to the Committee over the last year or so, to the Deputy Director Customer Contact, Leisure, Culture, Democracy and Governance, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Opposition Spokespersons.

6. Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 18 December 2014

6.1 <http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=3059&Ver=4>

6.1.1 **Report title** **Annual Scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership, including the findings of the Annual Strategic Assessment and refreshed Community Safety Partnership Action Plan**

In considering the report, some members expressed concern that the Committee was being asked to refer the proposed action plan for 2015/16 to Cabinet on 13 January 2015 without having had sight of the information requested during the debate on this item. In response, the Chairman gave an assurance that when the item was referred to Cabinet, the Cabinet would also receive a full list of the points raised by this Committee.

Outcome:

- a) The Committee thanked the Members of the Community Safety Partnership for attending the meeting and answering Members questions;
- b) The Committee noted the actions of the Community Safety Partnership for the half year April – September 2014;
- c) The Committee noted the findings of the annual strategic assessment;
- d) Having considered the proposed action plan in the light of the findings of the annual strategic assessment the plan was referred to Cabinet on 13 January 2015, but it was agreed that Cabinet be advised that this Committee has requested or noted the following:
 - That Superintendent Richards has offered to meet with Councillor Mackness outside of the meeting to discuss his concerns regarding problems for local residents when there is a transition of people moving from Rochester to Chatham late at night.
 - That all figures and statistics within the report relate to Medway and not the whole of Kent.
 - That Councillor Hicks, as Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership will circulate a list of PCSO's across Medway to all Members in the next few days.
 - A Briefing Note be provided to Members setting out further information as to the scoring matrix used to formulate the statistics in the report and how priorities are identified.
 - Future reports from the Community Safety Partnership include trajectory projections where possible.
 - A Briefing Note be provided to Members clarifying the information relating to figures provided within paragraphs 4.60 and 4.61 and 4.62 of the report.
 - It be noted that Superintendent Richards will be providing Councillor Etheridge with information on response statistics.
 - It be noted that there will be an all Member presentation from the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner in early 2015.
 - The Community Safety Partnership look to strategic working with other partners/charities where possible

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 13 January 2015. The Cabinet noted the comments from the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in section 6 of the report. The Cabinet noted the actions of the Community Safety Partnership for the half year April to September 2014.

The Cabinet agreed the proposed action plan for 2015/2016 in the light of the findings of the annual strategic assessment.

6.1.2 Report title Attendance by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Customer Contact

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Customer Contact answered Member's questions on the following:

- CCTV
- Food safety
- Trading Standards
- The Emergency Plan
- Dog Control Orders
- Travellers
- Domestic Abuse

Outcome:

The Committee thanked Councillor Hicks for attending the meeting and answering Member's questions and it was noted that:

- a) CCTV statistics and information on CCTV signage will be provided direct to Councillor Osborne;
- b) It be noted that there were plans for the One Stop Shop for Domestic Abuse advice, currently provided at the Sunlight Centre in Gillingham to be extended to Rochester and Strood in the near future.

6.1.3 Report title Council Plan – 2014/15 Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring

Outcome:

The Committee noted the Quarter 2 2014/15 performance against key measures of success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2013/15 and agreed that Officers undertake the following:

- a) Ensure that when new residents move into Medway, in addition to receiving information on Council Tax, they also be provided with information on the Council's recycling scheme.
- b) A briefing note be circulated providing information as to the areas of road network identified by the Member's Working Group to benefit from funding to alleviate congestion.
- c) The Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture inform Councillor Mackness when the traffic lights at St Mary's Island roundabout will be turned off at night.
- d) Information be supplied to Councillor Osborne as to the cost of the publicity for road maintenance in the latest issue of Medway Matters.
- e) It be noted that the Rochester Airport planning application is due for submission to the Planning Committee on 7 January 2015.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 2 December 2014. The Cabinet noted Quarter 2 2014/15 performance against the Key Measures of Success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2013/15 and agreed to make improvements as necessary to build on current achievements and deliver remedial action where required.

6.1.4 Report title Capital and Revenue Budget 2015/16

Outcome:

The Committee noted the current draft capital and revenue budget for 2015/16 insofar as they affected this Committee and noted the opportunities and implications of any other efficiencies or revenue generating measures for the Committee.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

The outcome of these discussions will be reported to Cabinet on 10 February 2015, with final budget proposals being submitted to Council on 26 February 2015.

6.1.5 Report title Community Wardens

Outcome:

The Committee noted the report and that a revised list of Community Wardens will be circulated.

6.1.6 **Report title** **Local Plan: Authority Monitoring Report**

Outcome:

The Committee expressed its appreciation to Officers for their presentation on the report and noted the report along with the decision of Cabinet on 16 December 2014 and, in particular, the amendment to paragraph 1.14 to explain the increase in the housing target from 815 to 1000 dwellings per annum.

Outcome of Cabinet discussion

This report was considered by the Cabinet on 16 December 2014. The Cabinet noted paragraph 1.14 of the Medway Housing Implementation Strategy (Appendix 3 to the Cabinet report) and that in compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework it was obliged to review its housing needs and therefore increased its housing target from 815 to 1,000 dwellings per annum.

The Cabinet approved the 2014 Authority Monitoring Report for publication, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 in Supplementary Agenda No.1 and revised Appendix 3 in Supplementary Agenda No.2, subject to:

- a) Paragraph 1.14 of the Medway Housing Implementation Strategy (revised Appendix 3 to the Cabinet report) being amended to read:

Secondly, the Council has been obliged to review its housing needs and has therefore taken the decision to increase its housing target from 815 to 1000 dwellings per annum, back dated to the start of the new local plan period 2011/12. This is based on an assessment of projected household growth in Medway over the period of the new local plan up to 2035. Thus thereby demonstrating the authority's commitment to significantly boost the supply of housing immediately.

- b) The bottom 3 lines of the table in paragraph 5.8 of the Housing Implementation Strategy (Appendix 3 to the Cabinet Report) being deleted.
- c) The Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Development and Economic Growth, being delegated authority to approve any minor corrections to Appendices 1, 2 and 3 prior to publication that might improve clarity and consistency.

6.1.7 Report title Petitions

Outcome:

The Committee noted the Officer's response to the petitions and that the lead petitioner for the removal of unsuitable large trees on the south side of Kingsfrith Playing Field has requested that his petition not be referred to the Committee until January 2015.

6.1.8 Report title Work Programme

Outcome:

The Committee noted its work programme and agreed that the following reports be added to the work programme for the 29 January 2015 meeting:

- Report on the provision of a Twydall Community Hub
- Member's item from Councillor Etheridge on Town Centre Markets
- Chatham Waterfront.

Background papers

None

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